

The Fortnightly Rant

Countdown to Infamy

We could, we suppose, be accused of jumping the gun for devoting an entire rant to the legacy, such as it is, of George W. Bush. After all, we must slog through another five and a half months under the current regime before someone—*anyone, please!*—stands before the Chief Justice and swears to uphold the Constitution for a change.

But there is, quite literally, an awful lot to cover. Despite his abysmally low approval ratings, George W. Bush has had a massive impact on the U.S. and on the world. History holds no comparable figure; one must turn to Greek mythology to find his peer. Even there, the parallels come up short. King Midas at least had the wit to quickly regret the power bestowed upon him by Dionysus. Possessor of the mirror to Midas's power, George W. Bush has yet to reconsider.

One thing of lasting value may come out of the Bush error. (Other presidents have had their eras; Bush must settle for what he's earned.) Political scientists will no doubt use his approval ratings as a benchmark, below which successors may not be able to go. Baseball player Mario Mendoza has been immortalized by the term "Mendoza Line." Players whose batting average is below Mendoza's 1979 record of .198 are said to be "below the Mendoza Line." Any future President whose approval drops below Bush's lowest—23 percent in June, with time for it to go lower—will be said to be "below the Bush Line." Smart money would bet against this ever coming to pass.*

* Mendoza's immortal achievement came when he played for Seattle. Two years later he was traded to the Texas Rangers, where he ended his career in 1981. In 1989, Rangers owner Eddie Chiles, an oil tycoon and friend of Bush's father, sold the team to a group of investors led by George W. Bush. Bush put up \$500,000 in borrowed

One can only hope that teams of clipboard-toting wonks are making good use of this costly opportunity and examining in great detail just what passes for thinking in the alleged minds of those who approve of the incumbent. Some Democrats are likely pondering ways to identify voters who still favor Bush, and bar them from the polls; it would be only human. Acting on such an impulse, though, would be beyond the pale—it would represent a sort of existential conversion to Republicanism.

Presidential Libraries are the officially-sanctioned manifestations of an American President's legacy, so in Bush's case no discussion of the topic is complete without one or more punch lines: "there are no books ... comic books ... *My Pet Goat* ..." We could go on and ring the changes, but there's not enough challenge to that. Besides, the facts are far more amusing than any stale gag.

Last month London's *Sunday Times* reported that Stephen Payne, a long-time associate of the Bush family, had been videotaped offering his help to a Kazakh politician named Yerzhan Dosmukhamedov, on behalf of the former president of Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akayev.

Payne was taped telling Dosmukhamedov that he could "definitely" arrange a meeting in Washington between Akayev and Bush's National Security Advisor, Stephen Hadley, and that meetings with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice or even Vice President Dick "Dick" Cheney were "possible."

money. The team then built a \$191 million stadium on land taken by eminent domain. Construction was publicly financed; the money was raised by increasing the sales tax. In 1998 the team was sold to Tom Hicks for \$250 million. Bush received \$14.9 million for his share, a 2,357 percent return on his investment.



Payne then explained to Dosmukhamedov that this effort to rehabilitate Akayev's fairly tawdry reputation would cost between \$600,000 and \$750,000, with about a third of the total going directly to the Bush Presidential Library.

After being exposed by the *Times*, Payne denied that he had offered a *quid pro quo*, and trotted out the old "taken out of context" line. But the story has not died. Payne was forced to quit his position as advisor to the Department of Homeland Security's Secure Borders and Open Doors Advisory Committee. And those pesky bloggers have been howling because Randy Scheunemann, John McCain's top advisor on foreign policy and national security, has been paid at least \$130,000 by Payne for his lobbying services. As of mid-week, Scheunemann was still on McCain's campaign team.

Texas being Texas, a number of communities vied for the alleged honor of hosting the Bush Library, including Baylor University in Waco, the University of

Texas at Arlington and Austin, and Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas. Students in Austin were not thrilled. An editorial in the *Daily Texan* said "a Bush presidential library would cheapen the University of Texas."

SMU "won," prompting the faculty, administrators and staff at SMU's Perkins School of Theology to protest; but in keeping with Bush tradition, all opposition was crushed. The half-billion dollar project got the final go-ahead last month.

The essence of a Presidential Library is a particular administration's official papers. In 2001, Bush signed an Executive Order (#13233, written by Alberto Gonzales) giving him nearly unlimited control over access to presidential records. Judging from past experience, we can expect Bush's papers to be shredded, then burned, and the ashes entombed in a concrete sarcophagus in the shape of Cheney.

SMU will get, along with the "library," a "Bush Institute" which will "promote the vision"

of our 43rd President. Karl Rove has signed on as an unofficial advisor. They should call it "The Felony Factory."

Presidential libraries are built using donated money. Currently there are no limits to those donations, and no disclosure requirements.

The House passed a bill last year which would require that the names of donors be made public; but Ted Stevens (R-AK) recently indicted for bribery, has blocked the bill in the Senate. The impetus for the legislation appears to have been a \$450,000 donation to the Clinton library from pardoned felon Marc Rich.

For much of the public, the very idea of a George W. Bush Presidential Library is and always will be utterly antithetical, an oxymoron in brick and mortar. Yet there is a precedent—a library built to honor a man who nearly destroyed the United States of America. Owned by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, it is Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library, in Biloxi, Mississippi.

News Briefs:

(False) Flag-Waving "Dick" Cheney

Who says there's no such thing as good news? During a meeting in Dick "Dick" Cheney's office back in January, the participants decided *against* dressing U.S. Navy SEALS in Iranian uniforms, putting them aboard American-made boats disguised to look like Iranian Navy vessels, and ordering them to open fire on U.S. Navy ships in the Straits of Hormuz.

The consensus at the meeting appears to have been that risking the probable deaths of an unknown number of American service members, at the hands

The meeting, and the plan, were sparked by a January 6th incident in the Straits of Hormuz, in which five Iranian boats approached three U.S. Navy warships. The Navy released a videotape showing the Iranian boats—they appeared to be no more than thirty feet long, about the right size for competitive water-skiing—moving in the general vicinity of the Navy's *Ingraham*, *Hopper*, and *Port Royal*. These ships range in length from 453 to 567 feet.

The soundtrack of the Navy videotape includes a radio message saying "I am coming at you. You will explode [in or after] [static] minutes." Naval com-

manders on the scene said they were preparing to fire on the small boats when they disengaged and departed the scene.

The Navy described the boats at the time as "visibly armed," though no weapons could be seen in the video. News organizations later reported that the audio portion of the video clip had apparently been recorded at another time, and spliced into the video.

Native Persian-speakers and Iranians told news organizations that the speaker did not sound Iranian. The *Navy Times* reported that the voice was probably that of "The Filipino Monkey," a person well-known in the area for heckling passing ships by radio.

Vice President Dick "Dick" Cheney was said to have been heartened by the American public's apparent support for a vigorous reaction against the perceived Iranian provocation, hence the meeting a few weeks later.

The "false flag" scheme could have surfaced in Seymour Hersh's report, "Preparing the Battlefield," which ran in *The New Yorker* last month. The magazine's editors deleted it from the story because the administration had not adopted the plan. "My attitude always towards edi-

News Briefs
from page one

tors," Hersh told the students, "is they're mice training to be rats."

