

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

In Sickness and in Health

One week ago 24 million Americans were *not* deprived of the overpriced, cumbersome health insurance provided to them under a deeply-flawed plan originally concocted by a Right Wing think tank. In the context of our parlous times, that actually made it a damn good day. And, as a bonus, members of the reality-based community were treated to an entertaining double feature.

Under the Capitol dome, Paul Ryan starred in "The Little Speaker Who Couldn't," apparently directed by David Lynch. The cast was singularly lacking in sympathetic characters, or even coherent ones. Despite years spent carping about bills being amended in the dark of night, Republicans put forward a bill that had been written overnight. Its passage was entrusted to Ryan, the party's best excuse for a *wunderkind*. Even after practicing Obamacare repeal more than 50 times since 2010, though, they couldn't muster the votes to do it when it mattered.

In the White House, Donald Trump performed a clumsy *pastiche* based on W.C. Fields. It was a fool's errand. Fields epitomized the blatant charlatan, extemporizing with transparent lies, trying to stay out of the clutches of the law. For such a portrayal to succeed requires ample measures of roguish charm. Minus the charm, it just doesn't work.

Trump's alleged success is based on his purported marketing genius. This was his sales pitch for the health care deprivation bill: "This will be a plan where you can choose your doctor. This will be a plan where you can choose your plan. And you know what the plan is. This is the plan."

That plan can now be found in the dustbin of history, along with his eponymous vodka, steaks, university, and casinos.

And the Winners Are ...

The high public profiles of these two big losers — magnified as always by our corporate media, reliably bedazzled by incompetents in positions of power — tend to obscure the big story, deeply embedded in this hilarious catastrophe. We'll let Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont explain what we mean: "It wasn't just that we defeated them, it is how we defeated them. And the reason we defeated them is that in Vermont and all over this country there were rallies, there were town meetings, and people stood up and they fought back and they told Trump and Ryan, 'No, we're not gonna give \$300 billion in tax breaks to the top two percent and then throw 24 million Americans off of health insurance. Aint' gonna happen.'"

The Sickness System

With or without Obamacare, the way health care is delivered in this country is, morally speaking, a crime. It's just been made legal by the strenuous efforts of highly paid experts.

For those with "coverage," actual health care isn't delivered, it's rationed out. Doctors were once highly-trained experts whose efficacy came largely from their intimate knowledge of their patients' medical history. Now they're in an episode of "I Love Lucy," standing next to Lucy and Ethel at the conveyor belt, trying to keep up as patients zip past in a blur. Meanwhile they enjoy job security and satisfaction on a par with convenience store clerks.

Obamacare established a complex system whereby otherwise uninsured Americans are herded into the lobbies of insurance companies and induced to purchase coverage under threat of financial penalty. Low-income individuals are bilked by proxy, with the gov-



ernment picking up the tab.

Those without health insurance can still get treatment, of course. We are not savages. They just have to go to the emergency room to get it — in the most demeaning, inefficient, and expensive way possible.

Minus the Blinders ...

Among Members of Congress, the acceptability of the current system varies according to party — as do, apparently, the laws of physics.

The *status quo* passes the Republicans' primary litmus test: individuals are forced to absorb exorbitant costs while corporations reap the massive profits to which they are, by unwritten law, entitled. This should come as no surprise, since Obamacare's birth certificate was issued by the Heritage Foundation. However, since the program was passed by a Democratic Congress and signed into law by a Democratic President — and a black one, to boot

— it is unacceptable to the GOP.

Many Democrats strongly favor the existing system, for precisely the reasons Republicans reject it. Other Democrats — a growing number, it appears — seem to think it's time to junk the present system and institute Medicare for all. This latter group's judgment is suspect, though. Its decisions are based on cost and effectiveness, and may not take into account the losses that might be incurred by entities which fund political campaigns.

As we continue to pay more per capita for health care than any other developed nation, we suffer outcomes which are far worse. This execrable level of performance was obvious long before Obamacare came along, and it is only marginally better today.

That our government allows this so-called system to persist suggests there is a conspiracy at work, hidden in plain sight, and guilty of displaying a depraved

indifference to human life. That is not hyperbole, that is an understatement.

If this assessment seems unduly harsh, perhaps it's because it's unfamiliar. Marketing studies have shown that the truth doesn't move product, and moving product is the primary function of the news media today. Anyone in the journalism racket who is big enough to matter is being paid accordingly. Get too outspoken about the role of the health insurance and pharmaceutical industries, and you've broken your own rice bowl.

Thanks to our negligible financial structure, we're exempt from such constraints.

Isn't It Ironic?

Trump's attempt to further degrade a mediocre system may, through its failure, revive a broad public demand for the a single-payer system that could actually work. If that were to happen, some of the credit would have to go to the Braggart-in-Chief.

The Alleged News®

It Can't Happen Here — Or Has It?

Finally, what we've all been waiting for: a news story that connects Donald Trump, Russian gangsters, and Portsmouth real estate.

We'll begin with *USA Today*, a paper that's usually best ignored. On Tuesday it ran a story under the headline, "Trump's business network reached alleged Russian mobsters" — something we had thought was common knowledge by now. One particular detail in Oren Dorell's story stood out, though: the role of the U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, or FinCen.

"Money laundering was an issue for Trump's Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City, which was fined \$10 million in 2015 for failing

to report suspicious transactions. Federal rules are designed to protect the U.S. financial system from being used as a safe haven for dirty money and transnational crimes, Jennifer Shasky Calvery, then-director of the U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCen), said at the time. It was the largest penalty the agency ever levied against a casino since reporting requirements began in 2003, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

"The Trump Organization admitted that it failed to implement and maintain an effective (anti-money laundering) program; failed to report suspicious transactions; failed to properly file required currency transaction

reports; and failed to keep appropriate records as required by (the Bank Secrecy Act)," FinCen said in a statement."

Now let's turn to Tuesday's *Washington Examiner*, another paper to which we would normally pay little attention, belonging as it does to a Bible-thumping Right Wing multi-billionaire. "Money laundering is shaping U.S. cities," read the headline in question.

"In a little-noticed statement, the Treasury bureau responsible for investigating financial crimes shared a remarkable money laundering statistic last month," Joseph Lawler wrote.

"Thirty percent of the cash purchases of high-end real estate by shell companies in six major cities

involved a suspicious buyer, according to an investigation conducted by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to find out who was behind the deals.

"In other words, money laundering plays a significant role in shaping U.S. cities. ... All that money being poured into U.S. real estate is contributing to affordability difficulties for middle-class families and to the loss of vitality in many of the country's richest neighborhoods, which have seen an influx of cash but not necessarily actual residents."

Hmmm ... sounds like someplace we know ...

The Wrecking Crew

By all appearances it seems that President Trump is determined to

scuttle the ship of state while he's still got access to the Oval Office.

Claiming his intent was to "promote clean and safe development" of energy resources while "avoiding regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation," Trump threw out President Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan on Tuesday. He claims he wants to put coal miners back to work, but fracking and mountaintop removal coal mines have eliminated those jobs for good. Besides, dollar for dollar, investments in solar power produce

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to page two

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from page one

twice as many jobs as coal.

Lest anyone think El Trumpazoid gives an actual hoot about the welfare of workers, that same day he reversed a 2014 Obama Executive Order requiring that contractors angling for Federal contracts over \$500,000 divulge prior violations of labor laws.

"When President Trump has a chance to stand with workers, he chooses not to," labor policy expert Heidi Shierholz told the *Huffington Post*. "By blocking this rule, the President and Congressional Republicans will ensure that taxpayers will continue to support contractors with a history of wage theft and health and safety violations." This was the point, of course.

