

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Waiting For A Really Big Shoe to Drop

The Trump Administration announced two weeks ago that it's none of the peoples' business who skulks in to see the President: White House visitor logs will henceforth be kept secret. Adding insult to injury, as is customary these days, a staff stooge claimed this affront to the taxpayer was due to "the grave national security risks and privacy concerns of the hundreds of thousands of visitors annually" — a patent absurdity.

The names of the President's mysterious visitors are in one sense just a formality. Enough is known about Trump, his family, his business associates, his campaign staff, and his Cabinet for everyone to make their own assumptions. So, living as we do now, in an America whose body politic has long been rent asunder — thank you Lee Atwater, Newt Gingrich, and Roger Ailes — they're all either saints or scoundrels.

We're from the old school; on the wall of our newsroom is a photo of a little typed quote that hung on the wall of Atlantic Video, back in the day. It is from I.F. Stone, and it reads, "Every government is run by liars and nothing they say should be believed." These days nothing they say *can* be believed.

Being constitutionally incapable of despair, and forever striving to be useful, we are reduced — while waiting for our vaunted system of checks and balances to put this gang of grifters where it belongs: in a capacious new wing to be added to the United States Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas — to studying the taxonomy of scoundrels.

Every Day is Opposite Day

We're pleased to report that we have uncovered the fundamental organizing principle of the Trump White House: every day is Opposite Day.

site Day.

According to *Wikipedia*, which is second only to the Pope when it comes to infallibility, "Opposite Day is an unofficial holiday when every action is modified so that meaning is negated. It is usually observed among children, and rarely lasts an entire day."

As soon as we stumbled on that, everything else made sense: that's not just a *Wikipedia* entry — it's also the White House Employee Manual.

Take Scott Pruitt, for example. When he was elected Attorney General of Oklahoma — a job that you might think involved seeing to it that the laws were duly enforced — he subtly announced, by shutting down the AG Office's Environmental Protection Unit, that the laws were null and void. Then, at taxpayers' expense, he sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — thirteen times, losing every time. Now that Trump has made him the head of the EPA, Pruitt has said "we need to exit" the Paris Climate Agreement. He won't stop as long as we can still breathe.

Betsy DeVos, our new, fabulously wealthy Secretary of Education, appears to harbor grave reservations about whether education ought to be public at all, which is surely why Trump hired her. As if to assure her boss that he'd picked the right person, DeVos recently hired a person named Candice Jackson. *TeenVogue* succinctly summed up Jackson's qualifications. She has "spoken out against feminism, criticized programs designed to assist people of color, and dismissed those who have accused Donald Trump of sexual violence as 'fake victims.'" While a student at Stanford, Jackson complained that she was discriminated against because she is white. In an educational system reeking of racial injustice,



she's obviously the perfect Acting Deputy for Civil Rights.

Then there's Rick "Oops" Perry, appointed to head the Department of Energy, the name of which he could not remember, but which he wants to eliminate. In a neat but terrifying bit of symmetry, it was not until he took it over that he learned it was responsible for the nuclear weapons with he could achieve his heart's desire.

Pass the Gravy

To sum up, let's reduce this theory to a clickbait headline: "The One Simple Trick That Lets You Understand the Trump Administration." Get over the assumption that government can and should work. According to the now-dominant school of thought — which did not originate with Trump, but has been Republican dogma for decades — government is not there to work. Government is there to be worked *on*, as when, on Thanksgiving, Grandpa says "let's get to work on this turkey."

The Opposite of Opposite

Trump rarely utters a complete sentence. When he does, the end of it frequently contradicts its beginning. As *Wikipedia* explains, "Opposite Day can also be declared retroactively to indicate that what was just asserted had the opposite meaning of what was originally intended (similar to the practice of crossed fingers to automatically nullify promises)."

On the stump, Trump promised to ban lobbyists from his administration. He has since signed an Executive Order contradicting that promise. Former lobbyists can work in the Administration, just not in the "specific issue area" in which they lobbied.

That's what makes Shahira Knight interesting. When a regulation was being promulgated which would have required financial professionals to put the interests of their clients, like retired persons with 401(k)s, before their own (how quaint), Knight, while

working for Fidelity, lobbied against it.

Trump has now made Knight his special assistant for tax and retirement policy. It's hard to imagine a more direct contradiction of even the watered-down lobbyist ban. *ProPublica* reports that Knight may have received a waiver:

"Unfortunately, there's no way for the public to know if this has been done. In a little-noticed action, Trump killed the Obama-era requirement that the Office of Government Ethics publish an annual report disclosing such waivers. Trump's order also removed the requirement to provide a public interest justification for waivers. That means Trump can exempt an official from the lobbying limits at any time, for any reason, with no public disclosure."

This Administration is incompetent only when it comes to protecting the public. Their own profits are well looked after.

The Alleged News®

Supporting the Troops, Part the Umpteenth

Last Saturday President Trump — who was rated 4-F by the Selective Service during the Vietnam War due to alleged heel spurs — met with Sgt. 1st Class Alvaro Barrientos during a visit to Walter Reed Medical Center. Barrientos, wounded in Afghanistan on March 17th, was seated in a wheelchair; his right leg now ends just below the knee.

Trump pinned a Purple Heart on Barrientos' collar [typically, the award is pinned to the shirt, just above the heart], then said, "So I heard about this, and I wanted to do it myself. So, uh, congratulations, on behalf of Melania and myself, and the entire nation. Tremendous, tremendous job."

These remarks, which surely set a new benchmark for oafish inanity, were accompanied by awkward, condescending pats on Barrientos' shoulders. If his predecessor had behaved in a similar manner, there would have been calls for his lynching.

Trump's offensive behavior at Walter Reed was primarily symbolic. Sgt. Barrientos and his family were the only ones directly affected. We have no way of knowing how they feel about their interaction with the President. We do know that among Vietnam veterans, trauma can be exacerbated by the knowledge that they are inescapably surrounded by the utter clueless.

Millions of veterans, though, will be adversely affected if a bill before Congress goes through. Some eyeshade-wearing, pencil-pushing genius has discovered another way to keep down the cost of maintaining a global empire: start taxing veterans' benefits.

The *Military Times* reported April 18th that "draft legislation from House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Phil Roe, R-Tenn. — would deduct \$2,400 from future service members' paychecks to establish eligibility for revamped post-military education benefits. ..."

"The money collected would amount to a fraction of the overall cost of the veterans education

benefit. Congressional staff estimate the move would bring in about \$3.1 billion over the next 10 years, while total GI Bill spending is expected to total more than \$100 billion over the same decade."

The pattern continues unabated: spend trillions, heedless of the deficit, on optional wars and boondoggles like the F-35, but when the time comes to make good on your promises to the survivors, nickel and dime them to death.

The public is so used to it, they hardly notice anymore. What was that once-unavoidable slogan? Oh, yes: "Support the Troops!" Funny how we haven't heard that

one for a while.

Hell, these days even the troops will abandon the troops. Will Hubbard, vice president of government affairs for Student Veterans of America, told *Military Times*, "It's infinitely more difficult to get rid of or cut the GI Bill if troops have paid into that benefit."

At the rate we're going, the Pentagon will end up charging wounded soldiers for bullets and bandages. Let's see what happens to recruitment then.

Time to bring back the draft, then? Think again.

The Alleged News®

from page one

Don Benton, Trump's pick to run the Selective Service, is a "sales and management consultant" who never wore a military uniform. Originally assigned to the EPA, his "habit of interrupting policy discussions to make bizarre comments became so maddening" it got him bounced, according to *HuffPo*.

Peoples Climate March

What better way to observe — celebrations are obviously out of the question — the 100th Day of the Trump Administration than to march with the League of Conservation Voters, Resistance Seacoast, the Sierra Club, and the Union of Concerned Scientists?

The fun begins tomorrow, Sat-

urday, at Noon in Market Square. After a brief march, speakers will hold forth at Prescott Park beginning at 1:00 p.m.

