

The Fortnightly Rant

Thinking the Unthinkable, Part Two*

John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign got an auspicious kick off last year in Portsmouth's photogenic Prescott Park, a mere half-mile from this newspaper's squalid headquarters. The Naval Shipyard across the river gave the candidate, a former Naval aviator, a suitably militaristic backdrop. A sizeable mob of New Hampshire residents provided a respectable-looking audience. Protestors and other scruffy undesirables were safely penned up out of camera range. Whole phalanxes of properly-credentialed media worker bees, representing all the most profitable national news organizations, were on hand. Half a dozen satellite trucks were parked near the pier to pass their observations on to the rest of the world.

All that was in marked contrast to this past Monday night. When McCain's campaign plane landed in Manchester, "there was just one reporter and one photographer waiting," the *Union Leader's* Scott Brooks reported the next day. Had it not been for the Republican party's favorite paper, their presumptive nominee's arrival here would have gone unheralded.

Such a forlorn reception would seem an encouraging omen for those Americans who fear that another Republican term in the White House would drive our ship of state onto the rocks for good. The next president seems bound to appoint at least one, and quite possibly two Supreme Court justices. Even the law-abiding ought to find the prospect of that power in Republican hands unnerving.

Between the Obamamania phenomenon on one hand, and the burden of McCain's political baggage on the other, it seems improbable, if not impossible, that any such shipwreck could be in our future. Judging from state by state polling, on Tuesday Obama was leading McCain by 312 electoral votes to McCain's 199.

But the election was not held Tuesday. And despite repeated pronouncements that McCain's campaign is dead, the candidate has yet to lie down.

How is McCain unelectable? Let us count the ways. Perhaps the answers, like sheep leaping

over a fence, will help us sleep.

Old And In The White House?

First and most obviously, there's the math.

If elected, John McCain would be 72 when he takes the oath of office. Ronald Reagan was a relatively youthful 69, but by the time he was hauled before the Tower Commission in 1986 to explain his minions' shenanigans, he could hardly remember anything. Considering the responsibilities of the office, Reagan's Alzheimer's is hardly an excuse that would work in McCain's favor. It is simply inconceivable that any opposing party could let the Republicans win the next election with a candidate as ancient as McCain.

Wait ... We almost forgot. The opposing party is composed of Democrats. We're screwed.

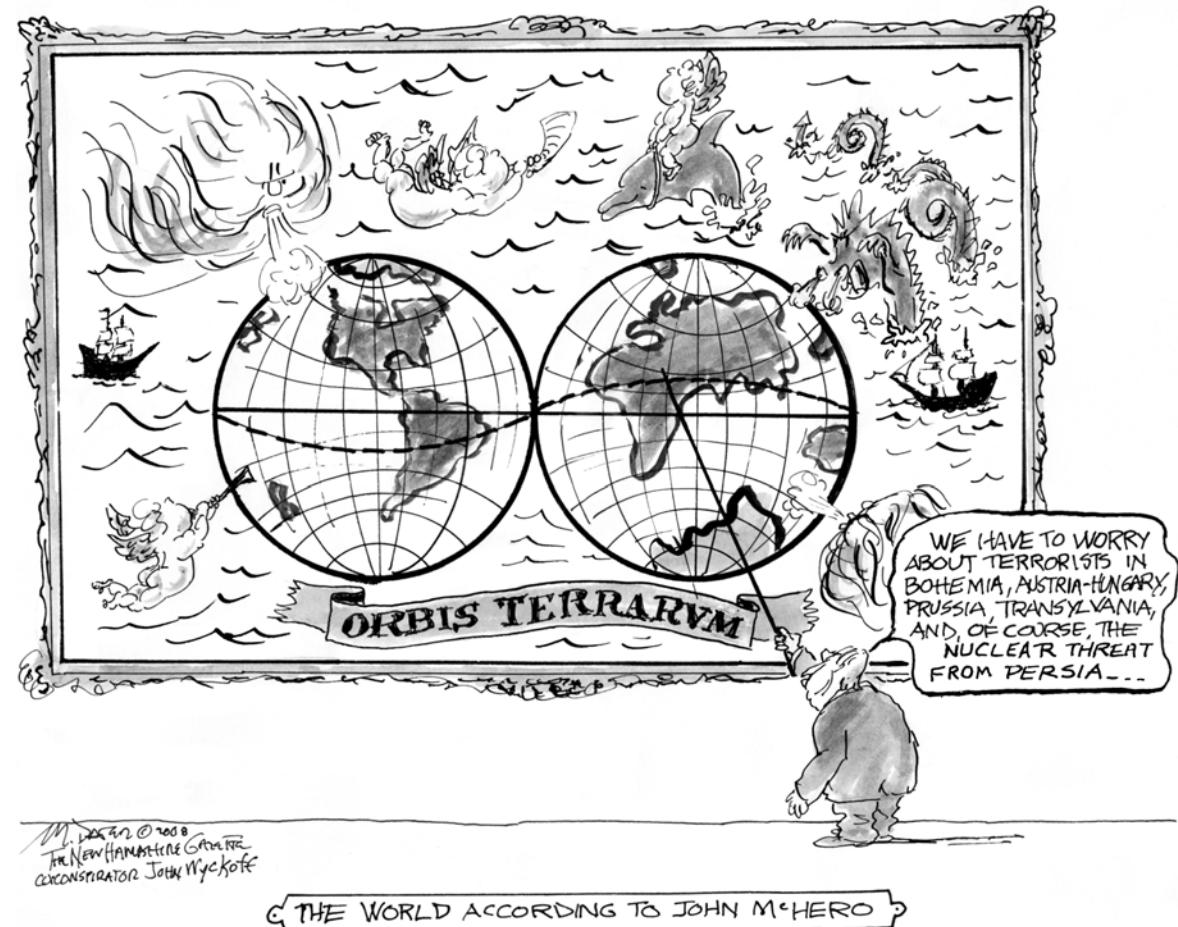
McCain vs. Women

The Census Bureau says there are 4,528,605 more women than men in the U.S. This may not work in McCain's favor. Some female voters may be turned off by his treatment of his first wife, Carol. She faithfully waited for her husband during his five years of captivity in Vietnam. While he was gone she suffered permanent injuries in a car accident.

Six years after his return, while still married to Carol, McCain began an adulterous affair with his current wife Cindy, a former cheerleader and the daughter of a wealthy Phoenix beer baron. He was 43, she was 25. That already looked bad enough. On July 11, the *Los Angeles Times* added this new wrinkle: court documents show that McCain's "divorce was granted April 2, 1980 ... [but he] obtained an Arizona marriage license on March 6, 1980, while still legally married to his first wife."

The *New York Times* reported in February that during his 2000 campaign, McCain's friendship with an attractive female lobbyist half his age so alarmed his own advisors that they intervened to keep the two separate. In May a book was published relating a 1992 incident in which McCain, in front of reporters, called his wife a "trollop," then used another term so vile the editors of the *Oxford English Dictionary* wouldn't print it. Just this past week a news story published in the *Tucson Citizen* in 1986 resurfaced, describing McCain telling a joke involving a woman, an ape, and rape. No, it's no use—women just won't vote for McCain.

Uh, oh ... We almost forgot.



He's a Republican. They talk all the time about morals, so they don't have to live by them. We're screwed.

Funny Money Man

McCain makes no secret of his ignorance about economics. Instead, he makes self-deprecating jokes about it, following up with the standard reply—that is what economic advisors are for. Until quite recently, McCain's top economic advisor was former Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX).