The animus is hardly limited to *Homo sapiens*, either. Also on Tuesday, Paul Ryan tweeted a photo of himself signing a piece of paper, along with a message. "Another regulatory power grab from the Obama Administration is getting rolled back," he bragged. "This one reverses a harmful U.S. Fish and Wildlife rule." The

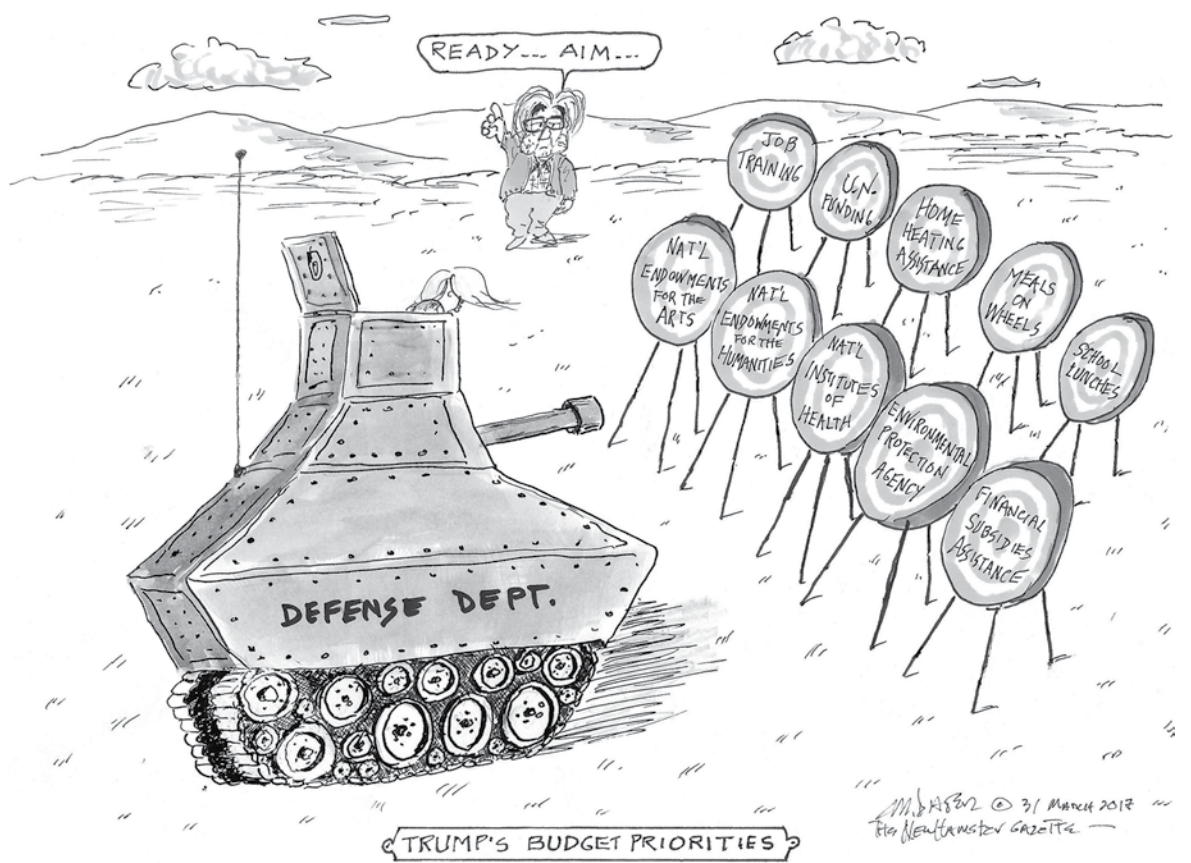
"harmful" rule in question, put in place by President Obama, of course, prohibited, among other things, the killing of hibernating animals — in wildlife refuges. Thanks to the Congressional Review Act of 1996, that regulation cannot be reinstated in "substantially similar form" without Congressional approval.

In the greater scheme of things, allowing Eric and Donald Jr. to murder Yogi and Smokey in their sleep is just a warm-up. Trump's ultimate goal appears to be global extinction.

Michael Mann, a preeminent climatologist, just published a study which established a link between the atmospheric build-up of greenhouse gasses and the slowing of jet stream patterns called Rossby waves. The result is an increase in extreme weather events like floods and heat waves.

The study was accomplished through the analysis of massive amounts of weather data.

Coincidence, climate researcher Victoria Herrman published an article in *The Guardian* on Tuesday [busy day, Tuesday] under the headline, "I am an Arctic researcher. Donald Trump is delet-



In an innovative attempt to hold the line on parking rate increases while building a new garage, the City recently drilled an exploratory well. Unfortunately, no oil was found.

ing my citations."

Herrmann describes "a surge of defunct links on 21 January. The U.S. National Strategy for the Arctic, the Implementation Plan for the Strategy, and the report on our progress [were] all gone within a matter of minutes."

Citizens Climate Lobby

In light of El Trumpazoid's attack on the atmosphere, we thought we'd better slip in this late-breaking item:

The next Citizens Climate Lobby N.H. South Central chapter meeting will be on Thursday, April 20th, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Hooksett Public Library. Anyone interested can check out the website at CCLNHSouthCentral.org. All are welcome to join the meeting. Snacks are provided!

Awkward Ceremony Tomorrow

The best panhandler's sign we ever saw read, "This is as awkward for me as it is for you." We were reminded of that by tomorrow's official New Hampshire 5th Viet-

nam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony.

"Four years ago," reads the announcement, "the State of New Hampshire hosted its first official welcome home ceremony for Vietnam-era veterans. Held to coincide with the national commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the war, the March 2013 ceremony inside a National Guard hangar in Concord drew more than 2,000 people."

Technically, that's not quite accurate. There was a Welcome Home effort back in the mid- or late-1980s. Clearly it could not have been particularly effective; the State has obviously forgotten about it, as have we — and we took part in it.

The only part of that effort we can clearly recall is the matter of the pins. Then-Democratic Minority Leader Chris Spirou had wanted our committee to organize the manufacture of some little "Welcome Home" pins.

Most of us thought the pins were a waste of time and money, but Spirou insisted they were vital. We learned that the manufacturer hadn't been paid for his work when we veterans were threatened with a lawsuit. After a "frank exchange of views" in Spirou's office, the problem was resolved.

Ah, the good old days. Back to the present, though.

"Since [2013]," the release goes on to say, "the state has hosted an annual reception at different locations across the state to ensure that as many of the 46,000 N.H. Vietnam-era veterans as possible (more than a third of state's veteran population) have the opportunity to be properly thanked for their service — something that never happened for most of them."

Tomorrow will see the last Welcome Home for Vietnam Veterans — until the next one.

It will be at the Alvirne High School gymnasium, at 200 Der-

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ry Road in Hudson, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Gov. Chris Sununu and New Hampshire Adjutant General Bill Reddel will host.

Paradise Delayed

Rye resident Robert Jesurum had hoped to host a celebration at Sanders Poynt tomorrow. It could have been a joyful event, accompanied by a brass band. After four years and five months of illegal obstruction, members of the general public should have been able to walk across a strip of private property and get their feet wet, launch a canoe, or toss a ball for their Labrador to retrieve.

After all, the Rockingham County Superior Court long ago ordered Wentworth by the Sea proprietor Bill Binnie to remove the obstructions he'd had erected, and restore public parking and the path down to the sea, and the Supreme Court has upheld that ruling. But nooo

Binnie and his lawyers have been stalling, using the dubious claim that he needs the Town's approval to replace the Town's little parking lot he had destroyed. On March 10th, the Superior

