

The Fortnightly Rant

Sewage By Another Name

More than a few New Hampshire residents will be facing the question this winter of whether to eat or be warm. According to the free market theory which is so popular these days, they should have made better choices in life.

Those admirable folks who *did* make better choices are also facing a question: where to put all the surplus wealth their wisdom and discipline earned them.

Some of those wise and worthy folks have decided to invest that money right here in New Hampshire. You won't find these individuals strolling our sidewalks with their pockets stuffed with cash, leaving leafy green trails of Benjamins behind them, though. That would be too much like work. And it might serve as a disincentive to others in their own quest for wisdom. These warm and well-fed people would prefer to pay others to spend that extra cabbage—in ways that will pay dividends, of course.

And since the free market, in its infinite wisdom, responds to demands with a corresponding supply, there are people standing ready to put that excess money to good use. Rick Berman and Dave Carney, to name two.

Meet Dr. Evil

How does a man earn a nickname like "Dr. Evil?"

Rick Berman did it by creating a front organization telling children and pregnant women that it's safe to eat fish laced with mercury—and collecting big fees from corporations peddling species of fish known to contain high levels of mercury.

Before performing that public service, Berman fought for the right of smokers to light up in restaurants—and collected big fees from tobacco companies.

Between those two jobs, Berman kept his hand in by publishing a newsletter singing the praises of Uniroyal's apple pesticide Alar. "According to the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]," Berman's newsletter said, "one would have to eat 50,000 pounds of apples a day over a lifetime to contract cancer from Alar."

After an EPA spokesperson disputed the quotation, Berman admitted that the statement had not come from the EPA, but from Uniroyal—as did his fee.

Berman is assisted in the performance of these marvelous works by a series of façades, the innermost being Berman & Co., a Washington, DC "public affairs" firm, with offices at 1775 Pennsylvania Avenue, about a quarter-mile northwest of the

White House.

Though Berman & Co. works in "public affairs," its workings are private—it does not release the names of its clients. Happily SourceWatch.org* fills that gap by maintaining a list of corporations "linked to Berman & Co. in news reports and other public documents." It reads like a Who's Who of gastronomical calamities: Arby's, Burger King, Chili's, Hooter's, Luby's, Olive Garden, Outback Steakhouse, Red Lobster, Shoney's, and Wendy's, to name but a few.

Berman's next layer of defense is a non-profit organization called the Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF). Presumably "Shill For Hire" was already taken. Berman started this public-spirited outfit in 1995, under the name Guest Choice Network. Using a million dollars from the tobacco company Philip Morris, Guest Choice was designed to "motivate restaurant owners to aggressively fight smoking restrictions while appearing to be acting on their own," according to SourceWatch.

While selling this scam to Philip Morris, Berman pointed out that the "American Beverage Institute, which opposes overly aggressive DWI laws," used the same *modus operandi*. And no wonder—it is another of Berman's creations. Whenever anyone tries to lower the legal blood alcohol limit, or hold bars accountable for drunk drivers, ABI is there to fight them—on the alcohol industry's dime.

According to Sourcewatch.com, "CCF's 2005 IRS return states that Berman works 23 hours a week for the group for which he is paid \$18,000."

If you do the math, that's \$782 an hour, or \$936,000 per year. And that's just from CCF. Somehow, busy Mr. Berman also finds time to be the Executive Director of the Employment Policies Institute (EPI).

As SourceWatch puts it, "EPI has been widely quoted in [mainstream] news stories regarding minimum wage issues, and although a few of those stories have correctly described it as a 'think tank financed by business,' most stories fail to provide

* SourceWatch.org bills itself as "your [online] guide to the names behind the news." On its "About" page, it says it is "a collaborative project of the Center for Media and Democracy to produce a directory of the people, organizations and issues shaping the public agenda ... documenting the PR and propaganda activities of public relations firms and public relations professionals engaged in managing and manipulating public perception, opinion and policy ... SourceWatch has a policy of strict referencing, and is overseen by a paid editor."



any identification that would enable readers to identify the vested interests behind its pronouncements. Instead, it is usually described exactly the way it describes itself, as a 'non-profit research organization dedicated to studying public policy issues surrounding employment growth' that 'focuses on issues that affect entry-level employment.'

"In reality, EPI's mission is to keep the minimum wage low so Berman's clients can continue to pay their workers as little as possible."

According to SourceWatch, EPI's tax return for 2000 said it "received \$1,163,248 in income for the year, most of which (\$940,593) came from 17 anonymous donors. Of that amount, \$717,812 went to Berman & Co. for 'management services,' and another \$165,766 in salary and benefits went to Rick Berman personally. Comparable figures appear in EPI's Form 990 for previous years."

Berman's latest version of this lucrative scam—and our excuse for lambasting him in this rant—is his Center for Union Facts (CUF), and an offshoot, the Employee Freedom Action Committee (EFAC).

Astute readers will have already surmised that the purpose of these alleged organizations is to lie about labor. The specific bone of contention in this case is the Employee Free Choice Act, which would liberalize [!] the rules for unionizing workplaces. The bill has passed the House, but is stalled in the Senate. Naturally George W. Bush has promised, in the unlikely event it did pass the Senate, to veto the bill.

In fact, the likelihood of this legislation ever taking effect seems so remote that we wonder

if the real cause for all the furor is simply that it provides an excuse for Berman and others of his ilk to send another bill to their usual clients.

In a \$5 million television ad campaign, Berman's EFAC claims that "Jeanne Shaheen is doing labor union bosses' dirty work ... [and] supporting a law to strip workers of their fundamental right to a private ballot vote on the job."

Bad as Berman's ads are, another by the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace (CDW) is even worse. CDW is a front for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Industry Leaders Association, and Associated Builders and Contractors—three national trade groups that share an anti-union agenda.

In real life Jeanne Shaheen is likely a familiar sight to her Madbury neighbors, perhaps pushing a baby carriage with her sixth grandchild in it. But she's running against Republican incumbent John Sununu for the Senate. She's got a chance of winning. And Republicans are desperate to preserve their ability to block legislation in the Senate. So, New Hampshire television viewers are seeing Shaheen her through CDW's prism.

It's not a pretty picture. The ad uses Vincent Curatola, who played the mobster John "Johnny Sack" Sacramoni in HBO's *The Sopranos*, to imply that labor unions are corrupt and Shaheen is a front-woman for the Mob. If Curatola is a member of the Sons of Italy, this ad ought to get him thrown out on his ear.

Now that we've heard from Big Business, what does a real pro-worker organization, American Rights At Work (www.americanrightsatwork.org) think?

"Contrary to the lies and distortions ... the Employee Free Choice Act does not take secret ballots away from workers. The legislation instead offers employees an alternative to the current, broken system that is slanted heavily in favor of management against workers. In fact, the bill would ensure that workers can choose their own union formation process, either through majority sign-up or a National Labor Relations Board election."

Also pitching in to throw sand in the public's eyes this election cycle is Americans for Job Security (AJS). Registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(6) trade association, it is tax exempt. It's allowed to take part in political campaigns, so long as that is not its primary activity. In fact, spending millions in political campaigns appears to be its only activity, but the IRS and Justice Department don't seem to have noticed.

An Apology

There is more to this sordid story; and we may have to revisit it at some future date, although we don't look forward to it. After wading for days through such an unending stream of deception, it all starts to seem like the same ... raw sewage.