Gramm was the driving force behind the modestly-named Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Services Modernization Act. It repealed the Depression-era Glass-Steagall Act barring bank holding companies from owning other banks. That maneuver opened the door to the complex financial chicanery that resulted in today's sub-prime mortgage crisis.

Mr. Enron Loophole

Gramm is also personally responsible for the blandly-named Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000. He slyly attached this curious bit of legislation—which had somehow been exempted from the usual committee hearings—to a vast appropriations bill right before it was voted on. It passed, and Bill Clinton signed it into law six days later.

The Act legalized speculation in energy futures markets. It has since become better known by the nickname, the "Enron Loophole." Within months of its passage the now-defunct corporation which gave it that name was using its provisions to squeeze \$40 billion from consumers in the state of California.

This may seem like a massive accomplishment for one man. But Gramm stood on the shoulders of a giant: his wife.

Mrs. Enron Loophole

Gramm's wife is Wendy Lee Gramm. A Wellesley-educated economist, she headed the Commodities Futures Trading Commission in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Like many Republicans, she is allergic to federal regulation.

Less than a week before Bill Clinton was sworn in as president, and probably expecting to be replaced soon, Mrs. Gramm used her position to exempt Enron from federal regulation in trading of energy derivatives.

Five weeks later, in a startling coincidence, Enron made her a member of the board. She served on the audit committee—meaning she had access to all the sordid details of the company's crooked schemes.

In a startling development, the University of California sued Gramm and her cohorts. The University received \$168 million. Of that, only \$13 million came from Enron's directors. Insurance companies coughed up the rest.

Still Going—for Your Wallet

One might think that after such illustrious careers, the Gramms would be retired, living comfortably in a suite of federal prison cells—but then one would be hopelessly naive.

Phil Gramm is now a Vice Chairman at the Swiss bank UBS AG, the second-largest bank in Europe. Last month the *New York Times* reported that UBS was being investigated by the FBI. The Feds suspect them of helping 20,000 U.S. citizens hide their wealth to avoid paying taxes. A report by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee recently estimated the total annual cost to U.S. taxpayers at a nice, round \$100 billion.

Gramm was said to have been a likely choice as McCain's Secretary of the Treasury, but he seems to have blown that gig with recent loose talk about Americans being in a "mental depression," and a "nation of whiners."

These days powerful people can rob, cheat, and steal to their heart's content—but they'd better watch what they say. After Gramm's incautious remarks, McCain promptly threw him under the wheels of the Straight Talk Express.

Although McCain has "distanted himself" from Gramm, he has given no sign he'll repudiate the man's desperado economics.

Non-Citizen McCain

Can no one spare us from this irascible old coot? America's last best hope may be Gabriel J. Chin, a professor of constitutional law at the University of Arizona.

McCain was born in the Panama Canal Zone in 1936, bringing up the question of his eligibility for office. The Constitution says that "[n]o person except a natural born Citizen ... shall be eligible to the Office of President." Ted Olson and Lawrence Tribe, the Hannity & Colmes of jurisprudence, jointly declared in March that McCain met that standard. Earlier this month, however, Prof. Chin published a more rigorous examination of the statutes, and concluded that he did not. He cited a Supreme Court decision which held that unincorporated territories like the Zone were not part of the U.S. "for constitutional purposes." A 1937 law granted citizenship in cases like McCain's, but did so eleven months too late. If the Democrats find the spine to push it, the question could end up before the Supreme Court.

Yup. We're screwed.

* Yes, we have used this headline before. On November 30, 2007, it ran over a rant surveying the field of Republican primary candidates. (What a quaint and innocent time that was ... Fred Thompson! Rudy Giuliani! Ron Paul!) Now that the GOP has settled for the formerly-loathed McCain, we see no reason not to recycle it.

News Briefs

Sheldon Knows Best?

Voters in New Hampshire's First Congressional District gave Jeb Bradley his walking papers in 2006 and sent Carol Shea-Porter to the House in his stead. Her campaign plenty of raw material to work with: disgust with the U.S. occupation of Iraq, the overall ineptitude of the Bush administration, &c., &c. Her promise to work hard for "the bottom 99 percent" did the rest. In her freshman term, she's probably done as much as any single member of Congress could to honor that promise.

But now, as the 2008 election approaches, out of the goodness of their hearts and the depths of their pockets, the saintly strangers who call themselves "Freedom's Watch" are informing the First District's voters, through computer-generated "robo-calls," that they made a great big mistake.

In an earlier round of robo-calls back in May, "Freedom's Watch" tried to sell us on the idea that Rep. Shea-Porter wasn't supporting the troops. "Congress put its vacation ahead of the needs of our soldiers," the computers said again and again.

There's a technical term for statements like that—they're called "lies."

Republicans did as much as Democrats to hold up the war funding bill. The difference was that the Democrats were holding out for a much-needed, improved GI Bill that the Republicans opposed.

Now, according to "Freedom's Watch," Rep. Shea-Porter is to blame for high gas prices. As before, the charge is absurd. Ms. Shea-Porter strayed into "Freedom's Watch's" sites this time because she voted against drilling for oil offshore and in the Arctic



National Wildlife Refuge.*

We go on at such length over these well-heeled lies because we find their source so fascinating. "Freedom's Watch" is registered with the IRS as a nonprofit organization under the 501(c)(4) category, meaning they can collect and spend vast sums, without paying taxes. How Republican. This one has the usual trappings: red, white & blue, Eagles, &c., &c. *ad nauseam*.

And whence cometh all the loot they throw around? Apparently the vast bulk of it comes from one contributor: Sheldon Adelson.

Adelson is actually quite a character. He was born in Dorchester in 1933, the son of a poor immigrant cab driver, and a Dem-

ocrat. He owned his first business, selling newspapers, at the age of 12. He made and lost two fortunes by middle age, when he hit his stride, and his politics began skewing rightward. He organized the computer trade show COMDEX, and parlayed that into the Sands Expo and Convention Center. It makes huge money. The unions do not care for him. His success in Las Vegas gave Adelson an entree into Macao, long a mecca for enthusiastic Chinese gamblers. His profits in Macao have made him the third richest man in America.

So that's who's telling us we shouldn't re-elect Carol Shea-Porter—a guy who makes deals with Communist governments, for the right to win money from Chinese gamblers, which he then spends, tax free, on computers that call us up on the phone and lie to us. Thank God for free speech.

Ya Junkie Welfare Queen ...

From VoteNader.org:

According to press reports, Rush Limbaugh will be making \$38 million a year. For eight years.

Rush is making this money by

being a radio talk show host. On public property. That would be—the public airwaves. Owned by the American people. For which Rush—and his affiliated companies—pay no rent.

Rush Limbaugh is on welfare. Corporate welfare. The public airwaves belong to the American people. The Federal Communications Commission is supposed to be our trustee. The people are the landlords. The radio and TV stations and the corporate giants who own them are the tenants.

Rush's show is syndicated on over 650 radio stations. Rush has enormous leverage over these stations. They pay no rent. And therefore, he pays no rent.

Here's the problem: Since the Radio Act was passed in 1927, the corporate tenants have been more organized and more powerful than the tens of millions of listeners and viewers. The result? Rush Limbaugh and his corporation get to use the public's valuable property for free. No payment of rent. Zero. Nada. Nothing.

This freeloading on the backs of the American people is called corporate welfare. Rush Lim-



It's not very often that you see a five-foot long cigarette, lit and smoldering, in an ashtray the size of a wading pool, on top of a van driving through the middle of town. Not even in Portsmouth. The pink skunk holding her nose only adds to the improbability. Thanks to the magic of the URL (www.samanthaskunk.com) we learn that Samantha the Magenta Skunk, a "non-smoking campaign produced by professor William Scott, designed for Elementary school children," is the creation of UNH professor of Business William Scott.