Bi-Partisan Cross-Purposes

In his article in *The New Yorker* last month, Hersh wrote that the Bush administration had requested in a "Presidential Finding," and Congress had granted, nearly half a billion dollars to fund CIA and Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) programs intended to destabilize the "religious leadership" of Iran, with the intention of "undermining" Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program, and the government itself.

People underestimate how hard it is to govern. Even as the White House was valiantly trying to undermine Iran's nefarious plans to build nuclear weapons, the CIA's own National Intelligence Estimate was undercutting their efforts, saying flat-out that the program doesn't even exist!

Americans often bemoan the lack of bi-partisanship in the Capitol, but it hasn't completely disappeared. As Hersh pointed

out in his fifth paragraph, people on both sides of the aisle are capable of working against their own allies.

Congressional approval of funding for programs based on Presidential Findings requires the approval of Congressional leaders. These days both houses are led by the Democrats. Ergo, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid—or their designated signers—must have approved the White House's half-billion dollar secret war on Iran ... even as the Democratic Party's presumptive Presidential candidate has been advocating diplomacy rather than war.

This Simply Cannot Be True

Ron Suskind, a reporter who won a Pulitzer Prize while working for a socialist-leaning rag called *The Wall Street Journal*, has just released a book titled *The Way of the World*. In it he charges that the White House had reliable information in January of 2003—from Saddam Hussein's former intelligence chief Tahir Jalil Habbush—by way of British intelligence, making it clear that the Iraqi leader had no weapons



of mass destruction. Hussein's apparent belligerence, Habbush told the Brits, was just a ruse to keep the Iranians at bay.

In response to the perceived bad news that Saddam posed no threat to America, the White House, according to Suskind, ordered the CIA to forge a back-dated letter, purporting to be from Habbush to Saddam Hussein, making it appear that links existed between Hussein and al Qaeda, to justify the war in Iraq to Americans. The letter surfaced in December of 2003, and fooled more than a few news organizations. [Note: Not this one.—*The Ed.*]

White House spokespersons have sputtered indignant denials of Suskind's account. Rather awkwardly for the White House, two CIA officers who had been part of the Iraq Operations Group went on record for Suskind, and confirmed the story about the forged letter. Also awkward is the fact that using

the CIA for domestic political purposes is *verboten*.

If it weren't for Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, and a neutered Justice Department, it's hard to imagine how Bush could sleep at night.

The Paraguay Bug-Out

True paranoids have another theory to explain why Bush has not yet turned into a public, nervous, drooling wreck—the Paraguay Bug-Out.

The land-locked South American nation gained notoriety after World War Two as a popular hideout for Nazi refugees, so it's only natural that whenever a member of the Bush family goes there, people wonder whether it's for a reunion, or some other purpose—like establishing a safe haven outside the reach of vengeful American justice.

Back in February, the Associated Press reported that George W.'s baby brother Neil took a trip to Paraguay, accepting an invitation from the Rev. Sun Myung

Moon to address his Universal Peace Federation. Back in October, 2006, First Daughter Jenna Bush visited the country's Chaco region, where the Cuban paper *La Prensa* reported the family had bought nearly 100,000 acres of land over a large aquifer.

Intriguing as these mysterious forays into exotic places are, there seems to be little reason to take them too seriously. The sources for the story of the huge land purchase seem weak. Also, the rumor that Paraguay has no extradition treaty with the U.S. is incorrect—there is such a treaty, and it's in effect.

So—good news! If New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte decides to follow the suggestion of former Los Angeles prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi, and arrests George W. Bush for the murder of U.S. service members in Iraq, Paraguayan authorities will have little choice but to turn him over, in shackles, to U.S. Marshals.



Local residents with intact memories may recall the wonderful afternoon of Saturday, July 26, when a large, golden orb hung in the sky, spreading warmth and dryness on the inhabitants of our fair city. These alert folks took advantage of the opportunity to soak up the rays, along with a little ethanol which somehow escaped the nation's fuel tanks.

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Now, there's a case where, if George W. Bush landed at Pease, we'd go cover it!

A Truly Comcastic! Decision

The City of Portsmouth has a legal agreement with Comcast, the nation's largest cable television provider, and the second largest internet service provider. Under the terms of the agreement, Comcast gets the exclusive right to provide cable TV in Portsmouth; and Portsmouth gets to pay a "gigantic, blundering, greedy, arrogant corporate monstrosity" for the privilege of watching the news filtered through CNN's Nancy Grace, Lou Dobbs, and Glenn Beck, and Fox "News's" Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity.

Until recently, Comcast's local Expanded Basic subscribers could balance out this heavy diet of right wingnuts with the fulminations of MSNBC's Keith Olbermann. His "Special Comments" have been peeling the paint off the Bush administration for the past two years, making him the

only cable news commentator to the left of dead center.

In mid-July, the Expanded Basic territory became safe once again for Oval Office despots with chips on their shoulders—Comcast knocked only MSNBC out of their analog Expanded Basic lineup. It can still be had, but only by those with a Digital Converter Box, which costs a couple of bucks every month.

And it's not just Portsmouth. Ten minutes of Googling reveals that Comcast has made the same move in Kittery, Maine, as well as communities in Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.

Naturally, given the innate prejudices of this newspaper's staff, we had to check with OpenSecrets.org to see what kind of political donations Comcast's owners have made. Imagine our surprise to learn that out of a whopping \$103,200 donated so far this year, Republicans had cleared a paltry \$18,300—including \$1,500 to New Hampshire's own Sen. John Sununu. A whopping 82 percent went to Democrats. Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and John McCain cleared \$9,200 each. Judging from this, a hard-line political

bent seems an unlikely motive for the MSNBC blackout.

While lurching around the internet searching for clues, we stumbled upon a site called NewTeeVee.com (slogan: "Television Reinvented"), apparently a division of the ludicrously-named Giga Omni Media, "a leading provider of publications and events for the technology and information industries worldwide." They do not appear to be insane.

But an item on the site by Chris Albrecht, dated March 18, made us wonder if someone is: "Gerard Kunkel, Comcast's senior VP of user experience, told me the cable company is experimenting with different camera technologies built into devices so it can know who's in your living room ... if you turn on your cable box, it recognizes you and pulls up shows already in your profile or makes recommendations ... Kunkel also said this type of monitoring is the 'holy grail' because it could help serve up specifically tailored ads. Yikes ... the system wouldn't be based on facial recognition, so there wouldn't be a picture of you on file (we hope). Instead, it would distinguish between different members of your household by recognizing body forms ... the system is still in the experimental

phase ... there hasn't been consumer testing ..." Until we hear different, we'll just go with the theory that Comcast is insane.

Republicans Support Paralyzed Vets By Blocking Aid

The House passed the Reeve Act last year, putting up \$25 million to study the rehabilitation of spinal cord injuries and improve the quality of life for paralyzed Americans. To no one's surprise, it was backed by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, among others. The Senate version of the bill, the passage of which would be required for it to take effect, was included as part of a larger bundle of bills under the rubric of the Advancing America's Pri-

orities Act (AAPA). Late in July, AAPA was successfully filibustered by Sen. Tom Coburn—an Oklahoma Republican.