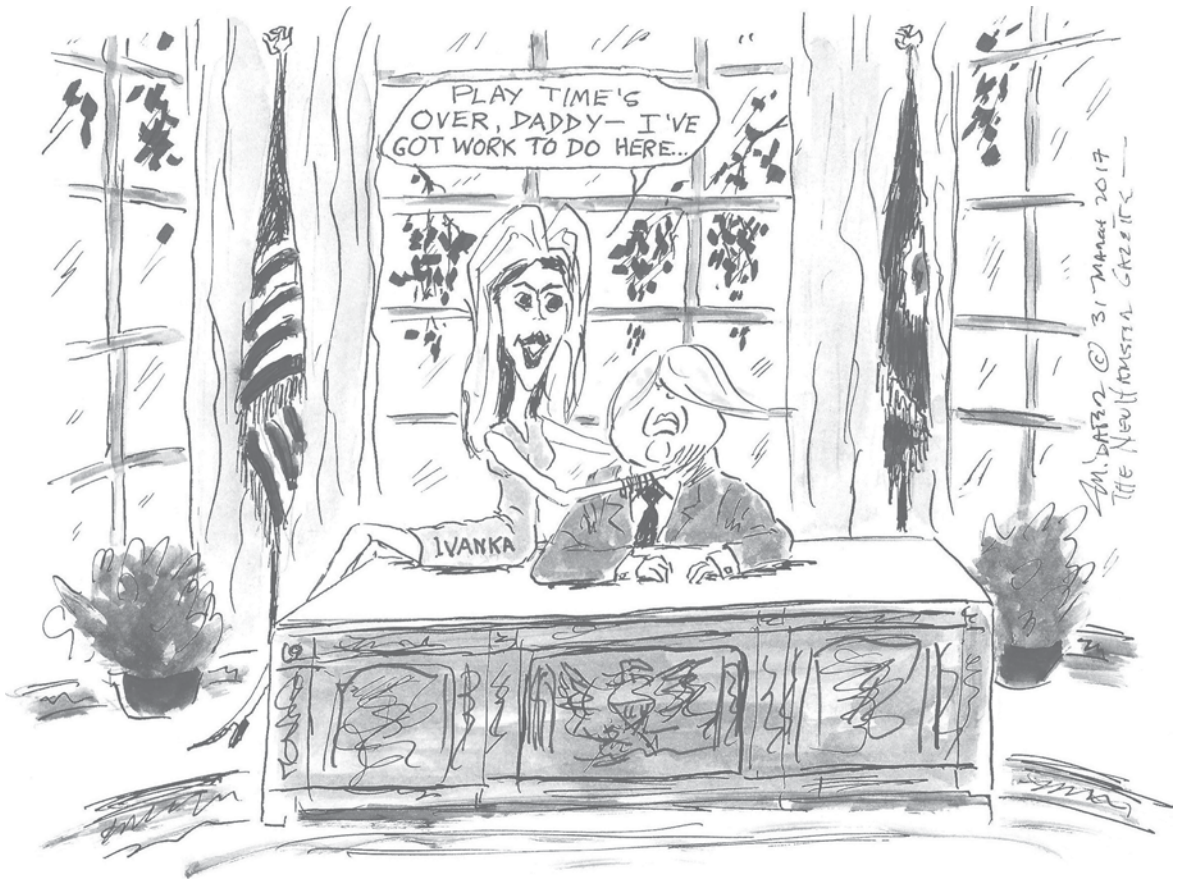
Court gave Binnie until April 1st to provide the details of his efforts to gain Town approval.

Jesurum, clearly as dogged as his adversary, filed a motion March 17th asking the Superior Court to reconsider that decision. He is arguing that at this point the Court has jurisdiction, and no other body needs to weigh in on the process. The Court had not responded as of Tuesday.

While no grand bash is expected at Sanders Poynt tomorrow, there will almost certainly be one in the not-too-distant future. Binnie may have money enough to file more futile foofaraw, but sooner or later he's got to run out of legal wiggle room.

This legal battle for the peoples' rights should have been handled by New Hampshire's Attorney General. When the AG refused, Jesurum stood up.

The Superior Court ordered Binnie to pay Jesurum's attorney's fees — a perfectly reasonable decision. The Supreme Court sided with Binnie on that matter, leaving Jesurum on the hook for roughly \$100,000.



Sunday was overcast and raw, yet they persisted: singing, chanting, and holding up signs saying *Gorsuch Not Right for SCOTUS; No Confirmation Until FBI Investigation Is Complete; I Will Always Persist and Resist; Messy, Disruptive, Loud — That's What Democracy Looks Like; No Gorsuch; People Before Corporations; Hands Off the EPA; No Ban, No Wall, No Hate; #Resist; Join Us — The Rights We Save May Be Your Own; Lady Justice Needed; and Garland Not Gorsuch.*

We've been trying, with uneven success, to keep up with the effort to cover Jesurum's legal expenses. The amount raised as of Tuesday came to \$8,145.00. That leaves \$91,855 to go. Those wishing to improve this deplorable situation may do so online at ccanh.org/sanders-poynt, or mail their personal check to CCA NH, PO Box 4372, Portsmouth, N.H. 03802-4372. Checks should be payable to the "Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire," with the notation line on the lower left of the check stating "Sander's Poynt Legal Fund" so that CCA NH can direct donations accordingly. All funds raised go directly to Jesurum.

Take a Walk Through Time

Historian Neill DePaoli will lead a hike at Orris Falls Conservation Area in South Berwick, describing the pivotal role of the beaver fur trade at Newichawanock (current day South Berwick) and the influence of English trade on Wabanaki culture in the

17th century. Sponsored by the Old Berwick Historical Society [OBHS] and the Great Works Regional Land Trust [GWRLT], the walk will take place on Saturday, April 8 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. It will include stops to discuss the Anglo-Indian beaver trade and its economic, political, and cultural ramifications for both English settlers and the Wabanaki people who had occupied the region for thousands of years before Europeans arrived here in the early 1600s.

Orris Falls Conservation Area, near the border of South Berwick and Wells, lies at the heart of an ancient volcanic caldera and features a rich area of vernal pools, a 90-foot gorge, and a wetland area actively dammed by beaver.

This history hike is part of a five-event hike series led by historians on GWRLT conservation lands, which complements OBHS's 2017 lecture series about cultural frontiers. These programs are part of the Historical Soci-

ety's two-year Forgotten Frontier project, which brings to light long-buried clues about our regional identity.

Each hike is preceded by a corresponding lecture offered one to two weeks prior. Paired with the Orris Falls hike was a March 23 lecture by Dr. Katherine Grandjean of Wellesley College entitled, "American Passage: The Communications Frontier in Early New England," discussing Native woods runners and the impact of their communication networks on the settlement of New England.

For details on the hike series, visit www.gwrlt.org. Email or call (207) 646-3604 to reserve a spot. The events are free to Great Works and OBHS members, \$5/individual or \$10/family suggested donation for nonmembers. Reservations requested. Please refer to the GWRLT website for cancellations.

For more information on the lecture series visit the OBHS website, www.oldberwick.org.

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On Gorsuch, 9/11, and Justice

To the Editor:

On the surface, President Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch, appears to be a pleasant and moderate man. But Mr. Gorsuch in fact has a track record of defending extreme views on an issue that every American should be concerned about: torture and human rights. As a high-ranking Justice Department official in the George W. Bush White House in 2005, Mr. Gorsuch engineered procedures to allow, and then cover-up, waterboarding and other "enhanced interrogation practices" that were later found unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Revelations that our government defied the Geneva Convention as well as the U.S. Constitution — disregarding the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments (Due Process) and the Eighth Amendment (Cruel and Unusual Punishment) — shocked millions of Americans.

When the full details of the torture program were uncovered in the Senate Intelligence report on CIA torture in 2014, I was one of those shocked Americans. The report detailed how the Bush administration carried out illegal and immoral torture on suspects in "black sites" in Europe and elsewhere, later bringing those men to prison in Guantanamo, where they experienced further abuses — most of them without any evidence of terrorist activities.

I have a personal connection to this issue, as my brother Greg is a

victim of terrorism. Greg, my only sibling, perished along with his co-workers and thousands of others in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. I have been to the military complex at Guantanamo as a 9/11 Victim Family Member. I have seen the trial proceedings and faced the men accused — all of whom are also victims of the CIA's illegal torture program.

Seeing these men face to face made it clear to me that to fight terror, to achieve justice for its victims, to protect the rest of us from future violence, we must hold our government to the highest standards and reject illegal practices. Legitimizing extra-legal practices such as torture weakens our position as a strong democratic nation. Mr. Gorsuch's actions in the Justice Department in 2005 made us more vulnerable by putting our government on shaky legal and moral ground.

We cannot afford to seat a Justice with extremist views that will undermine Rule of Law and the moral underpinnings of our constitution. I urge Senators Shaheen and Hassan to fight Mr. Gorsuch's nomination on those grounds.

Julia Rodriguez
Durham, N.H.

Julia:

If it was up to us, you'd be on the Supreme Court, not Gorsuch.

The Editor

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Sentient Mammal Likes Paper

To the Editor:

I am writing to thank you for the enjoyment I got reading your March 3rd paper this week. I like the informative content and sharp wit!

