

*Mike Berman's*

# WASHINGTON POLITICAL WATCH

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Washington, DC

The Dabney

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\*Any statements in this issue of the Watch which are not sourced are mine and identified by “WW”.

## **State of the Nation**

35% of Americans say the country is headed in the right direction. This includes 42% of men and 27% of women. 52% say it is on the wrong track including 48% of men and 57% of women. [Economist/YouGov 3/26/19]

In March, 33% of us were satisfied with the way things were going in the United States while 65% were dissatisfied. [Gallup 3/10/19]

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Nearly 4 million babies are born in the U.S. annually but roughly 23,000 babies die each year. An American baby is less likely to reach its first birthday than a baby born in 33 other countries. [BCBS Progress Health 2/27/19]

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“The United States could see a shortage of up to 120,000 physicians by 2030, impacting patient care across the nation, according to new data published by the Association of American Medical Colleges. Estimates conducted in 2015, 2016, and 2017, show a projected shortage of between 42,600 and 121,300 physicians by the end of the next decade.”

“America’s 3 million nurses make up the largest segment of the health-care workforce in the U.S., and nursing is currently one of the fastest-growing occupations in the country. Despite that growth, demand is outpacing supply. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1.2 million vacancies will emerge for registered nurses between 2014 and 2022. By 2025, the shortfall is expected to be “more than twice as large as any nurse shortage experienced since the introduction of Medicare and Medicaid in the mid-1960s.” [The Atlantic]

Government statisticians rank home care as one of the nation’s fastest growing occupations, with an additional million home health aides needed by 2026; that’s an increase of 50% from 2014. [Forbes]

There is strong evidence that we are thinking about this the wrong way. In 2014, the Institute of Medicine released a thorough analysis on graduate medical

education that argued there was no doctor shortage, and that we didn't really need to invest more in new physicians.

The system isn't undermanned. It's inefficient.

We rely too heavily on physicians and not enough on midlevel practitioners, like physician assistants and nurse practitioners, especially because evidence supports they are just as effective in primary care settings. [New York Times - A Doctor Shortage? Let's Take a Closer Look]

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Equal gender representation could be closer than we think in the medical field. In Latin America more than 50% of doctors are women. In 2017 more women were enrolled in U.S. medical schools than men. [TicToc 3/23/19]

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As of the end of 2018 the amount of student loan debt hit \$1,569 trillion. A growth of \$1,089 trillion in the last 12 years. This debt load is second only to Americans mortgage debt which is \$8,880 trillion. [NBC News; Federal Reserve Bank of New York]

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In America, powerful commercial firms are becoming even more powerful.

- Apple has a 62% market share in America.
- American Express, Mastercard and Visa control 95% of the credit card market.
- Google has 60% of the browser market.
- 3 Networks control 78% of the telecoms market.
- 4 airlines control 69% of journeys within America.
- Hilton controls 12% of all rooms in America.
- Expedia has 27% of the North American online travel market.
- 4 companies control 66% of hog slaughtering, 85% of steers, 50% of chickens and 85% of corn seed sales.

[Axios 3/30/19]

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“Americans over 65 are now the fastest growing age group in the country.

U.S. Census projects that by 2035 the population past retirement age will outnumber the population under 18 for the first time in history.”

“Older Americans are more likely to vote than millennials and Gen Xers, particularly in midterm and primary elections...they are clustered in rural and sparsely populated states, giving them disproportionately large Senate and Electoral College representation.” [HuffPost 3/11/19]

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Democrats and Republicans are united in their view that polarization in the United States will worsen in the future.

	<u>Less polarized</u>	<u>More polarized</u>
All adults	26%	65%
Rep/Lean Rep	23%	68%
Dem/Lean Dem	28%	62%

A slight majority of Americans are optimistic about the future of the U.S. over the next 30 years, to 2050.

	<u>Very optimistic</u>	<u>Somewhat optimistic</u>	<u>Somewhat pessimistic</u>	<u>Very pessimistic</u>
All Adults	12%	44%	31%	13%
White	9%	42%	35%	14%
Black	20%	50%	19%	10%
Hispanic	17%	50%	24%	9%

[Pew Research Center 3/21/19]

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The House passed legislation last Thursday to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, despite opposition from the majority of Republicans, bowing to NRA pressure. The bill, which reauthorizes the landmark 1994 domestic violence law for another five years, easily passed. But 157 Republicans and one Democrat voted against it. [HuffPost 4/5/19]

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The residents of 43 U.S. states describe themselves as more conservative than liberal. In one state, California, the number of folks who describe themselves as conservative equals the number who describe themselves as liberal. In the

remaining six states the number of folks who describe themselves as liberal is greater than the number who describe themselves as conservative.

In one state, Florida, the number of folks who describe themselves as conservative equals the number who describe themselves as moderate.

In 25 states the number of conservatives is greater than the number who describe themselves as moderate and liberal.

In 24 states there are more moderates than conservatives and liberals combined.

[Gallup 2/22/19]

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### **Employment**

The official BLS seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2019 is 3.8%.

The unemployment rate for adult men is 3.6%; adult women 3.3%; whites 3.4%; blacks 6.7%; Hispanics 4.7%.

If one considers the total number of unemployed + those marginally attached to the labor force + those working part-time who want full-time work, the unemployment rate is 7.3%.

These overall results are identical to the February numbers, the one big change is the number of jobs created. In February, 20,000 jobs were created. In March there was a rebound to 196,000 jobs. [BLS 4/5/19]

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### **This and That**

On March 22, 2019, Jimmy Carter became the oldest living president ever.