An Estuary in Peril

Great Bay is a regional and national treasure that has significant, tangible value, and is critical to the local economy, recreational activity and wildlife subsistence.

Great Bay: An Estuary in Peril is a documentary film revealing the many challenges facing the Great Bay watershed, which covers all or part of 52 towns.

The film explains the reasons for its decline, and explores further potential degradation which could result from further development and infrastructure installations.

Those threats could push the fragile ecosystem to a tipping



Officer Krupke of the Flag Police, while on routine patrol of South Cemetery, observed and documented the flag shown above, which is, prima facie, in violation of 4 U.S.C. § 8, aka the Flag Code. Judging from the bronze "Ruptured Duck" marker (seen from the back, in the lower right), the grave marked by this flag is that of a WWII veteran. As per the non-negotiable dictates of popular culture and mass, for-profit media, the veteran is therefore a member of *The Greatest Generation*.™ Due to Congressional inaction, however, the party or parties responsible for this flag cannot be charged with an aggravated offense. Memorial Day is one month away. The Forensics Division of the Flag Police estimate that this flag may have been in place since Memorial Day, 2016. A word to the wise is sufficient.

point, beyond which it may never recover.

Following the film, there will be a panel discussion with a marine biologist, energy experts, and concerned community members.

Great Bay: An Estuary in Peril will be shown at 3S Artspace, located at 319 Vaughan St. in Portsmouth, on Tuesday, May 2nd. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. The show begins at 7:00 p.m. The suggested donation at the door is \$5.

The film was produced by Breakaway Media, and funded by New England Grassroots Environment Fund and the Lamprey River Watershed Association. The event is sponsored by ReVision Energy, Portsmouth Kayak Adventures, Durbin Law Offices, StoneHill Environmental, and Cornerstone Tree Care.

Sorrow & Reprehension Averted

As part of its 2017 Program Series "Secrets & Treasures: 200 Years At The Portsmouth Athenaeum," Dick Adams, a Proprietor and former President of the non-profit membership library

and museum, spoke April 19th about the peaks and valleys in that venerable institution's fortunes since its founding in 1817. Adams, a Portsmouth native, was a frequent visitor to the Athenaeum at an early age, thanks to his Proprietor grandfather.

Part of the Athenaeum's mission is to "facilitate convivial interchange and intellectual discourse." Adams' talk furthered that purpose with a welcome measure of dry wit, exercised in his selection of passages from the institution's early records.

Outlining the institution's lofty goals at its inception, a scribe wrote, "The library operates throughout society in correcting narrowness of mind, local prejudices, frivolous conversation, vicious habits, and the sordid cupidity of wealth that will infest every society in proportion that the resources of literature are closed against them. Were it not for the Athenaeum, a steady decline of character would lead to sorrow and reprehension."

Success did not come immediately. Lamenting the slow sale of shares, the Secretary wrote in 1820, "It may have happened that our feeble and infantile condition is too contemptible for the patronage of some minds. The question is whether it shall drag out a miserable and sickly existence, or whether it shall flourish as an honored adornment to the town." With the celebration of its bicentennial, that question has been definitively answered.

Adams noted that in the 1820s, 1830s, and 1840s, newspapers were hugely popular in the Athenaeum, and the first floor was allocated primarily for the use of newspaper readers. On one notable occasion in the 1840s, they found themselves reading about their immediate surroundings — and themselves.

"At that time I think all of the bank presidents were Whigs," Adams said, "and most were members of the Athenaeum. The Democrats assailed the Whigs as being — this is somewhat parallel

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to what we find today — as being elitist and putting their financial interests ahead of the general welfare.

“Thomas Loughton (not a Proprietor) was a Democrat, and he was probably the most spirited in his vilification of the Whigs, and in his mind the Athenæum was nothing but Whigs.

“He said, ‘The loafers in and about the Athenæum operate like the Venetian Inquisition, ready to fulfil its commands to thwart the popular will.’

“*The New Hampshire Gazette* added to that, ‘Many of its members have souls more circumscribed than that of a Holy Inquisitor of the 14th Century.’

“Needless to say the Whigs and the people of the Athenæum did not take too well to this sally.

“The *Portsmouth Journal*, which tended to be a Whig newspaper, commented regarding a particularly virulent Loughton speech, ‘I do not think even a temporary pleasure was afforded except to minds of the most malignant description, which, like the unclean birds of the wilderness, are most fond of that which is most putrid.’”

As his remarks at the Athenæum demonstrated, Dick

has a discerning eye for the piquant. We have benefited from it on several occasions over the years, when he has suggested items for our Tidal Guide.

Currently on display at the Athenæum is “High Hopes & Ambitious Plans, 1840 to 1899,” the second of a series of four exhibits curated by members of the Arts Athenæum Exhibits Committee, examining how the institution survived to celebrate two centuries and continues to thrive as a cultural and social institution. It is open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

A Tale of Two Town Halls

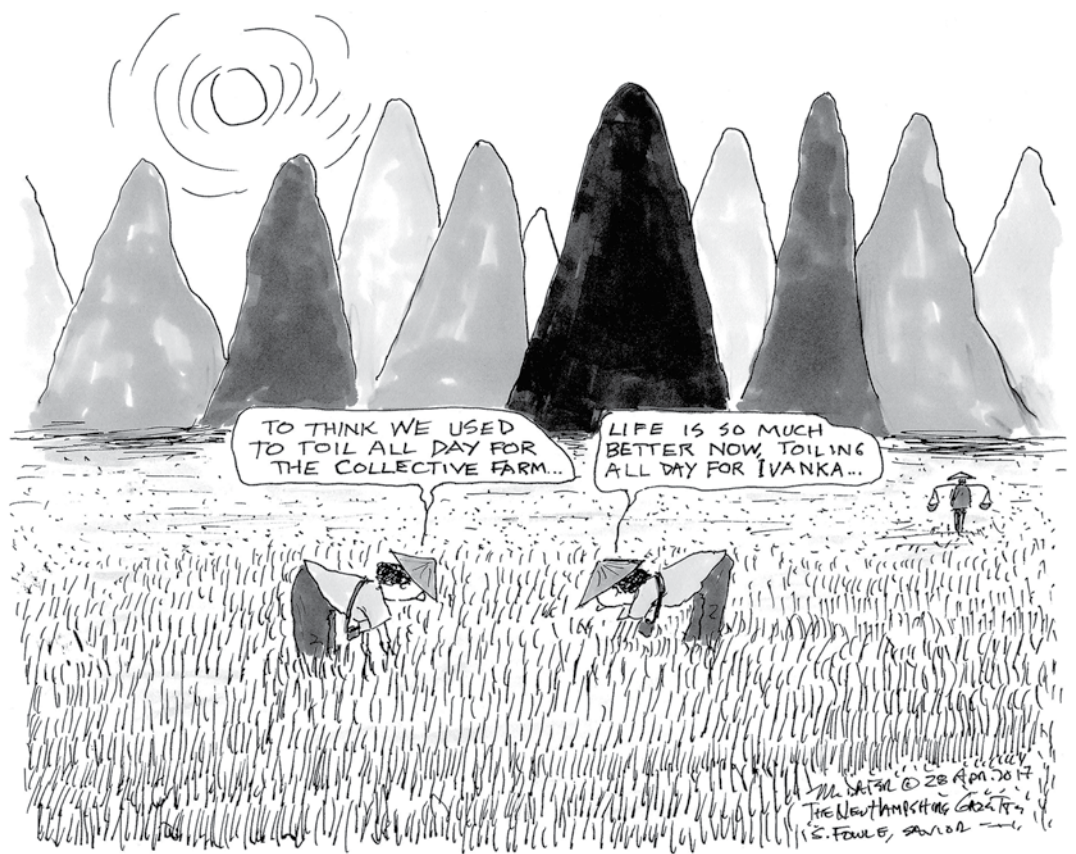
First District Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter held a Town Hall at the Portsmouth Public Library on Tuesday. Her audience was polite and attentive, behaving much like any group of sane, normal adults. As proof we submit the photo below, taken by our Wandering Photographer.