I am the leader of Citizens Climate Lobby [CCL]'s N.H. South Central chapter. An unfamiliar sentient mammal showed up at our last monthly group meeting at the Hooksett Library carrying your paper, and said he learned about CCL and our meeting from your Alleged News article. He gave me the copy and I've read it cover to cover. So thanks for the new CCL member as well!

You covered CCL very well, so you might be interested in a little more for the future. At the end of last year CCL had grown to 55,000 volunteers world-wide, doubling from the previous year as it has done for the last several. My chapter, three months old then, had about 25 names in its roster. With all the 'exciting' announcements from the Trump administration since then, the Trump team has turned out to be a very productive recruitment tool for me. My chapter is now up to 65 people. CCL membership has been growing across the state this year — a fourth CCL chapter is now forming in the N.H. Seacoast region.

The REMI study that was paid for by CCL and done by an independent group that does environmental and economic research for government and fossil fuel groups predicts very good benefits from carbon fee and dividend, and those results are replicated in a few other similar studies of similar revenue neutral carbon pricing policies: citizensclimatelobby.org/remi-report. If you have any questions about CCL or local activities in N.H. I would be happy to talk anytime.

John Gage
Windham, N.H.

Citizens Climate Lobby Volunteer, CCL N.H. South Central chapter leader

cclnhsouthcentral.org

John:

CCL is an interesting outfit. We're glad we found you a new recruit. As climate consumers of long standing, we thank you for your good works!

The Editor

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"Sky Deemed Too Safe"

To the Editor:

You probably read about the expansion in the *Portsmouth Herald*: "Seacoast Helicopters to build facility at Pease."

Here are some alternate headlines:

"Noise polluter doubles down on noise"

"Helicopter school practices over

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,

regular schools"

"Pease Tradeport deemed too quiet, more noise added"

"Insane man surrounded by noise makes everyone else listen"

"Local businessman puts self before community"

"Sky deemed too safe, flying machines added"

"Impressed by spread of noise pollution, air and water pollution decide to make a comeback"

"Flying business man grounds real estate prices"

Andy Gagnon
Portsmouth, N.H.

Andy:

"Insane man surrounded by noise makes everyone else listen" is our pick of the litter. It reminds us a little bit of us — but at least newspapers are silent!

The Editor

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Unhealthy Insurance

To the Editor:

According to Webster, insurance is a contract whereby "one party undertakes to indemnify or guarantee another against loss."

Once upon a time, health insurance was regulated as a public utility and rate increases were tightly controlled, forcing carriers to push back against increased medical costs. Then came deregulation, promising lower rates due to competition among providers. However, as it turned out, vendors elected to cherry pick subscribers and pass hospital costs through to consumers, skimming a percentage off the top as profit. Unfortunately, under this system, inflated medical bills merely returned more money to the insurance companies, defeating any incentive to control costs. Now we see an industry consuming itself from the inside out, as medical costs spiral and subscribers are forced to drop out.

In reality, health insurance isn't political or complicated. We simply need to understand that it only becomes sustainable when every

citizen is on board and paying in. Only then can I, as your neighbor, afford to indemnify you and your family against the financial disaster of a major illness — and vice versa. Much as we may grit our teeth at the thought, the Federal government is far better organized to administer programs that require universal participation by every citizen in order to succeed.

Unfortunately, until our spineless defenders of the public interest in Washington force private insurance carriers to make their money some other way, you and I will never have an opportunity to experience the healthcare security afforded to the citizens of most other civilized nations. Paul Ryan calls this freedom. I call it bull_____!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

Thanks in particular for pointing out the perverse incentive insurers have to allow hospital costs to rise. Maybe that's why hospitals are turning into medical Taj Mahals.

The Editor

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No Gorsuch Until We Know

To the Editor:

With nearly a year remaining in his presidency, President Obama nominated Merrick Garland to fill the Supreme Court vacancy. Republican Senators refused to even consider the nomination, claiming we were "too far into the election campaign" (this was nine months before the election). They stole Obama's legitimate opportunity to appoint a Justice.

During that campaign, Trump spewed many lies about Hillary Clinton, including saying her presidency would be illegitimate because she was "under investigation" about her emails. Now we know that Trump and his campaign associates are under FBI investigation for possible coordination and collusion with Russia's cyber attack on our

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

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— Edward R. Murrow (1908-1965)
journalist

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And Other Correspondence

country.
Russia's attack included using robot programs (bots) to flood social media with anti-Hillary messages, along with invading DNC computers, stealing and disseminating private emails. Nevertheless, Clinton won three million more votes than Trump. Nevertheless, Trump legally became president.

Until and unless the doubt about Trump's involvement is removed, proceedings with his nomination to fill the stolen Justice's seat should stop. Republicans of sincere conscience, along with Democrats, should not approve a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court until we are certain whether Trump's presidency is legitimate or criminal.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA

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## Free Stater: Nullify Pot Law

To the Editor:

Yes, that is pot you're smelling in the Government Complex. There is so much dank weed in City Hall that visitors and employees are complaining, according to an article in Friday's *Portsmouth Herald* titled "Police: Pungent pot grower to be charged with felonies." Uniformed officers are on their hands and knees applying duct tape and plastic sheets to block the ventilation of the smell. Is this the job they envisioned when they joined the force? The prosecutor asked the court to allow them to destroy the smelly flowers. I offer a better solution: The Portsmouth Police can preserve justice and help city employees breathe better by returning the plants to where they belong.

The problem began when Portsmouth police employee "Mike" Kotsonis organized a raid of a local man's Woodbury Ave home because he smelled pot. Instead of leaving it alone or asking if he could contain the smell, Mike took potted plants from the home of Christian Lydon,

age 47, and then he put Lydon in handcuffs and took him from his family.

This appears to be a lapse in Mike's good judgement. The *Herald* reported that in 2015 he paid for the items that a local shoplifter had stolen: Crisco, icing, and cake mix, for her child's birthday cake. He exercised discretion then. That's what he should have done with the smelly weed flowers. Instead, he stole them. Mike did harm to a Portsmouth resident. And he's making it worse by continuing to charge his victim with life-ruining felonies. And stinking up City Hall.

One out of every two Americans has tried pot, according to a 2012 survey by the Federal government. All of New Hampshire's neighbors have decriminalized it; Maine and Massachusetts have legalized it. Sixty-two percent of New Hampshire residents want it legal, according to the 2016 Granite State Poll. The plant has recorded medical uses and 29 states offer treatment for over two million registered patients in the U.S., according to the Marijuana Policy Project.

The law is in conflict with what society thinks. Mike didn't break the law, but he did do wrong. The remedy for this situation is to drop the charges and return the flowers to their rightful owner. If the growing tidal wave of public opinion is any indication, Portsmouth residents would celebrate this. It demonstrates honor. Anything less adds insult to injury and damages trust toward those we expect to keep our town safe. Should Portsmouth residents fear more raids on our homes for neighbors who smoke pot?

This is a perfect case for Jury Nullification. It is the perfectly legal, centuries-old tradition of refusing to convict defendants when the law violates one's conscience. Christian never hurt anybody or caused any damage, but if state employees take a Portsmouth father away from his

children and put him in prison at taxpayer expense, they harm all of us. A jury vote of Not Guilty would set him free. Every juror has that right.

You can help by calling Mike and respectfully urging him to drop the charges against this local family man. Help him out. He doesn't know what you think about his enforcing pot laws unless you tell him. His work phone is (603) 610-7523.