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baugh is the Kingboy of corporatist radio. And it's past time he set a corporatist example for his peers and paid rent to the American people for using their property. It's past time Rush Limbaugh takes himself off the corporate welfare rolls.

Rush need not wait for the FCC and Congress to do the right thing and order him to pay. He can lead by example. And pay voluntary rent—for the hours and hours every month Rush occupies on the hundreds of stations that carry his show every weekday.

And by the way, this fits well within Rush's so-called conservative philosophy. Payment of rent for the use of public airwaves owned by the American people is the conservative position. Real conservatives oppose corporate welfare. Note the Cato Institute's position ...

So, Rush, today I ask you—which side are you on? Freeloading? Or paying rent for the public property you have been using free for so many years?



The Flag Police are baffled. The west end of town is home to a supermarket which has been undergoing extensive renovation for months, no doubt at great expense. They must be making their lease payments. Yet the commercial development in which they are located is flying a flag that is beginning to look like a distress signal. What gives, they wonder.

Today, I mailed a letter to Rush asking him to get off welfare. The letter is posted at votenader.org. Take a look. And then let Rush know what you think. You can e-mail Rush at: ElRushbo@eib-net.com. Tell him—hey Rush, I agree with Ralph Nader. Get off welfare. Start paying rent.

—Ralph Nader

[Thanks go to Sam Smith's UnderNews, www.ProRev.com, where we first saw this.—The Ed]

Rare Opportunity: Hear The Truth About Iran & Nukes

Former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter will talk about why Iran is in America's crosshairs, on August 3, at the South Church, 292 State Street in Portsmouth, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Ritter has visited Iran on a



The Gazette's alleged Legal Department has formally requested that the Editorial Department stipulate to readers and all the relevant authorities that the Graphic Arts Department's publication of this photograph is not intended as, nor should it be taken to be, either an endorsement of, nor an enticement to, the sort of sordid behavior which we suspect may have taken place some time during the night of July 16, prior to our Wandering Photographer's stumbling across the situation depicted above the following morning.



fact-finding mission, and said "We are seeing history repeat itself." Before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Ritter famously—and accurately—argued that Iraq no longer had weapons of mass destruction. He recommends diplomatic engagement with Iran, and supports local and national efforts to pass resolutions urging President Bush to refrain from ordering any military attack against Iran without explicit Congressional authorization.

In an interview with Amy Goodman, of *Democracy Now!*, broadcast on April 28, Ritter stated: "There is no doubt in my mind that the United States is planning right now, as we speak, a military strike against Iran." He warns that such an attack is unnecessary, and if launched, could provoke a massive response with catastrophic consequences to millions of people, including Americans.

Ritter's credibility is difficult to dismiss. As Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Seymour Hersh puts it: "The most

important thing to know about Scott Ritter is that he was right."

Also appearing will be musicians Lizzie West & Baba Buffalo, whose song "19 Miles to Baghdad" is played frequently on *Democracy Now!* A unique blend of blues, roots, stride and storytelling defines their traveling peace revival.

Admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. A book signing will immediately follow the event. This event is co-sponsored by U.S. Tour of Duty, Cuzin Richard Entertainment, WSCA, Holy Road Tours Union, and the Portsmouth Brewery. For more information and advance tickets visit www.realintelligence.org or call (800) 838-3006.

Ritter, author of *Target Iran, Waging Peace* and *Iraq Confidential*, was one of UNSCOM's most senior weapons inspectors in Iraq between 1991 and 1998, after serving for eight years as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Marines. As a Marine, he conducted arms inspections in the former Soviet Union, and ana-

lyzed Iraq's missile capacity for General Schwarzkopf in the 1991 Gulf War. For more information, see www.scottritter.us.

Chickenhawks!

Roy Zimmerman, the singer/songwriter whose CD *Faulty Intelligence* includes the utterly hilarious single, *Chickenhawk*, will appear Tues., July 29, at 7:00 p.m., at the historic Masonic Hall, Route 4 in Northwood, at the junctions of Routes 9, 43, and 202. Free parking is available.

Trust us: this is an act which is not to be missed.



"WHEN THE POWER OF LOVE OVERCOMES THE LOVE OF POWER,
THE WORLD WILL FINALLY KNOW PEACE." -- JIMI HENDRIX



Moving Pictures

The Dark Knight

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Aaron Eckhart, Michael Caine, Gary Oldman, Morgan Freeman; **Screenplay:** Jonathan Nolan, Christopher Nolan; **Director:** Christopher Nolan; **Rating:** [PG-13]; **Place:** The lobby of our local cineplex; **Time:** Evening; **Weather:** Dark & Stormy; **People:** Fat & Sweaty

And yes, the description applies to your reviewer, bloated with Junior Mints, and number roughly 200 in a line impatiently waiting to enter Theatre 3, capacity 215. The lobby, crowded with the desperate, the panicked, the obviously deranged, looks like the Ferry Dock scene in *War of The Worlds*, with people clutching their tickets, begging for a place on board the biggest box office winner of the summer, thus far.

Question: Have they come to see The Batman, as interpreted by Christian Bale?

Answer: No, they have not.

They have come, in their millions, to see Heath Ledger acting from the grave in his last completed performance as the dark, demented Joker. And the poor lad does act up a storm, eclipsing all previous Jokers, from campy Caesar Romero to dapper Jack Nicholson. Smeared with cakey white make-up, his rubbery face distorted by the scars of his face-wide death-grin, Ledger steals the entire show, leaving Batman trying to unfurl his wings. Clips from Ledger's performance have been circulating on the net for months, and the buzz resulted in couples sitting on the steps of the filled-beyond-capacity theatre for nearly three hours, cheering, hooting, and laughing as the 28 year-old actor did his hypnotically creepy thing.

So what's Ledger like as The Joker? Where do the voice, accent, and creepy mannerisms originate? Oddly enough, and you heard it here first, he seems to be channeling Al Franken as a

psycho version of *Saturday Night Live's* Stuart Smalley, and the bizarre thing is, it works perfectly. He nails it.

To be fair, Ledger gets a lot of help from the screenplay by the Nolan brothers, who brought you *Memento* and *The Prestige*, and by Christopher Nolan's sure-handed direction. The story hews fairly close to the graphic novel version of the tale, with the Gotham crime bosses putting out a contract on Batman, and the deeply sadistic killer who calls himself the Joker taking up the challenge. And that's where it gets engagingly complicated.

Being The Joker, it isn't enough merely to kill Batman. First he must be tenderized, then tormented, and finally ruined, both emotionally and physically. He must have all faith in the human race destroyed by the Joker's depraved machinations. What the villain cunningly refers to as "social experiments," in which his victims are made to delve into their darkest inclinations, and in

turn prey upon others. Dark being the operative term here—there's no telling who among Batman's extended family will perish, who will survive. So consider yourself warned—this ain't no day at the beach, and anything can happen.

Much of the original cast returns from *Batman Begins*, including Gary Oldman as the cop who summons Batman, Michael Caine as the sardonic butler, and Morgan Freeman as God. No wait, Freeman isn't actually playing God this time, he just has an omniscient air as the man who supplies Bruce Wayne with the technical goodies that help him be a caped crusader. Including, in this case, a Cheney-like ability to see and hear everything that takes place in Gotham—but only, you must understand, for purposes of apprehending unhinged terrorists like the Joker. Maggie Gyllenhaal, she of the beautiful sad eyes, replaces Katie Holmes as Batman's love interest—a love that can't be named, or acted upon, so long as he re-

mains Batman, because that's the way it is with super heroes. They get to save the city but they never quite get the girl. In this case the female lead seems to have fallen for the new prosecutor, a heroic reformer played by Aaron Eckhart, who, you will not be surprised to hear, has his own dark side.

