

The Fortnightly Rant

McCain: Gambler in Chief

Most men fortunate enough to reach the age of 72 would be more than satisfied to celebrate their birthday with a round of golf with friends, followed by dinner at a nice restaurant with a loving spouse. A more spirited and flamboyant sort of guy might liven things up a bit with a candle-covered cake and a fire extinguisher.

Then you have Senator John McCain, a septaugenarian whose zest for life would shame most men half his age. Here's how he celebrated his 72nd birthday.

Ironically, the stage had been set the day before by the Democratic Party, on the forty-fifth anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. The party nominated, by acclamation, a black man, Senator Barack Obama, for President of the United States. (Actually, this setup was doubly ironic, since as a Congressman in 1982, McCain had voted against Martin Luther King Day, and in 1987, he had backed Arizona Governor Evan Meacham's order to rescind a statewide MLK holiday.)

In an ad televised that day, McCain addressed Senator Obama directly, simultaneously congratulating his rival and calling attention to his own noble decision not to campaign while Obama basked in the spotlight. Then, with a smile—or, in retrospect, perhaps with a smirk—McCain gave Obama a friendly warning: "Tomorrow we'll be back at it."

As FoxNews.com later reported, quoting a McCain campaign press release, "Thursday August 28, [was also the day] John McCain formally invited Governor Sarah Palin* to join the Republican ticket as the vice presidential nominee on the deck of the McCain family home." (The one in Sedona, Arizona.)

Having thus set the stage, John McCain was able to celebrate his 72nd birthday with an unforgettably grand display of political fireworks, successfully blowing Barack Obama clean out of the news cycle, with an announcement as unexpected as the Spanish Inquisition.

* The attention we lavish on Ms. Palin in this issue presumes that she stays on the Republican ticket—which is far from a sure thing. By Tuesday of this week, "Eagleton" had already become a buzzword. (Sen. Tom Eagleton of Missouri was George McGovern's running mate for two weeks in 1972, until it was revealed that he had received shock treatments on two occasions about ten years earlier.) But our editorial staff is already forced, by circumstances beyond our control, to live with the general conditions created by the Bush administration. We cannot ask them, on top of all that, to prepare an alternative version of this newspaper, just in case the McCain team throws Ms. Palin under the wheels of the *Straight Talk Express* [sic].

Any Relation to Michael?

Immediately, the world was desperate to know: who the heck is Sarah Palin?

As it happens, she is the Governor of Alaska, and has been for all of one year and nine months. And, so far as our research has been able to determine, she is no relation to the British comedian Michael Palin, perhaps best known for playing Francisco Cardinal Jiménez de Cisneros in Monty Python's popular sketch, "The Spanish Inquisition."

Alaska is the nation's 47th least populous state; only North Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming have fewer people. If it were a city, Alaska would be America's 17th largest; smaller than Austin, but larger than Fort Worth. The most relevant city for comparative purposes, though, is probably Las Vegas (est. pop. 552,539)—McCain seems to see the Presidency as a chance to play Gambler in Chief.

Tick Tock

Speculating about just when Senator McCain will go the way of all flesh is, admittedly, a little grotesque. But it is by no means gratuitous. His father, Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., died of a heart attack at the age of 70. His grandfather, Admiral John S. McCain, Sr., also died of a heart attack—at the age of 61.

McCain's great-grandfather John S. McCain broke this morbid chain and lived to be 83. But his great-great grandfather died quite young. William A. McCain was in the prime of life, a mere 51 years of age, when he died. At the time he, also, was serving in the military: he was a private in the Civil War, fighting for the Confederacy, defending his Mississippi plantation—and his right to own 52 enslaved people.

Younger Than McCain

McCain's age is like Mount Everest. Why do people talk about it? Because it's there. But there are other reasons as well. Take his wife Cindy—please.

Seventeen years younger than her husband, Cindy McCain recently shared a cute age-related story with a radio interviewer. Before their marriage—which is to say, while McCain was still married to his first wife—they lied to each other about their ages: she claimed to be older, and he claimed to be younger. Each feared that telling the truth might end their illicit affair.