Working with our Starving Artist, Mike Dater, trying to sum the topic up visually, we ended up with the drawing above. As press time approaches, we don't have time enough to substitute anything else. But we began to wonder if we were doing the right thing—if we're being fair.

Pumping out septic systems may not be glamorous, and probably doesn't pay all that well; but it is useful, honest work.

We apologize for comparing that with what Rick Berman does.

News Briefs

[Yet] Another Fine Mess

The war that blew up between Russia and Georgia two weeks ago, and now threatens to draw in Poland and the U.S., got us to wondering: how different, if at all, is the team of George W. Bush and Dick "Dick" Cheney, from that of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy?

The similarities can't be denied. Put bowlers on their heads. The pompous, rotund Cheney instantly becomes the badgering, conceited Hardy. Clip a bow tie under Bush's face, and there's the silly, mugging Stan Laurel.

The big difference, of course, is that in their films the two stars would eventually realize that whatever idiotic scheme they'd been trying to pull off had failed miserably, thanks to their own bungling. (That, and the fact that they never killed anybody that we know of, and Oliver Hardy never shot an old friend in the face with a shotgun.)

There's a more subtle difference as well. At that critical point, in every film, Hardy would

inevitably whine at Laurel, "Here's another fine mess you've gotten us into." We just can't picture Cheney sputtering impotently at George W. Bush. It's easy, though, to picture them—with their physical proportions reversed—as Two Stooges, with Cheney taking the Moe Howard role, heaping physical and verbal abuse upon Bush as Curly.

Call us paranoid, but continuing in that metaphorical frame of mind we found it interesting that Condoleezza Rice visited Georgia just one month before things started going "boom" over there.

It reminded us of 1990, when U.S. Ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie sat down with Saddam Hussein and Tariq Aziz on July 25, 1990, and eight days later Hussein invaded Iraq.

The official version of course, is that the innocent Georgians were minding their own business when those danged Russkies attacked. It's so much simpler to report it that way; it fits the Bush administration's favorite meta-



phor: now that Saddam's been hanged, George's two-faced ex-pal Vladimir can play the role of Hitler, Georgia gets to be the Sudetenland, and Barack Obama is Neville Chamberlain.

Most of the facts are at odds with that narrative, but this is America: the handy narrative always trumps the facts when the mainstream media is dealing.

Cold Comfort

Anyone who still doubts that the Bush administration values image and perceived propaganda value over substance need only consider the case of the U.S.N.S. Comfort, the Baltimore-based hospital ship.

According to the Baltimore Sun's David Wood, the crew of the Comfort was told about ten days ago to be ready to sail for Georgia on August 17. They were still scrambling when they were told the date had been put off to the 20th, then again to the 22nd. When the 20th arrived, they



From Our Files: Then-Presidential Candidate Sen. John Edwards (D-NC) at the Portsmouth VFW hall on Deer Street, on January 25, 2004, setting out his priorities.

were told the mission was off. Before the alert the ship was on "Reduced Operating Status," with only a small cadre on board. It would have taken two to five weeks of sailing to arrive. And the Turkish government hadn't

given—and might not give—the required permission for the ship to pass through the Dardanelles. So what was all the fuss about? A "senior U.S. official" told the Sun's Wood it was "the image of that big white ship' coming to the rescue."

Perle Gets His Erle

First of all, oil and gas and the BTC pipeline crossing Georgia had nothing to do with any of the above-mentioned shenanigans—just put that thought right out of your mind.

Now that that's been established, we'll mention here belatedly that the Wall Street Journal reported July 29 that Richard Perle, a signer of the famous January 1998 letter advocating the overthrow of Saddam Hussein and chair of the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee from 2001 to 2003, has been engaged in talks with Iraqi officials and a Turkish company about a plan to drill for oil near Erbil, a town in



The Flag Police were wandering one rare, fine day over towards the western end of the Rock Pasture, when they suddenly realized that this wooden simulacrum of Old Glory appeared to have a few too many component parts, to wit: five extra stripes. Evidence was obtained instantly, and Googling ensued. The verdict: while an 18 stripe flag was authorized circa 1817, it also had 18 stars arranged in five rows. This flag-like assemblage has but thirteen, in a circle. It is, therefore, duly busted.

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northern Iraq. He has also been involved in oil-related talks, said the *Journal*, with relevant parties in Kazakhstan.

Random Recent Weather

For the record, during a brief period about 2:00 p.m. on Friday August 8, the sun shone on Market Square—though that did not prevent a light rain from falling. The air was clammy; it felt a bit cool if you were sitting still, but too warm if you moved.

Saturday morning, we got a little more sunshine, with scattered threats of rain from the weatherman. Sunday brought unconfirmed reports of sunshine in Conway and Hillsborough.

Tuesday saw another brief period of sunshine in Portsmouth—for about an hour. Thursday wasn't bad, and Friday morning the sun shone when the tall ships came in, but Saturday afternoon was wet and quite wild.

Sunday the 17th was lovely. Then early Wednesday morning the mercury dropped to just one degree upwards of the 40's.

This is normal?

Peace Poetry Reading and Exhibit, August 25,

August 25 at 7 pm, Poetry for Peace at the Portsmouth Public



The Piscataqua's own "short tall ship" the Edward H. Adams, a 70 foot gundalow, joined the tall ships Friendship and the Roseway, at the State Pier this past fortnight.

Library, 175 Parrott Ave. A poetry reading along with an exhibit of photographs and information concerning the atom bomb attacks on Japan in August 1945. Poets reading their work include John-Michael Albert, Neil English and Maren Tirabassi. Attendees may bring a short poem on peace to read during a twenty-minute open reading period. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored

by Seacoast Peace Response. For more information contact Lee Roberts at 431-0448, e-mail lnr4@verizon.net.

Gracie's:

Breakfast 'Til 2:00 p.m.

There must be people in this world who are indifferent to diners. We just don't know any. If you are such a person, you can skip this item. For the rest of us, good news: Gracie's Diner is open for business.

Gracie's is on Deer Street, alongside Gary's Beverage, where, before extensive renovations occurred, Gepetto's Pizza used to be, and Foodie's before that, and, back beyond living memory, the B&M Railroad station. That, we suddenly realized, and the ample area of free parking a perfect location for a diner, on both practical and socio-historical grounds.

The sense of rightness carries over into the interior: counter and stools, pie stands on the counter, thick coffee mugs—all the accoutrements. Wire rack with newspapers? Check. Once-read papers left on the counter so the next customer can read them? Check. A few booths and

tables for four? Check.

A couple of things are a little non-traditional. The space is wider than your typical diner, so the layout of the place is more spacious than usual. There's no jukebox, but music is playing: Johnny Cash, Tom Waits ... diner music. *Good* diner music.

Here and there the walls sport old tin signs, but one large wall holds a show of fifteen or twenty nice big framed photos of famous musicians taken by local legend Joe Stevens.