Unlike, say, the Tim Burton interpretations of the Batman legend, there's nothing campy or even particularly gothic about *The Dark Knight*. Just a well-told tale with pulse-pounding action, intense violence (not for young kids, certainly) vivid characters, and a sense that we're all trapped in our own personal Gotham, hoping to be rescued, but in our hearts knowing that when the last ferry finally bumps up to the dock, it won't be taking us where we want to go, and that old trickster Charon will be asking for a coin.

Nine bucks. That's what you pay the ferryman these days, and no, that doesn't include popcorn.

More Hate Mail, &c.

from page seven

that consistently across a wide range of issues.

The most recent example is her support for the new GI Bill, the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act. This bill updates the famous GI Bill of Rights of 1944, which gave government assistance to millions of World War II veterans to pursue a college education. My own father, for example, got an MBA at the University of Michigan in 1948 that way. That GI Bill provided a strong foundation for the growth and prosperity of the American middle class in the postwar period.

The updated version of the GI Bill, championed by Senator Jim Webb, Democrat of Virginia, provides post-9/11 veterans with comprehensive educational benefits. Veterans organizations supported it enthusiastically.

The Bush Administration and Senator John McCain opposed this legislation, saying that it was too generous and would hurt troop retention. Nevertheless, both houses of Congress passed it overwhelming, 416-12 in the House of Representatives and 92-6 in the Senate. Faced with veto-proof majorities, President Bush signed it into law on June 30.

The new GI Bill truly does

"support the troops" and I am proud that my Representative in Congress, Carol Shea-Porter, co-sponsored it. Because she has kept her promise to represent "the rest of us," she deserves to be re-elected on November 4.

Larry Drake
Portsmouth, NH

Support the Students!

To the Editor:

Rep. Carol Shea-Porter has once again been recognized for her work to make education in this country and state better. She was recognized this week by UNH for her support of Upward Bound. This terrific support system for high school students

has been around since the 1960's and Carol has been an advocate for the 700 programs nationally. She has also advocated for access to student loans, and supported lowering the interest rate on student loans. Recently she also announced a grant to UNH Graduate program for low income first generation graduate students.

She gets lots of credit for her work to help the middle class, as an advocate for veterans, and for her work in supporting the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. As a former school teacher, I am especially proud to point out her work for us on education also.

Jane Hoffman
Rye, NH

Shea-Porter Urges Oil Companies To Drill On Leased Land

To the Editor:

New Hampshire residents are worrying about the impact of \$4 a gallon gasoline and rising heating oil costs on their already tight household budgets. This impending emergency cries out for a serious and practical solution that will bring relief to the beleaguered middle class.

Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter is working on such a solution. She is co-sponsoring legislation that would force oil companies to drill for oil on the land they already lease from the federal government or pay fees



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Desserts: Triple Orange Dessert
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Sugar Pear Martini; Zestini;
Our Lemon Crepe; Hot and
Dairy; Chocoapple Crepe;
Pomegranate Martini;
Mango; Bellini; Classic
French Martini; Shaking
Deluxe; Bellini; Passion
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Espresso Martini; Chai
Martini; Caramel Crepe;

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Breakfast: Old Brown Dog; Piller ESB; Erdinger Berliner Weisse + Non-Alcoholic;
Breakfast: Voss Sparkling Water; Voss Still Water • **Wines:** Ruffino Pinot
Nigra; Martin Codax; Alberto; Czech Pinot Gris; Terra Queimada Chardonnay; Wild
Horse Chardonnay; Belo; Nestle; Choc Stroh Rye • **Red Wine:** Hob Nob Pinot
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White Wine: Archetype; Citrus; Our Daily Red (organic); **Ice Cream:** Demitasse;
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Northcountry Chronicle

Slippery Politics

by William Marvel

Around the first of July my mailbox disgorged an official-looking brochure asking if I knew that "Jeanne Shaheen supported a recent proposal in Congress that would raise energy taxes by billions of dollars." Since Jeanne Shaheen isn't even in Congress, my suspicions were immediately aroused that this was just another Republican attack ad disguised as the fruit of some bipartisan coalition, and so it appears to be.

The flyer came from a group calling itself the "New Hampshire Advantage Coalition." This association's website claims no connection to the Republican Party, or any party, but its professed aims and principles are Republican to the core, and by Republican I mean New Hampshire Republican, or ultra-conservative. One page offers email addresses for writing letters to the editor, and papers with more conservative editorial viewpoints dominate that list. A link is supplied to the House Republican Alliance, which provides a weird blend of sex appeal and real estate offerings.

based on the period of time the leases go unused. The oil companies, which are reaping record profits, currently lease 68 million acres where they produce nothing. Under the bill, H.R. 6251 (the Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act), fees would rise each year a company holds a lease but does not use it to find new sources of energy. Revenue raised from the fees would be invested in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

In addition, a portion of the

Conspicuously absent from the website is any reference to the names of alliance officers or trustees, but it seems a fair bet that state Republican party officials have their slimy hands in it. After all, Jeanne Shaheen is running for the U.S. Senate against little John Sununu, son of George Bush's more portly manager of the same name, and Sununu Junior seems a poor bet to win any election in which his supporters do not engage in some sort of skulduggery. Last time it was phone jamming: Sununu's handlers blocked Democratic phone lines in order to stop their get-out-the-vote drive, and that guerrilla tactic contributed to Sununu's paper-thin victory over this same Jeanne Shaheen. At least one Republican Party official went to prison over it, but Sununu was allowed to keep his ill-gotten seat in the Senate.

Now it's déjà vu all over again, with incognito Republicans spreading lies and innuendo about Shaheen in order to secure another six-year term for their proven mouthpiece, but you would think anyone supporting Sununu would never mention the cost of oil. One of the

principal ingredients in the skyrocketing price is availability, and in the United States that availability is especially compromised by excessive consumption. Efforts to curb that consumption have been stymied for decades by auto- and oil-industry lobbyists and their congressional shills, among whom John E. Sununu has always been prominent.

For instance, fuel-efficiency standards that apply to most cars and trucks would have prohibited the proliferation of sport utility vehicles, which became the foremost symbol of wasted fuel and the carbon emissions that produced global warming. As a congressman, however, Sununu agreed to exempt SUVs from those standards. His lame argument to the public at the time was that "people have a right to keep their families safe," but his real motive was obviously flavored by the financial support such lopsided logic elicits from his corporate owners.

We might also ask John and his successor in the House of Representatives, Jeb Bradley, about congressional support for the ethanol industry. The subsidies for that inefficient additive

have nearly tripled the cost of grain-based foods, and the congressional mandate for its use has only exacerbated our energy dependence: now that most gas stations are already selling us ethanol-contaminated gasoline, we can watch our gas mileage drop by anywhere from 16 percent to more than 21 percent. As soon as I hit ethanol-laced gasoline in Kansas a few weeks ago, my mileage dropped from 33.6 miles per gallon to 26.4. Don't expect the per-gallon price to drop, however.

So, thanks to things like ethanol and SUVs, now we're using oil so fast that it has begun to disappear even faster than the

doomsayers were predicting. We have also accelerated the production of greenhouse gases that will eventually provoke more global unrest than oil itself already has. And whom can we thank for these related disasters? You might put venal, corporate-friendly politicians like John E. Sununu near the top of the list.