Tornado! Aliens!

The worst tornado to hit the state in 187 years tore a fifty-mile swath through the state July 24, killing a former Rye woman. The weather's been sketchy ever since.

Former Apollo astronaut Ed Mitchell, who walked on the Moon with Alan Shepard, the Pride of Derry, New Hampshire, has told an Australian radio station that we—humans—have been contacted by aliens.

"It's been well covered up by all our governments for the last 60 years or so," he said.



The Flag Police would like to know: What does it take to get respect for Old Glory and an American Legion post whose baseball team is on its way to the Northeast Regional Championships? The flattening perspective of telephoto optics may make this badly-displayed flag appear to be hanging from the Frank Booma Post of the American Legion on Islington Street, but in fact it's at the condo-ed house next door. Been this way for days ...



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



Moving Pictures

The Mummy: Tomb of The Dragon Emperor

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Brendon Frazier, Maria Bello, Luke Ford, John Hannah, Jet Li, Michele Yeoh, Isabella Leong; **Writers:** Alfred Gough & Miles Millar; **Director:** Rob Cohen; **Rating:** [PG-13]

Complaining that blockbusters are clichéd, derivative, or powered by explosives and bad dialogue, or that they keep doing the same darn thing over and over, is like complaining that a Lincoln Town Car has four wheels, power windows, and a big eight-cylinder engine. That's the design, popcorn brain, and you knew that when you walked onto the car lot. Seriously, folks, did you really think that *The Mummy: Tomb of The Dragon Emperor* would be, to mix yet another metaphor, breaking new ground? Reinventing the genre? This is all about bringing dead

things back to life, remember? So settle down with your fructose-drenched refreshment and stop thinking or you'll ruin the whole experience.

The first of the modern Mummy's featured an intrepid Foreign Legion tomb raider (Brendon Fraser, making his franchise bones) who was a lot like Indiana Jones but not, quite; his hot girlfriend (Rachel Weisz), a villainous corpse (Arnold Vosloo), exotic locales, campy dialogue, and lots of cool special effects. All sequels will therefore include variations on the same. In this, the third edition, the hot girlfriend (who became a wife and mother in the second edition) has been replaced by Maria Bello (who does a credible job acquiring the necessary British accent) and the mummified villain is now alternately played by Jet Li and various CGI creatures, one of whom resembles, intentionally

or not, the monster-boy in *Where The Wild Things Are*.

As our sturdy, reliable, budget-guzzling Town Car opens in 1946, Rick and Evelyn O'Connell have retired from all that pesky mummy stuff, and while Evelyn pens books based upon their adventures, Rick mostly snores away in a corner, dreaming of his youth. Fraser, a relatively youthful 39, has a college age son (Luke Ford, 27) who is having all the mummy fun, unearthing the Dragon Emperor in China and getting frisky with immortal guardians of the ancient knowledge (e.g., Isabella Leong). Don't think too hard about this particular plot twist, because that means Fraser would have had to be 12 when the kid was born, and after extensive research your reviewer has determined that neither he nor his wife hail from Gloucester, Massachusetts. Whatever, mom and dad are soon in transit

to Shanghai, on one last mission for old time's sake. Bear in mind that according to the rules of suspension of blockbuster disbelief, you are not to think about the fact that these "geezers" are way younger than, say, the presumptive Democratic candidate for president, who manages to refer to the shockingly inspirational fact of his 47-year-old youth in every sentence that contains the word "change."

Fast and Furious director Rob Cohen was hired to keep things fast if not exactly furious. The first action begins at a groovy Shanghai nightclub owned by Evelyn's wayward brother (John Hannah of *Rebus* fame), then segues to a nearby warehouse, where the Dragon Emperor and his chariot are about to be brought to life by a Chinese general (Mao without the iconic peasant cap) who is convinced China (this is pre-com-

mie 1946) needs a dictator with flaming eyes and lots of bandages. Apparently the great leap forward begins with a great leap back into Chinese antiquity. After a nifty, fireworks-enhanced chase sequence on the streets of Shanghai, the reunited but still squabbling O'Connell family is soon zooming into the Himalayas in search of Shangri-La, the mystical paradise high in the mountains, where many computer generated special effects are generated, the best of whom are blue-eyed yetis, known to your ten-year-old self as—admit it—abdominal snowmen. Don't ask, it has something to do with the resurrected mummy making himself immortal so he can turn himself into a Maurice Sendak illustration of childhood run amok and get to rule the world.

Which is, after all, a pretty good definition of a summer blockbuster.

More Hate Mail, &c.

from page seven

he has voted to increase taxes on New Hampshire's middle class, he has affected over 200,000 citizens of the Granite State by voting against lowering the costs of Medicare, and he voted against incentives for new energy technologies. Meanwhile, he has refused to surrender \$35,000 worth of tainted campaign contributions from Alaskan Senator Ted Stevens, a man with strong ties to the oil industry.

People believe that since Sununu has roots in Salem, it means he has more of a vested interest in our state. I graduated from Salem High School, but it does not make me more qualified to be a Senator over Jeanne Shaheen. Especially since Shaheen was a New Hampshire Gover-

nor for six years, and her policies benefited NH in a multitude of ways.

Since no one is stopping John Sununu from lying, it is our job as New Hampshire voters to see the truth. Jeanne Shaheen will represent the people of New Hampshire. We need a change in Washington. That change is Jeanne Shaheen.

Kelly Rincon
Windham, NH

Misguided War on Colombia

To the Editor:

The U.S. government (as opposed to the people of the U.S.) supports a foreign government that directly and indirectly kills more trade unionists than all other countries combined. In the last 20 years, over 2,000 labor leaders were murdered for their beliefs, and 17 were murdered during

the early part of this year, lest anyone lie about these U.S. aided and abetted homicides being a thing of the past. U.S. aid to the criminal government of Colombia under the guise of the "War on Drugs" is directly responsible in some cases, and indirectly in others through right wing death squads that have been linked to Colombia's corrupt government, and who are supported by both drug money and diverted U.S. taxpayer money.

If the War on Terrorism is not a total hoax, then we must strive to eliminate Colombia's state-sponsored terrorism by cutting off their funds, which includes not ratifying a key source of those funds, the free trade agreement, and prosecuting their murdering drug-trafficking allies.

Mike Richardson
Albuquerque, NM

Representing "The Rest of Us"

To the Editor:

When Carol Shea-Porter said she wanted to go to Congress to represent the "rest of us"—the people that George Bush and a Republican Congress didn't care about, she must have been talking about New Hampshire veterans. We are the only state that doesn't have a full service VA Hospital, even though there are 130,000 veterans here. Sick Granite State veterans have to go to Boston or Portland for treatment. Washington didn't care how difficult this is for people suffering from cancer or other serious medical conditions, but our Congresswoman did. She introduced legislation to require the VA to put a full service hospital here, and she is fighting entrenched interests to see this bill passes.