And the food? All the rest is mere *persiflage* if the food's not right. The coffee's good, the eggs

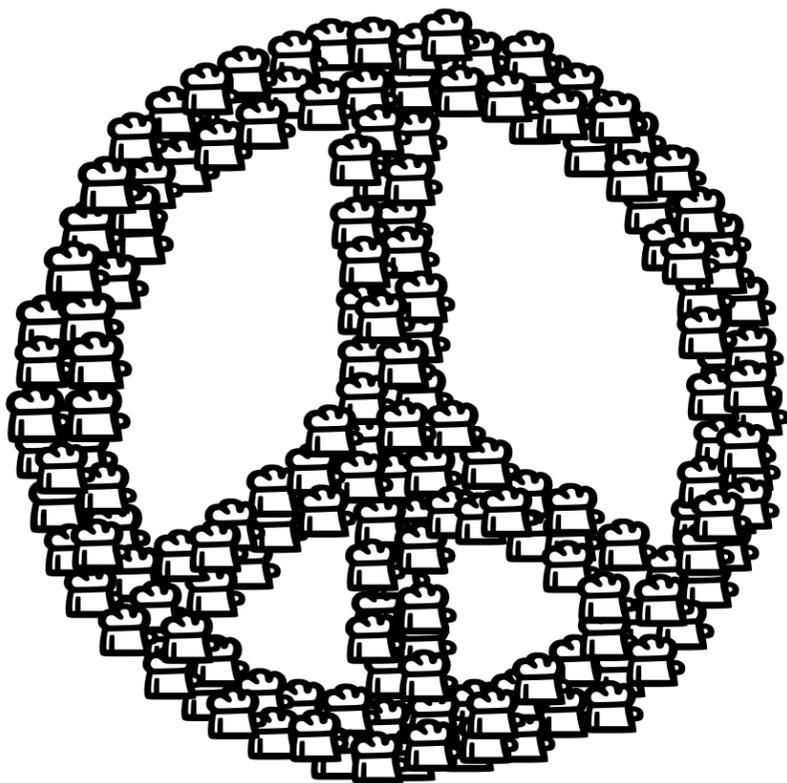
are fresh, the toast is done to order, the home fries are tasty, with a touch of green and red peppers. And the bacon? Ahh ... the bacon.

Our theory on bacon has always been, if you're going to eat bacon, you might as well eat *bacon*. Our revised theory on bacon is that if you're going to eat bacon, you might as well go to Gracie's.

The proprietors are Jon and Jill Ury. The place is named after Jon's maternal grandmother Gracie Donovan. And they proudly serve Moxie, the world's greatest soda.



Above: The Friendship, home-ported in Salem, proceeding in stately fashion up the Piscataqua on a rare, fair Friday morning, August 15. Below: With all that rain, there had to be mushrooms somewhere.



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



Moving Pictures

Tropic Thunder

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Ben Stiller, Robert Downey, Jr., Jack Black, Nick Nolte, Jay Baruchel, Brandon T. Jackson, Steve Coogan, Tom Cruise, Matthew McConaughey, Danny McBride; **Screenplay:** Ben Stiller, Justin Theroux, Etan Cohen; **Director:** Ben Stiller; **Rating:** [R]

Tropic Thunder, a tasteless and frequently hilarious paean to performance anxiety, should have been the most absurd and revolting event of the summer of 2008. Instead our lame duck president, misty-eyed from being an Olympic cheerleader, let Vlad "The Invader" Putin make him his bee-atch, and then confirmed his do-it-to-me-big-boy position by saying, quote, "He (Putin) has been very truthful and to men, that's the only way to find common ground." Huh? So it seems that fiction remains incapable of trumping reality, even when you put Robert Downey, Jr. in black-face and coat his baritone with

essence of Barry White by way of Australia. Or let Tom Cruise steal the movie from under an avalanche of make-up that makes him fat, bald, and big-nosed in a bad way.

The premise is simple and cunningly effective. A group of pathetically insecure actors are transported to Southeast Asia, where they will play rip-snorting Vietnam-era combat heroes in the movie adaptation of *Tropic Thunder*, a supposedly autobiographical tale written by Nick Nolte's character, who lost both hands in the war. Sort of *Apolocalypse Then*, with the clueless, much-put-upon Steve Coogan replacing Coppola as the never-in-control director. When Coogan's character allows his lead actor (Stiller) to call "cut" at precisely the wrong moment, a four million dollar explosion goes un-filmed. The oops! moment is taken very seriously by studio boss Les Grossman (Tom Cruise), who threatens to shut down the production and personally eviscerate the entire cast and crew

unless they get back on track.

The director, prompted by Nolte's character, decides to drop the pampered actors into a real jungle and film them guerilla style, in hopes that scaring them to death will register as real terror on the big screen. Everything goes according to plan for about thirty-five seconds, and that's when the tasteless fun really begins.

Stiller's character, a fading action star named Tugg Speedman, is ripped, with Rambo biceps and abs of steel, but he's desperate to make his mark as a "real" actor like co-star Kirk Lazarus, the Australian wunderkind who has won five Oscars and is famous for immersing himself so deeply in each role that he has no idea who he really is. Downey's performance is so over-the-top strange—he's virtually unrecognizable—that it somehow rings true. Plus, someone else (Jack Black) gets to play the pathetic heroin addict. Black's character, Jeff Portnoy, has made a fortune as a flatulent comedian who plays

all the gas-charged roles in his very successful whoopie-cushion movies (think Eddie Murphy without the necessity of a fat suit) and who now wants to be taken seriously, as a tough-talking combat sergeant. Needless to say his dignity is stripped away almost immediately, as he's desperately trying to suck blood from the bat who ate his stash of heroin. The two lesser known but high skilled actors starring in the "bungle in the jungle" disaster are Jay Baruchel, whom some viewers may recognize from *Numbers*, and Brandon T. Jackson, playing hip hop artist Alpa Chino, who is trying a little too hard to get in touch with his masculinity.

Tropic Thunder has generated controversy, not for Downey's bizarre performance in black-face (think Russell Crowe tarted up with shoe polish and a Jim Brown Afro-Wig) but because a crucial plot element revolves around Tugg Speedman's previous performance as "Simple Jack," a heart-warming, mentally

retarded character who failed to win him an Oscar nomination. Downey's character tells Stiller's character the sad news: he failed to win a nomination because he made the mistake of going "full retard," like Sean Penn in *I Am Sam*, instead of "smart retard," like Dustin Hoffman in *Rain Man*. That line, presumably is one of the seventeen uses of the word "retard" cited by ARC, the Association for Retarded Citizens, who have advocated boycotting the movie after seeing trailers and outtakes of Stiller playing his *Simple Jack* character.

Some viewers, whatever their IQ, will be offended. Others will find the joke pretty much in the context of wild, self-insulting comedy about spoiled-but-insecure actors who will go to any length to win an award. As your friends at Fox News keep suggesting, you decide.

Meanwhile your reviewer is going full Mensa, which can be way less dignified than mere mental retardation. Just ask Vlad.

More Hate Mail, &c.

from page seven

To meet this problem, Congresswoman Shea-Porter has introduced legislation to provide emergency funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Without this assistance, many low and moderate income families in New Hampshire will be unable to keep their homes properly heated. Thanks to Congresswoman Shea-Porter for her quick response to a problem that could seriously impact so many. She truly represents "the bottom 99 percent—the rest of us."

Salme Perry
Rollinsford, NH

Believe in Jeanne

To the Editor:

The last weeks of August used to mean the final days of summer. Since John Sununu has been in the office, however, these last weeks of vacation are a new source of anxiety for my family and me. The end of summer now means the start of a school year we cannot afford.

While the cost of college continues to soar, John Sununu voted to make the biggest budget cut to student loans in U.S. history. College seniors here in New Hampshire have to pay off the second highest debt in the country, but John Sununu voted to reduce Pell Grants 13 times.

As a parent, I'm doing my job,

but John Sununu is not doing his. Affordable college education should be an attainable goal for all of our children who seek to achieve it.