Mrs. McCain, a thin, somewhat brittle-looking blonde woman, is said to be worth something like a hundred million dollars. Advertising agencies frequently use images of women who look much



like her, to convey a message of high status and exclusivity.

Despite that, she shares her status as "younger than McCain" with a plethora of commonplace things. There are so many, a website (thingsyoungerthanmccain.com) is listing them. An abbreviated sample: ballpoint pens, chocolate chip cookies, Duct Tape,™ Fiberglass,™ the Golden Gate Bridge, the Hindenburg Disaster, the Lincoln Tunnel, the minimum wage, Mount Rushmore, Nylon,™ penicillin, Plutonium, Spam, and Superman.

Palin's Political Career

Prior to her election as governor, Sarah Palin served as Mayor of Wasilla, Alaska. Recent U.S. Census Bureau estimates indicate that Wasilla's population barely exceeds that of Seabrook, New Hampshire. An online photograph of the town's City Hall shows a one-story building that could pass for a small convenience store.

Far from being a pictureque village on the rugged northern frontier, Wasilla has been called, by a writer for Fodor's who lives in Alaska, that state's "least attractive town," representing "the worst kind of suburban sprawl."

The only other Wasilla resident of any

note seems to be Vic Kohring. A fourteen-year member of Alaska's House of Representatives, Kohring resigned in June of 2007 after being indicted on federal bribery and racketeering charges. He was later convicted of soliciting and accepting bribes from VECO, the oilfield services company alleged to have made illegal gifts to Alaska Senator Ted Stevens, a Republican. Stevens's claim to fame prior to his indict-

ment was as the chief promoter of the half-billion dollar "Bridge to Nowhere."

Palin has made much of her alleged willingness to forego federal money on Stevens's infamous bridge. More recently it has been reliably reported that before Palin was against such wasteful earmarks, she was for them.

The latest wrinkle in her cloak of fiscal purity was the revelation that as Mayor she backed the hiring of a Washington lobbyist, whose efforts brought back a rich return of federal monies.

Commanderette-In-Chief

To be fair, the record shows that not once during Palin's entire 21-month career as Governor of Alaska and Commander in Chief of its proud and able National Guard, has Vladimir Putin ever dared to mass troops, tanks, and transport vessels in Uelen, the suspiciously tranquil-looking village on the Russian side of the Bering Straits.

Snake Eyes?

Several allegedly reputable national media organizations have reported that John McCain loves shooting craps.

He'll play for hours at a time, betting thousands in a single session. Craps is a game that is played by throwing dice—it is, inherently, a game of chance. The only time skill enters into a crap game is when the shooter is using loaded dice.

A Long, Terrible Tradition

For more than fifty years, Republican Presidents have made catastrophic choices in the Vice Presidential department. The best among them, Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower, picked Richard M. "Dick" Nixon: a man, as Hunter S. Thompson famously wrote, "so

crooked that he needed servants to help him screw his pants on every morning."

Nixon selected Spiro "Ted" Agnew to be his Vice President—a man nearly as crooked as himself, and even more venal.

George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush chose Dan "Potato-Head" Quayle as Vice President—a man considerably more stupid than himself.

George "W" Bush's Vice Presidential pick will go down in infamy. He let Dick "Dick" Cheney pick himself. The only apt analogy would be if the College of Cardinals let the Anti-Christ make himself Pope.

And now John McCain picks Sarah Palin. Given this long and sordid history, it would be naive to give the Republicans the benefit of the doubt, and assume it has all been accidental.

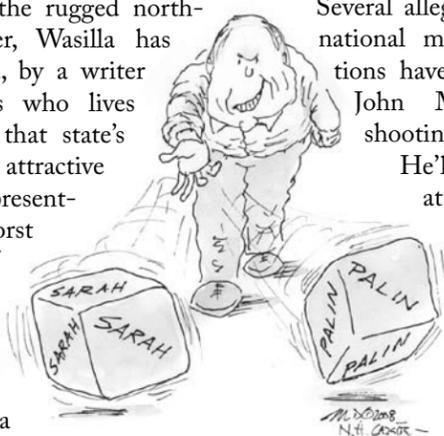
We have a suggestion: a Constitutional Amendment barring Republicans from nominating candidates for Vice President. Dead elected Republican Presidents would henceforth be replaced by the losing Democratic candidate.