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Between 2008 and 2016, shipping companies lost over 1,500 containers on average each year, according to a survey by the World Shipping Council. [NYT 3/30]

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Recently when WW was doing some research about generations, I found that “boomers” were described as 18-29 years of age. Then I found “boomers”

described as 30-48 years of age. So, as I often do, I turned to the PEW Research Center and found the following.

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2019</u>
Generation Z				7-22
Millennials			18-34	23-38
Generation X		18-29	35-50	39-54
Boomers	18-29	30-48	51-69	55-73
Silent	30-47	49-65	70-87	74-91
Greatest	48-60			

[PEW Research Center – Michael Dimock, President]

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52% of Gen Z consumers say they find out about new products on social media instead of TV or other mediums. [Morning Consult 3/29/19]

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In 2018, happiness among young adults in America fell to a record low. The number of 18-34 years old who said they were very happy fell to 25%, the lowest level in the General Social Survey. Only 28% of young women and 22% of young men reported being very happy. [Atlantic 4/6/19]

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Given all of the discussion about changes in the American health care system with many Democrats promoting Medicare-for-All and Republicans wanting to do away with the Affordable Care Act, Americans were asked:

Which of the following health care systems would be better?

	<u>Overall</u>	<u>GOP</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Women</u>
Current System	35%	51%	33%	22%	30%
Single payer/Medicare-for-all	42%	24%	38%	60%	41%
Don't know	23%	24%	29%	18%	29%

[Winston Group 3/28/19]

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Since at least 2010, more than 50% of Democrats have expressed a positive view of socialism.

In a late February survey by Winning the Issues, respondents were asked whether capitalism or socialism would be a better economic system.

35% of Democrats selected capitalism while 31% chose socialism and 35% were not sure. Among Republicans, the preference for capitalism is clear. When asked the same question, 73% of Republicans chose capitalism and 10% chose socialism. [Winston Group 3/8/19]

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The following are the percentage of shoppers who consider certain behaviors to be in appropriate.

- Leaving perishable items you no longer want, somewhere else in the store - 97%
- Tasting produce before purchasing – 80%
- Leaving non-perishable items you no longer want somewhere else in the store – 79%
- Consuming items you plan on purchasing before paying for them – 78%
- Leaving the checkout line while your items are being scanned to grab a forgotten item – 68%
- Shopping minutes prior to closing time – 47%
- Giving special bagging instructions (aside from paper or plastic) to an employee – 35%
- Verbally disciplining your child while shopping – 27%
- Handing the cashier items you no longer want to purchase – 26%

[TreadMill Reviews 12/1/18]

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51% of Americans between the ages of 18 and 34 do not have a steady romantic partner. That is up from 33% in 2004 and 45% in 2016.

Among the overall public, 35% say they have no steady partner which is up slightly from 33% in 2016.

42% of American adults did not live with a spouse or partner in 2017.

41% of Democrats are without a steady partner compared with 29% of Republicans.

51% of black Americans are more likely than 32% of white Americans to not have a steady partner.

Among those who are unemployed, 54% do not have partners. This is up from 44% in 2016. 32% of employed adults do not have a partner. [General Social Survey and Current Population Survey, WP 3/22/19]

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Do you keep quiet about political views online to avoid conflict with friends and family? 49% of Americans answer that question “yes” while 45% say “no”.

Of the 49% who consider themselves in this category, they are 49% of GOP men, 48% of independent men and 39% of Democratic men, 63% of GOP women, 52% of Independent women and 43% of Democratic women. [Winston Group 3/15/19]

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Next year’s census will be the biggest ever, which tends to be the case given the population inevitably grows larger every decade. Still, this coming year’s census will be a major investment, costing \$15.6 billion, up from \$12.3 billion spent on the 2010 census and well over the \$9.4 billion spent in 2000 (inflation adjusted). Much of the census money is spent chasing people down who forgot to fill out the census. The 2020 Census will spend \$1.43 per U.S. resident on marketing, with a particular focus on digital and social media spending. That’s up from \$1.22 in 2010. [Ted Mellnick and Reuben Fischer-Baum, WP]

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Every 15 minutes a baby is born in the United States with opioid withdrawal symptoms. [Axios 3/28]

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751 pitchers played in the big leagues last year. [NYT 3/27/19]

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### **Social Media**

54% of us are not satisfied with the amount of federal government regulation and oversight of social media companies like Facebook and Twitter. 36% are satisfied.

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When it comes to protection of their personal information, 60% of folks don't trust Facebook "at all", 37% don't trust Google "at all", 28% don't trust Amazon "at all" and 35% don't trust the federal government "at all".

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A majority and then some believe that social media:

- does more to spread lies and falsehoods – 55%
- does more to divide us – 57%
- does more to spread unfair attacks and rumors against public figures and corporations – 61%
- does more to waste our time – 82%

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Social media companies collect your personal data and allow advertisers to target users based on that data. The argument is that this use of data is an acceptable tradeoff because it allows social media companies to provide free or low-cost services and better products that fit our needs and interests. 26% of us accept this use of our personal data.

74% have a different take on this practice. They say this is not an acceptable tradeoff because it gives social media companies too much influence over our lives and to use our information in ways we might not want.

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When faced with the question of whether the federal government should break up companies like Apple, Amazon, Facebook and Google into smaller competing companies, 50% believe they should not be broken up while 47% would do exactly that.

On the other hand, when faced with the argument that these companies should not be broken up because competition should be left to the free market, 68% would not breakup these companies because the government should not pick winners and losers. 28% have the opposite view.

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94% believe that companies that operate online should be required to get a consumer's permission before sharing or selling access to his/her personal information and online activity. And 93% believe that the same companies should be required to delete a consumer's personal information on the consumer's request.