Perhaps I shouldn't be too hard on John. He is, I must admit, a very mild-mannered fellow as he goes about his destructive political career. If illegal and underhanded tactics typify his campaigns, it probably isn't because he lusts after the low road. It's just that without vigorous background cheating and lying, he can't win.

Caught Red-Handed

On Wednesday, July 23, the *Gazette* received a press release from Zandra Rice Hawkins, of GraniteStateProgress.org, saying, in part, "Granite State Progress Calls for Public Apology, Removal of Tammy Simmons from The NH Advantage Coalition ... Executive Director posted insults under a fake name; Blue Hampshire traced IP address and email to identify Tammy Simmons ... [BlueHampshire.com] the state's leading progressive blog, released information today that exposes Tammy Simmons, the NH Advantage Coalition's Executive Director, for purposely hiding her identity and making false statements on the blog in order to support the tax cap and pledge ... Simmons is also Treasurer of the Manchester Republican Committee and a Republican candidate for the State House, according to Blue Hampshire."

funds would also be directed to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). More than 30,000 New Hampshire families depend on LIHEAP to help with their home heating needs. Congresswoman Shea-Porter is working to strengthen LIHEAP on other fronts as well—for example, by mandating increased funding in future economic stimulus packages.

Carol Shea-Porter is keeping her campaign promise to work

for "the rest of us." Let's work to send her back to Congress so she can keep doing just that.

Joan Jacobs
Portsmouth, NH

Joan:

Strange, isn't it, to see someone go to Congress and do what they said they'd do. But you know what they say: "No good deed goes unpunished."

Be on the lookout for a new series of attack ads: "Shea-Porter Unfair to Billionaires!"

The Editor

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**Hate (Voice) Mail**

Transcript of a recorded message left on the *Gazette's* telephone, Saturday afternoon, July 12:

"Yeah, I have a question for you, f___head. I picked up a copy of the toilet paper that you wrote [?] some article on this [?] local sandwich shop. My question to you folks is why don't you just f___g move to Sweden or Switzerland?"

"You ball-less bastards live up here on the corner of the world where you don't know what the f___k is going on."

"I'm in the U.S. military. I got buddies in Iraq right now. If I send this article and tell them that George Bush is responsible for 4,000 murders, how do you think they're going to take that?"

"You people are just pieces of s__t. If I ever run into you on the street I'll personally kick your ass." [Click.]



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Dear Anonymous Critic:
The oath of enlistment the editor took in 1966, to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic," expired when he received an Honorable Discharge in 1972. As a citizen, though, he's inclined to uphold it anyway. Hence our publication of the piece to which you refer, supporting Vincent Bugliosi's proposal to charge George W. Bush with murder.

The editor is in the habit of strolling around town for a while in the evening. On the evenings of July 12 through 14, after hearing your threat on the phone machine, he made a special point to do so. He's twice the age of the average person now in uniform, but considers it part of the job to take the chance of getting jumped mid-block by some knucklehead whose reading of the Constitution didn't get as far as the First Amendment. To date, however, you have not kicked his ass.

On the evening of July 14 the editor spotted one young man who seemed a likely candidate to be our most recent anonymous threatener. Probably in his mid-twenties, he was wearing a brown T-shirt with the word "Texas" on the front, sitting at a table in front of the Café Formerly Known as Brioche, with one copy of our latest issue sitting on the table in front of him as he glared at a second copy, open in his hands.

The editor got the feeling that this might be the person who had wished him ill. But, it was approaching 8:30 p.m., and even the editor does not feel obliged to approach strangers on the sidewalk and invite them

to assault him.

If, in fact, that was you, feel free to call again and make an appointment.

The Editor

Shea-Porter Comes to Aid of Translator/Ally

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Balsam Ahmed Abed. Any American who has served in Iraq, or Afghanistan, knows the importance of having a good trusted translator. I was an advisor to an Iraqi combat battalion, and Balsam was our most talented and trusted translator. Balsam was unable to ever visit his family, in fear of insurgent reprisals against them, in retribution for him aiding the United States.

Translators are just as prone as American soldiers to get maimed, or killed, by roadside bombs. One of my translators was injured when an IED destroyed the vehicle he was in, while a translator from one of my adjacent advisor teams was killed by an IED.

In 2006, Congress passed a resolution that increased the annual number of visas issued for translators from 50 to 500. While serving in Iraq, I applied for Balsam to get such a visa. Having not heard anything from the State Department towards the end of my tour, I wrote both Senators Gregg and Sununu a letter requesting any assistance they could provide. Neither Senator responded.

For several months, upon returning to New Hampshire, I tried to contact the State Department. Meanwhile, the quota of 500 translators had been met, and all other visas were halted. After being escorted off the premises of the National Visa Center, I went to the office of Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter. Congresswoman Shea-Porter contacted the embassy in Jordan on behalf of Balsam.

Thanks to the efforts of Con-

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,**Is Collins Deaf?**

To the Editor:

Recently the Rockland, Maine, *Free Press* printed an open letter to Senator Collins and others in Congress, beseeching them to not let Bush/Cheney carry out their mad plan to attack Iran. Reading that Letter reminded me of one I'd written to Collins in 2005: a woman's eloquent plea for help in getting her husband out of the hellhole at Guantanamo where he'd been thrown after being kidnapped by the CIA in Bosnia.

Because Collins supported imprisoning people without charge or trial and inflicting war on trumped-up charges, appealing to her seems futile. What might move her to oppose attacking Iran is that in campaigning to keep her job in Congress, she may try to make voters forget her appalling record of approving Bush/Cheney schemes. My bet is that even if people beg and implore, Collins will ignore their pleas as she did before and vote to unleash more hounds of war.

Marjorie Gallace
Camden, ME

Like a Box of Chocolates, But With Stereo

To the Editor:

According to the Gump Principle, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get." These words rang especially true when a plane-load of Kuwaiti-bound Soldiers was diverted to Pease Air Base enroute to Bangor, Maine. The Pease greeters gave each of us a generous supply of Lindt chocolate and a set of state-of-the-art Bose earphones. This was no easy feat considering that over 300 of us arrived unexpected and only stayed a couple of hours.

A sticker on my laptop reads, "Acts not words." While a timely, well-spoken word will always have its place, the sweet sound of high def music and rich taste of chocolate work a magic all of their own.

To the Pease greeters. Lindt, Bose and the community that stands behind our troops, thank you. You are a class act and you generosity and patriotism of April 2, 2008 will not be forgotten. May God bless you all.

Chaplain Don Zapsic
1/134th FA Regiment
Kuwait Naval Base

Senator Sunu-No

To the Editor:

Once again Senator John Sununu has voted to protect special interest groups instead of his New Hampshire constituents. This time Senator Sununu has voted in favor of the private insurance industry instead of the 200,000 of New Hampshire elderly and disabled Medicare recipients.

Sununu recently cast the deciding vote against a bill that would have raised the wages of doctors who treat Medicare patients. With the failure of this bill, many doctors acknowledge that they will not be able to take on new Medicare patients and


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And Other Correspondence

may have to stop treating current Medicare patients altogether. By casting this crucial vote, John Sununu has put the healthcare of the 200,000 New Hampshire citizens as well as 29,000 New Hampshire veterans at risk.

Instead, John Sununu supports an alternative bill that would favor private insurance providers and protect their profits. For Sununu, protecting private insurers is a no-brainer given that he has taken up to \$650,000 in campaign contributions from the insurance lobby. We seriously need to consider whether New Hampshire deserves a senator who values his special interest ties more so than the elderly and veterans who rely on Medicare as their only source of healthcare. It is time for a senator who stands up for New Hampshire, and that senator is not John Sununu.