This is just one of many, many steps she has taken in the past two years on behalf of our soldiers and veterans. She established a suicide hot-line for troops returning from Iraq that was credited with saving over 1,000 lives in its first year. She pushed for legislation protecting soldiers from losing their homes through foreclosures. She prevented the administration from aggressively recovering small loans from the families of soldiers killed in the line of duty, and fought to make sure that their children get the military death benefits that they deserve. These are just some of the reasons why the Disabled American Veterans gave her a 100% rating, the highest of any member of Congress. Anyone who is a veteran, or has a family member who is a veteran, should thank Carol Shea-Porter for her

What's going on at Two Ceres?



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Northcountry Chronicle The Denialists

by William Marvel

A couple of weeks ago, while a violent thunderstorm struck here on Davis Hill, a series of tornadoes carved their way across central Kansas, demolishing much of the Kansas State University campus and leveling a little town near Abilene. One funnel leapfrogged over my in-laws' house in Salina, twisting the tops off their shade trees and breaking some glass before touching down again on the edge of town, where it destroyed an entire industrial park. Another twister wrought death and destruction near Omaha about the same time, and then the rains started coming that have now flooded most of Iowa.

The tornado season began early this year, and in the past couple of years they have been noticeably more frequent. New Orleans recently suffered the most destructive hurricane in our history, if not the most deadly, while hurricanes in general have grown

increasingly numerous and more severe since the early 1990s. All across America, people are remarking on the worst weather events they have ever known, just as we here in northern New Hampshire were remarking ten weeks ago on the worst winter we have ever endured.

When weather changes for the worse, religious fanatics blame it on divine dissatisfaction. The lunatic fringe of the religious right explains natural disasters as heavenly retribution against those who spurn the "word of God," much as the inhabitants of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula viewed the eruption of Krakatoa as a warning from Allah a century and a quarter ago. Primitive peoples have tried to pin responsibility on angry gods for millennia, and the advocates of such nonsense in this country tend to vote Republican, as John McCain's fundamentalist guru so famously illustrated.

Those who cling to "alterna-

tive" scientific theories, like sunspots, also tend to be Republicans. All but the most stubborn "denialists," meanwhile, have come to recognize that the atmosphere is succumbing to the impact of our own overpopulated and overly consumptive species. Two decades of warnings have actually underestimated the rapidity of global warming, and nearly a decade of head-in-the-sand Republican policymaking in the worst-offending nation has apparently brought us near the point of no return.

Yet there remain seemingly reasonable people who still support what has become even more conspicuously the party of war, the party of the rich and greedy, and the party of environmental degradation. Only a few weeks ago one of the more sane voices from town government put herself forward as a candidate for the state legislature with the argument that the Republican Party needs to retain the seats it

still holds there, as though such a party deserved continued influence in public affairs.

By dint of false pretenses George Bush and the Republican machine that supported him dragged this country into an unnecessary and immoral war, browbeating and threatening a good many rather spineless Democrats along the way. While the nation was distracted by that conflict they restored the age of the robber barons in the American marketplace, and revived the police state with Constitution-crushing legislation reminiscent of the worst of the John Adams and Woodrow Wilson administrations. They refused to even discuss the possibility that human activity had contributed to global warming, and when NASA scientists documented that very connection the Bush administration censored their reports and quashed their findings.

Once upon a time the Repub-

lian Party held to certain principals that many a Democrat could admire, like self-reliance and small government. Those days appear to be gone forever, and the survivors of the Old Guard stand like dinosaurs among the wolves and hyenas of the Bush and Cheney regime. The time has come for the honest ones among them to find other company, as Jim Jeffords and Lincoln Chafee did, and the migration would not necessarily have to lead them into the Democratic fold.

Competition is at least as healthy in politics as it is in economics. We need a second party, or even a third, but there is nothing healthy about the Republican Party in this century. Like the Federalists of 200 years ago, that organization has forsaken its heritage and forfeited its legitimacy. No one who runs beneath its banner deserves election, or will ever again see a vote from me.

Saving the Family Cottage
A Guide to Succession Planning for your Cottage, Cabin, Camp or Vacation Home
Foreword by Deborah Wyatt Fellow
Whether you are a parent planning to pass on your family vacation home to your children, an heir who has inherited a property you are sharing with others, or you are thinking about acquiring a vacation property for the benefit of future generations, this book will tell you how to keep the home in the family. Written for the vacation home owner, the author explains the problems inherent to second home ownership and offers solutions for families who wish to preserve this valuable asset for generations to come.

Pick up your copy of last summer's number one bestseller. The second edition was released to announce attorney David Fry as the successor to the late Stuart J. Hollander's cottage law practice, and the book's editor.

Available at bookstores, and on the web at www.cottagelaw.com.

efforts on their behalf.

V. Russo
Manchester NH

Dear V.

Veterans in particular understand the distinction between talking the talk, and walking the walk. Jeb Bradley talked the talk, Carol Shea-Porter walks the walk.

The Editor

Medicare Under Attack From Conservatives

To the Editor:

America's popular Medicare program, currently under attack by conservatives, has provided tens of millions of qualified seniors with health-care benefits. The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, is neither con-

nected to Medicare, nor the modern improvement it should have been. Instead, it is a convoluted, privatized, for-profit, corporate enterprise merely using the name "Medicare" for marketing purposes. It is unnecessarily costly. The bill's sponsors, among them former congressman Jeb Bradley, specifically prohibited the program from negotiating with drug companies for lower prices, resulting in the world's highest prices for consumers, and \$139 Billion in windfall profits for corporations. In contrast, the Veterans' Administration negotiates for lower drug prices, achieving up to 80 percent discounts. There was no need for the Act, with its "donut holes" and loopholes, if the administration had acted in

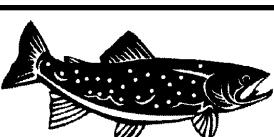
our best interests by negotiating with drug companies, then simply issuing drug-discount cards to Medicare subscribers.

I applaud the efforts of Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, prime sponsor of HR 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007, which, if passed, would have required the federal government to negotiate for lower drug prices on our behalf. Shea-Porter continues to represent the bottom 99 percent of us.

Janet E. Sweeney
Hampton, NH

Janet:
If the Lord wanted you to have health care, he'd have designed it into you.

The Editor

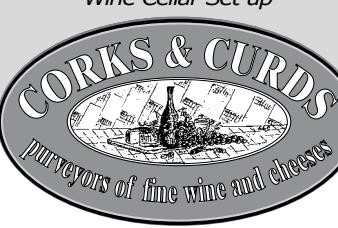

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Another Disgruntled Reader Heard From

[The following message was left on the *Gazette's* telephone answering machine.]

Yeah, I'll talk to the machine after the beep.

Listen you liberal scumbag, you anti-American, pot-smoking, Volvo-driving, anti-sports, tree-hugging son of a bitches that are wrecking our patriotic America, we'll kick your wimpy ass come November.

Stop your global whining. Shame on all of you. Shame on all of you communism-supporting advertisers. How you can even cease to exist [?] my imagination.

Thank God we don't have your paper up here in my town, and God I don't live in your town, and God your paper isn't representative of New England as a whole.

[Click.]



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Dear Anonymous:
At first we thought you were an old friend pulling our leg, but the vehemence with which you took the Lord's name in vain convinced us otherwise.

Since you don't sound like the person who left an anonymous threatening message last fortnight, we're beginning to wonder if this is a trend. If so, it doesn't speak well for conservatism. You're behaving like skulking cowards. Where is your forthrightness? Where is the courage of your alleged convictions?

