

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### It's Alternative Government Time!

President Donald J. Trump promised he would exceed all expectations. He has delivered in a most spectacular fashion, surpassing all five of his living predecessors in the speed with which he attained one critically important benchmark. Reaching it took George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush 191 weeks, and his son 172. Barack Obama needed 134 weeks, The Gipper just 104. Bill Clinton got it done in a mere 82 weeks. Trump, though, left them all in the dust, earning the disapproval of a majority of Americans after only eight — count them, eight! — days in office.

Trump began his administration with an inaugural address whose theme was “American Carnage.” It began with the words, “We, the citizens of America,” immediately establishing that the incoming Chief Executive doesn't know the difference between the United States and the Western Hemisphere. Nasty, brutish, and short, it conjured up a hideous dystopian nightmare from which he alone could deliver us. Those whose bellies were full of Kool-aid thought it was a great speech — maybe the best speech ever. Everyone else was appalled.

Not being a person who pussyfoots around, Trump swept into CIA headquarters the very next day, accompanied by a Presidential innovation: a live human laugh track. Using the Memorial Wall honoring CIA officers killed in the line of duty as if it were scenery, he declared war on our fourth branch of government, The Media.

Trump must have used the Marine One helicopter to make that trip, since the streets of Washing-

ton, D.C. were twice as crowded as they had been the day before. The resounding success of the Women's March made it a threat to national security, since it could be construed as eclipsing the President's alleged popularity. A Twitter war ensued. Trump won; just ask him.

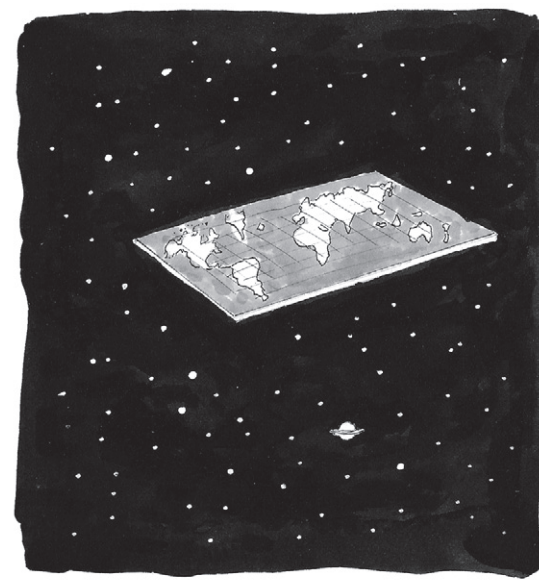
Meanwhile, Trump's Press Secretary Sean Spicer made his first official appearance in the White House Briefing Room where he angrily barked a series of easily-disproven lies at nonplussed members of the press. The topper: “This was the largest audience to ever witness an inauguration — period — both in person and around the globe.”

A few days later Chief White House Strategist Steve Bannon helpfully clarified the administration's relationship with the media. Affecting, as usual, the costume, grooming, and demeanor of a person who sleeps under a bridge and subsists on fortified wine, he called the media “the opposition party,” and said that because it didn't see Trump's victory coming, it should “be embarrassed and humiliated and keep its mouth shut and just listen for a while.”

Somewhere in this general time frame — we hereby disavow any obligation to track down the exact moment when serial liars make false statements which are likely to be denied at any time — Trump himself revived the absurd and baseless claim, in the presence of Members of Congress, that he had won the popular vote, after the three to five million non-existent undocumented people who would have had to risk deportation to illegally cast votes for Hillary Clinton are subtracted.



FACT



ALTERNATIVE FACT

#### Be Afraid! Be Very Afraid!

Although no radicalized Muslim from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, or Yemen has killed an American in the U.S. since Sept. 11, 2001, last Friday President Trump issued an Executive Order banning immigration by anyone from those countries. The order created chaos in airports around the country, and caused innumerable disruptions for thousands of innocent travelers. It was a great victory for national security.

On Monday, Acting Attorney General Sally Yates announced that unless someone could convince her that the immigration ban was legal, she was not going to enforce it. That got her fired within hours. The Justice Department needs more like her, not fewer. She issued the memo in September, 2015 which established a new and desperately-needed Justice policy: corporate executives would no longer be exempt from criminal prosecution. She ought to be the Attorney General, not Jeff Sessions.

The travel ban was reportedly cooked up, sans input from Justice Department lawyers, by Bannon and policy advisor Stephen Miller, neither of whom is a lawyer. Miller, who was four years old when Yates was sworn in as a Justice Department lawyer, complained that Yates' action was “a further demonstration of how politicized our legal system has become.”

Trump issued a statement saying Yates had “betrayed the Department of Justice.” Yates' oath, though, is not to the Department of Justice, or the Executive Branch of which it is a part, but to the Constitution. That distinction is apparently too subtle for our Commander in Chief to comprehend.

#### Meanwhile, in the Center Ring

People are far more likely to be killed by a vending machine than a terrorist, according to a report in *The Economist*. That suggests the immigration ban might be mainly distraction: a red herring for folks in the blue states, and red meat for those in the red states.

Distraction from what, you ask?

Weeping families torn asunder at airports are certainly telegenic, but musical chairs at the National Security Council has serious implications — at least when the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Director of National Intelligence get bounced in favor of alt-right crank Steve Bannon.

George W. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld promised to overwhelm Iraq with shock and awe. They didn't quite pull that off; but, dealing with such a foreign culture, they were limited in their choice of weapons. The team of Trump and Bannon are conducting psychological warfare, and they're not half bad at it.

#### The Winter of our Disbelief

Ben Franklin said the Founders had given us “A republic, if you can keep it.” Oh, well.

The Gilded Age was no republic, and now the oligarchy is dead. Welcome to the kakistocracy: government by the worst.

There is a bleak upside to this situation: there's no more denying that the government is broken.

That's the first step to fixing it.

## The Alleged News®

### “As Above, So Below”

It is generally heretical to suggest there's any similarity between New Hampshire and that den of iniquity, Washington, D.C. Yet here we are: our 45th President has nominated Betsy DeVos, who knows nothing about education but loves home schooling, to run [into the ground] the U.S. Department of Education. Meanwhile, back here in Cow Hampshire, hereditary Governor Chris Sununu has nominated Frank Edelblut, who knows nothing about education but loves charter schools, to run [into the ground] the state's Department of Education.

It's been 12 years since we had a Republican governor. Apparently we needed a refresher course as to why we gave Craig Benson the boot.

Sununu the Second is also stumping for a Right to Work

[for Less] law. His campaign got a bit of a boost recently from what might seem an unlikely source.

The *Concord Monitor* is widely considered to lean somewhat to the left. Either that's a myth, or the editors are awfully gullible.

On Tuesday, the *Monitor* ran a column on labor by a guest columnist, Richard Berman, billing himself as the executive director of the Center for Union Facts.

Berman's concern for workers is like a lion's concern for gazelles. Speaking at a June, 2014 event sponsored by the Western Energy Alliance, attended by representatives of Exxon, Halliburton, and other usual suspects, Berman was secretly taped saying, “I get up every morning and I try and figure out how to screw with the labor unions.”

The Center for Media and Democracy describes Berman's *modus*

*operandi* as “the strategy of forming dozens of non-profit front groups, attack-dog web sites, and alleged think tanks that defend his corporate clients' interests by attacking their critics, allowing his paying clients to remain out of public view.”

In the late 1990s, Berman published a newsletter claiming that Alar, a gas used to delay the ripening of apples, was safe for children to consume. It was later found to be carcinogenic. In 2007, he began a campaign touting the safety of indoor tanning beds. It ended in a settlement with the Federal Trade Commission.

While Berman's column mentioned Right to Work in passing, his eye was really on a larger prize: the Employee Rights Act. John A. Logan, a professor at San Francisco State University, wrote in 2014 that the bill was “so reactionary

it could have been penned by the Koch brothers themselves. In the name of ‘protecting’ employee rights, the ERA would make it extraordinarily difficult for workers to choose unions and would give a virtual pass to unscrupulous corporations that coerce and intimidate employees. While it won't become law while the Democrats control the White House, the ERA provides an illustration of the draconian legislation that Republicans will unleash on workers if they win control of both the presidency and the Congress in 2016.”