Conor O'Brien
Windham, NH

If a Robot Calls, Let a Robot Answer

To the Editor:

A Republican lobbying group, the so-called Freedom's Watch, is currently making robo telephone calls in New Hampshire. In these calls, the lobbying group claims that Democrats "stand in the way" of American energy independence. The recorded message urges support of H.R. 3089, a GOP bill that allows drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and requires the President to designate 10 sites on federal land for construction of privately-owned oil and natural gas refineries.

An editorial in the *New York Times* puts the situation in proper perspective. Of the 36 billion barrels of oil believed to lie on federal land, almost two-thirds are presently accessible to private interests or soon will be. And of

the 89 billion barrels of recoverable oil lying offshore, the federal Mineral Management Service says four-fifths is currently open to exploration by private industry.

The *Times* continues, "Clearly, the oil companies are not starved for resources. Further, they do not seem to be doing nearly as much as they could with the land to which they've already laid claim. Separate studies by the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Wilderness Society show that roughly three-quarters of the 90 million plus acres of federal land being leased by the oil companies onshore and off are not being used to produce energy. That is 68 million acres altogether ..."

In response, House Democrats have filed "use it or lose it" legislation that forces companies to begin exploring leases they already have before getting any more. We're grateful that our Congresswoman, Carol Shea-Porter, strongly supports these "use it or lose it" bills.

Lenore Patton
Hampton

Lenore:

The Republicans fear that after November they'll be unable to give away the store to their pals in the oil racket, so they're doing whatever they can now to remove all obstacles. They won't be satisfied until they have permission to drill in Yellowstone, the summit of Mount Washington, Market Square, and your back yard.

The Editor

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Shaheen on Immigration

To the Editor:

U.S. Senate candidate Jeanne Shaheen believes it is time for America and the politicians in Washington to take a strong stance on the immigration process in America. Shaheen feels

that Washington has only made the problem of immigration worse and believes that through strengthening our borders with tougher security and new technological advances we can reform the immigration process in America.

Shaheen realizes that we cannot deport all of the 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States but that we should deport those illegal immigrants that have committed a crime while in the United States. Shaheen will also work hard to require illegal immigrants to pay back taxes along with a fine, undergo a criminal background check, and move to the back of the line in order to earn their citizenship.

Shaheen's opponent Senator John Sununu has shown through numerous votes that border security is not an important priority. In 2004, Sununu voted against \$350 million to increase our border security. Sununu had the chance again in 2006 to help secure the border, but he voted against a bill that would provide almost \$2 million towards border and Coast Guard personnel, fences, and border patrol vehicles.

Jeanne Shaheen realizes that our nation was founded by immigrants and that immigrant's have, and will continue to play an important role in labor within industries such as tourism and agriculture in New Hampshire. Shaheen will work hard as a U.S. Senator to enforce and improve the immigration process in America with the continued goal of keeping America, and its citizens, safe and secure.

Kelsey Burke
Kingston, NH

.....

How To Break The Oil Bubble, Save The Economy And Stop Iran

To the Editor:

We are all experiencing high oil and gas prices because we are



in an oil bubble caused by the speculation of hedge funds, investment banks, &c.

One cause of the bubble is that the International Futures Exchange in Atlanta, GA is exempt from U.S. law, permitting traders to trade in London and Dubai.

Senator Cantwell has filed a bill (S. 3185) which would make the Atlanta exchange subject to U.S. law.

This bill has passed in the House 402-19, but the Republicans have blocked its passage in the Senate (<http://cantwell.senate.gov/>).

If you would like to stop the speculators and break the oil bubble, please contact Senator Sununu (202 224-2841) and Senator Gregg (202 224-3324) and ask them to vote to pass S. 3185.

George Kurzon
Peterborough, NH

George:

We had never heard of that exemption—fascinating. Good luck on getting Gregg and Sunu-No to do the right thing, though.

The Editor

Rep. Carol Shea-Porter Supports New GI Bill

To the Editor:

When she was elected to Congress in 2006, Carol Shea-Porter promised to "work for the rest of us, the bottom 99%." As our Congresswoman, she has done

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page four

SummerFilm The Music Hall

THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION

JULY 27, 28, 29 @ 7:30

In 1970, Mauro is separated from his parents as they are forced to escape Brazil amidst political turmoil. Left alone, Mauro's hopes turn towards his country's chance to win the World Cup. PG, 104 min, Brazil, 2006

HOTEL RWANDA

JULY 30 @ 7:30

In only three months in 1994, one million people were murdered in Rwanda. In the face of these atrocities an ordinary man summons extraordinary courage to save over 1,000 refugees by giving shelter in the hotel he manages. Don Cheadle, Nick Nolte. PG13, 121 min, UK, 2004

IRON MAN

JULY 31, AUG 1, 2 @ 7:30

A billionaire industrialist is captured by terrorists and ordered to build a missile for them. He instead uses his resources to build a powered exoskeleton to escape. Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow, Terrence Howard and Jeff Bridges. Directed by Jon Favreau. PG13, 126 min, US, 2008

ROMAN DE GARE

AUG 3, 4, 5 @ 7:30

A woman abandoned, a stranger awaiting his chance and a best-selling author who imagines the thriller of the year. Deceptively layered, this new film from Oscar-winning director Claude Lelouch (*A Man and a Woman*), stars Dominique Pinon (*Amélie*). R, 103 min, France, 2007

YELEEN

AUG 6 @ 7:30

A young man with magical powers journeys to his uncle to request help in fighting his sorcerer father. Directed by Souleymane Cissé. Won the Jury Prize at Cannes, Palme D'Or nominee. NR, 105 min, Mali, 1987

MONGOL

AUG 7, 8, 9 @ 7:30

This sweeping epic follows Temudjin from his perilous childhood to his ascension as the legendary Genghis Khan. Starring Tadanobu Asano, considered Japan's Johnny Depp. From director Sergei Bodrov (*Prisoner of the Mountain*). R, 120 min, Germany, 2007

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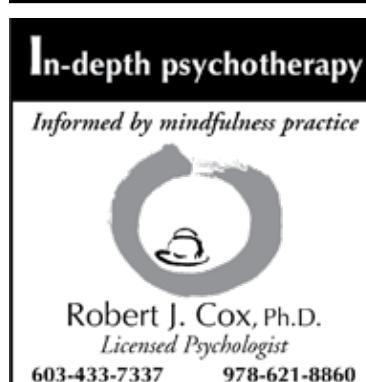
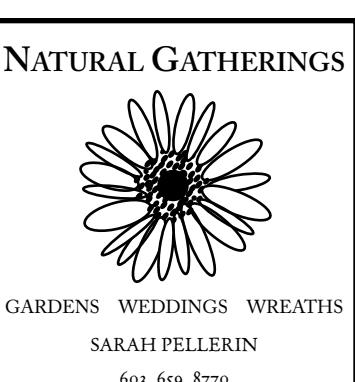
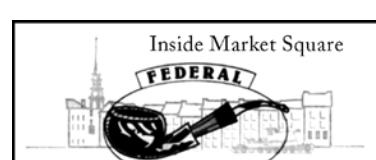
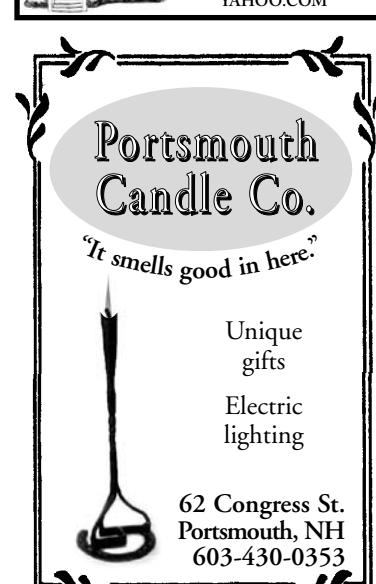
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How To Break The Oil Bubble, Save The Economy And Stop Iran

To the Editor:

We are all experiencing high oil and gas prices because we are



withered pod
the last of the shell peas—
summer hail
Madeleine Findlay

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

Portsmouth is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River. Depending on which tour boat captain you believe, it's the second, the third, or the fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country.