Having attended a meeting nominally of the same type, held at the McIntyre Federal Building on Daniel Street, on Saturday, August 29, 2009, we were gobstruck by the contrast.

Here’s an excerpt from our coverage of that near-riot:



In dramatic contrast to a Town Hall event held in August of 2009, the audience listens attentively as Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter speaks in the Levenson Room of the Portsmouth Public Library on Tuesday. (The Rochester Democrat was out of the frame, to the left, in this photo.)



“What are you going to do about the thievery and corruption going on in Washington?” [Diane] Bitter asked Shea-Porter. “What are you going to do to reinstate our liberties and freedoms?”

Shea-Porter began to reply, saying, “Now, if you are saying that the American public is so stupid as to send Communists and Socialists . . . ,” but catcalls threatened to drown her out again.

“The American people elected their Representatives,” she said, trying to resume her reply.

“They didn’t elect [Van] Jones,” the man with the goatee yelled. “He’s a Communist. Self-proclaimed.”

“I’ll wait,” Shea-Porter said.

“Why not?” Goatee-man yelled. “I’ve waited two hours.” One man tried to “shush” him; another yelled, “We all waited.”

Shea-Porter made another attempt to convey some remedial civics, but another round of catcalls and counter-catcalls made it clear that this was pointless.

“I have to vehemently disagree

with your conclusion,” she said, and called for another question.

For a surreal finale, as that event ended, people filing out of the building were serenaded by three young women and one young man singing, as a round, the lyrics, “Stop Obama’s Nazi Health Care Plan, for it will surely kill your dear old Grandma.” The young man held a poster showing Barack Obama with a Hitler-style moustache, and the URL *LaRouche-PAC.com*.

It is inconceivable that the LaRouchies could have been responsible for generating the seething hostility inside the hall. Followers of the 94-year-old Rochester, N.H.-born political theorist generally exude a perceptible field of crazy that precludes such organization.

2009 was, however, the heyday of the Tea Party movement, which had a considerable amount of surreptitious logistical help from all the usual suspects. In this case, by “all,” we mean both of them: Da-

vid H. and Charles G. Koch.*

The Brothers are somewhat less cagey about their support of another astroturf pressure group, Americans for Prosperity [AfP]. Readers may recall that the New Hampshire franchise of AfP was Corey Lewandowski’s employer before he went to the Trump campaign.

AfP managed to muster eight or nine lackluster sign-bearers to protest in front of the Library on Tuesday. It was a feeble-looking show.

* The brothers are the second and third of the four fortunate sons of Fred Koch (1900 - 1967). Given that they are libertarian arch-capitalists, it’s ironic they inherited Koch Industries from Fred — he made his first millions building oil refineries for Joseph Stalin, the noted Communist mass murderer. It may not be pertinent, or even ironic, but we find it fascinating that Fred was born in Quanah, Texas. That means that for the first decade of his life, one of his neighbors was Cynthia Ann Parker. She became Nadua after she was abducted by the Comanches at the age of nine. Her son Quanah Parker was the last chief of the Comanches, and a founder of the Native American Church.

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The Mother of All Betrayals

To the Editor:

As the missiles that would soon terminate the lives of innocents streaked into the night, a degenerate Brian Williams praised the beauty of America's military might, and Donald Trump became the darling of the formerly-hostile media and others who had opposed him — Democrats, the McCainiacs in his own party, the military-industrial-surveillance complex, interventionist leaders of foreign nations, and those in NATO who are now reassured that they and their organization is no longer considered obsolete. If there was anything negative voiced, it was that not enough damage had been done. Unable to defeat Trump in the elections, in a recount, or in the Electoral College, the neoconservative warmongers were able to transform the President into Hillary Clinton.

Those of us who supported a foreign policy in America's interest, and Trump's stated desire for better relations with Russia, were stunned and angry but not surprised. The Washington establishment had triumphed within the first 100 days and the person sent to drain the swamp became a swamp creature.

Had Trump been lying from the beginning? Had Marco Rubio's comments about the size of his hands registered deeply into the psyche of the President? Had he been overwhelmed by the opposition? Was he not the strong leader he portrayed himself to be? Or does this pathetic man just want to be

loved?

The reason for Trump's reversal is of no importance. What is important to note is that an America involved in perpetual war will never be great again.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

John:

Our condolences on your recent disillusionment.

The Editor

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Two-Tier Justice in America?

To the Editor:

Tax Day has passed, and nearly all of us fulfilled our civic duty to pay. But Donald Trump brags about how little he can get away with paying, with no civic shame.

Jeff Sessions committed perjury under oath, yet he faces no legal consequences now as Attorney General. Michael Flynn and Paul Manafort failed to register as paid lobbyists of foreign governments, in violation of the Foreign Agent Registration Act, yet they are not being prosecuted. Trump, his daughter Ivanka, and son-in-law have been receiving emoluments from foreign governments, in the form of exclusive trademark protections, yet no legal enforcement of the Constitution's prohibition is underway.

The privileged few are not abiding by the same laws that the rest of us must respect. That just ain't right. That isn't the way our country is supposed to be governed.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

You're damn straight. It may only be stating the obvious, but in the absence of universal outrage — and vigorous prosecution — maybe stating the obvious will have to do.

The Editor

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The Greatest Impediment

To the Editor:

The Republicans say they wish to lower costs, increase access, and provide better quality healthcare than what we have. However, although I don't watch a lick of television, I

can still see the very confused look in the eyes of individuals like #45, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell when I hear them discussing "solutions" to delivering healthcare in America.

To be a fair broker, I must say that the Democratic Party establishment, while I can appreciate their intent considerably more than that of the Republicans, isn't doing much better at problem solving on this major issue as they are also stubbornly clinging onto the same old market-based healthcare model. The Affordable Care Act, a Democratic initiative was a good first step and certainly infinitely better than what we had prior, and what the Republicans are currently proposing. But if the sincere goal is to do what the Republicans stated, which I sincerely doubt, then a Single Payer — perhaps "Medicare for All" — would be, by far, the most sensible solution.

All other advanced nations have universal healthcare systems. They can serve as benchmarks. America needs to adopt a system in which: everybody is included; people can take their healthcare with them if they change or lose jobs, or get divorced; benefits would be uniform for all; prevention is emphasized; and people can choose their physician. Administrative waste and bureaucracy would be reduced, saving money; common sense budgeting would set fair reimbursements. With public ownership and transparent oversight, insurance industry interference with healthcare could end.

With a Medicare for All solution making so much sense, what could be the possible hang up with the two major political parties? Sadly, I alluded to the greatest impediment to said parties arriving at this obvious solution. The health insurance industry is perhaps the most powerful special interest in America and shares a very special symbiotic relationship (money for power for money) with all almost all members

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,

of the U.S. Congress.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:

As Steve McQueen learned in The Sandpipers, when you threaten to "break someone's rice bowl," you run into resistance.

The Editor

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We Are Not Serfs

To the Editor:

If you were disappointed with the outcome of the 2016 election, but want to continue to support important causes, there is good news: We are not Russian serfs, so we are free to take action without permission from our leader. As Margaret Mead once said, "Everyone cannot do everything, but everyone can do something." Whatever each of us can contribute either in money or time, we should do. So, here are some ideas for personal actions to take — *Now!* — in areas that may be of interest to you.

The Environment: Reduce your energy use, which reduces your electric or utility bill and reduces CO2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (your energy footprint), e.g. Install more energy efficient lightbulbs; switch from a gasoline to an electric lawn mower; switch from normal heating oil to 20 percent bioheat fuel, (replacing 20 percent of your conventional heating oil with soybean oil requires no changes to your furnace.) Switch to an energy supplier that provides all-green electricity (e.g. NAPGL. Often this energy is priced even lower than your default energy, and may reduce your electricity bill by 10 percent or more. All it takes is a phone call). Install solar panels or other energy efficiency hardware in or on your house. (Payback is 10 years or less.) Consider purchasing a hybrid or electric plug-in vehicle while energy credits are still available. Walk or bicycle more, and if possible use public transportation.