[All of above from NBC/WSJ 3/27/19]

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## Quotes

“We all knew from the time we were kids that we were going to die. We just didn’t know it would happen in our life time.”

--Shirley Turteltaub

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“We need to pursue scientific knowledge, or all we will do is run against a wall. But we need to do it wisely.”

--Yoshua Bengio,  
Canadian computer scientist

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“We tell women what not to do to avoid being attacked instead of tell men not to attack women.”

--Jessica Nabongo,  
who hopes to become the first black woman to visit every country in the world

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“James Beard famously told people that when he was stopped in airports and asked what his favorite restaurant was, he answered: “It’s the same as yours...it’s the one that loves me the most.”

--Restauranteur Danny Meyer

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“Animals are more than ever a test of our character, of mankind’s capacity for empathy and for decent, honorable conduct and faithful stewardship. We are called to treat them with kindness, not because they have rights or power to some claim of equality, but in a sense because they don’t; because they all stand unequal and powerless before us.”

--Mathew Scully, Author,  
quoted in “America’s Table” by Lea Berman

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“Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.”

--Robert Brault

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## President Trump

On March 27<sup>th</sup> the NBC/WSJ survey found that 43% approve of the job that Trump is doing as president. Among those expressing approval are 88% of Republicans, 60% of rural residents, 54% of men and 54% of whites overall.

53% disapprove of the job that he is doing including 88% of African Americans, 64% of Latinos, 61% of women, 57% of those age 18-34 and 51% of independents. [NBC/WSJ 3/27/19]

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On March 26, 2019, Economist/YouGov found that 46% of Americans approved of Trump's job performance and 51% disapproved.

On March 10, 2019, Gallup found (among all adults) that 39% of Americans approve of President Trump's job performance and 57% disapprove.

(Gallup no longer provides a daily or weekly approval rating of the president. Gallup now assess presidential job approval on a monthly basis.)

I now include a periodic polling summary--Registered and Likely Voters--by FiveThirtyEight.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gallup (All Adults)</u>		<u>FiveThirtyEight (Reg/Likely voters)</u>	
	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>
3/10/19	39%	57%	41.8%	53.4%
2/10/19	44%	52%	40.2%	55.1%
1/27/19	37%	59%	40.4%	55.6%
1/10/19	37%	59%	41.8%	53.9%
12/22/18	39%	55%	42.2%	52.8%
12/2/18	40%	56%	42.5%	52.7%
11/4/18	40%	54%	42.2%	52.6%
10/14/18	44%	51%	42.1%	52.4%
9/30/18	42%	53%	41.5%	52.7%
9/2/18	41%	53%	40.3%	54.5%
7/29/18	40%	55%	41.2%	53.2%
7/1/18	42%	53%	41.8%	52.3%
1/14/18	38%	57%	--	--

The following are some additional looks at the President’s job performance. The numbers below are of registered voters unless followed by an “A” which means “all voters” or “L” which means “likely voters”.

<u>Date</u>	<u>NBC/WSJ</u>	<u>WP/ABC</u>	<u>CNN</u>	<u>CBS</u>	<u>FOX</u>
MAR’19	43/53A		43/51		46/51
FEB ’19	46/52A	xxx	42/54	xxx	46/52
JAN ’19	43/54A	38/58	37/57A	36/59A	43/54
DEC ’18	43/54A	xxx	39/52	xxx	46/52
JAN ’18	39/57A	38/58	43/53	37/58A	45/53
DEC ’17	41/56	xxx	36/59	36/57A	xxx
JAN ’17	xxx	xxx	44/53	40/48A	xxx

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40% of Americans have positive feelings toward President Trump while 51% have negative feelings toward him. The high point of this measurement was in February 2017 when 43% had positive feelings toward the President and the low point was in April 2018 when only 35% had positive feelings toward him. [NBC/WSJ 3/26/19]

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The following are job approval numbers from Gallup for ten of the last twelve presidents, roughly 27 months into their first term.

GHW Bush	77% (4/91)
Eisenhower	68% (4/53)
Kennedy	66% (4/63)
GW Bush	71% (4/03)
Nixon	49% (4/71)
Clinton	46% (4/95)
Obama	43% (4/11)
Trump	43% (3/19)
Reagan	41% (4/83)
Carter	40% (4/79)

On economic policy, Trump’s approval ratings have remained consistently positive since April.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
3/26/19	50%	45%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
3/4/19	49%	45%	Quinnipiac (RV)
2/2/19	49%	45%	CNN (RV)
1/1/19	47%	46%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
12/6/18	48%	42%	CNBC (A)
11/18/18	52%	41%	CBS News (A)
10/9/18	51%	42%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
9/9/18	51%	53%	CNN (RV)
8/21/18	49%	44%	Fox News
7/18/18	50%	34%	NBC/WSJ
1/16/18	46%	49%	“

On foreign policy, Trump’s approval ratings remain in negative territory.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
3/26/19	44%	50%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
2/19/19	44%	50%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
1/1/19	42%	51%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
12/11/18	42%	51%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
11/19/18	42%	53%	Quinnipiac (RV)
10/9/18	45%	48%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
9/9/18	38%	56%	CNN (RV)
8/21/18	37%	55%	Fox News
7/18/18	38%	45%	NBC/WSJ
1/16/18	36%	60%	“

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The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was a major accomplishment of the Trump administration in December 2017.

In October 2017, Americans were asked whether they thought they would pay more or less taxes when the then pending tax bill was enacted. 25% thought they would end up paying more, 14% thought they would be paying less, 21% thought they would be paying about the same and 40% said they did not know.