Bad Odds, Bud

Our proposed amendment would take years to pass; it can't help us now. But, with luck, we may not need it. More often than not, Americans elect the taller candidate. McCain stands only five feet seven inches tall, whereas Obama is six foot two. Obama wins the tip-off.**

And there is another politically irrelevant, but physically immutable factor working in Obama's favor: his face is symmetrical, and McCain's is not. British anthropologists, studying U.S. elections over the past century, have found that the more symmetrical candidate almost always wins.

** True, both Al Gore and John Kerry are taller than George W. Bush. But the Supreme Court and Ohio's Secretary of State operate under their own systems of measurement.



News Briefs

Define "Support" Please, Senator ...

One of the fundamental elements of Senator John McCain's political identity is the bond—or the alleged bond—between McCain and his fellow veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces. The mainstream media comment on it often enough. And the former Navy pilot and Vietnam War POW does seem at his most relaxed when addressing groups of men in VFW halls. It was at one such VFW hall that he uncorked his version of an old Beach Boys hit, re-interpreted as "Bomb Bomb Bomb, Bomb Bomb Iran."

Perhaps if Alaska Governor Sarah Palin had not blown almost every other topic off the radar, we might be hearing a different story, one that counters the popular "McCain and His Buddies" narrative.

During a July Town Hall Meeting at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, McCain

seemed to be expecting a softball question when he called for the microphone to be given to a man wearing a Vietnam Veteran hat.

The veteran began by giving McCain a pass on his failure to vote either way on the Post-9/11 GI Bill, saying "we understand you have a difference on that." After years of effort by veterans groups and Congress, an improved Post 9/11 GI Bill came up for a final vote in the Senate. It passed, 92 to 6. McCain did not vote; he had tried to derail the bill with rival legislation which garnered almost no support.

To his Denver questioner, McCain defended his lack of support for the new GI Bill: it might induce members to leave the service for an education. It may seem callous, but it is in line with his campaign theme of putting America first.

Then came the real question: why did McCain vote "against your colleagues' proposals to increase healthcare funding in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, when we had troops coming back from

two wars."

This seemed to ignite McCain's legendary temper just a bit. "I don't know what you're pointing to," he said. "I received every award from every major veterans' organization in America."

The questioner tried to elaborate, but McCain cut him off.

"Sir, I'm responding to your question and then I will let you speak again, if you'd like, but you oughta ... the way we try to conduct these is let people finish and then I will go back to you ...

"[T]he reason why I have a perfect voting record from organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and all the other veterans' service organizations is because of my support of them ..."

But the questioner seemed unflustered by McCain's bluster.

"I'll respond by saying this," he told the Senator, "that you do not have a perfect voting record by the DAV and the VFW. That's where these votes are recorded. And the votes were proposals ... they were proposals by your colleagues in the Senate to increase healthcare funding of the VA in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, for troops returning from Iraq

and Afghanistan, and you voted against those proposals. I can give the specific Senate votes, the numbers of those Senate votes, right now."

At which point McCain regained control of the event, saying with undisguised sarcasm, "Well, I thank you and I'll be glad to examine what *your* version of *my* record is. But, again, I've been endorsed in every election by all of the veterans' organizations that do that. I've been supported by them and I've received their highest awards from all of those organizations, so I guess *they don't know something you know*. So I thank you very much and I will continue to be proud of my support for the veterans of this country and proud of their support."

Much to its credit, MSNBC did something unusual for television, and actually covered this counter-narrative. (We missed it at the time, but it's too relevant to let go unremarked.)

Rachel Maddow interviewed Paul Rieckhoff, Executive Director of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, about the exchange. Rieckhoff noted that the Disabled American Veterans

(DAV) gave McCain a rating of just 20 out of a possible 100 points for his Senate voting record. Barack Obama got an 80.

Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) gave McCain a D rating. Obama got a B+.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) said McCain "voted for us" 9 times, but "voted against us" 15 times.

It didn't come up during Maddow's segment, but on October 2, 2003, McCain voted against \$322 million worth of additional armor for U.S. troops in Iraq.

McCain often fails to vote, even on issues that he "supports." The newspaper *The Hill*, which reports on Congress's doings, wrote in May of last year that McCain had only showed up for four out of 14 votes in 2007 on the Iraq War.

Perhaps these are the reasons why Obama is raising more in political contributions from service members stationed overseas than McCain.

Smoke Talk on the Water

The Gundalow Company will host a series of educational events this fall. The first will be a talk by UNH Research Professor Dr. Fred Short, asking—and no



On March 5, the Richland County, South Carolina Sheriff's Department became the proud owner of a twelve-ton M113A1 Armored Personnel Carrier, complete with a turret-mounted, belt-fed .50-caliber machine gun. A contest was held to name the beast. According to a press release, "the name selected from the entries will be 'The Peacemaker' because that is the APC's purpose and the bible [sic] refers to law enforcement in Matthew 5:9 'Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.' Sheriff Lott hopes to always bring resolution to all conflict through peaceful means."



Fifty people got a good look at Jupiter and its moons on Monday night, from the vicinity of the High/Hanover Parking Garage, thanks to Hampton Beach's sidewalk astronomer, Ted Blank (beachastro.blogspot.com). Ted was assisted by Portsmouth resident Tim Mauro.



Are you among the millions who have lamented America's appalling lack of NASCAR-themed limousines? Well, rejoice, sports fans! The long, boring, soul-eroding wait is over. Now you, too, can arrive at some random event in an absurdly-elongated, preposterously-painted, fume-spewing automobile. Whoop. Dee. Doo.

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doubt answering—the question, “Is the Great Bay Estuary showing signs of stress from human impact?”

The title of Dr. Short’s talk: “A Pristine Estuary in Crisis,” and its subject, “the decline in eelgrass and the stress on the estuary,” suggest that the answer to the above question may be in the affirmative.

The talk will take place Tuesday, September 9, beginning at 6:00 p.m., on board the gundalow Captain Edward H. Adams, at the Jackson Estuarine Lab’s dock at Adams Point.

Those who would attend are asked to bring a lawn chair, and come early for refreshments.

This talk will be the first event in a Fall Contemporary Coastal Issues Series, sponsored by Friends of the Gundalow, in collaboration with NHEP, the Great Bay Stewards, JEL, the Nature Conservancy, the Portsmouth Library, and Museums of Old York.

Other dates in the series are October 14: Dr. Cameron Wake, “Blending Climate Change Solutions with Economic Development;” November 13: Phil Trowbridge, “Management Plans &

Environmental Indicators for the Coastal Watershed;” and, December 4: Dr. Ray Grizzle, “Some Good News for NH Oyster Populations.”