Derrick J. Freeman  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Derrick:

*Thanks for writing. Your letter prompted us to consider why we find Free Staters so uniformly annoying, and we think we may have found the answer.*

*Our thought process led us to an online video in which a person going by your name interacted with some Keene cops. The Derrick J. Freeman in the video was a preppy-looking young man with a Tintin haircut and European-style military coat who exhibited classic passive-aggressive behavior as he filmed his own arrest.*

*The person making the video clearly saw himself playing the starring role of freedom fighter. What we saw was a guy working the ultimate blue-collar job, patiently dealing with a self-indulgent middle-class pain in the butt, smugly expecting the rest of the world to honor the peculiar definitions applied by his cult. Suggesting that Kotsonis could and should unilaterally ditch the case fits right into that mindset.*

*That said, you and the Free State Project are right as rain on the matter of jury nullification. It's real, and its application in this case would be jake with us.*

The Editor

~~~~~

Clampetts in the White House

To the Editor:

On a wave of justifiable but misdirected populism, the Clampetts have come to the White House. Only now they are grifters and grafters. We are being reminded yet again what unchecked capitalism looks like.

I'm all for limited government and free markets. And it does seem arguable that the ancient and dishonorable record of human folly suggests that capitalism (instead of communal or anarchic utopias) is the best we bi-pedal anthropoids have come up with so far to create efficient economic arrangements. But one thing seems certain: capitalism, like democracy, to be viable rather than malignant and predatory, requires checks and balances — oversight, transparency, and raw-impulse control. The only institution powerful enough to offer mitigating counterpoise to the power of enormous individual and corporate capital is democratic government with a level of financial disinterestedness that allows for such oversight and control.

By 2017, historians Charles and Mary Beard, who argued that American history is the story of the conflict between democracy and capitalism, seem more prescient every day, even if we have pinned our hopes to a post-factual world.

Doesn't the historical evidence we try to ignore show that the unchecked profit motive brings us (among other things) slavery, grotesque sweatshops, brutal child labor, 70-hour work weeks, Wall Street meltdowns, political disruption on a global scale, dangerous food and pharmaceuticals, reckless science denial, and industrial pollution threatening public and biotic health at every turn?

Historians have described a perfect emblem of the millions of tragedies that can follow when profit motive Trumps all other values and priorities — "Ashley's Sack." Ashley's sack is an infamous emblem worth our heeding because the unchecked profit motives of northern manufacturers and southern slave holders institutionalized and sustained slavery. Ashley's Sack is the coarse-cloth bag containing a tattered dress, three handfuls of parched corn, and a braid of mother's hair that Rose, a slave, gave to her daughter Ashley as she was



about to be sold away at the age of nine to another slave owner. Rose's great-granddaughter later embroidered in red thread on the rude sack the simple message Rose spoke to the daughter she would never see again, "It be filled with my Love always."

C.K. Adams
Newfields, N.H.

C.K.

Thank you for introducing us to the story of Ashley's Sack, which is now on display at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington D.C.

We will not be surprised if some apologist accuses you of slandering the good name of unfettered capitalism.

You'll receive the best defense we can possibly muster.

The Editor

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## Liberal Obsessions

To the Editor:

It's funny how the Republicans, the party with which Donald Trump is registered, but is not really a part of, are singled out as the ones who will keep the promises to hedge fund managers like Robert Mercer, but you neglected to mention that promises kept to the likes of this man have already been made and kept by the Clintons and Barack Obama, who in eight years of office did not bring one of the fraudsters to justice, and, in fact facilitated the transfer of wealth from the pension funds and the bank accounts of

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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*The Northcountry Chronicle*

# Sleepless from Maine to Seattle

by William Marvel

The onset of daylight-saving time gave me a little break from creeping sleep-deprivation, but in a few weeks it will resume, and worsen gradually until the summer solstice. People who consider me cantankerous now should just wait a couple of months. The only thing that makes me testier than fatigue is missing a meal, but I can keep granola bars handy: I can't unilaterally counteract the folly of trying to "save" daylight by fiddling with the clocks.

In 1914 Englishman William Willett lobbied Members of Parliament with his pamphlet entitled "A Waste of Daylight." In it, he calculated that 154 hours of daylight are "lost" every year because people slept an hour after sunrise each morning between April and September. Better, he thought, to shift the time to move that hour to the end of the day, so people could enjoy more evening leisure. It made no impression on the MPs that Mother Nature promptly struck Willett

dead right after he asked them to pass a law to that effect. Like most politicians, they dared not refuse legislative tribute to the recently deceased, so his silly idea became mandatory. Today, they might have called it "Willie's Law."

By then the Brits didn't covet evening leisure so much as more time for war production. It was no coincidence that the United States also codified daylight-saving time right after entering the same war, and abolished it as soon as the war ended. In World War II the U.S. adopted daylight-saving time year-round for the duration. Some states and smaller localities continued to run on daylight time thereafter—sometimes all year, and sometimes only during half the year. Some reverted permanently to standard time, so confusion prevailed. In 1966 Congress set standard dates in April and October for beginning and ending daylight-saving, but—perhaps because Congress had not yet decided that states had no rights of their own—it was not made compulsory.

Alleged energy efficiency became a big excuse for expanding daylight-saving time, but of course it really only exists to allow more golfing by the professional and politician classes. The oil embargo of 1973 moved Congress to start daylight saving right after New Year's Day, but in 1976 it returned to late April. Ten years later, those golf-hungry politicians changed that to early April. In 2005, enjoying the effects of global warming, they snuck it back to mid-March and extended it into November—again under the guise of energy efficiency.

My wife usually teaches well into the evening. Most workdays she isn't home before 8:00 P.M., and often not until 9:30 or 10:00. If we are to share any semblance of a meal or spend any time together, it's usually impossible to be in bed before 11:00. Except when completely worn out, both of us usually wake up with the dawn, if not at first light. With actual sunrise just after 6:00 A.M. in early March, that gave us barely six hours and a half to sleep, but daylight-sav-

ing time dropped that to five and a half hours for the night of the switch. After the clocks changed we had seven and a half hours of "sleepable" darkness, but that will gradually shrink back to well under six hours by June.

June is therefore utterly exhausting, and more than a little dangerous. In fact, the daylight-saving lunacy wreaks documented havoc on our overall health. Research at both Johns Hopkins and Stanford University has found a noticeable increase in fatal traffic accidents following the clock change that so conspicuously disrupts everyone's sleep each spring. Finnish researchers have also detected an 8-percent increase in strokes right after the spring change. In 2012 the University of Alabama recorded a 10-percent increase in heart attacks on the first weekdays after the clocks were turned forward, and the next year the American Journal of Cardiology also reported a spike in heart attacks at that time.

Duke Energy, an electric util-

ity, alleges that all this mayhem and disruption is warranted by a reduction in energy usage of one-half of one percent. A growing number of researchers doubt that claim, given all the additional driving to the golf course and the demand for air-conditioning in homes still baking under full sunlight. When Indiana finally passed statewide observation of daylight-saving time, it saw a one-percent increase—not decrease—in energy consumption.

The golfers in Congress won't act, but local resistance can render the practice cumbersome enough to end it without congressional repeal. Hawaii and Arizona have abolished daylight-saving time, and other states have considered it. Town, city, or county ordinances can also contribute. A minority of oppositional communities, scattered broadly nationwide, could render the artificial time change too confusing to survive. Kill it or make it permanent, but stop messing with us.

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

workers and savers into the Wall Street casinos and then into the pockets of the speculators and thieves, the very people who had wrecked the economy then were bailed out with quantitative easing and an artificially suppressed interest rates, giving them free money with which to speculate and to make them whole when their bets went wrong.

You do mention that outside the Republican tent there are a only a few Democrats who have not sold out to the neoliberal agenda, but I would add that Hillary Clinton is not one of them. It is not by ac-

cident that she was supported by Wall Street and the banks which forked over millions of dollars to her in honoraria (bribes?) remitting up to \$200,000 per appearance. I guess she didn't include the topic of ethics in her speeches. And it really confuses me as to how anyone who can so rightfully attack parasites like Robert Mercer can at the same time support Hillary Clinton when it seems the only thing that motivates both the Clintons is money.

Oh, and by the way, those phone calls to Jewish Community Centers were made by an Israeli teen-

ager, so the liberals will have to backtrack from their accusations — again made without proof — that those calls were made by a deplorable Trump supporter. One more thing: When former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and former acting CIA Director Michael Morell made it clear that there was no evidence of a Russia-Trump connection, how would they know this if they did not have Trump under electronic surveillance? The question is whether Obama requested it.

I think that instead of constantly being preoccupied with The