Now that folks are filing their tax returns for the first full year of the law’s existence they were asked about the impact of the law. 28% say they will pay more taxes, 17% say they will pay less taxes, 27% say they will be about the same and

28% say they do not know enough. Folks projections as to what would happen to them were not that far off. [NBC/WSJ 3/27/19]

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78% of Americans have seen, read or heard the news coverage of the Special Counsel submitting his final report. Based on that coverage 37% have more doubts about Trump's presidency.

However, 57% do not have more doubts. The number of people who do not have more doubts has grown from 44% last December to 47% this past February. [NBC/WSJ 3/27/19]

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As of March 31, the Washington Post fact checker team has documented 9,451 false or misleading claims by the president since he took office.

President Trump has regularly claimed that his father was born in Germany. In fact, he was born in the Bronx. Trump's grandparents were apparently born in Europe.

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As of March 25, 2019, 66% of Trump's cabinet officers and senior staff across the government has turned over. [Cillizza 3/28]

Since Cillizza made that calculation, Linda McMahon, head of the SBA, has left the administration and Kristin Nielsen is out as Secretary of Homeland Security.

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According to the General Accountability Office, each of President Trump's trips to his resort at Mar-a-Lago in Florida, cost the federal government \$3,400,000. [WP 2/5/19]

Other research shows that he has apparently made 23 such trips, through the end of March which suggests that these trips have cost the federal government \$78,200,00.

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### **Judges Nominated and Confirmed to Date**

Because the U.S. Senate remains in Republican hands and the filibuster is no more, the President can continue unchecked his goal of remaking the federal judiciary.

## Judges Nominated and Confirmed to Date

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supreme Ct</u>	<u>Appeals Ct</u>	<u>District Ct</u>
Trump – thru 4/5/19	95	2	37	56
Obama – 8 years	329	2	55	268
GW Bush – 8 years	327	2	62	261
Clinton – 8 years	378	2	66	305
GHW Bush – 4 years	193	2	42	148
Reagan	383	3	83	290
Carter	262	0	56	203

There are currently a number of nominations awaiting Senate action: 5 seats on the Courts of Appeals, 55 seats on the District Courts and 2 seats on the Courts of International Trade.

There are currently 8 vacancies on the U.S. Courts of Appeals, 127 vacancies on the U.S. District Courts and 4 vacancies on the U.S. Court of International Trade. [USCourts/Wikipedia]

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## **Disassembling**

The President's proposed \$4.75 trillion 2020 budget includes cuts to the following departments or agencies.

- Environmental Protection Agency (-31%)
- State and USAID (-24%)
- Transportation (-19%)
- Housing and Urban Development (-16%)
- Agriculture (-15%)
- Interior (-14%)
- Health and Human Services (-12%)
- Education (-12%)
- Energy (-11%)
- Labor (-10%)
- Justice (-2%)
- NASA (-2%)
- Treasury (-2%)

The budget includes additional funding for the following departments.

- Defense (+5%)
- Homeland Security (+7%)
- Veterans Affairs (+8%)

[Washington Post]

The following are specific cuts that seem to be directed at those who are most disadvantaged.

\$220 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/food stamps) through program consolidation and reducing eligibility and benefits. These proposed cuts would remove an estimated 755,000 families from the program.

\$50 billion from Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

Zeroing out funding for DHHS programs relating to autism, including developmental disabilities surveillance and research program and the interagency autism coordinating committee.

30% cut in the office of Disability Employment in DOL.

\$10 billion cut to Social Security disability Insurance program, which provides benefits to disabled workers.

Cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, which provides health care coverage to those with disabilities – shaving \$818 billion from projected spending on Medicare over 10 years and cutting nearly \$1.5 trillion from projected spending on Medicaid. [NYT]

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During a speech to House Republicans, President Trump claimed that the noise from wind turbines can cause cancer.

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For the third year in a row, the Trump administration, in the person of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, has proposed killing federal funding for the Special Olympics, in the amount of \$17.6 million. This cut is part of an effort to slash the Education Department.



The Government Accountability Office reports that each trip the President takes to his resort Mar-a-Lago, Palm Beach, FL costs the government \$3.4 million. Trump proposed cutting funding for the Special Olympics for an amount roughly equal to the cost of 5 trips to his personal resort. [NBC/News]

After a bi-partisan outcry the President announced that this cut would be taken out of the proposed budget.

In addition, the budget that DeVos has proposed “would eliminate 29 education programs including a program that operates after-school programs for low-income kids, one that provides professional development for teachers and one that helps provide mental health services.”

Overall, the budget cuts over \$7 billion from the Department of Education. [HuffPost 3/30/19]

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“The Trump administration is preparing to shutter all 21 international offices of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration services.” This will result in a transfer of processing family visa applications, foreign adoptions and citizenship petitions from members of the military to domestic offices and the State Department’s embassies and consulates. [WP 3/12/19]

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\$664.9 billion is the amount of offshore profits repatriated by American corporations last year, short of the \$4 trillion predicted by President Trump. [Morning Consult 3/29/19]

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The Trump administration plans to shift much of the power and responsibility for food safety inspections in hog plants to the pork industry as early as May, cutting the number of federal inspectors by about 40% and replacing them with plant employees. [WP]

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A White House security adviser told the House Oversight and Reform Committee that 25 denials for security clearance applications were overridden by the Trump administration. Tricia Newbold, who has been a White House security adviser for 18 years, said the security clearances were approved regardless of concerns over blackmail, foreign influences and other concerns, per the Washington Post. [WP/Axios 4/1]

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**2020**

The 59<sup>th</sup> presidential election will take place on November 3, 2020,  
263 days from today

“It’s unlikely that the 2020 campaign will do anything but widen the distrust of our institutions and each other. The challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is to understand and anticipate where this distrust and disruption lead. The tipping point has yet to be reached. But it feels like we sit on its precipice more awkwardly than ever.”  
[Amy Walter, Cook Political Report, 3/22/19]

“The person who defines that race is going to win the race. If this is about Donald Trump and his personality, he isn’t going to win it.” [Former Republican Speaker Paul Ryan]

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All four sections of the country have produced at least 8 or more presidential nominees; Northeast (37-24 Democrats/13 Republicans), Midwest (30-16 Republicans /14 Democrats), South (15-11 Democrats/4 Republicans) and West (8-8 Republicans/0 Democrats).