Improve Wages and Your Local Economy: Give higher tips wherever you can (this immediately raises someone's wages). Support the businesses that contribute to your local community, especially those that are not national chains. Volunteer your support (either money or time) to local non-profits that champion your causes.

State and National Issues: Switch to a progressive phone company like CREDO (which distributes some profits to non-profit organizations that customers select. This is also the only phone company to successfully sue the NSA for warrant-less privacy protection of their customers). Make an extra effort to support national and statewide non-profits that are important to you, e.g. public radio and TV, Planned Parenthood, Sierra Club, National Free Clinics or ACLU (volunteer or donate). Support energy efficiency programs nationwide and in your state. Consider public service, either locally or in your state. Contact your political representatives (Governor, State Rep., State Senators, Members of Congress and U.S. Senate) on a regular basis on topics of concern to you.

The Power of Money: Use any retirement investments you may have for good. For example, consider switching to a Socially Responsible Investment fund such as PAX World (based in Portsmouth). Your money can earn a good return, while actively doing good. Using your investment in this way has the same effect as did the 1970s grape and lettuce boycotts, which helped establish the United Farm Workers union in California.

Rep. Peter Somssich, District 27
Portsmouth, N.H.

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There Is a Better Way

To the Editor:

April 15th, tax filing day, filled with displeasure and false joy from refunds due to over payment. The

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

*"Ignorance is not bliss - it is oblivion.
Determined ignorance is
the bastiest kind of oblivion."*

— Philip Wylie (1902-1971) author,
from "Generation of Vipers (1942)

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And Other Correspondence

federal tax code is over 74,000 pages; too big to administer, full of loop holes and bad practices. It punishes production (income, savings and investment) all needed to create a higher standard of living. It rewards debt with deductions. It taxes jobs at 15.3 percent. High business taxes drive out and discourage the entry of jobs, companies and capital and tax "Made in USA" but not imported goods. The IRS powers deny our Civil Rights. A flat tax is fake tax change that still needs the IRS, annual tax filing, payroll taxes, tax withholding and the 16th Amendment (enables direct taxation). America's Big Solution is the Fair-Tax bill, HR 25/ S18. End the IRS and annual tax filing. FairTax is a pay as you spend sales/consumption progressive tax system with only one tax break that helps most the impoverished. The 16th Amendment gets repealed with companion legislation to renew our lost Freedom, Liberty and Civil Rights. Learn more, join the cause for real/true tax reform and contribute at bigsolution.org.

of Barack Obama to the presidency in 2008, Republican Senator Mitch McConnell met with a circle of prominent Republicans to plot strategy for the GOP in the upcoming legislative sessions. The plan they chose was total obstruction to all of Obama's proposals and actions. In the press, McConnell was quoted as saying that his top goal was to "make Obama a one-term president."

McConnell followed through on that threat with a vengeance leading the Republican charge in the Senate to block Obama at every turn. Accordingly, they blocked federal judicial nominees and executive-office appointments. Totally frustrated, in 2013 Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid proposed and passed a change in Senate rules whereby nominations, excluding those for the Supreme Court, could be passed by a simple majority (51 votes) instead of the previous 60 votes. With this change, the logjam was broken and Obama nominees were confirmed.

The issue arose again in 2016 following the death of conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. In an effort to win Republican votes and gain the 60-vote requirement still in place for Supreme Court nominees, President Obama nominated moderate and respected Merrick Garland, the chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Garland's nomination reflected the purpose of the 60-vote standard — to promote candidates centrist enough that they could gain support from both political parties.

McConnell and his fellow Republicans then concocted the hokey excuse that they would not consider Garland because Obama was in the last year of his Presidency and the people had a right to make their opinions known through the next election. Such an outrageous claim had no precedent in history or the

Constitution itself. Republicans just made it up to serve their partisan purposes.

Republicans, as usual, formed a solid wall of obstruction and refused to give Garland even a hearing for over a year. When Donald Trump won the presidency, McConnell's sleazy plan worked to perfection. Garland's nomination was cast aside and replaced by one for Neil Gorsuch, a far-right nominee even more conservative, according to the *New York Times* and other media sources, than the deceased Scalia. Gorsuch's selection violated the logic of the 60-vote standard — that a nominee should be centrist enough to gain support from both parties.

McConnell faced a problem, however. He was eight votes short of the 60 needed for confirmation. No problem for him. Now in the Senate majority, he helped change the Senate rule so only 51 votes were needed for confirmation. Under the new rule, Gorsuch gained the needed votes and was confirmed.

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had stolen a Supreme Court seat that properly belonged to President Obama. McConnell deemed it "one of the proudest moments of my career."

McConnell had destroyed the historic comity between parties in the United States Senate and replaced it with bitter partisanship. When historians consider the adverse effect of partisanship on our government, Republican Mitch McConnell will emerge as a major culprit.

Gary Patton
Hampton, N.H.

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### Marching For Better Policy

To the Editor:

I was at one of the hundreds of marches last weekend in which hundreds of thousands of scientists, researchers, and evidence nerds took the time and made the effort to express their support for the use of science in our society, and to express dismay at the anti-science policies being promoted by the president

and Republicans in Congress. As one marcher's sign succinctly announced, "You know the problem is dire when this many introverts come out to march."

What problem? Trump's budget proposes reducing funding for environmental protection, for health research, for global monitoring of our planet's climate change. Trump's executive orders prohibit Federal employees from even mentioning the words "global climate change." As if pretending it doesn't exist will make it go away.

"Science" is a method of observing phenomena and carefully testing opinions and assumptions about them, to know what is true and real. Evidence is the best basis for making governmental policy, yet this Republican-controlled government doesn't even want to collect evidence for informed policymaking.

That is why so many science-minded introverts were in the streets last weekend. The survival of a habitable Earth, as well as our country's greatness, depend upon our politicians taking heed.