Jeanne Shaheen has a step by step plan to solve the college tuition crisis. She believes in relieving the burden of student debt. She offers alternatives for paying back student loans. She will make higher education an accessible reality. Just as she did when she served as our governor, Jeanne Shaheen is committed to making education a priority.

I believe in education, and I believe in Jeanne Shaheen. This fall, I'm voting for a new direction in Washington, and a better direction here in New Hamp-

shire. I'm excited to lend my support to Jeanne Shaheen.

Randy Tallent
Exeter, NH

George W. Bush and The Texas Rangers

To the Editor:

Your brief synopsis [Aug. 8] of Bush's fortune-making with the Texas Rangers omits many significant and damning details. Bush purchased a 1.8 percent stake in the Texas Rangers with \$666,000 of borrowed money in 1989. In 1998, just before the team was sold, Bush's partners awarded him stock that increased his stake to 12 percent. At this point he was the sitting Governor of Texas and had been so

since 1994 and would continue so until 2000. Thus he was bribed by his partners.

Moreover, not only was property siezed by eminent domain for private use, but the Texas Rangers offered only half the assessed value of one 13 acre parcel to be used for parking. When the owners rejected the offer, the land was condemned by the state. The owners sued and were awarded \$4,000,000 in compensation by a jury.

Consider what might have happened had the jury trial gone otherwise. The appeals might have landed in the Supreme Court and Bush would have been saddled with the onus of confiscating private property for

What's going on at Two Ceres?



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The Ceres Street • **Mojitos:** Classic; Pineapple; Coconut; Pomegranate • **Caipirinhas:** Classic; Brazilian Rose • **Beer:** Amstel Light; Coors Light; El Presidente; Stella Artois; Leffe; Hoegaarden; Peak Organic Nut Ale; Redbridge; Old Brown Dog; Fuller ESB; Erdinger Dark; Guinness • **Non-Alcoholic:** Clausthaler; Voss Sparkling Water; Voss Still Water • **White Wine:** Ruffino Pinot Grigio; Martin Codax Albarino; Erath Pinot Gris; Terra Buena Chardonnay; Wild Horse Chardonnay; Relax Riesling; Clean Slate Riesling • **Red Wine:** Hob Nob Pinot Noir; Terra Buena Tempranillo; Orleans Hill Cote Zero (organic); 14 Hands Merlot; Tilia Malbec; Archetype Shiraz; Our Daily Red (Organic) • **Indulge:** Domaine Chandon Brut; Miounetto Il Prosecco; Henkell Trocken Sparkling; Hardy's Sparkling Shiraz; Martin Weyrich Moscato; Campbell's Muscat Dessert

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Northcountry Chronicle

Chance of Showers

by William Marvel

I've been trying to paint my house for the past few weeks. Each morning I awaken to mist or rain, so I stumble around looking for something I can do indoors. After two or three hours, the rain will stop and the haze will brighten, convincing me to change into my paint-splattered clothing, climb the staging, and start wielding a brush. Soon, though, the skies darken again and a sudden shower washes half an hour's work down the side of the house, leaving a streaky, sticky mess that I will have to repaint a day or two hence, when that wall has dried a little.

It seems like a month or more since a full day has passed without at least some rain, and many of those days have included endless hours of drizzle or toad-strangling downpours. Perhaps someone has already considered this, but the past eight months must have seen more precipita-

tion than any other eight-month span in the past half-century. All that moisture from the melting ice caps has to go somewhere, I suppose, and ours is among the handier spots in the northern hemisphere.

Taking a lesson from my unusually even-tempered wife, I've been practicing looking on the bright side of things. For instance, after two weeks of rain I commented frequently on how lush the garden looked; the tomatoes seemed to thrive particularly. I also observed that we might not have to worry so much about conserving water this fall—for the first time since a tidal wave of development drove hundreds of well shafts into the bony soil around Davis Hill.

Now, after four weeks of rain, those same tomato plants appear to be rotting where they stand. My spring may still be overflowing, but my cellar smells as damp and musty as a vampire dormitory. The new retractable

clothesline, which I mounted on the rose-garden fence after years of hearing my wife wish for one, now serves only as a rinsing station for clothing that I have to bring back into the house between showers and hang on a folding rack.

Our resident dishwasher and lawn mower returned from a lengthy absence to find the grass so high we had to outfit her mower with one of those fiberglass bicycle whips with a fluorescent-orange flag on top of it, so we could see where she was when it came time to call her in for lunch. She found a healthy crop of mushrooms out in the field, and we're considering whether local restaurants might not want to start serving them. We're waiting for her brother's next visit, so he can taste-test them for us.

The monsoons have added significantly to our work load. We have to wring both cats out twice a day now (and much more often, if they go outside), in addition to

cleaning their litter boxes. Before sweeping the kitchen floor in the evening we first have to scrape the mildew off the walls, and when I moved the staging around to the north side of the house I found a healthy veneer of lichen growing on the clapboards. We bought some knee-high rubber boots, to keep the leeches off our legs as we waded out to the compost. My wife insists on bicycling to work whenever it might be feasible, but after her last trip home she decided it was time to invest in a snorkel to help her navigate the heavier storms.

My books are so damp and swollen that they are bursting the sides off the bookcases. The screech of the snapping wood woke me late the other night, and as I tried

to go back to sleep I could hear a steady "bonk, bonk, bonk" in the distance. In my rain gear I slogged out into the field toward the apparent source of the sound, and what should I find but my neighbor, hammering by the glow of his yard light at the planks of a massive wooden structure that dwarfed his house. By a bolt of lightning I could see that it looked exactly like a gargantuan canal boat.



With my curiosity satisfied I felt I could return to bed and try to sleep, but the next-door project left me troubled.

I made a mental note to check whether he had obtained a building permit for so big a project in a residential zone, or a license to keep all the exotic animals that were milling around on top of it.

private purposes rather than the town of Groton, CT several years later. George Will called this a triumph of liberalism. In Texas it was a triumph of fascism.

All this info is contained in Joe Conason's cover article for *Harp-er's* February 2000 issue: "The George W. Bush Success Story."

This story was ignored by the mainstream media. So were my personal attempts to call it to their attention.

Charles Valentine
Nashua, NH

Charles:

It's so hard to encompass the true depths of George W. Bush's character. We thank you for adding these details, which are indeed damning. As if he needed any more of that.

The Editor

Nice Work On The Shipyard, Carol

To the Editor:

Hats off to Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter's stunning legislative work for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard with the appropriation of nearly \$10 million to build a Consolidated Global Submarine Component facility. The funding will provide a major naval storage facility for submarine parts at the Portsmouth Shipyard, acknowledged to be one of the finest facilities for submarine repair in the country. Shea-Porter, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, representing New Hampshire's First Congressional District, was also successful in securing an additional \$1.45 mil-

lion for a "Waterfront Support Facility." This will mean that the highly skilled workforce at the Shipyard will be engaged in repairing and "tuning-up" Virginia Class submarines in the foreseeable future.

Thanks to Shea-Porter's legislative expertise, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, which has undergone threats of closure over the past decade, will continue to provide jobs for New Hampshire and security for the nation.

When Shea-Porter wins, New Hampshire wins.

Betsy Shultis
Portsmouth, NH

Betsy:

You said it, thereby sparing us the effort. Thanks.

The Editor

Stuart J. Hollander, Esq.
Saving the Family Cottage
A Guide to Succession Planning for your Cottage, Cabin, Camp or Vacation Home

Whether you are a parent planning to pass on the 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.