The Editor

Shea-Porter Works for Vets

To the Editor:

As a Vietnam veteran, I have been pleased to note that veterans have had more benefits restored and improved in this 110th Congress than at any other time in the history of this great country. This proud record includes the New GI Bill that is like the original in 1944, and will benefit America for years to come.

Never before have veterans had the representation in Congress that they have today. Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, as part of this Congress, needs to be recognized as a tireless supporter of New Hampshire veterans. She has fought and will continue to fight for a needed, full service Veteran's Hospital in New Hampshire so that returning veterans can receive care closer to home. She has proven to me that she looks out for the concerns of all veterans, and I will be voting for her return to Congress in November to continue her good work.

Curtis Hoffman
Rye NH

Same Old Susan C., And Now It's Bush III

To the Editor:

A recent letter from Senator Collins congratulates herself for disagreeing with the Bush administration sometimes, and says

she'll continue to provide "balanced, commonsense leadership." Judging by her record of collaborating to give Bush whatever he wants including war and torture, she hasn't shown any. Her new choice for a leader to follow is John McCain, a charter member of the Bush/Cheney war gang, sending the SOS—she's still the Same Old Susan.

McCain is running for President on his record of fervent support for Bush's war in Iraq which is spreading into Iran, and his knee-jerk support for Israel's atrocious acts in its 60-year war and occupation of Palestine. His campaign to promote himself as a third-term Bush should be interesting to see if voters like the idea of handing nuclear weapons to someone who's shown such enthusiasm for war, and prefer politicians who promise more of it.

Marjorie Gallace
Camden, Maine

We Support Obama

To the Editor:

Renowned American poet Walt Whitman, in his 1871 essay titled "Democratic Vistas" stated, "I say we had best look our times and lands searching in the face, like a physician diagnosing some deep disease." In that same paragraph he had much more to say that applies to the deep malaise felt today throughout our country.

Our treasured democracy has been afflicted with a vile illness, which has become increasingly toxic over the past 7 1/2 years since becoming infected by the Bush administration. A recent poll showing that 74 percent of the U.S. population feels that our nation is on the wrong track reinforces this plight. The need for new-minded leadership is monumental.

Uncertainties always accompany the election of a new president. No matter who gets

elected, it is unlikely that every decision a president makes will please even the candidate's most staunch supporters. With this reality in mind, we wholeheartedly support Barack Obama in the November presidential election. The John McCain alternative is essentially an extension of the disastrous Bush policies and is far too risky.

The vital course changes are evident and endless. Of major concern are likely replacements on the U.S. Supreme Court during the coming years, as well as the appointment of federal judges. Cabinet positions and chairmanships of the various Congressional committees will also present bold challenges. We trust Obama's judgement in these and other far-reaching decisions that will undoubtedly lead to the betterment of our country.

Paul and Mary Nichols
Loudon, NH

High Price of Oil

To the Editor:

The winter of 2008-2009 appears to be more foreboding than usual. *The New York Times* reports that more than 6 million households in New England depend on oil to heat their homes. Moreover, the price of heating oil has increased 40 percent this year to the point where many low- and moderate income homeowners may not be able to afford to purchase the amount that they need.

Here, in the middle of summer, it is difficult to imagine the plight of these people during the dead of winter. Will the little money they have be spent on food, medications, or home heating? As *Foster's Daily Democrat* argues, "No family living in New Hampshire, or anywhere else in this great country, should have to choose between food to

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,

fuel their bodies and fuel to heat their homes. Each are necessary ingredients in sustaining healthy lives."

Fortunately, our Congresswoman, Carol Shea-Porter, has stepped forward to deal with this impending crisis. On July 17, Shea-Porter introduced legislation to provide emergency funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Hopefully, these funds will be approved, and will find their way into the hands of needy homeowners. We are fortunate to have a member of Congress like Shea-Porter who is ready, willing, and able to meet the vital needs of her constituents.

Ellen Busch
Hampton, NH

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

To the Editor:

I live by "actions speak louder than words." Our Congresswoman, Carol Shea-Porter, does too. She has been very successful for New Hampshire Citizens with her actions. On July 17th this year, Carol introduced legislation to provide more emergency funding for the Energy Assistance Program this winter.

A *New York Times* editorial says it all: "Even in midsummer's heat, residents of the eight million or so households with oil-fired furnaces—more than three-fourths of them in the Northeast—are worried about winter. The price of heating oil has jumped almost 40 percent this year. More than three-fourths of them in the Northeast."

My family paid \$3,900 for oil last year. The same amount of oil will cost us \$8,000 this year at \$4.50 a gallon. We will have to sacrifice a lot to pay for that oil. What is going to happen to people who have nothing left to

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And Other Correspondence

sacrifice? People shouldn't have to choose between heat and eating.

Carol understands. She represents New Hampshire and knows that the Northeast is going to be in a bad situation this winter. She doesn't let a day go by without constantly looking for ways to help New Hampshire turn the oil crisis around by standing up to the big oil companies and speaking up for legislation that will protect New Hampshire citizens.

Re-electing Carol Shea-Porter is in the best interest of all of us. Please join me and vote on November 4, 2008 to return Carol to Congress where she will continue to stand up for New Hampshire. We cannot afford to lose her. She fights for us and wins those fights. Remember "Actions speak louder than words."

Debra Crapo
Rye, NH

Falsely Attacking Jeanne Shaheen

To the Editor:

The New Hampshire GOP has been falsely attacking Jeanne Shaheen lately, and it's all being done to distract New Hampshire citizens from John Sununu's appalling record on energy. The truth is that Jeanne Shaheen does want to increase domestic oil production, which is why she has been calling on oil companies to drill on the land that they already lease, but aren't currently drilling on. This is a much better alternative to the offshore drilling supported by Senator Sununu, which would have an adverse effect on the environment.

The reality behind John Sununu's energy plan is that he doesn't have one. Every word he has spoken and every vote he has cast has been to protect his friends in the oil industry, who,

to date, have given over \$200,000 to his campaign. Sununu voted to create the Enron Loophole, which allows Wall Street investors to speculate on oil, driving up prices without any regulation. To date, Sununu has voted time and time again to protect these speculators that are profiting off high gas prices. What's worse, Sununu has admitted that speculation is part of the problem and he won't do anything to change it.

The choice is clear in this November's U.S. Senate election. We can change our energy policy, or we can do nothing about it. One thing is certain, however: we will have to get used to \$4 a gallon gasoline if we reelect John Sununu, whose real constituency is not the people of New Hampshire, but the people of Exxon-Mobil.

Lawrence Doucette
Salem, NH

What Citizens Around The World Have Always Wanted

To the Editor:

We all want what citizens around the world have always wanted, to create a better world than we currently live in. We believe that people are good and deserve the best we have to offer. We want to educate young people, keep the environment safe, improve health care, and protect our country's reputation.

We live in an exciting time—with much potential. Jeanne Shaheen recognizes this potential and responds accordingly. She will support middle class tax cuts, end subsidies and tax breaks for oil companies, establish a universal health care system, invest in creating jobs in emerging industries, such as clean energy, medical research and environmental remediation.