Donald, the liberals best spend their time finding a platform and a candidate responsive to those upstanding citizens who do the right thing when they go to work every day, pay their taxes, send their children to school, work hard to keep the household going, pay the mortgage, the life insurance, and so many other expenses while working within a precarious job market that has already sent many of them into foreclosure when their jobs were lost or transferred overseas. Perhaps the liberals should have listened to one of their own, Michael Moore,

who predicted a Trump win. Then again, he has spent so much of his life in the Rust Belt, far away from Boston/New York/ Washington corridor and the West Coast. He knows first hand the hardships of the people in fly over country.

John Dente  
Wilmington, Del.

John:  
*Wow. And we thought we wrote run-on sentences. Seriously, though, this is why we like your letters. They're like footballs — you never know which way they'll bounce. Kind words for Michael Moore! Didn't you just love Where to In-*

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## There's a word for Trump's latest flimflam of workers

by Jim Hightower

By gollyies, The Donald delivers! Trump and his new blue-ribbon panel of working-class champions have announced a bold initiative to create millions of American jobs. A spokesman for the panel, Steve Schwarzman, praised Trump as a leader who wants to "do things a lot better in our country, for all Americans."

Wait a minute — Steve Schwarzman? Isn't he a billionaire hedge-fund huckster on Wall Street? Yes — and Holy Money Bags! — there's Jamie Dimon, head of scandal-ridden JPMorgan Chase. Working-class champions? Trump's whole "jobs" panel is made up of Wall Street bankers and corporate powers like Walmart that're notorious for laying-off and ripping-off workers. Trump-the-candidate ful-

minated against such moneyed elites, calling them "responsible for the economic decisions that have robbed our working class." But now, in a spectacular flipflop, he's brought these robbers directly inside his presidency, asking them to be architects of his economic strategy. Worse, he's doing this in the name of helping workers.

Hello — to develop policies beneficial to working stiffs, bring in some working stiffs! But not

a single labor advocate is on his policy council, in his cabinet, or anywhere near his White House.

Thus, the so-called "job-creation plan" announced by Trump and his corporate cohorts doesn't create any jobs, but calls instead for — Ta Dah! — deregulating Wall Street. These flimflammers actually want us rubes to believe that "freeing" banksters to return to casino-style speculation and consumer scams will give them

more money that they "can" invest in American jobs.

Do they think we have sucker wrappers around our heads? Trump's scheme will let banks make a killing, but it doesn't require them to invest in jobs — so they won't. There's a name for this: Fraud.

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vade Next?

Trump may not be a real Republican, but he brought that whole gang of crooks along with him. Hence our arm's length support for his opponent last November. Better to suffer under the inept than give a license to the venal.

The Editor

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### Communities Have Rights, Too

To the Editor:

With alarming frequency, daily new stories chronicle the perilous state of our environment. Climate change brings increasing temperatures and more erratic weather that is associated with floods, droughts, and wildfires. According to NOAA, climate-related disasters cost 138 lives and over \$40 billion in damage in 2016 alone [1]. Last year, drought conditions led more than 150 New Hampshire community water systems to impose restrictions, especially in the heavily populated southern third of the state [2]. Toxins in our air, water, and soil threaten biodiversity and compromise our health. On the Seacoast, a pediatric cancer cluster has raised concerns about possible water, air, or other environmental links to childhood illnesses [3], and the discovery of PFOA and other chemicals in community water supplies has triggered an ongoing investigation by the

Department of Environmental Services [4]. Together, climate change and pollution add mightily to the ongoing demands that development places on nature and our increasingly scarce, hence ever-more-valuable, resources.

Environmental threats compromise the rights of nature, the scenic beauty of our communities, and our health. The environmental crisis we face has coincided with a crisis of democracy. Corporate profit-seeking too often trumps the interests and even the democratic will of citizens in their own municipalities. Powerful corporations and their lobbyists exert disproportionate influence over state and federal law-making, and since the 2010 Citizens United ruling, the role of big money in politics has only increased. The current framework allows corporations to pollute the environment and pursue energy projects, resource extraction, or water privatization without duly accounting for the local priorities of those most affected by such ventures.

Citizens of the state have a right to protect their health and well-being. They have a responsibility to be good stewards of the environment and to defend the rights of nature. And they can best do this in the context of their own communities, where threats to human rights and the rights

of nature have the most visibility, immediacy, and the power to generate strong resistance. Citizens in Alexandria, Barnstead, Barrington, Nottingham, Plymouth and elsewhere have coalesced around locally-enacted Rights-based Ordinances that endeavor to restore the democratic rights of residents and protect the rights of nature at the local level. The New Hampshire Community Rights Network (NHCRN) supports these efforts and has worked to return power to people and their municipal governments. Interested citizens can obtain more information about the work of the NHCRN by visiting [www.nhcommunityrights.org](http://www.nhcommunityrights.org) or emailing [info@nhcommunityrights.org](mailto:info@nhcommunityrights.org).

- Cliff Brown  
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### "Dear President Trump"

To the Editor:  
Below is my open letter to Pres-

ident Trump:

Rogue Judges and self-interested plaintiffs have blocked your efforts to protect American lives and our benevolent society. Those Judges and plaintiffs are allowing people, who cannot be reliably vetted to exclude terrorists, to come from terrorist havens and live in our country.

These Judges and plaintiffs expect that inadequately vetted immigrants and refugees won't settle in or near their wealthy neighborhoods. They are confident they aren't risking the lives of their families and friends, but they willingly risk the lives of the Americans who live in the neighborhoods where the inadequately vetted people will settle.

Americans have a right to believe that all foreigners who come to live in our country are peaceful, will assimilate, and want to positively contribute to our society.

But the European experience shows that un-vetted immigration and refugee resettlement result in riots, crimes, ingratitude, lack of assimilation, and demands on native people to conform to the cultures of the immigrants/refugees. It's clear that not all people are people of good will and many won't assimilate with Western culture.

We don't want Europe's experience repeated here. A thorough

vetting process is needed and, by enabling trust, benefits both American citizens and the assimilation of our new residents.

As long as self-interested plaintiffs and rogue judges prevent you from adequately vetting people coming to our country, please make sure that these people settle in the neighborhoods of the self-interested plaintiffs and rogue Judges. Hopefully there won't be any, but if terrorists or miscreants hide among these inadequately vetted immigrants and refugees, let their riots, rapes, killings, and other crimes occur in the neighborhoods of the plaintiffs and rogue Judges who care so little about the lives of other Americans.

Readers, your lives and the lives of your families and friends have been put at risk by self-interested plaintiffs and rogue Judges. Perhaps they will reconsider their actions if it's the lives of their family members and friends that are put at risk.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

You may be onto something here. Next, let's force all Exxon's biggest stockholders to live next to oil refineries down on the Houston Ship Canal, where they'll have to breathe in all that airborne muck.

The Editor

Originals or prints of Mike Dater's drawings and other tomfoolery are available at [www.mikedater.com](http://www.mikedater.com)

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| 5<br>wed<br>Mika Jones<br>9PM<br>NO COVER                                                     | <b>Jazz lunch</b><br>w/Larry Garland & Friends<br>SATURDAYS @ 1PM                              | 13<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, APRIL 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        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| <p><b>1996</b>—Due to the high number of crashes, the NTSB adopts a Special Report on Robinson helicopter crashes due to loss of main rotor control.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—In Germany, a Robinson R44's main rotor hits the cabin. The helicopter then falls apart and crashes, killing the pilot and his wife.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Argentina invades the Falklands. Jeanne Kirkpatrick, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., attends a dinner in the Argentine embassy hours later.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—President Dwight D. Eisenhower is buried in an \$80 G.I. coffin.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Chicago riots are quelled by National Guard troops.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—M.L. King, Jr. leads a voter registration drive in Birmingham. Police Chief "Bull" Connor responds with dogs and fire hoses.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—San Francisco columnist Herb Caen introduces his readers to the term "beatnik."</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Three soldiers, two black and one white, are shot to death, and five are wounded, near Ft. Dix, N.J., in a fight over a phone.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—In his Capitol Hill office, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R-Mass.), 67, punches Alexander Bannwart, one of his constituents, in the jaw.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—In Richmond, Confederate troops burn the city to the ground as President Jefferson Davis flees.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—In Richmond, women riot in the streets over bread until dispersed at bayonet point by troops directed by President Jefferson Davis.</p> | <p><b>2014</b>—Sen. Jerry Moran [R-Kan.], whose top contributor is Koch Industries, reads into the <i>Congressional Record</i> a <i>Wall Street Journal</i> op-ed in which Charles Koch defends his right to spend millions buying elections.