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

*Introverts marching —the new Widow's Mite.*

The Editor

~~~~~

We Just Paid Our Taxes — Are They Making The U.S. and The World Safer?

by Kevin Martin

While we don't know how much President Donald Trump paid in taxes this year, or even if he paid any at all, most of the rest of us just filed with the IRS. With Trump's escalation of U.S. military strikes in Syria (while he ate chocolate cake with China's President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago) and reports that more troops are headed to the region, as well as debuting the Mother of All Bombs in Afghanistan and issuing ominous threats to North Korea, it's a great time to ask if the government is investing our hard-earned money in the right priorities to



make the U.S. and the world more secure. Specifically, do more bombs, guns, warships and missiles make us safer?

Most people would probably answer "yes" to that question. However, the state of the world tells us otherwise. Trump has proposed a Pentagon budget increase of \$54 billion, which is more than the entire annual military budget of Russia or the UK. The U.S. accounts for about 40 percent of global military expenditures at more than \$600 billion per year, maintaining more than 800 foreign military bases, 10 aircraft carrier battle groups, the most sophisticated conventional military hardware ever created, and nearly 7,000 nuclear weapons.

Under President Obama, the U.S. initiated a so-called nuclear "modernization" program, projected to cost at least \$1 trillion over the next three decades, to completely upgrade and overhaul the entire U.S. nuclear weapons complex, from weapons laboratories to warheads to the planes, missiles and submarines that deliver them. Predictably, every other nuclear state has followed suit, announcing their own nuclear modernization plans, so this should properly be dubbed The New Arms Race.

Russia has for some time been more, rather than less, dependent on nuclear weapons for its security, and North Korea, sadly but predictably, sees its nuclear arsenal as

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Vernal Violence

by William Marvel

According to Tennyson, spring is the time when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love. The sentiments of young women may not have seemed relevant to him, for it was then a young man's duty to bring the object of his affection around through the persistent courting now better known as stalking. Tennyson lacked the perspective to observe that spring, and particularly April, is also the time when the American national fancy turns to thoughts of war. By the time he wrote that line, there had only been two such wars to notice, and he wasn't paying much attention to America anyway.

As every child in this country over the age of ten knew, a couple of decades ago, the British grenadiers who would meet the Minutemen on Lexington Common started from Boston on the 18th of April, 1775. The next round of tensions with England came to a head in May of 1812, but might have subsided in June had an American declaration of war not crossed in the mail with news of substantial British concessions.

In 1846, the U.S. had just annexed Texas as a new state when President James Polk promptly ordered the U.S. Army across the Nueces River into territory Mexico still claimed as its own. Lieutenant Ulysses Grant recognized that this deliberate act of provocation was intended "to force Mexico to initiate war," and indeed it did. On April 25 — 171 years ago this week — Mexican cavalry killed or captured two entire companies of U.S. dragoons headed toward present-day Brownsville. American reinforcements drove the Mexicans across the Rio Grande two weeks later, and on May 13 we gave official notice of our third vernal war.

As often happens, one war begets another, and the territory we wrested from Mexico brought the conflict between the slave and free states to the boiling point. The election of Abraham Lincoln was the first one in American history that the losers refused to accept, and instead of individuals threatening to leave the country because of the outcome, entire states decided to do so. Lincoln was willing to use force if he could find cause, and ultimately he took

a lesson from President Polk, sending a fleet to the relief of disputed Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor. Outraged secessionists in Charleston, who had been secretly promised by Lincoln's secretary of state that Sumter would be evacuated, were essentially tricked into firing the first shot on April 12, 1861, initiating our bloodiest war.

One long generation later, Americans with designs on Cuba saw an opportunity in the Cuban rebels that were rising against the rule of imperial Spain. Deliberate efforts to aggravate relations between the Spanish authorities and the United States were typified by that early master of fake news, William Randolph Hearst. To fuel American fury, Hearst's *New York Journal* ran perfectly apocryphal tales of Spanish authorities strip-searching American women on American steamers. No less an artist than Frederic Remington documented that fiction with a convincing sketch of dark, leering detectives closely examining one shapely, shivering lass. Public pressure led President William McKinley to send the *U.S.S. Maine* to Havana Harbor to protect American citizens, and

SPANIARDS SEARCH WOMEN ON AMERICAN STEAMERS



there the ship exploded, apparently from a fire in the coal bunker that ignited the magazine. The stubborn assumption that Spaniards must have orchestrated the disaster provoked the crisis that led to our fifth major war, which Congress agreed to on April 25, 1898.

By treaty, annexation, or simple seizure, the Spanish war also brought us vast territories that set us up for future conflict, including the site of every American installation attacked by the Japanese in 1941. Such deceptive success seemed to encourage the American tradition of going to war in the spring, and preferably in April. One century ago this month, Woodrow Wilson asked for and received a declaration of war against Germany, virtually assuring the Allied victory that would go so far toward sowing the seeds of World War II.

Since the middle of the 19th

century, one of our most common paths to war has involved introducing troops, or ships, into disputed territory or volatile situations. An invited attack will almost always come, but if not it can simply be invented. That ploy has worked, too.

My obsession with history heightens my apprehension about events that mimic earlier misadventures. While preconditioned protestors seethed over an ephemeral immigration order, I was more concerned to hear that the *U.S.S. Cole* had been sent to the Persian Gulf. Widespread assumption of Russian collusion with the Trump campaign only reminded me of how gullible the American people were about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but when one of our aircraft carriers started into contested waters near North Korea I considered it worth worrying about.

Most of our more needless wars have started early in the first term of presidents who have wanted to show they can be tough. Firmness is a necessary ingredient in international relations, but without fair and consistent policies it looks a lot like aggression.

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

a deterrent or counter-balance to the overwhelming military, nuclear, economic and political power of the U.S./South Korea/Japan alliance. So it's fair to ask if U.S. nuclear and conventional superiority encourages rather than deters nuclear proliferation, making Americans and the whole world less safe.

It isn't just Russia and North Korea who maddeningly defy U.S. objectives in the world, but also various governments and armed

groups in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, Libya and many other countries, as a cursory scan of the daily global news headlines shows us. Is adding even more military might supposed to magically change this equation? How will more nukes or submarines help defeat ISIS or al Qaeda?

At the same time as Trump proposes to add to Pentagon bloat — the Pentagon admits to having lost tens of billions of dollars and has never passed an audit

— he wants to slash spending on human needs in our communities and of course environmental programs. In the international security realm, he also proposes to gut funding for the State Department, United Nations World Food Programme and U.S. Agency for International Development that provide life saving food and medical supplies to impoverished and war torn countries, thus making the job of the U.S. military more difficult as poverty and cli-

mate change drive armed conflict around the world.

Trump, who portrays himself as the ultimate deal-maker, ought to know diplomacy is far cheaper, safer and more effective at resolving conflict than building up and utilizing our considerable military might. While he likes to disparage every program of his predecessor, he has not sought to overturn President Barack Obama's most significant foreign policy successes, the Iran nuclear agreement

which closed off Iran's potential path to getting the Bomb, and the opening to Cuba.

Trump should do a deal with North Korea. It's not rocket science, and perhaps he could enlist former President Jimmy Carter, who successfully defused tensions with North Korea twice, as a special envoy. Earlier this year, the administration scuttled unofficial but promising diplomatic talks when it canceled the visas of a North Korean delegation sched-

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Why Paul Ryan should sit down and be very quiet