The Piscataqua's remarkable current is caused by the tide which, in turn is

caused by the moon. The other major player is a vast sunken valley, about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon drags roughly seventeen billion gallons of salt water from the ocean, up the river, into Great Bay. (If the moon ever stopped moving that water for us, it could be replaced with 2,125,000

tanker trucks.)

The moon's meddling creates a roving hydraulic conflict as incoming sea and outgoing river collide. The skirmish line moves from the mouth of the river, past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats,

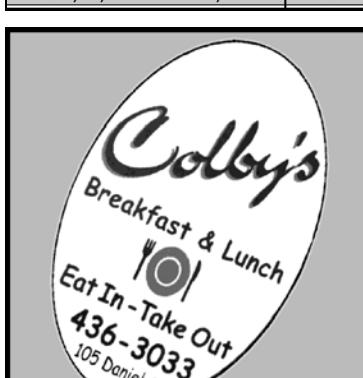
and on towards Great Bay. This spectacle can best be seen when the chart below shows the tide rising. A good place to watch is the little deck near the sterns of the tugboats, off Ceres Street. Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the salt water that just fought its way upstream goes back

to rejoin the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. A good place to observe this is from Bow Street, up by St. John's church. Look up the river, from one of the little parking lots between the buildings. (Don't try to drive or park there, that won't work.) You'll see a red

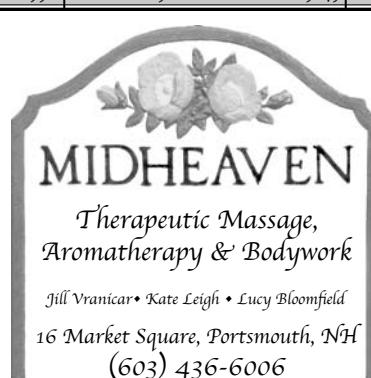
buoy, at the upstream end of Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. That buoy weighs several tons, is nine feet wide, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork! The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. Often when the river rests, its tugboats and drawbridges

work their hardest. Ships coming in heavily laden with coal, oil, and salt generally do so at high tide, for maximum clearance under their keels. When they leave empty, riding high in the water, they tend to go at low tide, for maximum clearance under Memorial Bridge.