</p> <p><b>2013</b>—A Robinson R44 helicopter loses parts over Miami, Fla. and crashes near a trampoline park in a busy industrial area. Two dead occupants are pulled from the crash by bystanders who escape injury in the ensuing inferno. The pilot had survived an R44 crash two years prior.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Asked to name his biggest mistake, George W.[MD] Bush is unable to answer.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—U.S. Marines cross the Tigris River on their way to Baghdad.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Ted "Unabomber" Kaczynski is arrested in his Montana cabin.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Hit by 148 tornadoes, 13 states lose 315 people; 5,484 are injured.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The first mobile phone call is made, on a 2.4lb. device, by a Motorola employee to a rival at AT&amp;T.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—In South Vietnam, 3,000 troops protest against the Ky gov't.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—In Wisconsin, a strike begins at the Kohler bathroom fixture factory. Six years later the workers win.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Bruno Hauptmann gets the chair in the Lindbergh baby case.</p> <p><b>1882</b>—Robert Ford, that dirty little coward, shoots Jesse James.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—The Pony Express begins operating between St. Joseph, Mo. and Sacramento, Calif.</p> | <p><b>1991</b>—A helicopter pilot rashly tries to inspect the landing gear of Sen. John Heinz's small plane; a collision ensues. Five die, including two kids in their elementary school.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Alice Walton, reaching for her cellphone while speeding in her Porsche, hits and kills 50-year-old Arkansas cannery worker Oleta Hardin.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Congress nixes Contra funding. President Reagan sells arms to the Ayatollah to make up the difference.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Operation Babylift begins with a C-5A out of Tan Son Nhut. It crashes into a nearby rice paddy killing 154, including 78 kids.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Martin Luther King, Jr. is murdered in Memphis, perhaps by James Earl Ray, with help from shadowy unknown figures.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Martin Luther King, Jr. denounces the Vietnam War and calls for common cause between civil rights and antiwar movements. He is then denounced by 168 major newspapers.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Head Spook Allen Dulles OKs a \$1 million secret plan, approved a month earlier by gen'l of Ike, to knock over the elected government of Iran. The same day Dulles OKs MKUltra, to see if the CIA can use drugs to control minds.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Robert Prager, 30, a German-born coal miner and socialist, is lynched by a mob in Collinsville, Ill.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—Large squads of mounted cops attack thousands of Wobblies in Union Square, N.Y.</p> | <p><b>2014</b>—Former N.H. GOP Chair Jack Kimball calls upon Sheriff Joe Arpaio to put President Obama "in an orange suit... and drag his butt out of that White House."</p> <p><b>2010</b>—Flagrant safety violations at W.V.'s non-union Upper Big Branch coal mine result in an explosion killing 29 miners.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Texans in Waco boo Bill Nye for saying the Bible misrepresents the Moon as an emitter of light.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—"How do you stop an elephant if it goes berserk on the grounds of the Capitol?" asks Sen. Bob Smith [R-N.H.]. Alas, his motion to ban pachyderms is defeated.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—LBJ crony Billy Sol Estes is indicted for selling fake mortgages on fake fertilizer tanks.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—A hired thug throws acid and blinds Victor Riesel, New York newspaper columnist and crusader against labor racketeers.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The Farmers Home Administration announces it will issue mortgages on home bomb shelters.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Howard Hughes shuts down MGM temporarily, because the authors of all eleven stories in production are suspected communists.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—H.L. Mencken is arrested in Boston for selling his magazine, <i>American Mercury</i>.</p> <p><b>1794</b>—"Be sure you show my head to the mob," says Georges Jacques Danton to his executioner, "it will be a long time ere they see its like."</p>                 | <p><b>2016</b>—For each of the 29 miners killed in his death trap, coal mine owner Don Blankenship is sentenced to serve 12.5 days in jail.</p> <p><b>2009</b>—A year before it blows up, BP's Deepwater Horizon gets relief from oppressive federal over-regulation.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Donald E. Harding gasps, moans, and makes obscene hand gestures for five minutes before dying in Arizona's gas chamber.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—"If the president does it," Richard Nixon tells David Frost, "that means it's not illegal."</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Oakland police shoot it out with the Black Panthers. Bobby Hut-ton, 18 and unarmed, dies.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Knocked overboard three miles off North Vietnam, U.S. sailor Doug Hegdahl is saved by fishermen. Two years later he's set free, with memorized details of 256 POWs.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—"The time has come," says JFK, "for the American people to be told the truth about Vietnam."</p> <p><b>1953</b>—The Cotton States League throws out the Hot Springs team for signing black pitchers.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Former peace candidate W. Wilson declares war on Germany.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—Matthew Henson, black share-cropper's son, is the first non-Inuit to set foot on the North Pole. Admiral Peary stays in the sled but later takes credit.</p> <p><b>1712</b>—Twenty-three enslaved Africans revolt in New York, killing nine whites and injuring six others; 21 are convicted and hanged.</p> | <p><b>2003</b>—U.S. troops take Baghdad. It is a great victory.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—Employee Auburn Calloway attacks the flight crew of Fed-Ex Flight 705 with hammers and a spear-gun in a suicidal attempt to win death benefits for his family. After a fight, leaving the cabin awash with blood, the crew subdues him and lands safely.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Future Bush #43 administration appointee John Poindexter is found guilty of multiple felonies in the Iran/Contra scandal. He later wriggles out on appeal.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—"Nam vet Richard McCoy, Jr. hijacks a 727 with a toy grenade and an empty pistol, then parachutes out the back with \$500K. A Guard chopper pilot, McCoy is arrested days later while searching for himself.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—R. Reagan, as Gov. of Calif., announces a nuanced position regarding student demonstrations: "If it takes a bloodbath, let's get it over with."</p> <p><b>1966</b>—The U.S. finds an H-bomb it lost off the coast of Spain.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—A cracked electrical plug causes an F-100's Sidewinder missile to blow the wing off a B-52 during a training exercise over New Mexico. In its crash, three airmen die.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—In a news conference, likeable Ike erroneously characterizes South-east Asia as a row of dominos.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—In Rome, Violet Gibson, 49, the tiny, frail, and deranged daughter of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, shoots Mussolini in the face.</p> | <p><b>1984</b>—R. Nixon gripes, "It's the media's responsibility to examine the President with a microscope... but when they use a proctoscope, it's going too far."</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Hank Aaron breaks Ruth's homer record, reaping him hate mail and death threats from sports fans.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—A Wethersfield, Conn. home is struck by a 6 lb. meteorite.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Six U.S.M.C. recruits are marched into a Parris Island swamp for disciplinary purposes. They drown.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Truman orders the Army to seize steel mills.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—After eighteen days of excavation, New York Police find compulsive hoarder Langley Collyer dead in his junk-crammed Harlem townhouse.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—An Allied airstrike on Celle, Germany hits an ammo train next to a train full of internees being sent to Bergen-Belsen. Several hundred survivors are shot trying to escape.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Americans and Filipinos on Bataan surrender to the Japanese.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—At the U.S. Embassy in Bern, future CIA head Allen Dulles gets a call from a man begging for an immediate meeting. Dulles, who has a hot date with buxom Swedish twins, puts him off. The man, I.V. Lenin, boards a train to Petrograd and starts the Russian Revolution.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—The oligarchy takes a hit as the 17th Amendment kicks in, requiring direct election of U.S. Senators.</p> <p><b>1885</b>—U.S. troops invade Panama, "to defend our national interests."</p> |