There have been 49 Democrat and 41 Republican nominees.

Some 23 states have produced one or more presidential nominee. The following states have produced 5 or more nominees: New York (25), Illinois (9), Ohio (8), California (6), Massachusetts (5), Texas (5). [FiveThirtyEight 3/26/19]

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If the election were held today, matching Donald Trump verses a yet-to-be-named Democratic candidate and a third-party candidate, who do you think would win?

Trump	43%
Dem Candidate	43%
3 <sup>rd</sup> party candidate	9%
No answer	5%

[NBC Survey Monkey – 3/25/19]

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The list of potential candidates from both parties will be sorted into three categories: “Announced/Running”, “Testing the Waters” and “Mentioned”.

The reason folks end up in the “Announced/Running/Formed Committee” category is obvious.

The “Testing the Waters” category is for those folks who make some statement or take some action that suggests they are considering a candidacy, such as traveling to various early primary states or announcing in some fashion that they are testing the waters.

The “Mentioned” category is for everyone else who gets mentioned, on their own behalf or by someone else.

When a person is no longer part of a category, a line will be drawn through his or her name in the next issue of the Watch and in the subsequent issue it will be erased.

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This list started with 61 people who had been at least mentioned. Now there are 29 people on the list. 32 people are no longer involved in the hunt.

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There are now two mayors seeking the Democratic nomination for president.

Pete Buttigieg, age 37, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana first ran for Treasurer of the state of Indiana and lost badly. He was then elected mayor of South Bend in 2011 with 74% of the vote and re-elected in 2015 with 80% of the vote. South Bend is a town of 102,245 people and best known as the home of Notre Dame University.

In an appearance on Meet the Press on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> Buttigieg said, “I would stack up my experience against anybody, I know it's not as traditional, I know I haven't been marinating in Washington here for a very long time and I'm not part of the same establishment. But I would argue that being a mayor of a city of any size means you have to deal with the kinds of issues that really hit Americans...I think you can see pretty clearly, I'm about as different from this president as you get.

“Here you have this moment, probably the only moment in American history, where it just might make sense for somebody my age, coming from experience in the industrial Midwest, non-federal, different background, bringing something that will actually help Americans.”

The second mayor running is Wayne Messan, age 42, the Mayor of Miramar, Florida. Miramar is the 13<sup>th</sup> largest city in Florida, population 140,328 people.

Messan was first elected Mayor in 2015. He won having received 2,756 votes, 38.5% of the votes cast. He was re-elected in 2019 getting 5,847 votes, 86.05% of the votes cast.

WW asked a number of folks, who either live in Florida or are regular visitors whether they had heard of Miramar or the mayor. The two people who live in Florida had heard of Miramar but had not heard of the mayor. Of another dozen or so who are regular visitors, none had heard of the town let alone the mayor.

#### Announced/Running/Formed Committee

Cory Booker (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 49  
Pete Buttigieg (D) – Mayor of South Bend, Indiana – Age 37  
Julian Castro (D) – Former HUD Secretary – Age 44  
John Delaney (D) – former U.S. Representative – Age 55  
Tulsi Gabbard (D) – U.S. Representative – Age 37  
Kirsten Gillibrand (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 52  
Kamala Harris (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 54  
John Hickenlooper (D) – Governor of Colorado – Age 67  
Jay Inslee (D) – Governor of Washington – Age 68  
Amy Klobuchar (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 58  
Wayne Messam (D) – Mayor of Miramar, Florida – Age 44  
Beto O'Rourke – former U.S. Representative – Age 46  
Tim Ryan (D) – U.S. Representative – Age 45  
Bernie Sanders (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 77  
Eric Swalwell (D) – U.S. Representative – 39  
Elizabeth Warren (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 69  
Marianne Williamson – Spiritualist, teacher – Age 66  
Andrew Yang – Entrepreneur – Age 44

#### Testing the Waters

Joe Biden (D) – former Vice President, former U.S. Senator – Age 76  
Howard Schultz – Founder & Exec. Chairman, Starbucks – Age 65 (May run as an Independent)

Mentioned

Steve Bullock (D) – Governor of Montana – Age 52  
Terry McAuliffe (D) – former Governor of Virginia – Age 62 (May be getting closer to joining the race)  
Stacy Abrams – former candidate for Governor of Georgia – Age 45  
Mark Warner (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 64  
Michael Bennet (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 54 (Diagnosed with prostate cancer. Surgery expected in April. Expects to run following surgery if all goes well.)  
John Kerry (D) – former U.S. Senator, former Secretary of State, former presidential candidate – Age 75  
Bill de Blasio (D) – Mayor of New York City – Age 57  
Governor Andrew Cuomo – Governor of New York – Age 61  
Seth Moulton – U.S. Representative – Age 40

\* \* \* \* \*

There are various actions used to describe each candidate’s entry into the 2020 presidential race for the Democratic nomination; starting an exploratory committee, filing a campaign committee with the Federal Election Commission, and becoming publicly active in ways that garner media attention in the media without spending much money. Harry Enten of CNN uses the term “entered the race” which WW is adopting. The following chart is based on the surveys of Morning Consult.