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Portsmouth's Cable TV Contract

To the Editor:

I offer this correction to the article titled "A Truly Comcast! Decision" in the News Briefs section of the August 8, 2008 edition: the article states "Comcast gets the exclusive right to provide cable TV in Portsmouth."

In fact, the franchise agreement between Comcast and the city is non-exclusive. Section 2.1(a) "grants a non-exclusive Franchise to Comcast ... to construct, upgrade, operate and maintain a Cable System within the municipal limits of the City of Portsmouth." Moreover, cable TV franchise agreements are required to be non-exclusive under New Hampshire state law (RSA 53-C:3-b).

Disclaimers: Although I am a member of Portsmouth's Cable Television and Communications Commission, I write here in my



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personal capacity and not on behalf of the Commission or the City of Portsmouth. Although my last name is Gregg, I am unrelated to Commission Chair John Gregg (and neither of us is related to the Senator).

Brian W. Gregg, Esq.
Portsmouth, NH

Brian:

Thanks for that important correction. Perhaps the Gazette will open up a cable arm and compete!

The Editor

Time to Retire Sununu

To the Editor:

New Hampshire college students graduate with the second highest average debt of any state in the nation. Apparently, Senator John Sununu didn't get that news. In 2005, he voted for the biggest cut to student loans ever—over \$12.7 billion.

This is the same John Sununu that voted this June to protect \$17 billion in tax breaks for oil and gas companies. He thinks oil and gas companies need our tax dollars more than New Hampshire college students.

I'm ready for a senator who puts New Hampshire ahead of oil and gas companies and their record profits. It's high time we retired John Sununu.

E. Abernethy
Jaffrey, NH

Don't Take the Bait!

To the Editor:

I recently received an e-mail claiming that Barack Obama is not a legal citizen of the United States. It rambled on about how old his mother was when he was born. These assertions are completely false and designed to play into the worst kind of stereotypes. The age of his mother is not an issue. He was born in Hawaii of an American citizen; therefore, Barack Obama is a naturally born American citizen. You can see Barack Obama's birth certificate for yourself and

help push back with the truth at: <http://my.barackobama.com/fightthesmears>.

I am sickened by the smear campaign that the Republican party is waging against the Democratic nominees. It is smear and fear tactics, and is totally UN-AMERICAN!!

Do not fall for this nastiness ... the spawn of Karl Rove ... the real "evil-doer."

I am also shocked that John McCain is allowing the Republican attack machine to use these tactics. Rove used them on him in the 2000 campaign, claiming that his adopted daughter of color was a black child born out of wedlock. That trick lost McCain the nomination to the abomination of George W. Bush, who has ruined this country, and has compromised our Constitution. McCain may have had a chance to be a good president then, but he sold his soul when he went on to support Bush and his agenda to ruin America. That is not leadership, that is follower-ship.

Thanks for being intelligent Americans who think for themselves, and don't swallow the hook, line and sinker!

Barbara A. Brockelman
Stratham, NH

August Angst

To the Editor:

The last weeks of August used to mean the final days of summer. Since John Sununu has been in office, these last weeks of vacation are a new source of anxiety for my family and me. The end of summer now means the start of a school year we cannot afford.

While the cost of college continues to soar, John Sununu voted to make the biggest budget cut to student loans in U.S. history. My daughter is one of the lucky ones, however, many of her friends have not received financial aid and will not be able to return to school this fall. I say that my daughter is lucky because

even though she has to pay more than last year, she can return to finish her senior year, but her financial aid is adding to the high amount of loan that she already carries. College seniors here in New Hampshire have to pay off the second highest debt in the country, but John Sununu voted to reduce Pell Grants 13 times.

As a parent, I'm doing my job, but John Sununu is not doing his. To help finance school, my daughter and her friends are working 20-40 hours a week while trying to keep up with classes. Affordable college education should be an attainable goal for all of our children who seek to achieve it. Every night I see in the news that America is falling further behind in the global job market. What can we expect when many of our college students are forced to put their dreams on hold because they can't afford to attend college?

Jeanne Shaheen has a step-by-step plan to solve the college tuition crisis. She believes in relieving the burden of student debt. She offers alternatives for paying back student loans. She will make higher education an accessible reality. Just as she did when she served as our governor, Jeanne Shaheen is committed to making education a priority.

I believe in education, and I believe in Jeanne Shaheen. This fall, I'm voting for a new direction in Washington, and a better direction here in New Hampshire. I'm excited to lend my support to Jeanne Shaheen.

Norma Armentrout
Epping, NH

Bush's Buddy John

To the Editor:

A recent study from the Government Accountability Office shows an absolutely astounding fact: more than 60 percent of U.S.

corporations pay no income tax! This is the result of seven years of George Bush's economic policies that put corporate profits above all else, but Bush hasn't done it alone. John Sununu has helped Bush enact these disastrous economic policies at every turn.

Sununu voted with Bush to protect offshore tax loopholes to help corporations evade paying taxes. He voted for all of Bush's budgets, putting us over \$9 trillion in debt. And he even voted against using Iraqi oil profits to pay for reconstruction—they're sitting on a cool \$80 billion right now, by the way.

With John Sununu's help, George Bush has succeeded in enacting his entire economic agenda—and look where it's gotten us. If you want to keep going down this road, Sununu is your man. If you want a change in direction, vote for a change.

Al Farnell
Salem, NH

Our Vets Need a VA Hospital

To the Editor:

The VA healthcare system has long served as a safety net for America's veterans. Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter recently introduced legislation that would restore the Manchester Veterans Affairs Medical Center to a full-service hospital. Without this legislation, New Hampshire would remain the only state in the continental U.S. that does not have a full-service hospital.

In stark contrast, Senator John McCain, the standard bearer of the Republican Party, proposed a fundamental public policy shift that would remove the safety net and eliminate any chance the Manchester VAMC would be restored as a full-service hospital. At a town hall meeting in Dover, he asserted that as President he would "concentrate" Department

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And Other Correspondence

of Veterans Affairs care on those who suffered injuries that "are a direct result of combat."

This presents a dilemma for State Senator Joe Kenney, of Wakefield. Senator Kenney, the Republican candidate running for Governor, has made veteran's healthcare a major platform of his campaign. Senator Kenney, will you denounce John McCain's position on VA healthcare? Or are you going to abandon your fellow veterans, as John McCain has, and hide in his coattails this November?

Being a veteran does not automatically mean you are an advocate of veterans issues. John McCain, a decorated war hero, is a quintessential example of this. Senator Kenney, if you really support New Hampshire veterans, stand up to Senator McCain and tell him he is wrong in his desire to concentrate the VA healthcare system.

Joshua David Denton
VoteVets.org New Hampshire State Team Captain
Portsmouth, NH

Money Changes Everything

To the Editor:
Money changes everything. Just ask Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter. In the Democratic presidential primary, New Hampshire voters picked Senator Hillary Clinton as their choice for president. They preferred her by 112,251 votes to 104,772. In District 1, which Ms. Shea-Porter represents in Congress, the margin was even more decisive. Voters there chose Senator Clinton over Senator Obama by 7,902 votes! Yet Ms. Shea-Porter endorsed Barack Obama for president. Data retrieved at www.opensecrets.org reveals that Congresswoman Shea-Porter received \$11,500 in PAC money from Senator Obama's Hope

Fund but only \$2,500 from Hillary Clinton's Hillpac fund. It appears that money spoke louder than the voice of the people that the congresswoman represents.