| <p>3:48 4:28</p> <p>10:09 10:26</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    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| SUNDAY, APRIL 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        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| <p><b>2006</b>—"Scooter" Libby says "W" OK'd leaks of secret CIA intel.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—In Baghdad's Firdos Square, American troops pull down a large statue of Saddam Hussein in front of an audience of Iraqis.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—A newspaper in Cambodia proposes importing mad cows to clear land mines.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—The U.S. sub <i>George Washington</i>, with up to 48 nukes on board, is hit by a Japanese freighter in the East China Sea. The freighter sinks.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Agrobiz CEO Dwayne Andreas gives \$25,000 to the Nixon reelection campaign. In return, the Comptroller of the Currency later approves a bank charter.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—The two top planners of the Bay of Pigs invasion, now eight days away, tell their boss Dick Bissell that it is bound to fail. He says do it anyway.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—NASA introduces America's first seven astronauts.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—In Massachusetts, death sentences issued against Nicolas Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are upheld. Judge Webster Thayer, during their trial, called them "anarchist bastards."</p> <p><b>1865</b>—Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders his Army to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse.</p> <p><b>1553</b>—Rabelais dies, leaving this will: "I have nothing. I owe much. I leave the rest to the poor."</p> <p><b>1914</b>—Adm. H.T. Mayo demands a 21 gun salute at Tampico, provoking an international incident.</p>                         | <p><b>2005</b>—Tens of thousands of Iraqis mark the 2nd anniversary of Saddam Hussein's fall by shouting "No, No to Satan!" and demanding that U.S. troops leave.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—An Australian gadget registers a wind speed of 253 mph, thereby depriving Mt. Washington of its old 231 mph world record.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Crooked financier Robert Vesco slips \$200,000 to Nixon's re-election campaign in exchange for which Attorney General John Mitchell cuts him some slack.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—A deed is prepared giving presidential and vice-presidential papers of Richard Nixon to the National Archives — backdated to qualify him for an otherwise illegal tax deduction.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Thresher</i> implodes about 220 miles east of Boston killing 16 officers, 96 enlisted men, and 17 civilians.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Doctors at Oak Ridge inject Ebb Cade, an African American car wreck victim, with plutonium to see what happens.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Illinois holds a "Pineapple Primary," named for the 62 bombings which preceded the balloting.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Deceived by a colonel being blackmailed by a general, Emiliano Zapata is ambushed and murdered. His killers are cheated of half of their bounty.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—Rioters in Portsmouth destroy the office of Joshua Foster's Copperhead newspaper <i>The States and Union</i>.</p>                                                                                                    | <p><b>2007</b>—Aufweidersehen, Kurt V.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—At the Washington Nationals home opener, the ceremonial first pitch is thrown by Vice President Dick "Dick" Cheney, who is greeted with jeers and catcalls.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—U.S. officials in Iraq unveil decks of cards showing 55 "Most Wanted" Iraqi officials.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Venezuelan generals replace Pres. Hugo Chavez with Pedro Carmona in a CIA-approved coup.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Press Secretary Larry Speakes says his Boss will lay a wreath at Bitburg, where Americans and Germans lie buried. Oops: Americans, no; Waffen SS, yes.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The Civil Rights Act of 1968 is signed into law.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Most boring day of the 20th century, a British computer scientist says in 2010.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—President Harry S Truman fires General Douglas MacArthur for insubordination.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—A U.S. B-29 carrying a nuclear weapon crashes near Albuquerque. The nuke's high explosives ignite; good thing the fissile core wasn't installed.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—Ford signs its first contract with the United Auto Workers.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Richard Whitney, president of New York Stock Exchange, gets five to 10 for larceny.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—President McKinley generously declares Cuba's independence from Spain.</p>                                                                                                 | <p><b>2007</b>—The George W.[MD] Bush White House announces that official messages about the firing of eight U.S. Attorneys were among five million sent via private Republican National Committee servers — and "lost."</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Veep Dick "Perpetual Dick" Cheney files his 2000 tax return which shows that \$5.1 million of his \$36 million adjusted gross income came from Halliburton.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Sixty thousand U.S. students demonstrate against war.</p> <p><b>1867</b>—William Bullock, inventor of the web-fed rotary press, dies of complications after his leg is crushed in a web-fed rotary press.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—At Fort Pillow, hundreds of Union soldiers, black and white, are massacred by thousands of Confederates led by Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, who later founds the KKK.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—Union men steal a Confederate locomotive, <i>The General</i>, in Georgia and head north; but conductor Wm. A. Fuller, on foot, on a handcar, and finally in another locomotive, chases <i>The General</i> down.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Confederate gunners fire on Ft. Sumter.</p> <p><b>1788</b>—A mob in New York, opposed to body-snatching, attacks a hospital, occupies the dissecting room, and displays body parts at the windows. The two-day riot kills five.</p> <p><b>1782</b>—American militia troops massacre 100 neutral, Christian Indians of the Delaware Nation.</p> | <p><b>2002</b>—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is back in office after an exciting day off.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Chicago's business district is shut down due to flooding after the Chicago River breaches an underground tunnel system.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Rep. Jon Hinson (R-Miss.) resigns three months after being arrested for attempting to commit oral sodomy in a House restroom.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—For a fraudulent article about an 8-year-old junkie, the <i>Washington Post's</i> Janet Cooke is awarded the Pulitzer Prize.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—The <i>Apollo 13</i> moon shot lives up to its numeral.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Rachel Carson's <i>Silent Spring</i> is published.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—The CIA's MKUltra brainwashing program goes to work.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—British troops massacre at least 379 unarmed Indian men women and children at Amritsar.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—French anarchist Clement Duval, after 14 years on Devil's Island, makes his 20th escape attempt. He gets to New York City, lives to be 85, and inspires <i>Papillon</i>.</p> <p><b>1873</b>—In Grant Parish, La., the White League and the Klan celebrate Easter Sunday by killing 280 African-Americans in what becomes known as the Colfax Massacre.</p> <p><b>1204</b>—Crusaders take Constantinople for the greater glory of God: murder, rape, and looting ensue, and the Imperial Library burns.</p>                                                               | <p><b>2004</b>—John Ashcroft blames Bill Clinton for terrorist attacks that took place seven months after Clinton left office.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—Dan Quayle throws his propeller beanie into the ring.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—Over Iraq, U.S. fighter jets shoot down two U.S. helicopters.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—An Iranian mine nearly sinks the guided missile frigate <i>U.S.S. Roberts</i>.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Eight days into its first patrol an improperly-flushed high-pressure head floods the <i>U-1206</i>. Commander K.A. Schlitt scuttles the boat; four die, the remaining 46 crewmen are captured.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—John Steinbeck's <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> is published.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—A terrible windstorm crosses the Great Plains, carrying away with it tons of topsoil.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—President Taft becomes first president to throw out the first baseball, from the stands.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—John Wilkes Booth shoots Abraham Lincoln.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—First Pony Express rider arrives in San Francisco.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Union troops at Fort Sumter lower the flag in surrender. A cannon salute goes awry; in the explosion Private Daniel Hough becomes the first casualty of the Civil War.</p> <p><b>1772</b>—In South Weare, N.H. the County Sheriff tries to collect fines from sawmill owners for stealing the King's trees. They beat him up.</p>                                                                                 | <p><b>2015</b>—In Zimbabwe, big-game hunter and Texan Ian Gibson is crushed to death by an elephant.</p> <p><b>2013</b>—Two bombs explode near the finish line of the Boston Marathon.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush installs Gen. Jay Garner to administer Iraq "until an Iraqi government can be formed." He lasts less than a month.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—Dick "Dick" Cheney explains to C-SPAN viewers that G.H.[H.] W. Bush didn't topple Saddam Hussein because it would have created a "quagmire" in Iraq.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Leona Helmsley, America's anti-sweetheart, takes up residence at a federally-owned Crowbar Hilton in Lexington, Ky.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—William Randolph Hearst's gun-totin' granddaughter Patty helps the Symbionese Liberation Army rob a San Francisco bank.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Rep. Gerald Ford calls for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—The CIA's ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion begins as three flights of falsely-marked American B-26s bomb and strafe Cuban airfields.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A B-47 Stratojet crashes on takeoff and burns at Pease AFB, killing all four crewmen aboard.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—The <i>Titanic</i> changes course and heads for the bottom.</p> <p><b>1895</b>—In Hoboken, Josephine "Minerva" Blatt lifts 23 men standing on a wooden platform; combined weight: 3,564 lbs.</p>                                                                                                     |
| <p>10:58 11:21</p> <p>4:40 5:04</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>11:43 12:02</p> <p>5:26 5:46</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>12:40 1:04</p> <p>6:48 7:01</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                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                                                                     | <p>1:52 2:21</p> <p>8:04 8:14</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 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