	<u>Entered the race</u>	<u>Morning Consult 2/17</u>	<u>Morning Consult 3/17</u>	<u>Morning Consult 3/31</u>
Cory Booker	1/1/19	5	4	4
Julian Castro	12/12/18	1	1	1
Pete Buttigieg	1/23/19	0	1	3
John Delaney	7/28/19	0	1	1
Tulsi Gabbard	1/11/19	1	1	1
Kirsten Gillibrand	1/15/19	1	1	1
Kamala Harris	1/21/2019	11	8	8
John Hickenlooper	3/4/2019	1	1	1
Jay Inslee	3/1/2019	0	1	1
Amy Klobuchar	2/10/2019	4	3	2
Wayne Messam	3/13/2019	x	x	x
Beto O’Rourke	3/14/19	7	8	8
Bernie Sanders	2/19/19	21	27	25

Elizabeth Warren	12/31/19	7	7	7
Marianne Williamson	11/15/18	x	x	x
Andrew Yang	11/6/2017	x	x	x
Joe Biden	Not yet in	30	28	33

\* \* \* \* \*

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019 Fundraising – Reports due by 4/15/19

The following is based on press reports of fundraising as announced by candidates.

	<u>\$ raised</u>	<u># of contributions</u>	
Buttigieg	7,000,000	158,000	raised in 68 days
Harris	12,000,000	218,000	raised in 70 days
O'Rourke	9,400,000	xxxx	raised in 18 days
Sanders	18,200,000	900,000	raised in 41 days
	+12,000,000 transferred from previous accounts		
Booker	5,000,000	xxxx	raised in 59 days
	+1,500,000 transferred from previous accounts		
Warren	6,000,000	213,000	raised in 91 days
	10,000,000 transferred from previous accounts		
Klobuchar	5,200,000		raised in 50 days
	+3,000,000 transferred from previous accouts		
Yang	1,700,000	80,000	raised in xxxx days

\* \* \* \* \*

The Democratic nominating convention is scheduled for July 13-16, 2020 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Joe Solmonese, has been named to manage the convention.

\* \* \* \* \*

Democratic Debates of the 2020 Nomination Season

1<sup>st</sup> Debate – June 26 & 27, Miami, Florida

2<sup>nd</sup> Debate – July 30 & 31, Detroit, Michigan

\* \* \* \* \*

**Republican Primary**

Announced/Running

Donald Trump – President – Age 72

Testing the Waters

Larry Hogan (R) – Governor of Maryland – Age 62

John Kasich I (R) – former Governor of Ohio – Age 66

William Weld (R) – former Governor of Massachusetts – Age 73

The Republican nominating convention is scheduled for August 24-27, 2020 in Charlotte, NC.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Congress**

In March 1995, Newt Gingrich had been a member of the House of Representatives since 1979 and had just taken office as the Speaker of the House. 85% of Americans knew his name and were able to rate him. Of those folks, 27% rated him positively, 41% negatively and 17% were neutral.

In April 2007, Nancy Pelosi had been a member of the House of Representatives since 1987 and had just taken office as the Speaker of the House for the first time. 79% of Americans knew her name and were able to rate her. Of those folks, 29% rated her positively, 30% negatively and 20% were neutral.

In March 2019, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) had been a member of the House of Representatives for just under three months. 72% of Americans know her name and are able rate her. Of those folks, 23% rated her positively, 34% negatively and 15% were neutral. [NBC/WSJ 3/27/19]

Even if one takes into account the ubiquitous nature of modern communication there are any number of members who have been in the House for years whom very few Americans could name and rate.

Time will tell whether AOC will use her fame productively. So far, her substantive performance has been mixed. She has performed impressively during hearings of the committee on which she sits but substantively careless in some of her public statements. [WW]

\* \* \* \* \*

Approval of the Congress generally remains in the tank.

Approve    Disapprove

Real Clear Pol.	4/2/19	22.8%	66.8%
Real Clear Pol.	3/26/19	20.8%	68.8%
Real Clear Pol.	2/26/19	19.4%	70.0%
Real Clear Pol.	1/1/19	19.6%	69.3%
Real Clear Pol.	1/4/18	15.8%	72.6%

\* \* \* \* \*

The majority of candidates that the NRCC is talking to so far this year about running in 2020 are women. About 95 women have been in touch with the NRCC according to the committee’s recruiters Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN-5) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21). [Hotline 3/29/19]

\* \* \* \* \*

[WW uses David Wasserman and the Cook Political Report for the House chart below.]

### **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

2020

Democrats 235  
 Republicans 200

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Safe in 2020	184	165
Likely	19	19
Lean	18	14
		<u>Toss Up</u>
	16	4

\* \* \* \* \*

### **THE SENATE**

[WW uses Jennifer E. Duffy of the Cook Political Report and Inside Elections for the Senate chart below.]

In 2020, Republicans will be defending 22 seats while Democrats will be defending 12 seats.



One change from the last Watch, Tom Udall of New Mexico has announced that he is not running for re-election.

The hill the Democrats must climb to take control of the Senate looks pretty steep at this point.