Uh, woops — here comes the nationwide campaign to reintroduce feudalism.

#### National Free State Radio

Republicans love to pretend that one-term Governor Craig Benson never happened — and for good reason. We may be get-

ting some reminders, though — over the airwaves.

Voice of America [VOA] was founded shortly after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor; strictly to counter the vile propaganda of our fascist enemies, of course. Following their defeat, it continued to extol the virtues of self government as a counterbalance to the vile propaganda of the International Communist Conspiracy. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall it's been blah blah terrorism ISIS, &c. America must be great — look at all the great victories won by our heroic broadcasters!

America must be great if it can afford the \$800 million annual budget of the Broadcasting Board of Governors [BBG], which oversees the Voice of America and

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to page two



**The Alleged News®**  
from page one

three other broadcast networks. Throughout its existence VOA has been barred from aiming its broadcasts at Americans. Congress loosened those restrictions in 2012. Then, after last November's election, Congress voted to replace the BBG with a CEO who reports to the President of the United States. Isn't that special?

Donald Trump has now placed two twenty-something men in that CEO slot, on an interim basis. Matt Ciepielowski is one of them. Ciepielowski is an ex-employee of the New Hampshire franchise of the Koch brothers' astroturf outfit Americans for Prosperity. He came here to join the libertarian Free State Project. It was formed to infiltrate whatever state seemed most vulnerable, dismantle its government, and create a libertarian utopia. Governor

Craig Benson told them, "Hey, do that here!"

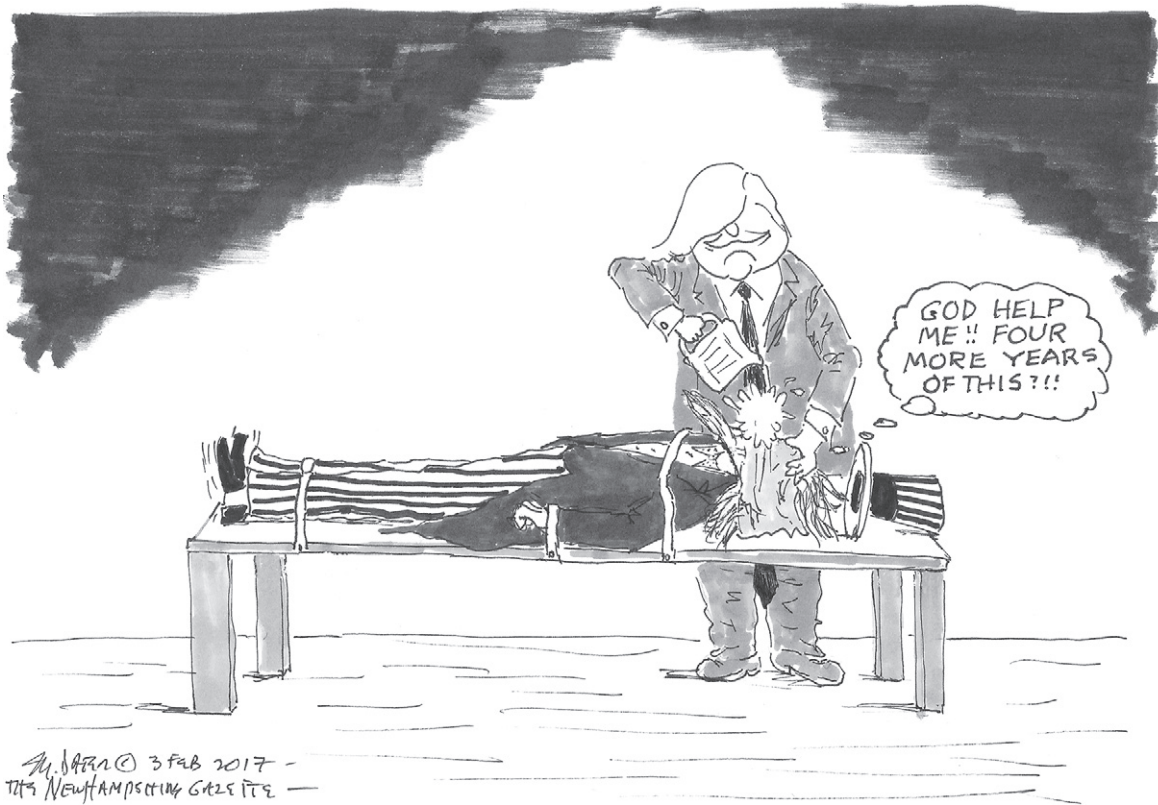
So, just to recap: America now has a former Free Stater running an \$800 million domestic propaganda operation on behalf of a reality TV show host. Is this a great country or what?

**A Modest Proposal**

It now appears that the Deer Street parking garage may actually get built. The City sets aside a certain percentage of the overall cost of such projects to adorn them with public art. We would like to suggest the following subject for that piece of art: a statue of former Governor Craig Benson.

Historically, public statues have been essentially laudatory, and intended to perpetuate the memories of individuals who have performed great services to their communities. We can all see now where that has got us.

We propose a new genre of public art, which would be cautionary, rather than laudatory.



On Saturday, January 21st, an estimated 3,500 people turned out in Market Square to make a joyful noise and cheerfully reject everything for which our newly inaugurated Chief Executive stands. Careful scrutiny will reveal The Leftist Marching Band smack in the middle of this seething mass of people; there seems to be something about the threat of impending autocracy that stimulates their best musicianship. Also in evidence, in the lower right: one lonesome gentleman with a three-tiered sign; the ones at top and bottom expressing his opposition to abortion, the one in the middle his support for "Trump 2016."

The above-referenced incident, in which Governor Benson invited a band of anti-government extremists to come in and do their best to dismantle what has taken centuries to build, is but one of hundreds of instances where allegedly-conservative ideology has taken our democracy off the rails.

The party to which Benson belonged has done its best since his departure to pretend that he never existed. This Memory Hole approach only encourages others to urge us to repeat mistakes made in the past. A statue of Benson might help us avoid them.

**Taking Back the People's House**

For a nation facing a challenging world with an unhinged Ahab at its helm, we haven't detected much apocalyptic despair. To the contrary, we've seen a widespread upwelling of feisty resistance, as evidenced by the huuge turnout for the January 21st rally in Market Square. The question is what it's always been: how to organize all that positive energy.

Here's how: *SwingLeft.org*. Republicans have a disproportionate advantage in the House due to gerrymandering and the Democrats' affinity for cities. *SwingLeft* gives deep-blue Congressional districts ways to counteract that advantage. If it works, Democrats take the House in 2018.

**Happy Birthday, Gentlemen!**

In eleven days it will be the 199th birthday of the abolitionist, orator, and author Frederick Douglass. Born into slavery in Maryland on an unknown date circa 1818, Douglass taught himself to read and write. For teaching other slaves to do the same, he was beaten without mercy. At about the age of twenty, he stole himself from his master and escaped to Philadelphia. Over the course of the next 57 years he never tired of protest. Asked shortly before his death what a young black person should do, he replied, "Agitate! Agitate! Agitate!"

Since Douglass never knew the

date of his birth, he was free to celebrate it whenever he pleased. He chose February 14.

Similarly, no one knows the birth date of Primus, the enslaved African pressman whose forced labor kept this newspaper alive during the first decades of its existence, and whose indomitable spirit kept his memory alive for centuries after his death.

Often referred to over the centuries as Primus Fowle, after his so-called master Daniel Fowle, we've recently taken instead to calling him Primus X, in honor of his unknown ancestors. We do this at the suggestion of Valerie Cunningham, New Hampshire's gracious First Lady of African American History.

Inspired by Douglass, we've decided to begin celebrating Primus' birthday on February 14th. Since we do know that Primus was born around the year 1700, and our next paper won't come out until the 17th, now is the time to say, Happy 217th Birthday, Primus X!

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*Will the Laird of Blunts Island restore Sanders Poynt by April 1?*

## When Will Paradise Be Regained?

Four years ago last October, workers employed by country club owner William “Bill” Binnie obliterated a small gravel public parking lot built and maintained by the Town of Rye. They also erected a trio of barricades, composed of boulders, bushes, and a fence, effectively preventing members of the public from crossing a narrow piece of Binnie’s property to spend some time at the water’s edge.