If you want your voice to be heard and your vote counted, call or write to Congresswoman Shea-Porter now and let her know you expect her to cast her vote for Hillary Clinton at the Democratic Convention in Denver. We do not have a nominee until the roll call vote takes place at the convention. Do it now!

Contact info: Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, 33 Lowell Street, Manchester, NH 03101; (603) 641-9536, www.shea-porter.house.gov.

Carol Cross
Atlanta, GA
Carol:

Thanks so much for writing all the way from Atlanta to tell us New Hampshire voters what to do, and why. Let us reciprocate by suggesting that you read up on the principle of elective representation.

Voters elect Congress members, and Congress members vote as they see fit. If the voters disapprove, they vote the member out in the next election. If Congress members were supposed to tally up and mimic all the votes of their constituents, we could replace them with some kind of digital whizbang.

You want us to believe that Congresswoman Shea-Porter was swayed by a lousy \$9,000 differential in the support from two candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination. We've watched her career so far from a much closer viewpoint than yours. We think your telescope lens needs cleaning.

It's seems far more likely to us that you're a meddlesome out-of-state Republican trying to have some fun at our expense.

From Georgia, eh? Say "Hi" to Newt Gingrich!
The Editor

Robin Read for State Rep.

To the editor:
With very few contested races on New Hampshire's September 9 primary ballot, the election has received very little media attention. Consequently, voter turnout is expected to be very low, thus making each vote more important in the races that are competitive. The only truly competitive election on Portsmouth's ballot is for state representative. Eight candidates are running for seven Democratic nominations to represent Portsmouth and Newington in the Legislature. Six of the eight are incumbents.

I'm writing in support of Robin Read's candidacy for state representative. I've worked with Robin on recent campaigns and can vouch for his commitment to meaningful social change. He's been active in important Portsmouth and Seacoast issues for over 30 years going back to his participation in the long fight against the Seabrook nuclear power plant. Robin continued his work on environmental issues as a member of the legislature from Portsmouth and Newington in the 1980s. More recently he co-ordinated renewable energy and energy efficiency programs in the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services.

Robin is also a former member of the board of directors of the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union and is a strong supporter of women's reproductive rights.

The New Hampshire Legislature will be addressing many serious issues in the upcoming years, including legislation related to the environment, education, and health care. I hope Robin will be one of our state representatives when the Legislation meets in its next session.

I urge you to join me in voting for Robin Read in the NH primary on September 9, 2008.

Joan Jacobs
Portsmouth, NH



Cold Winter Coming

To the Editor:
It is difficult to imagine in the now midst of a hot summer, but many of our fellow Granite Staters could be spending a cold winter in their homes. Our Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter reports, "With energy prices skyrocketing, low and moderate income families will be unable to heat their homes this winter. Hardworking Americans should not have to choose between putting food on the table and staying warm."

Current forecasts estimate the cost of heating fuel to be \$5.00 per gallon in the upcoming months. As a result, the average New Hampshire family could have to pay \$4000 this winter in heating costs. Many simply cannot afford this amount.

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page four

Bill Eslinger



Round Guy ...



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SummerFilm

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SON OF RAMBO

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 (Shogun).

PG13, 92 min, UK, 2007

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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)

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.)

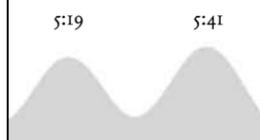
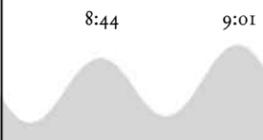
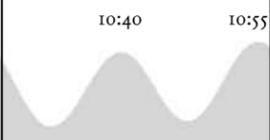
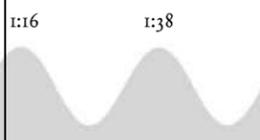
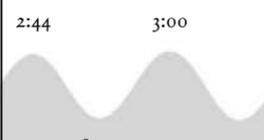
The moon's meddling creates a roving hydraulic conflict as incoming sea and outgoing river collide. The skirmish line moves from the mouth of the river, past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on towards Great