Republicans	53
Democrats	45
Independents	2

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Seats not up in 2020	33	31	2
Safe in 2020	9	13	
	Coons	Sullivan	
	Durbin	Cotton	
	Markey	Risch	
	Peters	Ernst	
	Shaheen	Cassidy	
	Booker	Daines	
	Merkley	Sasse	
	Reed	Inhofe	
	Warner	Graham	
		Rounds	
		Cornyn	
		Moore Capito	
		Enzi	
Likely	2	4	
	Smith	McConnell	
	NM (Udall)	Tennessee	
		Kansas	
		Hyde-Smith	
Lean	0	3	
		Collins	
		Perdue	
		Tillis	
Toss Up	1	2	
	Jones	McSally	
		Gardner	

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Women Will Get It Done**

\* \* \* \* \*

Every 16 hours a woman is shot dead by her current or former partner.  
[Brady United Against Gun Violence]

\* \* \* \* \*

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers became the first NFL team to hire two full-time female coaches. [CNBC.com 3/21/19]

\* \* \* \* \*

At American University, 6 of the 9 Academic Deans are women. 69% of physical and natural science majors are women.

\* \* \* \* \*

For the first time in history, the Executive Producers of the ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN morning shows are women: ABC – Roxanna Sherwood; CBS – Diana Miller; NBC – Libby Leist and CNN – Izzy Provich.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lori Lightfoot, a former federal prosecutor has been elected Mayor of Chicago. She is the first African American and the first openly gay person to hold the post.

\* \* \* \* \*

Karen Uhlenbeck, a professor at the University of Texas, Austin became the first woman to win the Abel Prize for Mathematics, sometimes called “The Nobel Prize of Math”. The grantor is the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, given to her for her work in the field of geometric analysis. [NYT] Uhlenbeck was the first woman accepted to the National Academy of Sciences in 1986. [CNN]

\* \* \* \* \*

Maryland is the only state in the country in which the top four leaders in the state’s National Guard are women, all of them are mothers.

There have been other changes for women in the military generally. Three years ago, women were granted the right to serve in combat posts in the U.S.

military. Since then the first woman has graduated from the Army's most physically challenging training, the Ranger School.

The first woman has graduated from the Marine Corps Infantry Officer Course, but a woman is not leading any infantry platoon in the Marines.

\* \* \* \* \*

In February, a federal judge ruled that a male-only military draft is unconstitutional. [WP 4/1/19]

\* \* \* \* \*

Following a lawsuit brought by three female students, a North Carolina public school that had mandated girls wear skirts to preserve "traditional values" will have to allow them to wear pants or shorts instead. Bonnie Peltier, the mother of one of the girls who sued Charter Day School in North Carolina, told the Washington Post that she contacted the ACLU after Baker Mitchell, the founder of the Robert Bacon Academy which runs the school, gave her a condescending lecture about archaic gender norms. [GenderAvenger Blog 4/4/19]

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Restaurants**

The Dabney  
122 Blagden Alley NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-450-1015  
thedabney.com

Carol, Diane, Sherry, Michael, Debbie and I went to the Dabney on a Wednesday night.

The restaurant seats 75-80 people plus the bar. There is an outside area that seems to seat about a dozen, weather permitting, which was not the case the night we were there.

The menu for a given night is posted around 5:00 p.m. each evening with the restaurant opening at 5:30 p.m. As the group of us drove to the restaurant that night we were able check the menu online to give some thought to dinner options.

As you enter the restaurant, the greeter's station is at the door to the right. Straight ahead is a large square bar with up to 20 seats on two sides. The other side is where the servers get drinks for folks at the tables in the dining room.

Tables start a bit behind the greeter's station and then wrap around to the left. There is a very large open grill and kitchen to the far right that fills that wall of the restaurant.

In front of the kitchen/grill is an area of 2, 4 and 6 tops which then wraps around to the left, ending at the far wall with a banquette that fronts 4 – 2 tops.

Our table was roughly at the point where the main dining room turns.

Our server was Chanel.

The restaurant is a bit noisy. It may be easier to have an ordinary dinner table conversation at a 4 top rather than the 6 top.

When we arrived just before 6:00 p.m. there were a number of open tables and numerous seats at the bar. When we left at around 8:30 p.m. most of the tables were filled, every seat at the bar was taken and there was a crowd of a dozen or more at the front door waiting to be seated. As we left another half dozen folks arrived.

In terms of who ordered what for dinner, just about everything was shared. It basically came in four shifts.

For our table, rather than telling our server Chanel (who was excellent) what each of us wanted, I checked off the items on the menu that was provided at the table for that day and gave it to Chanel.

Before the first course was served a basket of grilled, oiled bread was brought to the table; it was especially tasty.

For the first course we had Smoked Clams, Head Lettuces – winter citrus, onion, batch#15, golden raisin, & mint; Charred Carrots – whipped ricotta, crunchy chili, smoked honey & chervil.

Before the second course was delivered there was a change of dishes and silverware and this was the norm after each course.

For the second course we had Crispy Fried Catfish – hot honey and buttermilk dressing; Grilled Scallops – fried bread salad, country ham, vinaigrette, pickled onion, & turnip; Chesapeake Rockfish – tatsoi, roasted garlic-whey, & bay leaf; Seed-Crusted Swordfish confit potatoes, escarole, pea shoots & anchovy dressing.

The third course consisted of Charred Sorghum-Glazed Short Rib, potato puree/charred winter greens, grilled onions/horseradish sauce and Bloody Butcher Cornbread. Notedly the order of short ribs was large enough for the five of us who were interested in eating short ribs.

The final course was dessert. Dark Chocolate Mousse – einkorn crisp & coffee milk and Buttermilk Pie – toasted meringue & blood orange sherbet.

Overall, we were more than fulfilled and there was nothing served that we did not enjoy. Everyone looks forward to our next visit.