Binnie, through these actions, had effectively enclosed Sanders Poynt, a tiny locale which had been, for all practical purposes, held in common by all mankind since the retreat of the glaciers more than ten thousand years ago. [For brevity’s sake we’ll skip over the awkward transfer from Abenaki to European custody.] The irony, of course, is that Binnie is himself an immigrant from Scotland, where, during the 18th and 19th centuries, thousands upon thousands of ordinary people were displaced by the wealthy through the process of enclosure.

### Immediate Resistance

Then as now, the citizenry were outraged, and a number of them showed up at the Rye Board of Selectmen’s meeting of November 15, 2012 to say so. All too often, when wealth throws its weight around, those who are outraged are of modest means, and may therefore be ignored. This time, though, a neighbor named Robert Jesurum could afford to bring along his lawyer, Paul McEachern.

To his everlasting credit, Jesurum sued Binnie and kept up the fight all the way to the New Hampshire Supreme Court — despite Binnie’s explicit threat to drag out the proceedings, with the expressed intention of forcing Jesurum to drop the suit.

In another memorable act of defiance, after Binnie “generously” offered access to the beach at Sanders Poynt by a supposedly convenient alternate route, about a dozen members of The Leftist Marching Band, followed by an equal number of citizens-at-large, took him up on his impractical



offer. They played their boisterous repertoire on April 13th, 2013, while marching jauntily along a circuitous route hundreds of feet long which wound between several holes of his golf course.

### Death by 1,000 Motions? No!

True to his threat, Binnie paid his lawyer Benjamin King to fire a seemingly endless barrage of legal

documents at the Superior Court — to no avail: Jesurum won. Undaunted, and apparently still flush, Binnie appealed to the New Hampshire Supreme Court. He lost on December 9th, 2016, but appealed. Finally, on January 19th, the Supreme Court told him, in layman’s terms, “beat it.”

### Redress, Finally?

Given the man’s demonstrated obstinacy, we spoke with Jacob Marvelley, an attorney working with McEachern, and asked if Binnie might take the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court.

“It’s a fair question,” he said. “He would have to cite some grounds for relief, though, and the matter has already been thoroughly litigated. I don’t think there are any real grounds for him to do it [but] procedurally it’s within the realm of possibility. It would be a real stretch, though.”

We also asked by email if there is any established timeframe within which the Wentworth must comply and restore access, parking, and so forth.

“With the close of the Supreme Court appeal,” Marvelley wrote, “the Rockingham Superior Court regained jurisdiction over the case.

The Superior Court has not set a deadline, but did note the following in its Order On the Merits dated August 20, 2015: “The Court assumes that the parties will work together to effectuate the Court’s order, but the Court will not hesitate to order further equitable relief, along with the assessment of costs, should any party fail to comply.”

“Mr. Jesurum will press for the defendants to perform the remediation work in a timely manner.”

McEachern, according to Jesurum, has requested confirmation from King “that his client will restore Sanders Poynt to its previous condition prior to April 1, so that we can perform a re-dedication of Sanders Poynt at that date.”

We are inquiring whether there might be some legislative remedy to correct the Supreme Court’s error in failing to require Binnie to pay Jesurum’s legal expenses.

The Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire is accepting donations to reimburse Jesurum for those expenses. So far just \$4,825 has been collected. Donations can be made at [ccanh.org/sanders-poynt](http://ccanh.org/sanders-poynt).



**Paradise Lost Pilfered** — Sanders Poynt, as depicted by Google Street View in September, 2011: a roughly-trapezoidal patch of smooth gravel, amusingly punctuated by a fire hydrant surrounded by a little skirt of grass, extending approximately 60 feet along Wentworth Road and tapering down to perhaps 20 feet towards the water, comprising an estimated 2,400 square feet, or 0.0551 acres. At the far end of the lot is a small, blue, four-door automobile with a bicycle rack on the back and a rack on the roof suitable for a kayak. On the back are two stickers, a maroon-and-gold Portsmouth Clippers “P,” and a white oval with a black lab dog. Beyond the vehicle, at the water’s edge, stand two people with a black dog between them.

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**Letters to The Wall**

To the Editor:

America wants *you* to write a letter today to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) for delivery on Memorial Day. Over the past two years we have solicited letters from folks just like you to deliver to The Wall on Memorial Day. Now it's your turn.

Do you remember the American War in Vietnam? I mean really remember it — from deep in your bones — because you actually lived through it. Perhaps as a soldier, perhaps as a conscientious objector, perhaps as a youngster caught up in your family's pain and anguish, perhaps as a dedicated street protestor, or perhaps as a friend or a lover of a soldier. Perhaps as an orphan or a grandchild who never met her grandfather. Perhaps as a citizen of Vietnam or Cambodia or Thailand. I am sure I am missing other important scenarios, but you get the picture. That war is an indelible part of your psyche, like it or not.

We in Veterans For Peace's "Vietnam Full Disclosure" project are concerned that your voice is not being heard. By whom, you might ask. Answer: by those too young to have witnessed the scourge of this war who think they can learn "the truth" from the Pentagon's revisionist history. And that re-writing of our lives is what is going on right now as we are being more and more inundated by so-called "fifty year commemorations." We in VFP have dedicated a fair amount of time in resisting the game plan of our gov-

ernment to mythologize the war and, subsequently, to justify it and, eventually, to use it as a backdrop for future wars.

So, we are doing something about that. Over the past few years we have sponsored teach-ins and panel discussions; we have barraged the Pentagon with letters pointing out the fallacies of their own web page; we are actively working with our chapter in Vietnam to help heal the victims of Agent Orange and Unexploded Ordnance. And we are writing letters to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Say what?

That's right. Over the past two years we have delivered hundreds of letters so far, and we are looking for yours to deliver this Memorial Day. Here's how we do it — we collect the letters, we place them in business-sized envelopes with the tops slit open, we write "Please Read Me" on the outside of the envelopes, and then at 10:30 a.m. on Memorial Day we walk down The Wall from both sides, placing the letters at the foot of The Wall (if a soldier's name is referenced in a letter, we leave that letter at the foot of the panel where his or her name appears).

So what? Well, these past two years we have watched visitors to The Wall on Memorial Day pick up these letters and hug and cry and look more deeply into the black granite before them. And we also watch the National Parks Service as they collect the letters to put into the national archives for future displays. Oh, and by the way, we are also publishing letters — our most recent book *Letters To The Wall* that shares 150 of these letters has been available since August of 2016. You can buy a discounted copy by going to [LuLu.com](http://LuLu.com) and typing the title into their search engine (it is listed in their History section). Our voices are being heard. Please join us.

Here's how. If you are moved to write a letter, you can email it to [rawlings@maine.edu](mailto:rawlings@maine.edu) before May 15, 2017. It's that simple. Members from VFP will then print out your letter, place it in an envelope,

and deliver your letter as you have written it to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on May 29th at 10:30 a.m. If you want to join us for this ceremony, please let me know.

Please note that we consider The Wall to be something akin to "sacred ground," so we do not perform political actions there; we will treat your words with the respect they deserve. You may sign your letter with your full name, or not. Up to you. Also note that by sending us your letter you are giving us permission to do three things — possibly publish your letter to our website ([vietnamfulldisclosure.org](http://vietnamfulldisclosure.org)); publicly display your words at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day, 2017; and, possibly, include your letter in the next edition of our *Letters To The Wall* collection. Finally, we want all to know that we acknowledge the devastation brought down on the heads of millions and millions of Southeast Asian people during the American War in Vietnam. Last year we unfolded a banner in D.C. to that effect. We will do the same this year.

We encourage you to visit our website at [vietnamfulldisclosure.org](http://vietnamfulldisclosure.org) to see what we are about and to sign our pledge to tell the truth about the American War in Vietnam; we encourage you to purchase our book, read it, and then give it to a local school library to help their students enrich their research on the war; but, most importantly, we encourage you to write your letter. We need to hear from you. America needs to hear from you.