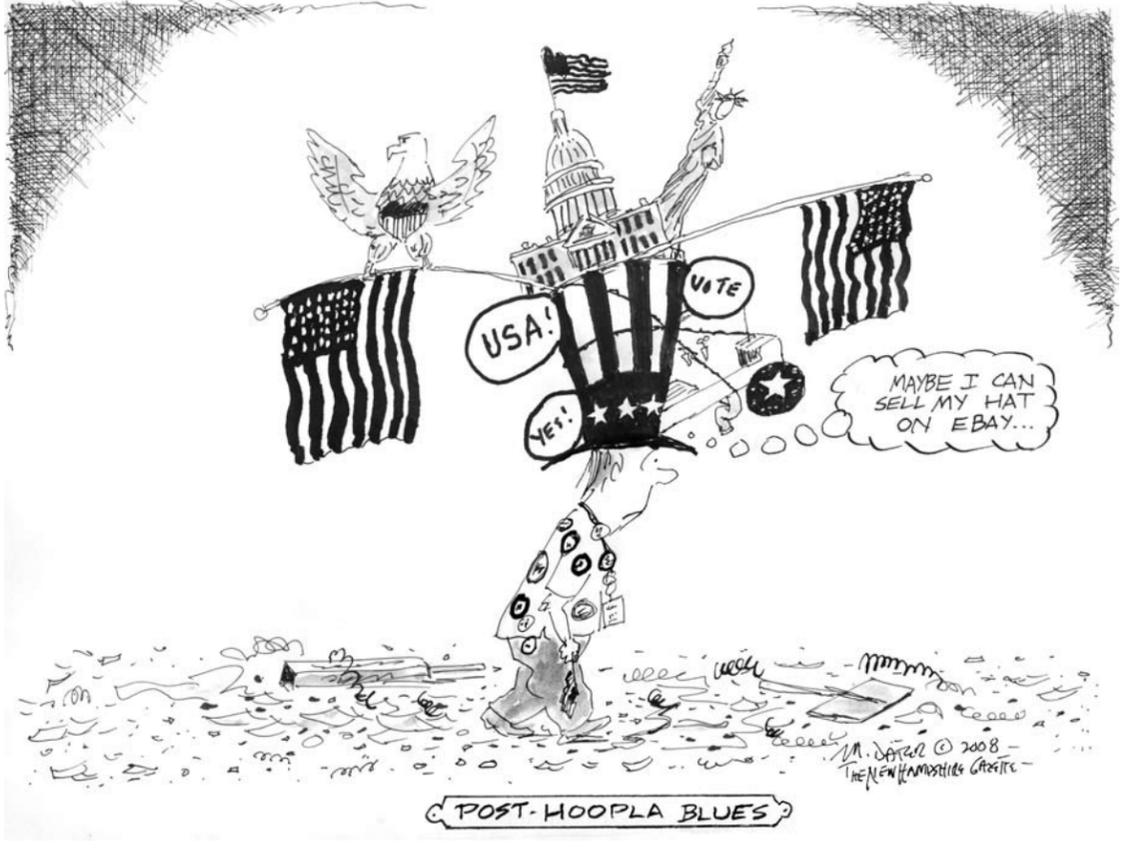
This series was funded by NH DES and NOAA’s office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act in conjunction with the NH Coastal Program

For more information please contact the nonprofit Gundalow Company at (603) 433-9505.

Steam On the Water

For decades, the dominant trend in American boating has been in the direction of more power, more speed, and more noise. Proud bastion of retrograde conservatism that we are, the *Gazette* is pleased to have remembered to insert the following notice in time for it to be of some use.

Beginning today and running, in its quiet, leisurely way through the afternoon of September 14, at the Town Docks on Lee’s Mills Road, way the heck up at the northernmost end of Lake Winnepesaukee, will be the 36th Annual Lee’s Mills Steamboat Meet.



This season provided another good example of the reason why most responsible agriculturalists caution against monoculture. However, despite nearly five weeks of poor weather, the harvest of tourists dollars seems to have been adequate, if not exactly abundant.

We’ve asked, and almost no one in our acquaintance has ever seen this sort of craft. So we’re irrationally determined to share our enthusiasm for them.

We’re not talking about those great big honking Mark Twain-type stern-wheelers. These are, for the most part, pretty small boats, under twenty-five feet long. Unlike most modern power boats, which all look like they came from the same ugly mold, the variety of boats at this event is remarkable. One unforgettable year, we saw a steam canoe—a sixteen-foot long Grumman aluminum canoe, gliding across the water powered by a single-cylinder Stuart engine no more than eight inches tall.

What they have in common is their steam engines, whose quiet little “puff, puff” sound is often drowned out by the humans regarding them, saying “Oh, look at that!” Those wishing more information can call David Thompson, at (603) 476-2224.

The Flag Police

One of the myriad items listed on thingsyoungerthanmccain.com (see column two, page one) is Title LXII, Chapter 646-A of the New Hampshire Statutes, which became effective on April 19, 1990. The statute makes it “unlawful to knowingly desecrate a flag of the United States while it is properly displayed.” [Emphasis added.]

This flag has certainly been defaced—someone wrote John



McCain’s name on it during a January rally in Keene, New Hampshire!

But as we all know, the devil is in the details.