Making a reservation for this very popular restaurant is simple, but not simple. I was delegated the responsibility for garnering a reservation for dinner for six people on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Reservations for a particular night become available at noon 14 days before the selected date. At noon on March 7<sup>th</sup> I called the restaurant and made the reservation for 6 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> with no difficulty. Happily, the number of folks in our party was six because that is the largest number for which a reservation is available.

When you get an email confirmation of your reservation, it is made clear that your table will only be held for 15 minutes past the appointed time, but you are given a number to call if you are going to be a little late.

The restaurant is not open on Mondays.

The restrooms are down a corridor at the end of the open kitchen.

There are two unisex restrooms. The one that I used was small but ample with a greenish wood door inside with a useable lock.

It has a full height white ceramic commode next to a white ceramic wall-hanging wash basin with a small mirror framed above it. There is a waste basket below the wash basin.

The walls are covered with a busy large flower wallpaper from waist height to the ceiling. Below waist height the walls are covered with off-white rectangular tiles.

There are metal bars at waist height behind and to the side of the commode. The floor is covered with tiny white ceramic rectangular tiles.

There is a rectangular table, the top of which holds a basket full of white rolled up towels, a candle and assorted bathroom items. A shelf below holds a very large quantity of rolled toilet paper and additional rolled towels.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Pembroke  
1500 New Hampshire Avenue NW  
(in the Dupont Circle Hotel)  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-448-4302  
thepembrokedc.com

Tony, Elissa, Debbie and I first visited the Pembroke on a Saturday night. The Pembroke was recently opened in the Dupont Circle Hotel as part of a renovation of the hotel in its entirety. We had a 6:30 p.m. reservation.

You enter the restaurant through the hotel and there is a greeter's station at the entrance to the restaurant. Straight ahead is a square bar which has seating for about 17 people on three sides.

To the left is the largest part of the restaurant with the far wall being glass from floor to ceiling. To the right is a smaller section of the restaurant.

The newly redecorated restaurant is notable for a variety of large booths, some of which sit up to 8 people, and smaller booths seating up to 4 people. The booths stand out because of the bright colors in which they are covered. There are a variety of square and round tables seating 2 or 4 people.

Overall, the restaurant seats about 120 people plus the bar. Additionally, in good weather there is seating for 60 people outside.

Café Dupont, another restaurant in the hotel, is undergoing renovation but it is being done in such a way that the café is still usable.

From the greeters, to the servers to the server's assistants to the sommelier there is a fresh welcoming attitude and everyone seems willing to be helpful even if what you are asking for is not part of their regular duties.

Elissa and Debbie started with Marinated beets, orange, hazelnuts. Tony selected Burrata, prosciutto di parma, confit tomato, hazel-nut arugula pesto. I ordered Tender octopus, fricasee, black olives, potato croquette, arugula.

For a main course, Elissa ordered Ravioli, saffron, ricotta, olives, capers, lemon. Debbie picked Veal Milanese, lemon, arugula salad. Tony went with the Lamb tagine, couscous, almond, dried fruit. I selected Whole Branzino, lemon, capers, olive oil.

The branzino was served in a way that I had not seen before. Laying on an oval plate was the fish with the skin and head attached. When I lifted the head and skin, lying there was a perfectly skinned and boned branzino.

I also ordered a couple of dishes for the table: Organic baby carrots, ginger, cumin, honey and Cauliflower gratin, pine nuts, raisins.

For dessert we ordered two dishes to share: Apple Galette, puff pastry, crème fraiche and Lemon Tart, Chantilly crème, lemon zest, mint.

Restaurants increasingly have on their menu non-alcoholic drinks. In this case I ordered Ginger and Spice, Seed lip winter spice, lime, ginger ale, orange.

The service was a little slow the night we were there. And when the appetizers we had ordered were delivered to Tony, Elissa and Debbie by one of the assistants, my appetizer did not come. I said nothing about it just to get a sense of when or if it would appear. Sometime later our server came by and saw that I did not have my appetizer while the others did. She soon returned with it.

Several of our friends subsequently dined at Pembroke though it's not altogether clear it was because we had talked about it.

Mike was there twice, once with three other male friends and then with Sherry and another couple. Both times he sat at or near the glass wall at banquettes.

His reservations were at 7:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. On both occasions the service was excellent, the food was good. The restaurant was not packed or particularly loud either time.

On a different night, Ann and Len and four of their friends also sat at a banquette facing the glass wall. Their reservation was for 7:00 p.m. and when Ann and Len got there at 7:15 p.m. the others in their party were already seated.

Ann claimed that the server who took care of them was the best they ever had. As she describes, he expertly guided them to dover sole, roast chicken and veal.

Ann makes a big deal of hot foods being hot and cold foods also being at the appropriate temperature; she was not disappointed. The party told the waiter at the last minute that one in the group was having a birthday and he came up with a dessert of key lime pie appropriately decorated and a leftover bottle of champagne used at the bar that night.

Ann described the evening as sparkling and festive.

Our friend Carol had a different experience. She and another woman had a 6:30 p.m. reservation at Pembroke. They were told that they could not have a table by the glass wall unless they were willing to leave by 8:00 p.m. or they could be seated in the back.

Carol explained that she did not know how the kitchen worked on a busy night and therefore couldn't know how long it would take to order and finish. She and her friend were given a table for two away from the glass wall, but not in the back as had been suggested.

Service was very slow. The french fries and Spinach were quite delicious but the half chicken they shared was dry.

They were unable to get their server to clear their table or to be able to ask for a dessert menu so they did not have dessert. Nor could they get anyone's attention to get their check. The dinner stretched for almost three hours.

There is valet parking at the front door of the hotel.



*Mike*

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