Doug Rawlings, on behalf of the Vietnam Full Disclosure group  
Chesterville, Maine

Doug:

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to help with this effort; its value in our estimation is beyond words.

The Editor

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**Tactics of Resistance**

To the Editor:

When it comes to the public stage, seasoned negotiators like those amassed in the Trump White

*Mash Notes, HATE MAIL*

House know that public displays of unchecked anger and emotionality virtually always equate to an unintended relinquishment of power. As cathartic as it may feel, screechy speeches and smashed windows simply offer justification to discount, ridicule, and suppress. Got that, Madonna? Keep it private.

The better strategy is always to draw the foul rather than commit it. Think *Gandhi vs. Gaga*, and provoke that Nazi to punch you in the nose while the camera rolls.

Case in point, consider the massive crowd attending the women's march in Washington and look at the massive consternation it ignited within the Trump camp. Watch how President Trump openly embarrassed himself with a deeply inappropriate and petty overreaction. Now, ask yourself, is right-wing media using Madonna's words as a distraction to diminish the value of that otherwise deeply satisfying day? Yah, you betcha!

Truth is, Donald Trump is incredibly vulnerable to slight, so drawing a foul isn't hard. In fact, like Roger Rabbit, he appears to rise to the bait every time! "Shave and a haircut, two bits? I never said two bits, never would say it, absolutely ridiculous!" Ridiculous, videotape notwithstanding.

Always better to make shooting one's self in the foot the province of your enemy, because it really does hurt like hell!

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

*The Trump administration appears to be imploding already, but it's far too early to start counting eggs, much less chickens. It's never too early, though, to ask what makes for an effective resistance to tyranny.*

The Editor

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**Still Loyal After All These Years**

To the Editor:

Republicans are now chanting

that we all need to support Donald Trump, and give him a chance to succeed. They claim that if Trump succeeds, America succeeds. These words coming from a party that did everything in its power to obstruct and prevent any success of President Obama.

The problem with saying we need to give Trump a chance to succeed, is understanding what success under a Trump Administration means. Based on Trump's election campaign statements, the Republican platform, and the people he has nominated for various Cabinet and advisor positions, his "success" would not represent a "success" for most Americans or the world.

If Trump and his Republican ideologues "succeed," the carnage that Trump referred to in his inauguration speech will become a self-fulfilling prophesy. Trump's "success" would mean that 20 million people lose health care, millions of women and men will lose reproductive and preventive health care, seniors will see reductions in Medicare and Social Security, our environment will be destroyed, freedom of the press will be limited, the LGBT community will be forced back into the closet, minorities will be targeted for deportation or other unconstitutional surveillance, our NATO alliance will be weakened, our public education system will be harmed, worker health and safety will be at risk, Russia will influence our foreign policy, and on and on. There will be severe harm inflicted on every aspect of our society; economic, social, legal, political, and national security. Nothing will be spared.

To give Trump and his allies a chance to "succeed" in accomplishing their stated goals would be for me an act of treason. As an Air Force Officer, now retired, I took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic. I still am under

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— Woody Guthrie (1912-1967)  
songwriter, social activist

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# And Other Correspondence

that oath, and will continue to do whatever I legally can do to protect us from both foreign and domestic enemies. Unfortunately, if Trump is allowed to “succeed” in accomplishing his agenda, America and 99 percent of Americans will not enjoy any of the benefits of his “success,” but they will certainly suffer the consequences. History will be very scathing on those who aided in any Trump “success,” and I for one, do not want any part of that history.

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAF (Ret.)  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

*We may have to turn in our faded old American Servicemen's Union card — we find ourselves agreeing with a lifer officer!*

The Editor

~~~~~

## Despicable Division

To the Editor:

It was a stupid campaign “pledge” to block entry to our country for people from Muslim countries. As a policy, which the Inexperienced President just promulgated, it is divisive, destructive, and despicable. The Bully-in-Chief has now divided law-abiding Americans into “them” and “us.” He has confirmed the worst propaganda that religious fanatics abroad say about us: that we are anti-Muslim. He is creating enemies where we once had friends. He is alienating the very people in this country who have been most helpful in combating Islamic terrorism. Is this the action of a traitorous dictator or a mentally incompetent nincompoop? Either way, when will Republicans in Congress impeach and replace him?

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, CA

~~~~~

## Found the Mote, Missed the Beam

To the Editor:

The recent election season has been very educational. WikiLeaks, Project Veritas, and other sources have confirmed many of our beliefs

and suspicions and have revealed unexpected collusion, corruption, criminality, and un-American dirty tricks.

The obvious media bias and coordination with Democrat [sic] politicians and the Democrat [sic] National Committee (DNC), the promotion of anti-Republican and pro-Democrat [sic] candidates and policies, and suppression of anti-Democrat [sic] information has been confirmed. The surprise was the extent of the active collaboration of major media figures, columnists, and media outlets with Democrats to promote Hillary Clinton over Bernie Sanders, and Democrat [sic] candidates and policies over Republicans. This collaboration includes planning meetings, promotion of candidate and DNC propaganda, allowing Democrats to preview and “correct” “columns” and “news articles,” allowing Democrats to control interview questions, feeding town hall questions to Hillary beforehand, etc.

Grassroots demonstrations against political opponents are common, but Democrats hired operatives to protest, agitate, threaten, and instigate violence that injured people; to create racist supposedly pro-Trump graffiti, signs, statements, and advertisements to falsely make Trump and his supporters appear to be racists; and by making and encouraging false allegations of Trump supporters’ racist and/or violent actions, etc. The shocking revelation, suggesting President Obama’s close involvement in these dirty tricks, are White House logs showing that the person responsible for these dirty tricks visited the White House about 300 times and met with President Obama about 50 times, often late at night apparently to keep these meetings secret.

The corruption of the DNC efforts to support Hillary Clinton and work against Bernie Sanders was also revealed. We learned how

the DNC used donor information for Hillary and against Bernie, how the DNC worked with the White House to reward Hillary donors but not Bernie donors, how various other efforts promoted Hillary over Bernie, how the whole super-delegate process gave Hillary delegates in some cases when the voters overwhelmingly preferred Bernie, and when the DNC head, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, was forced to resign (joining the Clinton campaign), she was replaced by Donna Brazile who was revealed to have alerted Hillary to questions she would get at a town hall.

The recent election clearly demonstrated the extremes that Democrat politicians, Democrat organizations, and some Democrat supporters go to in their lust for power and wealth without regard for truth, fairness, criminality, or the desires and best interests of the American people.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

*Thank you for this revealing X-ray of the conservative mind, such as it is. We're moved beyond words by your crocodile tears, falling over the betrayal of a Democratic Socialist by the Republican wing of the Democratic Party.*

The Editor

~~~~~

## Shea-Porter Was Right

To the Editor:

Neither Donald J. Trump, nor George W. Bush in 2000, won the popular vote. I did not vote for Mr. Bush but regarded him as my President because, as he said, “I was not elected to serve one party, but to serve one nation.” Despite my disagreement with many of his policies, I think that Mr. Bush lived up to this promise.

In contrast to Mr. Bush, nothing indicates that Mr. Trump comprehends the notion of public service or the enormous responsibilities of the Presidency. He refuses to separate himself from his private business and brushes aside the possibility

that Russia may have interfered in the presidential election.

In the dark vision of America that Trump presented in his inaugural address, he insulted previous presidents, dismissed hard working government employees, and frightened the international community. He seemed totally unaware of the vibrancy and resiliency of our inner cities.

Civil Rights icon Congressman John Lewis did not attend last week’s inauguration ceremony saying that he did not regard Mr. Trump as a legitimate president — one that follows the rules and norms of our democracy. As Lewis said, “You cannot be at home with something that you feel is wrong.”

I respect the decision of my Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter who joined Mr. Lewis and nearly seventy of their House colleagues in absenting themselves from the dystopian inaugural ceremony. Instead Shea-Porter attended religious services to pray for our Nation and its leaders. We need her prayers.

Margaret Merritt  
Center Sandwich, N.H.

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## “Nasty Ladies” On the March

To the Editors:

If you believe, as I do, that dissent is the highest form of patriotism, then several of my highly patriotic friends took part in some of the hundreds of successful women-led marches held yesterday, with millions of participants, all around the world and across America to include Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to raise awareness and take a powerful stand against draconian, patriarchal policy proposals by the newly sworn in President of the United States meant as an assault on women’s rights.

A friend of mine from Colorado, whom our President would consider a “nasty lady” due to her many talents and intellect by which he would feel threatened, sent me a message, prior to heading off for a nearby march with her husband, which contained the following quote, that



can now be officially attributed to the President of the United States.

“I did try and f\_\_k her. She was married. I moved on her like a b\_\_ch, but I couldn’t get there. And she was married. Then all of a sudden I see her, she’s now got the big phony t\_\_ts and everything. She’s totally changed her look. I’ve gotta use some Tic Tacs, just in case I start kissing her. You know I’m automatically attracted to beautiful — I just start kissing them. It’s like a magnet. Just kiss. I don’t even wait. And when you’re a star they let you do it. You can do anything ... Grab them by the p\_\_y. You can do anything.”

My friend made it clear that she would be using these words, directly from the mouth of the POTUS, to serve as a reminder to herself that she and millions of American women need to push back hard on the numerous promises that Candidate Trump made, to so-called “Values-Voters” (a major block in the Republican voting base), to create a Supreme Court and work with a Republican-controlled Congress to trample on the rights of women.

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, N.H.