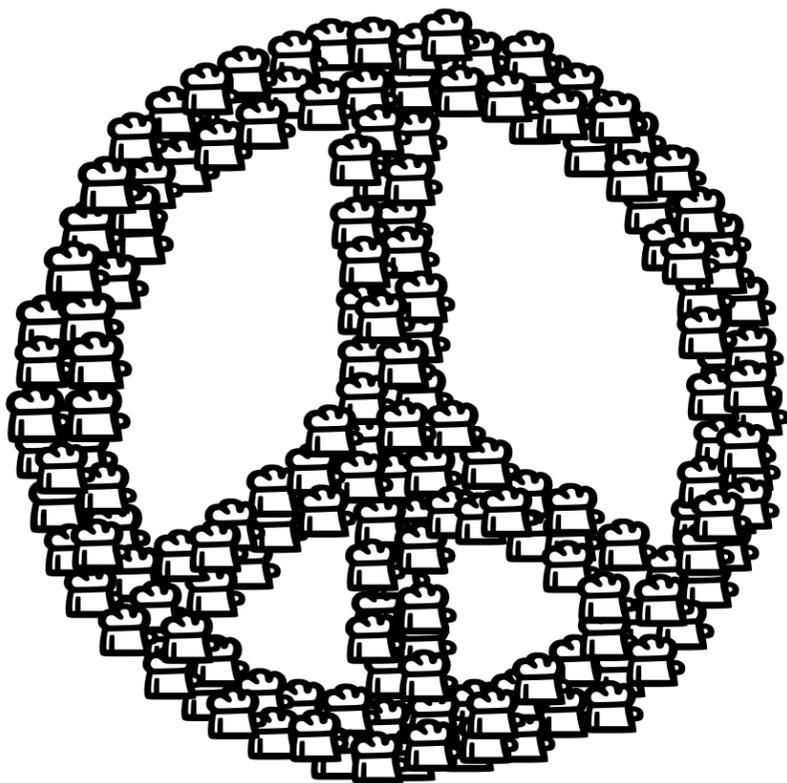
For the purposes of the law,

Chapter 646-A defines “Desecration” as “diverting from a sacred purpose or use to which a flag has been devoted by another individual or group of individuals. The act of desecration shall include burning, defacing, mutilating, destroying or trampling upon the flag.”

But wait! Is this flag “properly displayed”?

Chapter 646-A:1, “Definition,” says that “Properly displayed” means any flag of the United States attached to a public or private building by means of a pole or any other attachment which renders the flag of the United States to be displayed according to commonly accepted flag etiquette ... “ and on through another 75 weasel-words worth of qualifications. As far as we can tell, New Hampshire law doesn’t protect a hand-held flag.

And perhaps it’s just as well, because the guy who wrote John McCain’s name on the flag was ... John McCain!



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



Moving Pictures

Death Race

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Jason Statham, Joan Allen, Ian McShane, Tyrese Gibson, Natalie Martinez; **Screenplay:** based on the story by Ib Melchior; **Director:** Paul W.S. Anderson; **Rating:** R

Readers, faithful and otherwise, will be forgiven for assuming that *Death Race* refers to John "The Maverick" McCain somehow keeping one step ahead of the creature with the hoodie and sickle, or Barack "Yes, We Can" Obama braving all those rumors about rednecks stalking him through high-powered sights at Invesco Field. Wrong. This particular *Death Race* is a variation on 1975's *Death Race 2000*, a Roger Corman production based on a short story called *The Racer*, written by Ib Melchior.