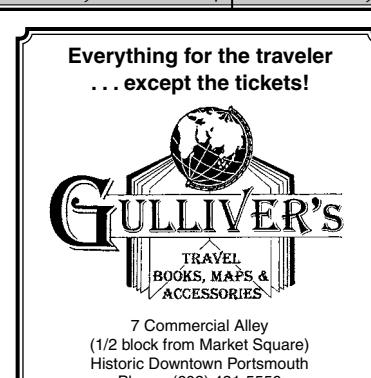
Sunday, July 27	Monday, July 28	Tuesday, July 29	Wednesday, July 30	Thursday, July 31	Friday, August 1	Saturday, August 2							
1976 —Chester Plummer, a cabbie, climbs over the White House fence armed with a three foot pipe. For refusing to back off, he is shot dead. 1974 —The House Judiciary Committee votes to impeach Richard M. Nixon for hindering investigation of Watergate. 1964 —South Vietnam gets another 5,000 American "military advisors." Total U.S. forces in Vietnam now number 21,000. 1963 —Dick "Dick" Cheney is arrested for drunk driving. 1957 —Alabama farmhand Jimmy Wilson is sentenced to death for stealing \$1.95 from a white woman. Wilson is black. 1954 —Duly-elected Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz is overthrown by mercenaries at the behest of the CIA. Forty years of genocide follow. 1953 —Truce ends fighting in Korea; troops are still there. 1919 —At a Chicago beach, a young black man crosses a "color line" and is drowned by a stone-throwing mob, sparking a race riot that kills 28 and injures 500. 1893 —William Taylor, reacting to a first jolt, breaks the straps of New York's electric chair. A second jolt fails due to generator trouble. Taylor is kept alive for an hour with morphine and chloroform, and killed on the third try.	2006 —The steeple of the North Church in Portsmouth topples onto Pleasant Street. 2003 —The country's two largest banks are fined \$300 million for helping Enron fleece investors. 1965 —Lyndon Johnson doubles the draft quota. 1958 —Billboard magazine reports on an Esso Research Center "study" claiming rock and roll on the car radio causes foot jiggling, thereby wasting fuel. 1957 —An Air Force C-24 hauling three nukes northwards off the U.S. East Coast dumps two in the ocean after losing power. 1945 —A B-25 bomber crashes into the Empire State Building. One engine goes right through the building, another severs elevator cables and sends a car plummeting to the basement. Six floors are engulfed in flames; burning gasoline streams down the sides of the building. Thirteen are killed and 26 injured. 1932 —U.S. Army troops led by Dwight Eisenhower, aided by George S. Patton, and commanded by General Douglas MacArthur, drive the "Bonus Expeditionary Force"—20,000 hungry World War I veterans—out of Washington DC, killing two in the process. 1914 —Austria-Hungary attacks Serbia, getting WWI underway.	1986 —Former Chaplain Charlie Liteky, disgusted by U.S. policies in Latin America, renounces the Medal of Honor he won in Vietnam. 1981 —Congress passes Ronald Reagan's tax cut for the rich. 1974 —The House Judiciary Committee adopts a second article to impeach Richard M. Nixon, for ignoring subpoenas. 1972 —Fifty-three caribou are found dead near an Army chemical and biological warfare lab. The base commander suggests they were hit by lightning. 1967 —The U.S.S. <i>Forrestal</i> burns off North Vietnam, killing 134. 1966 —Bob Dylan crashes his Triumph, breaking his neck. 1965 —The 101st Airborne lands in South Vietnam. 1923 —"No more war" demonstrations held in 23 countries. 1921 —Disgruntled ex-corporal Adolf Hitler becomes President of the German Nazi Party. 1920 —Disabled German veterans rally for "No more war." 1890 —RIP Vincent Van Gogh. 1839 —While looting the Tuilleries along with the rest of the mob, Alexandre Dumas père finds a copy of one of his novels in the royal apartments and takes it. 1588 —The Spanish Armada is defeated and scattered by the British Navy and the weather.	2003 —To date, 50 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq since the end of major combat operations. 1975 —Jimmy Hoffa is last seen in Birmingham, Mich. 1974 —The House Judiciary Committee adopts a 3rd article of impeachment of Richard M. Nixon, for ignoring subpoenas. 1972 —Fifty-three caribou are found dead near an Army chemical and biological warfare lab. The base commander suggests they were hit by lightning. 1969 —"I think that history will record that this may have been one of America's finest hours," says Richard Nixon in Saigon. He's off by 5 years (see 1974). 1956 —Congress adopts "In God We Trust" as the national motto. 1945 —After delivering the Hiroshima A-bomb, the U.S.S. <i>Indianapolis</i> is torpedoed and sunk. Due to security measures, the sinking isn't reported for 5 days; sharks and drowning claim 880 out of 1,100 aboard. 1938 —A. Hitler bestows Germany's highest award for non-citizens, the Grand Cross of the Supreme Order of the German Eagle, on his pal Henry Ford. 1916 —A German saboteur destroys a thousand tons of munitions stored on a barge at Black Tom Island in New York Harbor.	1999 —Eugene Schoemaker becomes the first person whose cremated remains are interred on the moon. 1996 —Ex-Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. [H.] Walker Bush speak for pay before an audiences of Moonies. 1974 —Dick Nixon's ex-advisor John Erlichman gets five years in a felon's country club. 1972 —The public is shocked as Thomas Eagleton withdraws as a candidate for Vice President. 1971 —In exchange for a \$100,000 "contribution" towards the Republican convention, the "Justice" Department's Antitrust Division changes its mind and lets ITT retain ownership of Hartford Fire Insurance. 1971 —Dave Scott becomes first person to drive a motor vehicle on the moon. 1944 —Antoine de Saint-Exupéry disappears during a flight over southern France. 1938 —New York Yankee Jake Powell is suspended after saying, on Chicago radio, that he'd "hit every colored person in Chicago over the head with a club." 1922 —Ralph Samuelson, 18, rides world's first water skis. 1921 —A "No More War" demonstration in Berlin. 1921 —A rain of frogs falls in Sterling, Connecticut.	1983 —After a fourteen-year suspension, the U.S. resumes the manufacture of chemical weapons. 1981 —MTV is launched; what's left of civilization begins crumbling. 1976 —First occupation of the Seabrook nuclear power plant site. 1972 —The <i>Washington Post</i> publishes its first article about a two-bit burglary at Democratic National HQ. 1972 —1st Lieut. George W. Bush is suspended from flying status with the Texas Air Nat'l Guard for failure to take a physical exam (which would have required him to pee in a cup). 1969 —A Mass. Superior Court judge rejects a DA's request for an inquest into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne. 1966 —Honor student and former Marine Charles Whitman shoots 45 (killing 12) from a tower at the University of Texas. 1917 —IWW organizer Frank Little is lynched in Butte, Montana. The authorities never bother to look for the culprits. 1870 —A San Francisco census taker lists Norton I's occupation as "emperor." 1758 —The nation's first Indian reservation is established—in New Jersey.	2000 —Republicans nominate George W. Bush to be president, and Dick Cheney to run the country. 1990 —Iraq invades Kuwait. 1965 —CBS reporter Morley Safer suggests that the U.S. might not win in Vietnam. 1964 —The U.S.S. <i>Maddox</i> , collecting intelligence in support of covert operations in North Vietnam, reports an "unprovoked" attack by North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. 1943 —The nimble American PT boat #109 is rammed and sunk by a comparatively ponderous Japanese destroyer. 1939 —A. Einstein writes to FDR describing the possibility of constructing a nuclear bomb. 1931 —A. Einstein urges all scientists to refuse military work. 1865 —After a summer spent capturing and sinking American whaling vessels, the <i>CSS Shenandoah</i> finally learns the war's been over since April. 1832 —Hundreds of starving Sauk and Fox Indians attempt to surrender at Bad Axe, Wisconsin, only to be massacred by the Illinois militia. The State of Wisconsin apologizes—in 1990. 1776 —In Philadelphia, members of the Continental Congress sign the Declaration of Independence.							
6:41 12:28	7:04 12:38	7:47 1:32	8:07 1:40	8:53 2:37	9:09 2:43	9:55 3:39	10:09 3:45	4:37 4:43	10:53 5:30	11:05 5:38	11:46 6:30	11:58 6:20	12:36 6:30
Sunday, August 3	Monday, August 4	Tuesday, August 5	Wednesday, August 6	Thursday, August 7	Friday, August 8	Saturday, August 9							
1999 —A House/Senate committee agrees to cut taxes for the rich by nearly \$800 billion. 1981 —Federal air traffic controllers go on strike. 1971 —Derry, N.H.'s Alan Shepard becomes the first man to whack a golf ball on the moon. 1966 —RIP Lenny Bruce. 1948 —Alger Hiss is accused of spying by ex-Red Whittaker Chambers. 1939 —After catching five baseballs dropped from a blimp 500 feet above the World's Fair, Joe Sprinz tries to catch one dropped 1,000 feet. He loses four teeth. 1931 —In Chicago, an anti-eviction march by 60,000 turns into a riot; three die. 1923 —By the light of a kerosene lantern, at 2:47 a.m. in Plymouth, VT, Calvin Coolidge is sworn in as President by his own father. 1918 —Allies invade Russia at Vladivostok. 1913 —Police shoot farmworkers meeting in Wheatland, Calif., killing four. For organizing the meeting, two union leaders are convicted of murder and sentenced to life. 1877 —A posse finds the first poem of stagecoach robber Charles "Black Bart" Bolles. 1546 —Etienne Dolet, printer, is hanged & burned for blasphemy, sedition, and heresy.	1995 —Congress votes to deregulate the media, with predictably splendid results. 1992 —The Republican National Convention re-nominates the Bush/Quayle ticket. Snicker. 1987 —The FCC jettisons the Fairness Doctrine, declaring it "restricts the journalistic freedom of broadcasters." 1973 —Toronto police arrest Yankee outfielder Dave Winfield, for accidentally killing a seagull with a thrown ball. 1964 —The U.S.S. <i>Maddox</i> and U.S.S. <i>Turner Joy</i> report a second torpedo attack in Gulf of Tonkin. Curiously, there are no casualties or damage. 1925 —After 13 years, U.S. Marines leave Nicaragua. 1916 —The U.S. agrees to buy the Virgin Islands from Denmark. 1892 —In Fall River, Mass., somebody gives Lizzie Borden's father and stepmother the axe. 1869 —Emperor Norton I, "desirous of allaying the dissensions of party strife," decrees the Democratic and Republican parties to be dissolved and abolished. 1755 —Birth of Nicolas-Jacque Conte, inventor of the pencil. 1753 —George Washington becomes a Mason.	2004 —"Our enemies," confesses George W. Bush, "never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we."	2001 —Given a briefing titled, <i>Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S.</i> while on vacation, George W. Bush responds, "All right. You've covered your ass now."	1979 —A nuclear fuel plant leak near Erwin, Tenn. contaminates about 1,000 people with up to 5 times a year's normal background radiation.	1964 —Most of Congress falls for Gulf of Tonkin hoax and gives L.B.J. unprecedented (and unconstitutional) power. Sen. Wayne Morse (D-OR) votes no, saying "I believe that within the next century, future generations will look with dismay and great disappointment upon a Congress which is now about to make such a historic mistake."	1964 —Time Magazine says of <i>A Hard Day's Night</i> , "avoid this film at all costs."	1989 —Ed Meese's pal E. Robert Wallach is convicted of racketeering for accepting \$425,000 to influence Meese, Reagan's Attorney General, and others to win defense contracts for Wedtech Corp.	1989 —Pres. George H.[H.]W. Bush signs the multi-billion dollar Savings and Loan bailout. Among those bailed out at the expense of the taxpayer: his own sons Neil and Jeb. 1974 —Nixon vacates the White House.					
12:49 7:07	1:23 7:20	2:09 7:52	2:25 8:09	2:54 8:35	8:59 9:20	3:14 9:49	4:04 10:05	4:28 10:42	4:58 10:54	5:21 11:40	5:57 11:48		



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