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, August 24	Monday, August 25	Tuesday, August 26	Wednesday, August 27	Thursday, August 28	Friday, August 29	Saturday, August 30
<p>2001—Due to a fuel leak, Air Transat Flight 236, with 306 souls aboard, runs out of fuel over the Atlantic, 90 miles from the Azores. Pilots glide the plane to safety.</p> <p>1980—Solidarity is founded in Gdansk.</p> <p>1970—Grad student Robert Fassnacht is killed and three others are injured when peaceniks blow up a physics lab at the U. of Wisconsin.</p> <p>1967—The floor of the NY Stock Exchange erupts into bedlam as capitalists scramble for 300 one-dollar bills dropped by Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin.</p> <p>1960—Temperature drops to minus 126.9 at Vostok Station; lowest ever recorded on Earth.</p> <p>1930—In Indochina, two are killed in rioting on the anniversary of the deaths of Sacco and Vanzetti.</p> <p>1853—In Saratoga Springs, NY., George Crum prepares the first batch of potato chips.</p> <p>1827—<i>The Mechanics Gazette</i>, first U.S. labor paper, is published in Philadelphia. By 1832 there are 68 labor newspapers.</p> <p>1814—The British march unopposed into Washington, and set fire to the White House and the Library of Congress.</p> <p>1572—French Catholic mobs massacre thousands of Huguenots. Learning of the slaughter Pope Gregory is so pleased he orders a day of thanksgiving.</p>	<p>1999—After six years of denial, the FBI admits tear gas canisters it fired into David Koresh's compound in Waco, Texas, were incendiary, but maintains this didn't start the fatal fire.</p> <p>1985—The White House confirms that President Reagan was an FBI informant during the late 1940's, while he was head of the Screen Actors Guild.</p> <p>1967—American Nazi Party founder George Lincoln Rockwell is shot dead at an Arlington, Va. shopping mall by a former aide.</p> <p>1950—Harry S Truman orders the U.S. Army to take over the nation's railroads to prevent a strike.</p> <p>1945—Ho Chi Minh proclaims the Republic of Vietnam.</p> <p>1945—Baptist missionary and U.S. spy John Birch is shot by Chinese Communists.</p> <p>1925—Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is founded by A. Philip Randolph.</p> <p>1893—"Colored Peoples' Day" at the Columbian Exposition.</p> <p>1875—Matthew Webb completes the first swim across the English Channel.</p> <p>1835—<i>The New York Sun</i> reports that life—bison, goats, unicorns, and winged humanoids—has been discovered on the Moon.</p> <p>1814—A huge storm hits Washington, DC, putting out fires set by the British the day before.</p>	<p>1980—Ex-Luftwaffe pilot John Birges, attempting to recoup his gambling losses, plants a half-ton bomb at Harvey's Resort Hotel in Stateline, Nevada.</p> <p>1969—Canada decriminalizes sodomy.</p> <p>1969—With just weeks left to go in Vietnam, the NHNG's 197th Field Artillery loses five men in a single incident.</p> <p>1968—Mayor Richard Daley formally opens the 1968 Democratic National Convention as his cops bust heads outside.</p> <p>1967—Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze" is released.</p> <p>1965—Last day getting married could improve your draft status.</p> <p>1935—The United Auto Workers union is founded.</p> <p>1920—Nineteenth Amendment is ratified; women can vote now.</p> <p>1919—Company goons shoot United Mine Workers' Fannie Sellins in Brackenridge, Pa.</p> <p>1883—Karakatoa begins a three-day eruption; tens of thousands die, 13 percent less sunlight reaches the earth during the following year.</p> <p>1858—The first news dispatch is sent by telegraph.</p> <p>1838—John Wilkes Booth is born.</p> <p>1765—The Sons of Liberty raise a hob in Boston, ransacking the homes of officials.</p> <p>55—Romans led by Julius Caesar invade Britain.</p>	<p>1991—A fifteen-member committee of the American Bar Association rates Clarence Thomas as a candidate for U.S. Supreme Court: none rate him "well-qualified," two rate him "not qualified."</p> <p>1984—Ronald Reagan announces that he will put a teacher in space.</p> <p>1980—FBI agents, attempting to defuse a half-ton bomb at Harvey's Resort Hotel in Nevada, cause it to explode. No one is injured.</p> <p>1979—The IRA uses a radio-controlled bomb to assassinate Earl Mountbatten, British Admiral of the Fleet, and kill three others aboard his yacht off Ireland.</p> <p>1975—Veronica and Colin Scargill complete a tandem bicycle ride around the world.</p> <p>1972—U.S. planes bomb Haiphong harbor.</p> <p>1968—Democrats nominate Hubert Humphrey for President as cops and protesters do battle.</p> <p>1949—As an anti-Communist mob attacks the audience at a Paul Robeson concert in Peekskill, N.Y., 3 FBI agents passively look on.</p> <p>1938—Becoming increasingly restive at a poetry reading by Archibald MacLeish, Robert Frost sets fire to a handful of papers.</p> <p>1928—In Paris, sixty nations sign the Kellogg-Briand Pact, and outlaw war forever.</p> <p>1903—U.S. troops are ordered to Beirut to "protect U.S. interests."</p>	<p>2003—After he robs a Pennsylvania bank, longtime pizza deliveryman Brian Wells is killed by a time bomb fastened to his neck.</p> <p>1963—At the Lincoln Memorial, half a million people hear Martin Luther King call for "freedom [to] ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire ..."</p> <p>1961—The 5th Conference of the Situationist International convenes in Göteborg, Sweden.</p> <p>1955—During a visit to his family in Money, Mississippi, fourteen-year-old Chicagoan Emmett Till is murdered by whites for speaking inappropriately to a white woman.</p> <p>1947—A bull in Linares, Spain helps even the score by fatally goring Manolete.</p> <p>1922—WEAF in New York earns \$100 for airing the first paid radio commercial: a ten minute plug for the Queensboro Realty Company.</p> <p>1919—The mayor of Seattle demands, "hang or incarcerate all anarchists for life."</p> <p>1918—Big Bill Haywood and 14 other Wobblies get 20 years for draft obstruction.</p> <p>1884—The first known photograph of a tornado is taken in Howard, South Dakota.</p> <p>1833—Britain abolishes slavery throughout the Empire.</p> <p>1565—St. Augustine, the oldest surviving town in the U.S., is established in Florida.</p>	<p>2007—Due to sloppy procedures, an Air Force B-52 takes off from Minot AFB in North Dakota with some extra cargo on board: six loose nukes.</p> <p>2006—George W. Bush tells NBC interviewer Brian Williams, "I've got an ek-a-lec-tic reading list."</p> <p>2005—FEMA dozes as Katrina slams N'Orleans.</p> <p>1977—Three people are arrested in Memphis for trying to steal Elvis Presley's corpse.</p> <p>1957—Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-SC) ends a record-setting 24 hour and 18 minute filibuster. The Civil Rights Act passes despite him.</p> <p>1956—The Republican Party announces it will henceforth refer to the Democratic Party as the Democrat Party.</p> <p>1949—Soviets detonate their first A-Bomb.</p> <p>1901—Trade in John L. Sullivan's saloon is disrupted by hatchet-wielding Carrie Nation.</p> <p>1885—In Germany, Gottlieb Daimler is awarded a patent for a wooden-framed motorcycle with iron-shod wooden wheels.</p> <p>1883—Seismic waves created by the explosion of Krakatoa ripple through the English Channel.</p> <p>1865—U.S. Army troops under Gen. Connor massacre 60 Arapaho in the Dakota territory.</p> <p>1842—First Anglo-Chinese Opium War ends; Britain wins.</p>	<p>2007—Surprised airmen in Louisiana discover six nukes under the wing of a B-52 where they had expected to find dummies.</p> <p>1979—Attacked by a crazed rabbit while vacationing in Georgia, Jimmy Carter is forced to defend himself with a canoe paddle.</p> <p>1979—First recorded instance of a comet hitting the sun.</p> <p>1968—"I want to pack my bags and get out of this city," says Walter Cronkite as Mayor Daley's finest clobber citizens.</p> <p>1967—Thurgood Marshall is sworn in as America's first black Supreme Court Justice.</p> <p>1964—At the Democratic Convention, an all-white delegation from Mississippi is seated while a black protest delegation isn't.</p> <p>1963—A "Hot Line" is set up between the White House and the Kremlin.</p> <p>1959—Parties loyal to Ngo Dinh Diem win control of Vietnamese National Assembly.</p> <p>1893—Huey "The Kingfish" Long is born in Winnfield, LA.</p> <p>1813—At Ft. Mims, Ala., drunken officers are playing cards when 800 Creeks attack. About 15 out of 500 whites survive.</p> <p>1800—Gabriel Prosser's plan for a slave rebellion intended to create a black kingdom in Virginia is thwarted by heavy rains—and an informant.</p>
<p>5:19 5:41</p>  <p>11:17</p>	<p>6:26 6:47</p>  <p>12:10 12:20</p>	<p>7:36 7:55</p>  <p>11:18 11:27</p>	<p>8:44 9:01</p>  <p>2:25 2:34</p>	<p>9:45 10:01</p>  <p>3:27 3:37</p>	<p>10:40 10:55</p>  <p>4:23 4:34</p>	<p>11:29 11:45</p>  <p>5:13 5:26</p>