~~~~~

## “Doctor” Trump!

To the Editor:

“Doctor” Trump views himself as brilliant, decisive and adored by his patients. He believes in aggressive, preventative and strong medicine. His nickname in the profession is

## Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

# Excuses, 1917

by William Marvel

January 31 marked the centennial of the campaign to bring the United States into the great European war on the side of the Allies. On that day Count Johann von Bernstorff, the German ambassador to the U.S., wrote a note for President Woodrow Wilson announcing that after February 1, 1917, German submarines would resume unrestricted warfare. Any vessels found on their way to France or England would be sunk without warning, including those flying neutral flags.

The Allies, and especially England, desperately wanted American troops to join their side in a war that had ground to a stalemate and exhausted all the major participants. Von Bernstorff had held the message back to await his government's response to Wilson's offer of mediating a "peace without victory" that would put the warring nations back on equal footing. England in particular found that unappealing, and the offer went unaccepted so long that the transatlantic communications lag forced the German ambassador to deliver his fateful message.

With the memory of the *Lusitania* less than two years old, the message led to von Bernstorff being handed his passport as Wilson severed diplomatic relations with Germany. Still, there seemed no reason yet for going to war. That last step came only when British intelligence supplied Wilson with an intercepted wireless message to von Bernstorff from Germany's foreign secretary, Arthur Zimmermann. Anticipating war with the U.S. over another *Lusitania* incident, Zimmerman instructed his Washington envoy to offer his Mexican counterpart a potential alliance. If Mexico would declare war and help the Kaiser win by engaging American troops along its border, Germany would assure the return of all the lands Mexico had lost after the Mexican War.

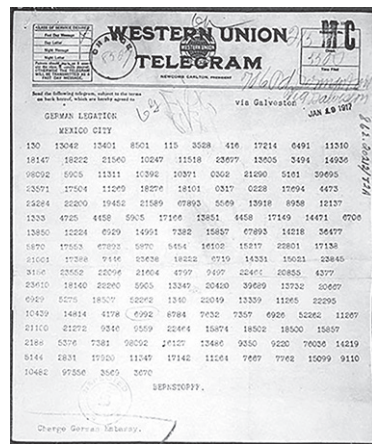
Wilson never questioned the validity of the alleged interception. Those who were opposed to intervention knew the desire of the English for American involvement, and suspected it as a British hoax, but Wilson and the press swallowed it whole. Within ten weeks, Wilson had abandoned his neutral stance and asked for a declaration of war.

For another four decades, it was generally accepted that the Zimmermann telegram had been planted by the British to lure the U.S. into the fight against Germany, and of course that is exactly why they shared it. The proposal seemed too preposterous to be credited, and there were those who supposed the Americans themselves had made it up, as an excuse for their third invasion of Mexico since 1913. Readers of the "Pentagon Papers" and those who remember the mythical weapons of mass destruction in Iraq could easily understand the widespread disbelief. So many American wars had already been started on flawed information or falsehoods, including the wars with Mexico and Spain, that the chances of chicanery seemed good, but as usual nationalistic frenzy overcame cautious skepticism.

Not until 1958 did one of the 20th century's best independent scholars examine the case and conclude that the telegram was genuine. The coup belonged to Barbara Tuchman, whom I think of as the "housewife historian" for her refusal to let stay-at-home motherhood interfere with her intellectual pursuits. She discovered and interviewed two survivors of the intelligence team that decod-

ed the message, and even found Zimmermann's own implicit admission that he had written it, during the effort to learn how it had been intercepted. Genuine or not, the telegram would have meant nothing had the Allies accepted Wilson's peacemaking offer — because, had they done so, Germany would almost certainly have followed suit. A negotiated peace would incidentally have saved a few million lives; it might have come too late to avert the Russian Revolution, but it would probably have prevented the crushing terms imposed on Germany at the end of the war. Had American intervention not tipped the balance to the Allies, such terms could never have been demanded, and Ger-

mans would not have suffered the economic collapse and national humiliation that fueled the rise of the Nazi Party. Without Hitler, whose popularity was grounded in that harsh peace, the sequence of events that began the Second World War would have been interrupted. Had the Allies not been preoccupied with the Axis Powers, Japan might not have had the temerity to attack U.S. and British forces in the Pacific in 1941. Brushfire wars and full-fledged conflagrations have been the norm since then in South Asia and the Middle East, and most of them emerged from the political debris of the world wars. Other conflicts might have replaced those of the past century had the Great War ended earlier, but no one can say that they would have been worse, considering the destructive capabilities we unharnessed in 1945. If time could be reversed and one event changed, everything that followed would be different. It may do no good to speculate what the world might be like had another choice been made on January 31, 1917 — but it is worth wondering the same about events today.



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## More Mash Notes, HATE MAIL, and Other Correspondence, from Page Five

"Dr. Stump." To understand this moniker we need to review his recent medical interventions.

Mrs. A developed a hangnail and came to his office for relief. "No problem Mrs. A, I'm a superior problem solver and will quickly cut off your hand and send you right home," he boasted. "The medical profession is a bunch of wimps and are afraid to take actions," he lectured her.

The next day Mr. B came in with a very painful stubbed toe.

Dr. Stump's brilliant remedy was to remove his foot and to prevent this from happening again removed his other foot. "It is a painful solution, Mr. B, but we have to take tough actions to prevent bad things from happening. I've done this successfully many times and my prior experience as a tree surgeon made me expert at removing limbs."

Hopefully, when his impulsive overreactions are better understood there will be a "cane" mutiny

among his followers. Or better yet he develops a pimple on his forehead and treats it himself.

Dave Potter  
North Hampton, N.H.

### The Terror-Inducing Trump To the Editor:

No foreign terrorist could have created more chaos in the U.S. than Donald J. Trump did last week. Throwing executive orders like Molotov cocktails, Trump ended the week with an order

for a 90-day ban on immigration from seven Muslim countries, a 120-day suspension of refugee programs, and limiting the number of refugees entering the U.S. in 2017 to 50,000.

In 2016 Canada, with little more than 10 percent of the U.S. population, accepted nearly 40,000 refugees fleeing Syria, a country singled out by Trump's executive order. No U.S. visas will be issued to Syrian nationals and no Syrian refugees will be accept-

ed here. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has, however, invited refugees rejected by the U.S. to settle in Canada. It seems that we must now rely on our humane neighbor to protect our traditional values.

U.S. allies have roundly condemned Trump's ban while several extremist groups and ISIS fighters have hailed Trump's order as a victory. In a joint statement, Senators Lindsey Graham and John McCain concluded, "Ultimately,

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## Uncle Sam Wants You!

by Jim Hightower

Uncle Sam wants you! Not the Uncle Sam who's the symbolic caricature of our country, but Sam Johnson. Although he's been a member of Congress more than a quarter of a century. It's unlikely you've ever heard of him, for Sam's been what's known in legislative circles as "furniture." That's a lawmaker who holds a Congressional seat,

but just sits in it, achieving so little that he's unnoticeable.