by Jim Hightower

For nearly half a century now, America's middle-class working families have been pummeled by corporate greedmeisters and their political henchmen. Indeed, in just the last decade, the typical median-income family has lost 60 percent of their wealth. Haven't they been punished enough?

No, says House Speaker Paul Ryan. Along with other top Re-

publican leaders of Congress, he intends to slash the Social Security money that middle-class and low-income workers depend on, and he ultimately is out to kill it altogether. Dependence on such public "entitlements," he preaches, weakens our nation's morality.

Entitlements? Social Security isn't a welfare program — regular working people pay a 12-percent tax on every dime of their wages into the this public pension fund

year after year. They earn their retirement!

Morality? Social Security embodies America's core moral value of fairness and our society's commitment to the common good. And it works — before it was enacted, half of all Americans spent their "golden years" in poverty. Social Security has saved the great majority of us from old-age penury. Where is the morality in taking this earned retirement and modi-

cum of dignity from millions?

Besides, a sermon on the morality of entitlements should never come from a congress critter's mouth. Speaker Ryan himself wallows in a mud pit of congressional entitlements that working stiff couldn't imagine getting: A \$223,500 annual paycheck, free limousine and chauffeur, a maximum-coverage health plan, a tax-paid PR agent, lavish expense account, free travel — and, of

course, a platinum-level congressional retirement program funded by the very taxpayers whose Social Security he's out to kill.

Yet Ryan wonders why Congress' public approval rating is plummeting toward single digits.

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uled to come to New York. China has floated the idea of a North Korean nuclear and missile program freeze in exchange for the U.S. canceling its provocative war games with South Korea, an idea Pyongyang had signaled interest in recently.

As the president has admitted, some issues are more complicated than he thought when he took office. In the words of Winston Churchill, jaw jaw is better than war war. Both Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Vice President Mike Pence have stated, "all options are on the table," (which includes using nuclear weapons) regarding North Korea, except the only good one, diplomacy. If Trump wants to live up to his maverick reputation, he should ignore the conventional wisdom that more bombs will make us safer, and invest in smart, tough negotiations instead.

Kevin Martin is President of Peace Action.

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Why Is There So Little Popular Protest Against Today's Threats of Nuclear War?

By Lawrence Wittner

In recent weeks, the people of the world have been treated to yet another display of the kind of nuclear insanity that has broken out periodically ever since 1945 and the dawn of the nuclear era.

On April 11, Donald Trump, irked by North Korea's continued tests of nuclear weapons and missiles, tweeted that "North Korea is looking for trouble." If China does not "help," then "we will solve the problem without them." North Korean leader Kim Jong Un responded by announcing that, in the event of a U.S. military attack, his country would not scruple at launching a nuclear strike at U.S. forces. In turn, Trump declared: "We are sending an armada, very powerful. We have submarines, very powerful, far more powerful than the aircraft carrier. We have the best military people on earth."

During the following days, the governments of both nuclear-armed nations escalated their threats. Dispatched to South Korea, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence declared that "the era of strategic patience is over," and warned: "All options are on the table." Not to be outdone, North Korea's deputy representative to the United Nations told a press conference that "thermonuclear war may break out at any moment." Any missile or nuclear strike by the United States would be responded to "in kind." Several days later, the North Korean government warned of a "super-mighty preemptive strike" that would reduce U.S. military

forces in South Korea and on the U.S. mainland "to ashes." The United States and its allies, said the official statement, "should not mess with us."

Curiously, this North Korean statement echoed the Trump promise during his presidential campaign that he would build a U.S. military machine "so big, powerful, and strong that no one will mess with us." The fact that both Trump and Kim are being "messed with" despite their possession of very powerful armed forces, including nuclear weapons, seems to have eluded both men, who continue their deadly game of nuclear threat and bluster.

And what is the response of the public to these two erratic government leaders behaving in this reckless fashion and threatening war, including nuclear war? It is remarkably subdued. People read about the situation in newspapers or watch it on the television news, while comedians joke about the madness of it all. Oh, yes, peace and disarmament organizations condemn the escalating military confrontation and outline reasonable diplomatic alternatives. But such organizations are unable to mobilize the vast numbers of people around the world necessary to shake some sense into these overwrought government officials.

The situation was very different

in the 1980s, when organizations like the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign (in the United States), the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (in Britain), and similar groups around the world were able to engage millions of people in protest against the nuclear recklessness of the U.S. and Soviet governments—protest that played a key role in curbing the nuclear arms race and preventing nuclear war.

So why is there so little public protest today?

One factor is certainly the public's preoccupation with other important issues, among them climate change, immigration, terrorism, criminal justice, civil liberties, and economic inequality.

Another appears to be a sense of fatalism. Many people believe that Kim and Trump are too irrational to respond to reason and too autocratic to give way to public pressure.

Yet another factor is the belief of Americans and Europeans that their countries are safe from a North Korean attack. Yes, many people will die in a new Korean War, especially one fought with nuclear weapons, but they will be "only" Koreans.

In addition, many people credit the absence of nuclear war since 1945 to nuclear deterrence. Thus, they assume that nuclear-armed

nations will not fight a nuclear war among themselves.

Finally — and perhaps most significantly — people are reluctant to think about nuclear war. After all, it means death and destruction at an unbearable level of horror. Therefore, it's much easier to simply forget about it.

Of course, even if these factors explain the public's passivity in the face of a looming nuclear catastrophe, they do not justify it. After all, people can concern themselves with more than one issue at a time, public officials are often more malleable than assumed, accepting the mass slaughter of Koreans is unconscionable, and if nuclear deterrence really worked, the U.S. government would be far less worried about other nations (including North Korea) developing nuclear weapons. Also, problems — including the problem posed by nuclear weapons — do not simply disappear when people ignore them.

It would be a terrible thing if it takes a disastrous nuclear war between the United States and North Korea to convince people that nuclear war is simply unacceptable. The atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki should already have convinced us of that.

Dr. Lawrence Wittner is the author of *Confronting the Bomb* (Stanford University Press).

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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 30	MONDAY, MAY 1	TUESDAY, MAY 2	WEDNESDAY, MAY 3	THURSDAY, MAY 4	FRIDAY, MAY 5	SATURDAY, MAY 6
<p>2011—A Robinson R44 crashes into downtown Indiana, Pa., during the filming of a reality TV show, "Campus PD." Miraculously, the cameraman is the only fatality.</p> <p>1993—The first website goes online.</p> <p>1977—The Clamshell Alliance assembles at Seabrook to fight the construction of the nuke plant.</p> <p>1975—Saigon falls.</p> <p>1973—Rabid Nixon supporter Rev. Sun Myung Moon gets a green card.</p> <p>1973—Announcing their resignations, Richard Nixon calls convicted felons John D. Erlichman and H.R. Haldeman "two of the finest public servants I have ever known."</p> <p>1971—In Detroit, Medal of Honor recipient Dwight H. Johnson is shot to death while robbing a grocery store.</p> <p>1966—Rep. Melvin Laird (R-Wisc.) says that the problem with Vietnam is "an administration that fails to inform the people fully and frankly about the objectives and progress of the war."</p> <p>1961—Leonid I. Rogozov, the sole doctor at the Novolazarevskaya Research Station in Antarctica, uses local anesthetics as he removes his own appendix in a two-hour operation.</p> <p>1956—Ex-Veep Alben Barkley concludes his keynote speech to the Washington and Lee Mock Convention, then keels over dead.</p> <p>1900—The Illinois Central's <i>Cannonball Express</i> slams into a freight train at Vaughan, Miss. Engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones is the only fatality.