These ideas are ambitious, but

Jeanne Shaheen has proven that she will take action to realize these improvements. As a governor, she increased education spending six fold, fought for the Healthy Kids health care plan, en-acted the Clean Power Act and, protected conservation land and historical homes, while keeping our tax burden the lowest in the country. After being our governor, she taught at Harvard at the Institute of Politics.

In short, by helping our country fulfill its potential, Jeanne Shaheen will improve our lives so that individuals in New Hampshire can better realize their personal potential as well.

Marilyn MacArthur
Concord, NH

Windfall Profits are Theft

To the Editor:

Quarter after quarter, and year after year, the oil companies post record profits that are even higher than ever before. If they were just passing the high cost of crude oil on to the consumer, their profits would be constant. No, they are squeezing us for excessive profits simply because they can.

Sure, this hurts us consumers. It is also wreaking havoc on our country's economy. And still, they receive billions in tax breaks. These must stop. Instead, the oily companies should pay a windfall-profits tax. Let's use their profits to fund solar and wind energy alternatives. Then we could drive plug-in electric cars with no carbon footprint on the environment.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA

Watching Out For The People Of New Hampshire

To the Editor:

As our Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter says "Hardworking Americans should not have to choose between putting food on the table and staying warm." On July 17, Carol Shea-Porter in-



troduced a bill (HR 6538IH) to provide emergency funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program known as LIHEAP. Without this funding, thousands of low and moderate income New Hampshire families will be unable to heat their homes adequately this winter. According to the Associated Press, millions of poor and elderly on fixed incomes rely on heating assistance through the government's low income home Energy programs now.

Her actions are just another example of how Carol Shea-Porter is watching out for the people of New Hampshire.

Gail Mitchell
Barrington, NH

Offended by the Antics of Senator John Sununu

To the Editor:

Lately, I have been somewhat offended by the antics of Senator John Sununu. He is treating the citizens of New Hampshire as though they are ignorant, mindless voters who will believe anything they hear. His lies are taken as truth, even though his voting record is clear evidence of his disregard for the people of New Hampshire.

The idea that Sununu cares about New Hampshire is contradicted by each and every time Sununu has voted against our state. Within the past few weeks,

More Hate Mail, &c.
to page four

SummerFilm
The Music Hall

SON OF RAMBOW
AUG 10, 11, 12 @ 7:30

Will is from a strict Plymouth Brethren family. However, he finds himself caught up in the extraordinary world of Lee Carter, the school terror and maker of bizarre home movies, who exposes Will to a pirated copy of Rambo: First Blood. PG13, 96 min, France, 2007

Show and Tell Follows Aug 12 Screening

bamako
AUG 13 @ 7:30

Melé is a bar singer, her husband Chaka is out of work and they are on the verge of breaking up. Meanwhile African civil society spokesmen have undertaken proceedings against the World Bank & the IMF which they blame for Africa's woes. NR, 115 min, Mali, 2006

JELLYFISH
AUG 14, 15, 16 @ 7:30

Three very different women live in modern Tel Aviv, Israel. A film about the gulf between parents and children, between lovers, between friends and even between adults and the children they wish they could still be. NR, 78 min, France, 2007

CITY LIGHTS
AUG 17, 18, 19 @ 7:30

Lauded by critics, actors and directors alike as one of Charlie Chaplin's finest and indeed among the best films ever, City Lights is the simple story of The Little Tramp who meets a lovely blind girl selling flowers on the sidewalk who mistakes him for a wealthy duke. G, 87 min, US, 1931

Show and Tell Follows July 19 Screening

Nowhere in AFRICA
AUG 20 @ 7:30

A Jewish family in Germany emigrate to Kenya before the Second World War. They start over on a farm, but not all family members have an appreciation of this new life. Best Foreign Language Film Oscar winner. R, 141 min, Germany, 2001

When Did You Last See Your Father?
AUG 21, 22, 23 @ 7:30

Blake Morrison (Colin Firth) deals with his father's terminal illness. Blake's memories of everything funny, embarrassing and upsetting about his upbringing are interspersed with tender scenes in the present. Directed by Anand Tucker (Shopgirl). PG13, 92 min, UK, 2007

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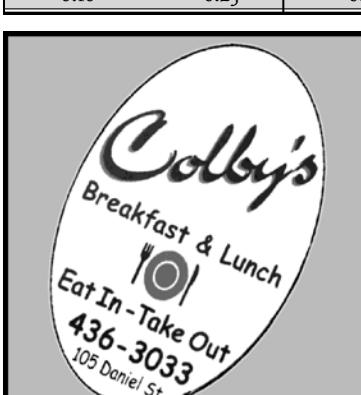
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a homeless man
in my spot by the river
summer evening