But — look out! — Johnson has suddenly leapt into action. And we all need to take notice, because this Texas Republican has unveiled what he calls his "Plan to Permanently Save Social Security."

To get you to support the plan, Uncle Sam wants you to believe that our nation's very popular retirement program is "going bank-

rupt." He knows that's a lie, but he hopes it's a big enough lie to panic you into doing anything to save the program. To make his plan easy to swallow, he coats it with another lie, claiming that he's merely "modernizing" and "updating" Social Security, which a big majority of Americans count on to avoid stark poverty in their golden years.

But on fact, old Uncle Sam is conniving to "save" Social Security

by gutting it. The press release announcing his "Reform Act" doesn't even mention the key fact that it's based on making workers keep paying the same 12.4 percent tax on their wages, but getting drastically less paid back to them when they retire. How much less? Up to 69 percent less, cutting a total cut of \$11.6 trillion in benefits promised to America's workers.

Meanwhile, Rep. Johnson has

announced his own retirement after 28 years sitting sitting in Congress. And yes, he can draw a Social Security check, but he also gets a Congressional pension that will pay him more than \$70,000 a year. How about we cut that perk and leave the people's Social Security alone?

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we fear this executive order will become a self-inflicted wound in the fight against terrorism."

What bombs will Trump deliver in Week Two?

Margaret Merritt  
Center Sandwich, N.H.

### Senator Bubble Boy

To the Editor:

It's amusing to see Senator Judd Gregg (New Hampshire's own Bubble Boy) once again off in the post-reality world in his January 29th *Seacoast Sunday* editorial assuring us that NPR is a "vicious ... voice of the left" with "an extreme liberal agenda." I can't count the many times NPR's public affairs programs have included for balance voices from the Heritage Foundation, the Hoover Institute, *The National Review*, Republican politicians, etc., in discussion programs and coverage of current events. We should have such evenhandedness from right wing talk shows and Fox News — speaking of bubbles.

Perhaps even more out of touch is Mr. Gregg's rant against unions in his desire to repeal the Davis-Bacon law established during the Great Depression, that result of America's second generation of American Robber Barons and political enablers. This is purest right wing dogma whether currently, historically, or globally speaking: more genuflecting to

the Koch Brothers and their cabal of billionaires during their annual Colorado "seminars." God forbid there should be any legislative protections for construction workers to be paid a prevailing local wage. Far better to retain corporate welfare — continued subsidies, tax loopholes, cheap mineral and agricultural rights on public lands, off-shore profits, and deregulation. And while he's at it, Mr. Gregg wants to return the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to the "protection" of Congress. Would that protection racket pass any reality-based reader's laugh test?

Now I do agree with the good Senator that there are no doubt some Civil Service employees who are slackers. Show me any organization large or small without its share of slackers. We are talking real life now, for a change. So yes, let's see about developing a process of trimming off the slack-fat there, and while we are at it, maybe we can use the same process to cut the fat off Congress's operational budget. But before we get all in a lather about fraud and waste in the Civil Service, Social Security, or Medicare/Medicaid, why not first get rid of what has become Congressionally legalized fraud and waste in the welfare system for the one percent and the corporate Big Wigs who are draining state and federal coffers?

Let's have an even playing field; let's have a truly free market, for a change. And then maybe we can start in on those evil leftists, slackers, and frauds among the bottom 50 percent of the U.S. economy.

Bubble life is nice, but there are real problems we Americans need to face honestly. Two weeks into a presidency demonstrating hubris worthy of Shakespeare (or is it Mel Brooks?), why not help tax-paying citizens, senator, instead of ranting against "extremist" public radio, wage and consumer protections for working class Americans, and slacker public servants. Maybe start with a re-reading of the Beatitudes and the Corporal Works of Mercy.

C.K. Adams  
Newfields, N.H.

C.K.:

We saw that slab of raw propaganda from the dyspeptic Bubble Boy, but dropped the ball. Thanks for taking up our slack with such brio!

The Editor

### Where Are The Republicans?

To the Editor:

The Republicans have been AWOL.

Trump issued an Executive Order on immigration that is clearly unconstitutional in some of its aspects, does nothing to increase American security, needlessly disrupts the lives of many who have contributed much to this country

or risked their lives for the US. And it provides fodder for Muslim extremists in their recruitment efforts.

Senate and House Republicans should be speaking out in droves. They are not. So far just a handful of Republicans in Congress have spoken up for justice. For eight years congressional Republicans made blocking Barack Obama's agenda their top priority, not the needs of the American people.

Will they have the courage to speak out now against a Republican President? Or, will they continue to ignore the needs of the nation for partisan reasons?

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.

### Debating Torture, Again?

To the Editor:

Bullies are afraid of being beaten up. Cowards, they beat up on younger, smaller kids. Donald Trump exhibits bullying when he advocates torturing people under U.S. custody who are bound, gagged and hooded.

Experienced CIA officers, like Ali Soufan and Mark Fallon, as well as Defense Secretary James Mattis, have stated conclusively that torture doesn't provide actionable intelligence torture; it only elicits what the torturer wants to hear. Political scientists know that torture helps terrorists recruit new terrorists. Clergy, and

our own hearts, remind us that torture stains our country's moral character, rendering us undistinguishable from the bad guys.

Why does Trump continue calling for torture? Is he so cowardly, so afraid of torture, that he knows he would start blabbing immediately? Does he figure terrorists are equally afraid? Many of our sons and daughters under arms, and frankly, some terrorists as well, have the courage to resist torture's coercion. They'd rather die than betray their country, or their cause, to degenerate sadists and cowardly bullies.

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, Calif.

### A Reasonable, Simple Request

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Dear X:

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The Editor

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| 5<br>sun<br>Closed Super Bowl                                                 | 12<br>sun<br>2 Bass Hit: Wood & Kaumeheiwa                                        |
| 6<br>mon<br>Nick Goumas<br>Larry Garland JAZZ JAM @ 6PM<br>8PM NO COVER       | 13<br>mon<br>Dry Martini<br>Larry Garland JAZZ JAM @ 6PM<br>8PM NO COVER          |
| 7<br>tue<br>Dave Gerard<br>HOOT (OPEN MIC) 9PM, NO COVER<br>Pint Night: 6-9pm | 14<br>tue<br>Andrew Pokalow<br>HOOT (OPEN MIC) 9PM, NO COVER<br>Pint Night: 6-9pm |
| 8<br>wed<br>Max Logue<br>9PM NO COVER                                         | 15<br>wed<br>Michael Blum Trio<br>9PM NO COVER                                    |
| 9<br>thu<br>Lux<br>9PM NO COVER                                               | 16<br>thu<br>Ervin Dhimo Trio<br>9PM NO COVER                                     |

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## ADMIRAL FOWLE'S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

| SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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| <p><b>2012</b>—A Robinson R44 begins shaking violently over Modesto, Calif. To save himself, the pilot makes an emergency landing on the grounds of an elementary school.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—Astronaut Lisa Marie Nowak is arrested for attempting to kidnap the girlfriend of another astronaut and for suspected misappropriation of NASA diapers.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Secretary of State Colin Powell tells the UN that Saddam Hussein's Iraq is bristling with WMDs.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush encounters a supermarket checkout scanner and confesses he is "amazed."</p> <p><b>1981</b>—In preparation for her husband's 70th birthday, First Lady Nancy Reagan flies her manicurist in from Los Angeles.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A B-47 bomber collides with a jet fighter near Tybee Island off the coast of Georgia and jettisons an H-bomb. It's still lost.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Roosevelt attempts to "pack" the Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—Birth of Hank Aaron.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Stephen W. Thompson becomes the first American pilot to down an enemy aircraft.</p> <p><b>1897</b>—Marcel Proust meets critic Jean Lorrain for a pistol duel at 3:00 p.m.—the earliest hour decent people are up and about.</p> <p><b>1637</b>—Tulip prices, up 2,500 percent in 33 days, top out in Holland at \$40,000 a pound.</p>                                                                                                      | <p><b>2013</b>—In Seabrook, N.H., Phantom Fireworks sells Tamerlan Tsarnaev 1.5 lbs. of black powder, and gives him another 1.5 pounds for free.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—An inebriated flight instructor commits suicide by crashing a Robinson R44 helicopter in Helena, Mont.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—U.S. Army Golden Knights parachutist Dana Bowman collides with a partner in mid-air and loses both legs. Nine months later he's back on the team.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The northeastern U.S. is clobbered by a huge blizzard; 29 die, 10,000 are homeless.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—New Hampshire's own Alan Shepherd uses a nine iron to whack a golf ball on the moon.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—NVA troops in Soviet tanks overrun Lang Vei; 21 of 24 Green Berets are KIA, WIA, or captured.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—A telegram telling Seattle shipyard owners not to raise wages goes to union leaders instead; a General Strike results. Workers control the city for a week. Union bureaucrats intervene to end the strike and maintain their own power while strikers are denounced as Bolsheviks.</p> <p><b>1684</b>—Rev. Joshua Moody, Portsmouth's first minister, is jailed by Lieut. Gov. Cranfield for refusing to administer the sacraments à la the Church of England.</p> <p><b>1557</b>—In Cambridge, England, Martin Bucer and Paul Fagius are burned at the stake for heresy; painlessly, since they've been dead for years.</p> | <p><b>1994</b>—British journalist and Conservative member of Parliament Stephen Milligan is found dead of auto-erotic asphyxiation.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—The IRA attacks 10 Downing St. with mortars.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—"It became necessary to destroy [the Vietnamese village of Ben Tre] in order to save it," U.S.A.F. Major Chester Brown tells reporter Peter Arnett.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—VC attack Camp Holloway near Pleiku killing 9 Americans and wounding 137. The U.S. responds by bombing North Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—U.S. recognizes Emperor Bao Dai's government of Vietnam, putting itself at odds with the Soviets and Ho Chi Minh.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—In Korea, Capt. Lewis Millert leads America's last bayonet charge. The anachronistic victory earns him the Medal of Honor.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—The First Negro History Week, precursor to Black History Month, is observed.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—<i>Le Représentant du peuple</i>, the first anarchist paper, is begun by Pierre-Joseph Proudhon.</p> <p><b>1821</b>—John Davis becomes first person known to set foot on Antarctica.</p> <p><b>1812</b>—The last, and most destructive, of the three big New Madrid, Mo. earthquakes causes the Mississippi to briefly reverse direction.</p> <p><b>1497</b>—In Florence, the pious burn "lewd" books and cosmetics in a Bonfire of the Vanities.</p>                                                               | <p><b>2001</b>—Knight-Ridder quotes an Air Force official who says "The public was misinformed" about the alleged Democratic looting of Air Force One. "There was no china or anything like that missing."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Operation Lam Son 719, a U.S.-supported ARVN incursion into Laos, begins. It ends three weeks later, a complete disaster.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The U.S. Military Assistance Command for Vietnam is formed in Saigon. What could go wrong?</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The House Un-American Activities Committee recommends putting innocent Japanese-Americans in concentration camps.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Nevada becomes the first state to kill someone in a gas chamber: Gee Jon, a hit man for the Hop Sing Tong.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—A coal dust explosion in Dawson, N.M.'s Stag Canyon No. 1 mine kills 123 miners, many of whom had been orphaned in 1913 by a coal dust explosion in the Stag Canyon No. 2 mine that killed 263.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—The Japanese make a surprise attack on Port Arthur, Manchuria, beginning the Russo-Japanese War.</p> <p><b>1692</b>—A Salem, Mass. doctor says three teenage girls are under Satan's influence, setting off witch trials.</p> <p><b>1587</b>—For conspiring against Elizabeth I, Mary, Queen of Scots, is executed. It takes the drunken executioner three blows of the ax, after the first of which, Mary is said to have said, "Executioner, achieve your work."</p> | <p><b>2007</b>—A Pentagon report concludes that Douglas Feith's policy office inappropriately manipulated intelligence on Iraq.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—University of N.H. nursing student Maura Murray vanishes in Haverhill, N.H.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The <i>USS Greeneville</i>, demonstrating an emergency ballast-blowing maneuver to 16 "Distinguished Visitors," half with Texas oil and Bush connections, sinks a Japanese high-school fishery training ship off Hawaii, killing five adult crew and four high-school students.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush denies he ever used the phrase "voodoo economics." Then NBC plays the tape.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Satchel Paige becomes the first Negro League player inducted into the Hall of Fame.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The Beatles appear on Ed Sullivan's show; Western Civ. crumbles.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—"I have here in my hand," says Sen. Joe McCarthy, "the names of 205 men that were known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping the policy of the state department." Years later he admits he held a laundry list.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—<i>HMS Venturer</i>, submerged, torpedoed and sinks <i>U-864</i>, also submerged, off Norway's coast.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—First federal legislation prohibiting narcotics (opium).</p> <p><b>1909</b>—Carmen Miranda is born.</p> | <p><b>2010</b>—Innovative tax protester Joe Stack flies a fuel-laden Piper into the IRS Field Office in Austin, Texas, killing one other, injuring 13, and causing damage in the millions.</p> <p><b>2009</b>—<i>Iridium 33</i> and <i>Kosmos 2251</i> collide 491 miles above Siberia and turn into two tons of space junk.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—<i>The Washington Post</i> reports a six-month gap in George W.[MD] Bush's National Guard service record.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The G.W.[MD] Bush Administration touts plastic sheeting and duct tape as a first line of defense.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Benzene-laden Perrier Water is pulled from the shelves.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—The WWF evades regulation by admitting that wrassling is an exhibition, not a sport.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—U-2 pilot Gary Powers is released by the Soviet Union during a spy swap in Berlin.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—<i>HMAS Melbourne</i> hits <i>HMAS Voyager</i>. Cut in half, <i>Voyager</i> sinks and 82 die—the first of two friendly ships <i>Melbourne</i> sinks.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Five Bloomsbury groupers, disguised as Abyssinian royalty, trick Royal Navy officers into giving them a tour of <i>HMS Dreadnaught</i>.</p> <p><b>1775</b>—<i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> prints an admonition from the Continental Congress, denouncing gamblers and threatening to name names.</p> <p><b>1355</b>—Oxford students assault the mayor, leading to two days of riots. About 30 townies are killed, and 63 students.</p> | <p><b>2014</b>—An FEC report confirms: Frank Guinta's mom and sis say he lied about "his" \$355K.</p> <p><b>2013</b>—KRTV in Great Falls, Mont. announces that "the bodies of the dead are rising from their graves and attacking the living."</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Dick "Dick" Cheney becomes the second sitting Vice President to shoot a man when he "peppers" his pal Harry Whittington in the face.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—"I'd like to thank my family for loving me and taking care of me," says Johnny Frank Garrett (IQ under 70), as Texas prepares to poison him, "and the rest of the world can kiss my ass."</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—RIP Sylvia Plath.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—The CIA creates a "Domestic Operations Division." What could possibly go wrong?</p> <p><b>1937</b>—The Great Flint, Mich. Sit-Down Strike ends in victory for the workers.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—The Mexican government nationalizes all church property.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Emma Goldman is arrested for the crime of telling women about birth control.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously resolves not to interfere with slavery.</p> <p><b>1812</b>—Massachusetts gets "gerrymandered" by Republican governor Elbridge Gerry.</p> <p><b>1790</b>—Quakers petition Congress to emancipate the nation's slaves.</p>                                       |