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:35 3:16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:57 9:13</p>	<p>2006—During its maiden voyage, over Desert Center, Calif., a Robinson R44 helicopter's main rotor knocks the tail boom off. The pilot and a passenger die in the crash.</p> <p>2003—G.W.[MD] Bush says "major combat operations in Iraq have ended." U.S. death toll so far: 140.</p> <p>1999—<i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> resumes regular (fortnightly) publication in Portsmouth.</p> <p>1989—"Bill" Gardner, Secretary of State for Life, assigns rights to the trade name <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> to a collateral descendant of the founder.</p> <p>1977—Seabrook: 1,414 Clams busted.</p> <p>1975—Tom Polgar sends CIA's last cable from Saigon: "It has been a long fight and we have lost... Let us hope that we will not have another Vietnam experience and that we have learned our lesson. Saigon signing off."</p> <p>1971—Saying, "If the government won't stop the war, we'll stop the government," 45,000 protesters assemble in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1970—U.S. troops join ARVN soldiers in the Cambodian "Incursion."</p> <p>1960—Russian missiles bring down a U-2 piloted by the CIA's Gary Powers.</p> <p>1944—Jacob Coxe, 90, on the Capitol steps, completes the speech he began 50 years earlier.</p> <p>1894—Jacob Coxe, leads a 500-man "Army of the Unemployed" to the Capitol steps, where he calls for a federally-funded jobs program. Within minutes, police hustle him away.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:31 4:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:54 10:11</p>	<p>2011—Osama bin Laden, having outlived the G.W.[MD] Bush Administration, is killed by SEAL Team 6 under orders from his successor.</p> <p>2006—With stereotypical inefficiency, state workers in Lucasville, Ohio jab Joseph Clark 19 times over 86 minutes to kill him by lethal injection.</p> <p>2003—Iraq War architect Richard Perle writes that it "ended without the Arab world rising up against us, as the war's critics feared, without the quagmire they predicted, without the heavy losses in house-to-house fighting they warned us to expect."</p> <p>1985—Brokerage firm E.F. Hutton pleads guilty to 2,000 federal charges and agrees to cough up \$10 million.</p> <p>1972—J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover croaks, finally, at 77. (See 1957).</p> <p>1967—The California State Assembly is visited by 26 armed Black Panthers.</p> <p>1964—In Saigon, it's a split double header: a VC mine sinks the 496-foot escort carrier <i>U.S.N.S. Card</i>, but Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara survives a bomb plot.</p> <p>1963—Schoolchildren in Birmingham, Ala. march against segregation; 600 are arrested.</p> <p>1957—Sen. Joe McCarthy, 48, croaks.</p> <p>1940—Mississippi Governor Paul Johnson, 60, clubs <i>Jackson Daily News</i> editor Major Frederick Sullens from behind. Sullens, 62, floors the Governor and beats him mercilessly.</p> <p>1933—Hitler abolishes all German labor unions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:31 5:18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:54 11:15</p>	<p>2016—After suggesting Ted Cruz's father helped assassinate JFK (prompting Cruz to recall Donald Trump's boast that dodging VD had been his Vietnam) Trump wins the Indiana Primary and clinches the Republican Presidential nomination.</p> <p>2003—The law of gravity busts the Old Man of the Mountain.</p> <p>1995—Alabama Governor "Fob" James reintroduces chain gangs.</p> <p>1987—The <i>Miami Herald</i> reports that a woman who was not his wife spent the night in the D.C. townhouse of Sen. Gary Hart's (D-Colo.), who is quoted today saying "Follow me around."</p> <p>1970—"The North Vietnamese] have been in a war for years and years," says Veep Spiro "Ted" Agnew. "I don't think they are capable ... of continuing this fight."</p> <p>1963—Birmingham, Ala. Sheriff Theophilus "Bull" Connors turns firehoses and dogs on civil rights marchers.</p> <p>1946—"Gruesome Gertie," Louisiana's electric chair, wired by a drunken trustee, fails to kill Willie Francis, 17. He's escorted back to Death Row. A year later, Gertie kills Willie.</p> <p>1945—The RAF bombs the German ship <i>Cap Arcona</i>, believing it's carrying SS officers. Of 4,500 concentration camp inmates aboard, 350 survive.</p> <p>1909—A passenger train collides with a switching engine in the Portsmouth railway: one dead, seven injured.</p> <p>1866—The Chilean sub <i>Flach</i> sinks on a test dive; 11 aboard die.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:36 6:24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:58</p>	<p>2004—The U.S. Army reveals that 10 prisoner deaths and 10 abuse cases in Iraq and Afghanistan are under criminal investigation.</p> <p>1990—Six-inch flames shoot from Jesse Joseph Tafero's head as Florida's "Old Sparky" takes three jolts and seven minutes to kill him.</p> <p>1989—U.S.M.C. Lieut. Col. Oliver North is convicted of four felonies in the Iran-Contra scandal, but a Congressional screw-up lets him skate.</p> <p>1970—Ohio National Guard troops shoot 13 unarmed students, killing four, at Kent State.</p> <p>1961—The Freedom Rides begin throughout the south.</p> <p>1948—Norman Mailer's <i>The Naked and the Dead</i> is published.</p> <p>1942—The Battle of the Coral Sea begins. It lasts four days; 14 ships are sunk or damaged, 159 planes destroyed, and 1,565 men are killed. It was a great victory.</p> <p>1940—Nora Joyce says to James, "Well, Jim, I haven't read any of your books but I'll have to someday because they must be good considering how well they sell."</p> <p>1926—A national General Strike begins in England.</p> <p>1904—Charles Rolls meets Henry Royce.</p> <p>1886—In Chicago's Haymarket Square, demonstrators against May 3rd police brutality at the McCormick Reaper plant are attacked by more police. A bomb kills seven cops; a dubious trial later convicts eight anarchists.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:44 7:29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:22 1:03</p>	<p>1994—In a Parliamentary by-election, Screaming Lord Sutch of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party comes in 4th with 4.2 pct.</p> <p>1985—A Robinson R22 helicopter celebrates Cinco de Mayo by chewing its own tail off and plummeting to earth, killing its pilot and a passenger.</p> <p>1985—President Reagan lays a wreath at a cemetery full of Nazis.</p> <p>1981—In Ireland's Maze Prison, Bobby Sands dies of starvation.</p> <p>1970—Jerry Rubin speaks at UNH.</p> <p>1961—Moments before becoming America's first man in space, New Hampshire's own Alan Shepard prays, "Please, dear God, don't let me f_#_k up." His prayer is answered.</p> <p>1960—The U.S. announces that Gary Powers's U-2 was a "weather research plane" and its pilot a "civilian employed by Lockheed."</p> <p>1945—The collier <i>Black Point</i> is torpedoed by U-853 within sight of the Point Judith, R.I. lighthouse.</p> <p>1945—At a Sunday school picnic in Bly, Ore., five Sunday school children and a minister's pregnant wife are killed by a Japanese balloon bomb.</p> <p>1925—John T. Snopes is arrested in Tennessee for teaching evolution. On the team prosecuting Snopes is a man named Sue K. Hicks.</p> <p>1886—In the Bay View neighborhood of Milwaukee, Gov. Jeremiah Rusk orders 250 National Guard soldiers to fire on a crowd of strikers. They comply; seven die.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:51 8:30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:31 2:05</p>	<p>2012—Stabbed in a bar fight, actor Sean Bean orders another drink.</p> <p>2010—An imaginary bus bomb inspires panic in Portsmouth, N.H.</p> <p>2010—A Londoner scamming from his parents' basement gives The Invisible Hand of the Market™ jitters: the Dow drops nine pct. in five minutes.</p> <p>1996—Nine days after disappearing, ex-CIA Director William Colby turns up in Chesapeake Bay, dead but remarkably fresh-looking, 20 feet from where searchers found his canoe eight days earlier. Routine drowning.</p> <p>1992—After making a loud "bang," a Robinson R22 helicopter plummets to earth at Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., killing pilot and passenger.</p> <p>1982—LAPD Chief Darryl Gates explains "some blacks [die in choke holds because] the veins or arteries do not open up as fast as they do in normal people."</p> <p>1978—In Chicago, First Lady Rosalynn Carter is photographed shaking hands with Polish Constitution Day Parade chairman & serial killer John Wayne Gacy.</p> <p>1967—Gen. Wallace Greene, Jr., U.S.M.C., says in Manchester, N.H. that America is winning the war in Vietnam, "and I say that without any doubt whatsoever."</p> <p>1868—Angry that Samuel Mills had dropped from sight when the gallows opened under him, hundreds of observers riot in Woodsville, N.H.</p> <p>1864—Five generals are KIA in the Battle of the Wilderness.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:53 9:24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:34 3:01</p>
SUNDAY, MAY 7	MONDAY, MAY 8	TUESDAY, MAY 9	WEDNESDAY, MAY 10	THURSDAY, MAY 11	FRIDAY, MAY 12	SATURDAY, MAY 13