Tom D'Evelyn

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

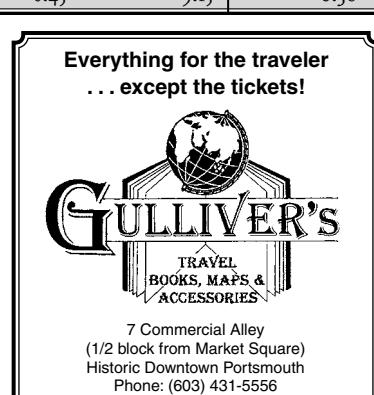
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|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Portsmouth is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River. Depending on which tour boat captain you believe, it's the second, the third, or the fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country.</p> <p>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.)</p> <p>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.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Sunday, August 10 Monday, August 11 Tuesday, August 12 Wednesday, August 13 Thursday, August 14 Friday, August 15 Saturday, August 16</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2005—After playing online games fifty hours straight, Lee Seung Seop, 28, drops dead. | 1999—The Kansas Board of Education throws evolution over the edge of the earth. | 2000—The Russian submarine <i>Kursk</i> is sunk in the Barents Sea, probably by its own torpedo; 112 crew members perish. | 2002—"I promise you I will listen to what has been said here," says George W. Bush at the President's Economic Forum in Waco, Texas, "even though I wasn't here." | 1999—George W. Bush wins an Iowa presidential straw poll where, in traditional Republican fashion, you could vote as many times as you want for \$25 a pop. | 1980—The FAA announces an increase in sky marshals on commercial flights to stem the rising tide of hijackings. | 1980—Refugees hijack three jetliners to get back to Cuba. | | | | | |
| 2000—"I want you to know," George W. Bush tells farmers in Salinas, Calif., "that farmers are not going to be secondary thoughts to a Bush administration. They will be in the forethought of our thinking." | 1984—On an open mike, Ronald Reagan announces, "I have signed legislation that would outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes." | 1992—The U.S., Canada, and Mexico announce that NAFTA has been finalized. | 1980—Cuban refugees hijack an Air Florida jetliner to Cuba. | 1966—"As long as the United States and our brave allies are in the field," says Lyndon B. Johnson, "[a Communist takeover of South Vietnam] is impossible." | 1971—Richard Nixon reneges on the U.S.'s promise to redeem dollars with gold. | 1976—Two college dropouts form the Apple Computer company in a garage. | | | | | |
| 1968—Eight American G.I.'s are killed by "friendly fire." | 1968—Pitcher Satchel Paige signs with the Braves. He's 62. | 1968—Canadian engineer Joseph Papp is fished out of the ocean near Brest, France, claiming his jet-powered, 300 mph submarine had sunk after crossing the ocean in 13 hours. | 1971—Attorney General John Mitchell announces that there will be no grand jury investigation of the May 4 shootings at Kent State. | 1945—Japan surrenders, ending World War II. | 1945—Hell hounds catch up to Robert Johnson. | 1962—Cuban commies outlaw anarchy. | | | | | |
| 1950—The first shipload of American military aid to the French in Vietnam arrives. | 1966—Canadian engineer Joseph Papp is fished out of the ocean near Brest, France, claiming his jet-powered, 300 mph submarine had sunk after crossing the ocean in 13 hours. | 1972—The last U.S. ground troops leave Vietnam. | 1948—"Rookie" Satchel Paige throws his first complete game for the Cleveland Indians: the 42 year old gets a 5-0 shutout. | 1936—at about 5:30 a.m., in Owensboro, Ky., before a crowd of 15,000, Arthur Hash, quite drunk, pulls a lever which opens a trapdoor, dropping Rainey Bethea to his death in the final public execution in U.S. | 1945—to celebrate the end of WW II, San Franciscans riot. | 1920—Charles Bukowski is born in Andernach, Germany. | | | | | |
| 1945—The Japanese announce they'll surrender. | 1965—A white cop pulls over a black motorist in LA, triggering five days of riots costing 34 lives, mostly black, and destroying \$200 million in property. | 1955—Ike raises the minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1 per hour. | 1953—Russia tests an H-bomb. | 1935—Congress passes the Social Security act. | 1935—Wiley Post and Will Rogers perish in a plane crash at Point Barrow, Alaska. | 1920—Cleveland Indians shortstop Ray Chapman fails to see a pitch from the Yankees' Carl Mays. Hit in the head, he dies the next day. | | | | | |
| 1896—"Small sacrifices must be made," says glider pioneer Otto Lilienthal, as he dies a day after his last crash. | 1965—Babe Ruth plays his last game at Fenway. | 1955—Babe Ruth plays his last game at Fenway. | 1948—"Rookie" Satchel Paige throws his first complete game for the Cleveland Indians: the 42 year old gets a 5-0 shutout. | 1923—Felix the Cat debuts. | 1900—the fourth race riot in New York City history begins. | 1890—Myron "Grim" Natwick, creator of Betty Boop, is born. | | | | | |
| 1887—A Toledo, Peoria & Western engineer, seeing a burning bridge ahead, uncouples his locomotive and makes it to safety; 81 passengers die when the bridge collapses under them. | 1965—Dr. Joseph Lister introduces a new refinement to the art of surgery—disinfection. | 1943—First North American Fougnerist phalanx is founded. | 1925—Baltimore Chamber of Commerce accuses H.L. Mencken of damaging the city's trade with the south due to the nature of his reporting of the Scopes "monkey" trial. | 1923—U.S. Marines invade Nicaragua to "protect American interests." | 1877—Thomas Edison records <i>Mary Had a Little Lamb</i> . For a brief period, it not only tops the charts, it is the chart. | 1819—British cavalry and Husars attack a political meeting at St. Peter's Field in Manchester, killing eleven people. | | | | | |
| 1856—A ball on Last Island, Louisiana is interrupted by huge wind-driven waves; 400 drown. | 1966—"Action painter" Jackson Pollock comes to rest against an immovable object. | 1927—William Blake is released from his earthly form. | 1906—African-American soldiers raid Brownsville, Texas to avenge racial insults. One white man is killed, two are wounded. | 1862—Abe Lincoln becomes the 1st President to meet a delegation of African-Americans, whom he offends by recommending they remove to Africa. | 1846—Henry David Thoreau goes to jail rather than pay taxes to support the Mexican War. | 1812—U.S. Gen. William Hull, in "a state of near-incoherence," surrenders Detroit to a lesser force of British and Indians. | | | | | |
| 1835—Citizens of Canaan, New Hampshire burn Noyes Academy because it enrolled blacks. | 1966—Charles "Hobo" Kelley and his 1,200 man "army" of unemployed are driven from Washington D.C. by federal troops. | 1676—John Alderman, a Christianized "Praying Indian," shoots and kills Metacomet, aka King Philip. Alderman is awarded Metacomet's head and one hand. He later sells the head for 30 shillings, to the town of Plymouth, where it's kept atop a stake for 25 years. Metacomet's wife and child are sold to West Indian slave traders. | 1919—Chemistry professor Rufus Graves observes a luminous object falling from the heavens into his neighbor Erastus Dewey's yard in Amherst, Mass. The two extract from it a pulpy substance with a nauseating smell. | 1915—Authorities in Nuremberg attempt to dissuade counterfeiters by introducing the "Iron Maiden," a man-sized iron box with large spikes inside. | 1945—To celebrate the end of WW II, San Franciscans riot. | 1777—New Hampshire militiamen, led by General John Stark, defeat the British at Bennington. Thirty-two years later Stark begs off from attending a reunion, writing, "Live Free or Die; death is not the worst of evils." | | | | | |
| 1628—Less than a mile into its maiden voyage, Sweden's <i>Vasa</i> , the most formidable warship built to date, heels over in a mild breeze, then sinks. | 1967—His unmatched generosity buys Rodrigo Borgia a new name: Pope Alexander VI. His greed, lust, and homicidal ways remain the same. | 1967—John Alderman, a Christianized "Praying Indian," shoots and kills Metacomet, aka King Philip. Alderman is awarded Metacomet's head and one hand. He later sells the head for 30 shillings, to the town of Plymouth, where it's kept atop a stake for 25 years. Metacomet's wife and child are sold to West Indian slave traders. | 1946—Henry David Thoreau goes to jail rather than pay taxes to support the Mexican War. | 1946—In Cape Girardeau, MO, later the birthplace of Rush Limbaugh, a 2.3 kg meteorite strikes about a century too early to do any good. | 1946—Henry David Thoreau goes to jail rather than pay taxes to support the Mexican War. | 1945—Myron "Grim" Natwick, creator of Betty Boop, is born. | | | | | |