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| SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    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| <p><b>2004</b>—<i>USA Today</i> reports that former top Texas Air National Guard officers say files were "cleansed" to protect George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—In Fallujah, Iraq, a convoy including the U.S. commander Gen. John Abizaid is ambushed.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—NASA lands a satellite on the asteroid Eros.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—N.H. Senators Gregg and Smith notwithstanding, the Senate finds President Clinton not guilty.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The New World Liberation Front bombs Hearst Castle.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—A French patrol in the Sahara happens upon Bill Lancaster, mummified, alongside his biplane, 29 years after his disappearance.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The U.S. takes over training of the South Vietnamese military.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Sixty protesters burn draft cards in New York City.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—A huge mob in Bisbee, Ariz. herds 1,200 members of the IWW into boxcars to be shipped off and dumped in the New Mexico desert.</p> <p><b>1839</b>—The "Aroostook War" between Maine and New Brunswick begins.</p> <p><b>1831</b>—A solar eclipse inspires slave Nat Turner's rebellion.</p> <p><b>1809</b>—Abel Lincoln is born.</p> <p><b>1781</b>—<i>The Vermont Gazette</i> or <i>Green Mountain Post-Boy</i> begins, on a press brought to America in 1638.</p> <p><b>1554</b>—Ex-Queen of England Lady Jane Grey, 16, is decapitated by order of her cousin and successor, Queen "Bloody Mary" Tudor, 17.</p> | <p><b>2013</b>—Justice Antonin Scalia goes to his final judgment.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—The Senate tells the CIA to lay off the waterboarding.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—An Al-Qaeda tape calls George W.[MD] Bush a drunk gambler.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Former Rumsfeld assistant Ken Adelman predicts the Iraq War will be a "cakewalk."</p> <p><b>1991</b>—A U.S. laser-guided bomb kills some 400 Iraqi civilians in a bunker in Baghdad.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Two miles of sewer lines in Louisville, Ky., filled with hexane gas from a Purina plant, explode due to a random spark from a car.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—After hitting three spectators with his first two shots at the Bob Hope Classic, Veep Spiro "Ted" Agnew throws down his clubs and quits in disgust.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—At Ft. Jackson, S.C., five Army soldiers are arrested for praying for peace.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The National Student Association reveals it has "secretly and indirectly" received over \$3 million from the CIA over 15 years.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—A B-36 flying over the Pacific near Vancouver Island develops engine trouble. An H-bomb aboard, minus its plutonium core, explodes killing 5 crewmen and scattering 45kg of uranium into the atmosphere.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—The day he's honorably discharged, black vet Isaac Woodard is beaten and blinded by white cops in Aiken, S.C.</p>                                              | <p><b>2016</b>—With wind blowing 20 m.p.h., and the thermometer at -13°, the wind chill in Portsmouth falls to -38°.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—The White House releases some of George W.[MD] Bush's military records, but they fail to prove he was present for duty.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—President Reagan says one year's waste from nuke plant would fit under a desk.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The first American POWs released from North Vietnam arrive at Travis AFB, Calif.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Nixon's secret taping system is installed in the White House.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—A U.S. bomber crew jettisons a Mark IV nuke off British Columbia before bailing out of their burning B-36. A non-nuclear explosion ensues.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Forty U.S. B-17s intending to firebomb Dresden miss by 90 miles and hit Prague, instead. Death toll: 701. Bomb weight per death: 433 lbs.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—On St. Valentine's Day in Chicago, a cop asks Frank "Tight Lips" Gusenberg who shot him. "Nobody," he says, then dies.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Bernard Harden "Bern" Porter, Manhattan Project scientist and Henry Miller's first U.S. publisher, is born in northern Maine.</p> <p><b>1884</b>—Typhoid fever kills Teddy Roosevelt's mother. Hours later his wife dies, two days after giving birth.</p> <p><b>1873</b>—Jack Gaffney is hanged for murder in Buffalo, N.Y. by Erie County Sheriff and future president Grover Cleveland.</p> | <p><b>2013</b>—A previously unknown meteor or explodes over Chelyabinsk, Russia, injuring 1,500 people.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—In the largest global protest since, between 10 and 25 million people around the world denounce the coming war in Iraq.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—"We ought to make the pie higher," says G.W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Nixon tells the Joint Chiefs that the return of our POWs presents "an invaluable opportunity to revise the history of this War."</p> <p><b>1966</b>—CBS broadcasts reruns of "I Love Lucy" in place of Senate hearings on the conduct of the Vietnam War, prompting news chief Fred Friendly to quit in disgust.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—"I support Pres. Kennedy to the hilt [in Vietnam]," says Richard Nixon, "I only hope he will step up the build-up..."</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Mistakenly believing it is full of Nazi troops, Allied bombers destroy the 1,415 year-old monastery at Monte Cassino. Fortunately its historic treasures, previously moved to the Vatican by 100 Nazi trucks, are saved.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Japanese attackers, though outnumbered 2 to 1 by British and Australian defenders, take Singapore. Lt. Gen. Gordon Bennett escapes; his name later becomes synonymous with "running shoes."</p> <p><b>1933</b>—An attempted assassination of FDR results in death of Chicago mayor Anton Cermak.</p>                                                                         | <p><b>1982</b>—An aide to Nancy Reagan explains that the First Lady will no longer accept "loaned" threads from big name designers because she "really gets too tired of people misinterpreting what she was doing."</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The first computer bulletin board goes online in Chicago.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—A week after security in Saigon is "tightened," a Viet Cong bomb in an American movie theater kills 3 U.S. soldiers and wounds another 50.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—A two-day anti-nuclear march on Washington begins.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Fidel Castro becomes Premier of Cuba.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Guy Stewart Callender publishes a scientific paper (drawing in part on the work of F.E. Fowle) showing that mankind's carbon dioxide emissions are warming the climate.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Emma Goldman is busted for lecturing on birth control.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—French President Félix Faure has a fatal stroke while being felled in his office in the Élysée Palace.</p> <p><b>1868</b>—"The Jolly Gorks" change their name to "The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks."</p> <p><b>1848</b>—Womens' Rights Convention, Seneca Falls, N.Y.</p> <p><b>1818</b>—Charles W. Brewster begins his 50-year career as a Portsmouth, N.H. newspaperman.</p> <p><b>1804</b>—U.S. Navy Lt. Stephen Decatur climbs aboard the captured <i>Philadelphia</i> and burns it. He's promoted to Captain.</p>               | <p><b>2009</b>—Donald Trump files his fourth petition for bankruptcy.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Six days after being shot in the face, Harry Whittington apologizes to the Vice President for "all that [Cheney] had to deal with."</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Covert CIA agents grab Abu Omar in Milan, ruining an Italian surveillance program and leaving evidence that gets 23 of them convicted of kidnapping.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—"I hate the gooks," Sen. John McCain tells reporters. "I will hate them as long as I live."</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Gen. William Westmoreland abandons his libel suit against CBS, which had reported he had covered up VC troop strength.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—China invades Vietnam—again. Some countries never learn.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Disgruntled Army PFC Robert Preston steals a UH-1 Huey helicopter from Ft. Meade and lands it 150 feet from the White House. After a quick trip back to Ft. Meade he returns to the White House and lands in a hail of bullets.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The U.S. Army's top enlisted man is indicted for conspiracy to defraud enlisted men's clubs.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Armed whites in Detroit attack African-Americans moving into public housing.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Prohibition ends.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—The <i>Housatonic</i> achieves a distinction for the ages: it becomes the first ship ever sunk by a submarine, the Confederate <i>H.L. Hunley</i>.</p>                                                                                 | <p><b>2010</b>—On Fox TV, Glenn Beck modestly calls Thomas Paine "kind of the [Glenn Beck]" of his generation.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—The <i>Washington Post</i> reveals the sordid conditions at Walter Reed Army Hospital.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and exhibitionist Robert Hanssen is arrested for selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then to the Russians.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—Sen. Bob Smith declares for President. Hilarity ensues.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Semi-artist Wallace Berman, who as a child had told his mother he'd die on his 50th birthday, is struck and killed by a drunk driver in Los Angeles on his 50th birthday.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—The Chicago 7 are found innocent of conspiring to incite riots, but guilty of crossing state lines to incite riots.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—"We are going to win in Vietnam," says Bobby Kennedy in Saigon. "We will remain here until we do win."</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Four Coast Guardsmen in a 36-foot lifeboat brave 70-knot winds to rescue 32 sailors from the sinking <i>Pendleton</i> off Monomoy Island.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—Elsworth W. Bunce becomes the first man to milk a cow aboard an airplane in flight.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Having pled guilty to poisoning his wife, in anticipation of a life sentence, Oscar Comery is hanged instead by the State of New Hampshire. An underage girlfriend sealed his fate.</p> |
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