Sunday, August 31	Monday, September 1	Tuesday, September 2	Wednesday, September 3	Thursday, September 4	Friday, September 5	Saturday, September 6
<p>1986—Levan Merrit, 5, falls into the cage of Jambo the Gorilla on the Isle of Jersey. Jambo guards the unconscious boy until he regains consciousness and is retrieved.</p> <p>1973—The Gainesville Eight, antiwar veterans charged with conspiracy to riot at the 1972 Republican National Convention, are acquitted.</p> <p>1968—In a suburb of Montreal, grade school students demanding reforms occupy their school.</p> <p>1965—Lyndon "Landslide" Johnson signs a bill outlawing draft card burning.</p> <p>1954—Hurricane Carol slams New England; 65 die.</p> <p>1948—Robert Mitchum is busted for possession of pot. He'll serve sixty days.</p> <p>1925—After an 11 year occupation, U.S. Marines depart from Haiti, leaving a nice cozy dictatorship in their wake.</p> <p>1920—The first American radio news program is broadcast, on station 8MK in Detroit.</p> <p>1919—The American Communist Party is formed in Chicago.</p> <p>1895—Julius Wyland commences publication of the socialist paper, <i>An Appeal to Reason</i>.</p> <p>1869—In Ireland, Mary (King) Ward is thrown from a steam-powered automobile and run over, becoming the first person known to have been killed by a car.</p>	<p>1989—A judge decides not to convict U-2 bass player Adam Clayton of pot possession, even though he's confessed. This is in Dublin, of course, not the U.S.</p> <p>1989—Narcs trying to score some crack for a presidential photo-op, on their third try, get the dope but miss the film—their camera operator gets mugged by a homeless person.</p> <p>1987—A Navy munitions train runs over antiwar veteran Brian Willson, severing both his legs.</p> <p>1986—Medal of Honor-winning veterans Charles Liteky and George Mizo begin a "Fast for Life" in Washington, D.C., protesting U.S. support of the Contras.</p> <p>1983—The USSR shoots down Korean Air Flight 007. Among the victims: John Birch Society President and Congressman Larry McDonald (R-GA).</p> <p>1971—The Pittsburgh Pirates field a major league first: a lineup of nine black ballplayers.</p> <p>1956—The U.S. begins to train the South Vietnamese Army.</p> <p>1947—In Berlin, 3,000 demonstrate for "No More War."</p> <p>1939—Germany invades Poland.</p> <p>1932—NYC Mayor Jimmy Walker, a Democrat, resigns rather than face prosecution on corruption charges.</p> <p>1715—France's King Louis XIV dies after reigning 72 years.</p>	<p>1984—Mashantucket Pequots buy 650 acres in eastern Connecticut, to resume the old tribal ways.</p> <p>1983—Eight minutes after poison gas is released, Miss. prison officials clear the witness room; Jimmy Lee Gray is gasping, moaning, and banging his head on a steel pole.</p> <p>1967—Maj. Paddy Roy Bates (Ret.) displaces a rival pirate radio team from an unused military platform off the southeast coast of England, and declares it the sovereign nation of Sealand.</p> <p>1957—Gov. Orval Faubus calls out the Ark. National Guard to keep blacks out of Little Rock High.</p> <p>1945—VJ Day—Japan surrenders to Douglas MacArthur aboard a battleship named after Harry Truman's home state.</p> <p>1945—Cribbing freely from Jefferson, Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam independent of France.</p> <p>1935—Already routed from Washington, DC by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, 259 veterans working on the Overseas Highway are among those killed when the Labor Day Hurricane hits the Florida Keys.</p> <p>1921—Mine owners in West Virginia respond to strikers with bombs dropped from airplanes.</p> <p>1925—The airship <i>U.S.S. Shenandoah</i> leaves New Jersey bound for Michigan, against the wishes of her commander, concerned about bad weather ahead.</p>	<p>1973—A check for \$5,000, from a milk producers' coop, to defray expenses after the "Plumbers' burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's shrink's office, is delivered at a meeting attended by R. Nixon.</p> <p>1971—Employees of President Richard Nixon break into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.</p> <p>1967—Woody Guthrie dies in New York at 52.</p> <p>1939—France and Britain declare war on Germany.</p> <p>1925—The airship <i>U.S.S. Shenandoah</i> crashes in Ohio due to bad weather; 14 officers and men die.</p> <p>1860—U.S. citizen and ex-dictator of Nicaragua William Walker & his private army invade Honduras.</p> <p>1849—Sarah Orne Jewett is born in South Berwick, Maine.</p> <p>1838—Frederick A.W. Bailey, a slave, later known by the last name Douglass, disguises himself as a sailor and makes a break for it.</p> <p>1833—Benjamin Day publishes the first successful penny paper, the <i>New York Sun</i>.</p> <p>1813—"Uncle Sam" makes his first appearance in the <i>Troy, (N.Y.) Post</i>.</p> <p>1783—The Treaty of Paris is signed, ending the Revolutionary War.</p> <p>1752—By an act of Parliament, the Gregorian calendar is adopted in Britain and the colonies. Londoners, thinking they've been robbed of 11 days of their lives, riot and holler, "Give us our 11 days back!"</p>	<p>2006—Steve "The Crocodile Hunter" Irwin is killed by a sting-ray while diving on the Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>1987—West German Mathias Rust lands a small plane in Red Square.</p> <p>1976—Future President George W. Bush is arrested in Kennebunk, ME for driving drunk.</p> <p>1973—Nixon flunkies Erlichman and Liddy are indicted for burgling a shrink's office.</p> <p>1970—Two hundred Vietnam Veterans Against the War begin Operation RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal) a four-day guerrilla theater march to Valley Forge, PA.</p> <p>1967—"I just had the greatest brainwashing that anyone can get ... [in] Vietnam," says Gov. George Romney (R-Mich.), "they do a very thorough job."</p> <p>1957—Ford's Edsel debuts.</p> <p>1957—National Guard troops in Little Rock stand and watch as a white mob threatens to lynch a black girl trying to enter Central High school.</p> <p>1950—"Beetle Bailey" begins.</p> <p>1918—U.S. troops land at Archangel, Russia, to "protect American interests."</p> <p>1886—Geronimo, chief of the Chiricahua Apache, surrenders at Skeleton Canyon, Arizona Territory; it's the end of the major resistance.</p>	<p>2005—Visiting Houston, Barbara Bush says Hurricane Katrina was "working very well" for thousands of homeless refugees.</p> <p>2001—Rep. Joe Scarborough (R-Fla.) resigns after being accused of cheating on his wife with teenage prostitutes.</p> <p>1993—Birmingham News reveals that, according to the Southern Baptist Convention, 46.1 percent of Alabamans are going to Hell.</p> <p>1990—Los Angeles Police Chief Darryl Gates tells the Senate Judiciary Committee that "casual drug users should be taken out and shot."</p> <p>1975—Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, dressed as a nun, points a .45 pistol with an empty chamber at President Gerald Ford. She's in the jailhouse now.</p> <p>1957—Jack Kerouac's <i>On The Road</i> is published.</p> <p>1939—Dalton Trumbo's <i>Johnny Got His Gun</i> is published.</p> <p>1930—"Hurry it up you Hoosier bastard," demands serial killer Carl Panzram of his executioner at Leavenworth, "I could hang a dozen men while you're screwing around."</p> <p>1917—Federal agents carry out "Palmer raids" on I.W.W. offices and halls in 48 cities across the country.</p> <p>1905—Russia and Japan sign the Treaty of Portsmouth.</p>	<p>2004—"Too many OB-GYNs aren't able to practice their love with women all across this country," says George W. Bush.</p> <p>2003—Careless Lockheed Martin workers drop a \$233 million weather satellite, causing \$135 million worth of damage.</p> <p>2002—Explaining why the administration had been silent all summer on its plan to make war on Iraq, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card says, "From a marketing point of view, you don't introduce new products in August."</p> <p>1978—House opens hearings on assassinations of JFK & MLK. On Dec. 30 they conclude conspiracies were likely.</p> <p>1961—Bob Dylan debuts at the Gaslight, N.Y.</p> <p>1959—"Dying is easy," says actor Edmund Gwenn, dying. "Comedy is difficult."</p> <p>1949—World War II vet Howard Unruh kills 13 of his NJ neighbors in 12 minutes.</p> <p>1941—All German Jews over 6 are ordered to wear a yellow star.</p> <p>1901—At the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y., President Wm. McKinley is shot by professed anarchist Leon Czolgosz.</p> <p>1872—Patrick Morrissey, for the crime of matricide, is hanged in Buffalo, NY by Erie County Sheriff and future president Stephen Grover Cleveland.</p>
<p>12:14</p>  <p>5:59 6:14</p>	<p>12:32 12:56</p>  <p>6:41 7:00</p>	<p>1:16 1:38</p>  <p>7:22 7:44</p>	<p>2:00 2:18</p>  <p>8:02 8:29</p>	<p>2:44 3:00</p>  <p>8:42 9:14</p>	<p>3:30 3:45</p>  <p>6:25 10:03</p>	<p>4:20 4:35</p>  <p>10:12 10:57</p>

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