| 7:01 7:19 | 8:06 8:19 | 9:05 9:14 | 9:57 10:02 | 10:41 10:45 | 11:20 11:24 | 11:55 | | | | | |
| 12:42 12:47 | 1:46 1:48 | 2:46 2:46 | 3:39 3:38 | 4:25 4:24 | 5:05 5:05 | 5:41 5:44 | | | | | |
| Sunday, August 17 Monday, August 18 Tuesday, August 19 Wednesday, August 20 Thursday, August 21 Friday, August 22 Saturday, August 23 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2002—Pentagon officials admit that the U.S. was assisting Iraq during its war against Iran, knowing that Saddam Hussein intended to "use chemical weapons against his own people." | 1996—The U.S. prison population hits 1,600,000, twice what it was 10 years earlier. | 1953—CIA-backed royalists in Iran overthrow Premier Mossadegh in Iran. | 1986—Drug addict Randy Woolls helps Texas kill him by finding a good vein. | 1976—Two day occupation of Seabrook, NH nuke site begins. | 2002—A Bush administration spokesperson announces that as punishment for selling SCUD missiles North Korea, with which we do not trade anyway, will suffer trade sanctions. | 2001—French stuntman Terry Do snags a parasail on the Statue of Liberty's, and dangles from it for 45 minutes before being rescued. | | | | | |
| 1994—Baseball players go on strike; end of season. | 1989—Malcolm Forbes throws himself a \$2 million birthday party, flying 800 guests to his castle in Tangiers. | 1951—St. Louis Browns owner Bill Veeck sends Eddie Gaedel to pinch-hit for Frank Saucier. Gaedel is 43 inches tall. | 1983—Returning to the Philippines under assurances there will be no reprisals for his dissidence, Benigno Aquino is shot dead as soon as he leaves his plane. | 1962—CBS's "Evening News" reports on the Society for Indecency to Naked Animals, Alan Abel's most successful hoax. | 2001—The Bush administration, having jacked up expenses and slashed taxes, announces a baffling decrease in the federal surplus. | 1968—in Chicago, the Youth International Party nominates a pig for president. | | | | | |
| 1993—The destruction of 350 B-52 bombers begins as called for in the START I treaty. | 1993—The destruction of 350 B-52 bombers begins as called for in the START I treaty. | 1929—"Amos n' Andy" debuts on radio. | 1974—The House of Representatives votes 412-3 to recommend Articles of Impeachment against Richard Nixon. | 1927—Supreme Court "Justice" Louis Brandeis refuses to hear a request for a stay of execution of anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti. | 1991—When Derick Lynn Peterson's heart continues to beat for ten minutes after his electrocution, Virginia officials repeat the process. | 1939—Germany and the USSR sign a non-aggression pact. | | | | | |
| 1973—Half of CBS's affiliate stations refuse to air David Rabe's play, <i>Sticks & Bones</i> , about a blind, embittered Vietnam vet's homecoming. The play is aired in many cities without commercials—advertisers aren't buying. | 1973—Germany introduces the <i>Volksempfänger</i> , or Peoples' Radio. Built to Joseph Goebbels' specifications, it receives only local (Nazis-controlled) broadcasts. | 1979—Benjamin Banneker, "the sable genius," sends a copy of his just-published almanac to Thomas Jefferson with an admonition to practice what he preaches about the rights of all men. | 1965—Keene, NH seminary student and civil rights worker Jonathan Daniels is murdered in Nauvoo, Alabama. An all-white jury acquits his killer. | 1920—Birth of Christopher Robin Milne, who later said, "[It seemed to me, almost, that my father had got to where he was by climbing upon my infant shoulders.]" | 1976—Police arrest 179 at Seabrook, NH anti-nuke rally. | 1911—Ishi, last of the Yahi Yana Indians, surrenders to whites. | | | | | |
| 1965—U.S. Marines begin Operation Starlight south of Chu Lai; first major U.S. ground operation in Vietnam. | 1965—U.S. Marines begin Operation Starlight south of Chu Lai; first major U.S. ground operation in Vietnam. | 1912—William Blake, poet and self-publisher, marries Catherine Sophia Boucher. He later teaches her to read. | 1940—In Mexico, Stalinist agent Ramon Mercader attacks Leon Trotsky with an ice ax. Trotsky tells his guards, "Do not kill him. This man has a story to tell." | 1911—Vincenzo Peruggia, an employee at the Louvre, steals the Mona Lisa. | 1972—Almost 900 protesters are arrested in Miami during the Republican National Convention. | 1784—Settlers gather at Jonesboro, in what is now Tennessee, to establish the state of Franklin. | | | | | |
| 1918—In Chicago, IWW members are tried; 95 will go to prison for up to 20 years. | 1964—Urbain Grandier, a French priest whose sexual prowess earned him accusations from a scorned Mother Superior, is "waterboarded," then burned at the stake for witchcraft. | 1959—George Burroughs, Martha Carrier, George Jacobs, John Proctor, and John Willard are hanged in Salem. | 1910—Above the Sheepshead Bay racetrack in New York, Lt. Jacob E. Fickel pulls the trigger on the first gunshot from an airplane. | 1963—William A. Quantrill and several hundred of his Raiders attack Lawrence, Kansas and kill hundreds of men, women, and children. | 1952—The Justice Department sues four big U.S. oil companies for overcharging for oil shipped to Europe under the Marshall Plan. | 1724—Jeremiah Moulton, who saw his parents scalped 32 years earlier, leads a raid on Norridgewock, killing seven Abenaki chiefs and the French priest, Sebastian Rasle. | | | | | |
| 1910—A New York sweatshop opens despite a strike. Women strikers demolish the factory. | 1964—Virginia Dare becomes the first missing white girl in the New World. | 1587—Virginia Dare becomes the first white child born in the New World. | 1904—Miners seize the town of Cripple Creek, Colo., and deport town officials. | 1831—Nat Turner leads a slave rebellion in Virginia. | 1893—Birth of Dorothy Parker. At 70, she wrote, "If I had any decency, I'd be dead. Most of my friends are." | 1500—Christopher Columbus is sent to Spain in chains for mistreating native Haitians. | | | | | |
| 1901—During an excursion around New York aboard the side-wheeler <i>General Slocum</i> , some of a party of 900 allegedly intoxicated anarchists from Paterson, NJ attempt unsuccessfully to take control of the ship. | 1503—Death of Pope Alexander VI, host of the infamous Ballet of the Chestnuts, whose entertainments included fifty naked prostitutes writhing on the floor. | 1599—The Chief of the Acoma pueblo, asked why he will not accept baptism before he is burned to death by Spanish Conquistadors, says it is because "I would go to the Christian heaven and meet even more of you people." | 1910—Above the Sheepshead Bay racetrack in New York, Lt. Jacob E. Fickel pulls the trigger on the first gunshot from an airplane. | 1762—Lady Mary Wortley Montagu utters her last words, "It has all been very interesting." | 1821—A widow and eleven girls in Virginia are ordered sold for 120 pounds of tobacco each. | 1305—For rebelling against His Majesty, King Edward, William Wallace is hanged, cut down while alive, disembowelled, then killed by beheading. His corpse is quartered and his head displayed on a pike. | | | | | |
| 1807—In New York City, Bob Fulton sets out in the steamboat <i>Clermont</i> , destination Albany. | 1807—In New York City, Bob Fulton sets out in the steamboat <i>Clermont</i> , destination Albany. | 1503—Death of Pope Alexander VI, host of the infamous Ballet of the Chestnuts, whose entertainments included fifty naked prostitutes writhing on the floor. | 1904—Miners seize the town of Cripple Creek, Colo., and deport town officials. | 1831—Nat Turner leads a slave rebellion in Virginia. | 565—St. Columba spots a monster in Scotland's Loch Ness. | 79—On the Feast Day of Vulcan, God of Fire, Mt. Vesuvius begins to rumble. | | | | | |
| 12:01 12:29 | 12:37 1:03 | 1:15 1:39 | 1:55 2:18 | 2:29 3:00 | 3:27 3:48 | 4:20 4:41 | | | | | |
| 6:16 6:23 | 6:50 7:02 | 7:25 7:43 | 8:04 8:27 | 8:45 9:15 | 6:30 10:08 | 10:20 11:06 | | | | | |



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