<p>1999—A U.S. B-2 drops five "smart bombs" on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade: three dead, 27 wounded.</p> <p>1998—Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan successfully quash an effort to regulate credit default swaps.</p> <p>1992—Reporters reveal Ross Perot's "concern" over U.S. POWs was mostly about Richard Nixon's presidency.</p> <p>1985—New York throws a ticker tape parade for 25,000 Vietnam veterans. Better late than never.</p> <p>1984—Vietnam veterans' suit for damages from chemical companies which sold Agent Orange to the U.S. is settled for chump change.</p> <p>1964—Former Olympic yachtsman Francisco Gonzales shoots the pilot and co-pilot of Pacific Air flight 773, then himself. The plane crashes near San Ramon, Calif., killing 41 more.</p> <p>1960—After lying for a week, and only after Khrushchev reveals the Soviets have its pilot, the U.S. admits that the U-2 is a spy plane.</p> <p>1955—Black voting activist Rev. George W. Lee is gunned down in Midnight, Miss. No charges are ever filed.</p> <p>1954—The Viet Minh overrun the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p>1942—More than 100,000 Japanese-Americans are sent to concentration camps.</p> <p>1896—Gilmanton-born Herman W. Mudgett, aka "Dr. H.H. Holmes," murderer of 100 or more women, is hanged for murdering some guy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:48 10:13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:31 3:52</p>	<p>2007—GOP lawmakers, worried about re-election, get all up in George W.[MD] Bush's grill about Iraq.</p> <p>2006—CNN's Headline News adds Glenn Beck to its lineup.</p> <p>2003—A cargo door on a Russian-built plane flown by a Ukrainian crew pops open over the Congo. Three-fourths of the 200 aboard are sucked from the plane.</p> <p>1995—A Robinson R44 helicopter destroys itself in flight over Saxony, Germany. Four die; all are commercial helicopter pilots.</p> <p>1992—A Robinson R22 helicopter loses power over Anaheim, Calif. and crashes, killing the pilot.</p> <p>1979—Salvadoran police maintain order by killing 23 and wounding 70 at a cathedral.</p> <p>1970—"Hardhats" beat antiwar demonstrators in New York. Nixon later makes a leader Secretary of Labor.</p> <p>1970—At the University of New Mexico, 11 people protesting the Vietnam War are bayoneted by National Guardsmen.</p> <p>1967—Muhammad Ali is indicted for refusing to be inducted.</p> <p>1963—In Hue, Ngo Dinh Diem's goons kill nine Buddhists for flying their flag, then blame the 'Cong.</p> <p>1958—In Lima, Richard Nixon is stoned and spat on by Peruvians.</p> <p>1755—In Portsmouth, murderer Eliphaz Dow becomes the first person executed in New Hampshire. Ruth Blay gets strung up 13 years later.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:38 10:57</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:22 4:38</p>	<p>1989—"What a waste it is to lose one's mind," says Veep Candidate Dan Quayle, addressing the Negro College Fund, "or not to have a mind is being very wasteful, how true that is."</p> <p>1980—The Liberian-flagged <i>Summit Venture</i> knocks out one span of St. Petersburg, Fla.'s Sunshine Skyway Bridge. A Greyhound then plunges into Tampa Bay, killing 35.</p> <p>1974—Congress finally begins to ponder impeaching Richard Nixon.</p> <p>1970—Richard Nixon chats with antiwar students on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 4 a.m.</p> <p>1963—The U.S. orbits 480 million bits of wire .7 inches long in a failed communications experiment.</p> <p>1961—FCC chair Newton Minow calls American television "a vast wasteland."</p> <p>1969—The <i>New York Times</i> reports the U.S. is bombing Cambodia.</p> <p>1967—Muhammad Ali is stripped of his heavyweight boxing title for refusing induction.</p> <p>1960—"The" pill is approved.</p> <p>1958—On CBS's "Trackdown," lawyer Hoby Gilman exposes a con man who claims that only he can save the town from destruction. The con man's name is Walter Trump.</p> <p>1947—Louisiana successfully electrocutes seventeen year old Willie Francis. A year and six days earlier, it tried and failed.</p> <p>1879—Wilbur Trafton wires up Portsmouth's first telephone.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:24 11:37</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:07 5:19</p>	<p>2000—"I think we agree," George W.[MD] Bush says to John McCain, "the past is over."</p> <p>1986—A Robinson R22 helicopter makes a loud "pop" as its main rotor severs its tail boom. It crashes in East Fishkill, N.Y., killing the pilot.</p> <p>1973—Nixon cronies John Mitchell and Maurice Stans are indicted, along with Robert Vesco, for Vesco's illegal \$200,000 campaign contribution.</p> <p>1967—Capt. Howard Levy is jailed for 3 years for refusing to train U.S. soldiers for Vietnam.</p> <p>1945—New Hampshire adopts the motto, "Live Free or Die."</p> <p>1933—In Berlin, Joseph Goebbels exhorts students to make Germany great by burning books.</p> <p>1919—In Charleston, S.C., white sailors foment the first of 33 U.S. race riots over a five-month period.</p> <p>1908—The first Mother's Day Service is held in W.Va. at the instigation of Anna Jarvis, who is arrested on Mother's Day 40 years later for protesting its commercialization.</p> <p>1869—Leland Stanford [aka "Stealin' Landford"] fails to drive the Transcontinental Railway's "Golden Spike," because he's drunk. "Every step of that mighty enterprise," says one Senator, was "taken in fraud."</p> <p>1740—South Carolina passes a law making it illegal for the enslaved to assemble, raise food, earn money, or learn to read, but makes it legal for slave holders to kill the rebellious.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:05</p>	<p>2012—The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission finds George W.[MD] Bush, Dick "Dick" Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Tony Blair and others guilty of war crimes.</p> <p>2001—The tail boom falls off a Robinson R44 helicopter after it's hit by its own tail rotor. The subsequent crash and fire kill two in Gorst, Wash.</p> <p>2006—<i>USA Today</i> reports that the NSA is tapping U.S. phones.</p> <p>1975—In New York, 80,000 celebrate the end of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1969—Huey Cobras mistakenly fire on the 3/187 Battalion HQ on Hamburger Hill; two KIA, 35 WIA.</p> <p>1969—A fire at the Rocky Flats nuke bomb plant disperses more plutonium downwind, precluding completion of Denver's circumferential highway.</p> <p>1968—In France, labor unions turn out in support of student protests.</p> <p>1966—"It appears," says Defense Sec. Robert Strange McNamara, "that the Viet Cong is [sic] losing what support it had from the rural population."</p> <p>1963—Blacks in Birmingham, Ala., lose their patience and begin to riot after two more KKK bombings.</p> <p>1894—George Pullman cuts his workers' wages but not their rent; they fight back with a wildcat strike.</p> <p>1886—The <i>Milwaukee Daily Sentinel</i> publishes an article headlined "No Poles Need Apply," praising the railroads for fringing immigrants.</p> <p>1854—Birth of Ottmar Mergenthaler, inventor of the Linotype.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:14 12:44</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:28 6:34</p>	<p>2015—An FEC report reveals that Rep. Frank Guinta, after years of denying wrongdoing, has agreed to pay back an illegal \$355K campaign loan and a \$15K fine to boot.</p> <p>1996—Sec. of State Madeleine Albright tells Lesley Stahl on "60 Minutes" that sanctions killing 500,000 children in Iraq is "a very hard choice, but ... we think the price is worth it."</p> <p>1987—News reports say Oliver North lost a \$10 million contribution for the Contras by using the wrong Swiss bank account number.</p> <p>1984—The No. 2 man at HUD says Hispanics live in crowded homes, not because of poverty, but out of "cultural preference."</p> <p>1975—Khmer Rouge naval forces using ex-U.S. Swift Boats seize the U.S. container ship <i>Mayaguez</i> and 39 crewmen off Cambodia.</p> <p>1960—The remains of SSgt. Guy E. Shelley are found 97 miles from where he parachuted to Earth, 17 years after his plane crashed in the Sahara.</p> <p>1958—Future Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara says cabbage and broccoli will protect Americans from atomic fallout.</p> <p>1947—Trunk murderess Winnie Ruth Judd makes her third escape from the Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p>1916—In deference to the wounds they inflicted during the Easter Uprising, the Royal Irish Constabulary put James Connolly in a chair so the firing squad can shoot him again.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:50 1:22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:04 7:10</p>	<p>2015—The day after 8 die in a Philadelphia derailment, Congress votes to slash Amtrak's budget.</p> <p>2005—The Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) commission recommends closing the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.</p> <p>1985—A Philadelphia police helicopter bombs MOVE headquarters, killing 11 and leaving 250 homeless.</p> <p>1971—R. Nixon tells his flunkies to get a new IRS head: "a ruthless son of a bitch ... who will go after our enemies and not go after our friends."</p> <p>1968—In Paris, alleged Peace Talks begin between U.S. and Uncle Ho.</p> <p>1960—Genial ol' Ike issues an order: Fidel Castro must be "sawed off."</p> <p>1958—Richard Nixon gets stoned in Caracas—literally.</p> <p>1957—Ngo Dinh Diem is treated to a ticker tape parade in New York City.</p> <p>1930—The New Hampshire Historical Society announces it's acquired one of three known copies of <i>The Monster of Monsters</i>, the pamphlet that got Daniel Fowle thrown in prison in 1754.</p> <p>1862—Robert Smalls, enslaved helmsman of the Confederate military transport <i>Planter</i>, commandeers the vessel, pilots it out of Charleston harbor, and turns it over to the U.S. Navy.</p> <p>1846—President Polk having successfully provoked hostilities, Congress declares war on Mexico.</p> <p>1842—Dorr's "Peoples' Government" fails in an attempt to seize an arsenal in Rhode Island.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:25 1:59</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:41 7:46</p>

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