Mr. Melchior, a WW II counterintelligence agent who later wrote for *The Outer Limits* and

who will soon be celebrating his 91st birthday, seems to have gotten a few laps ahead in his own personal death race. Maybe this is a reward for being cheated out of credit for *Lost In Space*, or having his family estate confiscated by the Nazis. The first adaptation of Melchior's story took place mostly on the wide-open, inexpensive-to-film highways of America. Set in a future (not quite far enough, apparently) where the United States has been replaced by the United Provinces, David Carradine and pre-*Rocky* Sylvester Stallone starred as drivers on a televised cross-country race where they get points for hitting pedestrians. Indeed, in one scene famous with film cultists, a pedestrian plays treader, dodging the race car as if it's a charging bull. When he ultimately fails to survive, the driver is gleefully awarded both ears. *Death Race 2000* is a mordant, dark, and witty commentary (directed by Paul Bartel) on the public fascination

with televised spectacle, and it was made more than thirty years ago, long before NASCAR drivers were marketed as perishable All-American Ken dolls, long before we learned what it meant to be voted off the island, or to feel Simon's wrath, or to think that "Big Brother" is a reality TV concept, not the nightmare authoritarian state envisioned by Orwell.

The latest variation on Ib Melchior's disturbingly prescient story is *Death Race*. The drivers are prisoners racing around Terminal Island, a huge penitentiary complex located some distance offshore. The races are sold as pay-per-view, and the promise is spectacular death, with only one driver ultimately surviving. The prisoner/drivers have been given marketable nicknames like "Machine Gun Joe" and "Frankenstein", which makes them easily replaceable should the original driver perish. The race—and the prison—are overseen by a brutal

warden played, in a neat bit of casting, by Joan Allen. Her character will do anything for ratings, including murder a talented driver's wife so he can be sent to prison. Her mistake is in assuming that she can manipulate Jason Statham—what's a matter, didn't she see *The Transporter*? All it requires to be the newest disposable hero is a simple mask, and the courage to take the wheel of a heavily armored Mustang engineered by Ian McShane. McShane (many readers will know him from *Deadwood*) is another example of the inspired casting of a crash-bang B movie that is, alas, all too believable in a world where the Ultimate Fighting Championship pulls in millions of viewers, and Dr. Phil is the wisest man in TV land.

British director Paul W.S. Anderson (not to be confused with *There Will Be Blood* director Paul Thomas Anderson) made his big-budget Hollywood bones with *Resident Evil*. He knows a

thing or three about staging car chases, rigging explosions, and keeping the story simple: heroes who deserve to live, villains who deserve to die—or at least become zombies, so they can die again and again. Joan Allen is appropriately chilling as the ruthless warden who never has to raise her voice. Mr. Stratham, a former Olympic diver and model, is the effortless action star that poor Vin Diesel aspires to be, and he always delivers a perfectly modulated performance. Like Ms. Allen he never has to get loud to make an impression. He let's his drivin' do the talkin', bro, and if you can't get with that then you better let your pay-per-view subscription lapse and stick with wimpy network fare like *American Idol*.

What if the caterwauling losers were exterminated rather than ritually humiliated? Would that make a difference? Would you stop watching?

Really?

More Hate Mail, &c.

from page seven

those who don't get fuel aid but still are going to be hit hard, she sponsored a bill to let you deduct the increase in your heating bill when you do your taxes next year. Longer term, she is pushing to lower prices by making oil companies develop fields they already control.

Carol also knows that property tax rates here in New Hampshire are the highest in the country. That's mainly a local issue, but to help us she sponsored the Middle Class Assistance Act to allow people who don't pay state income tax to deduct their property tax when figuring their federal tax. This will save the average

homeowner around \$400 a year – that's like an extra paycheck in your pocket.

We sent Carol Shea-Porter to Congress to represent all of us, and she has done that. We should now re-elect her, confident that she will continue looking out for you and me.

Dennis P. Vachon
State Rep., Strafford – Dist. 3
Strafford, New Hampshire

Straight Talk? Double Talk!

It's high time veterans and active duty military pay attention to the actions, not scripted patriotic rhetoric, of those holding or running for public office.

John McCain stands before gigantic American flags claiming to support the troops yet is one

of six U.S. Senators voting down the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act (June 26, 2008). McCain has consistently voted against legislation benefiting servicemen. Apparently those \$530 shoes he wears isolate him from what the average veteran faces when needing medical attention or educational benefits.

The mainstream media (corporate media) are all over Sen. John Edwards for his marital misconduct, but give John McCain a free pass as they did for "W" Bush for his early indiscretions.

Those of us paying attention know the Straight Talk Express is nothing but a double talk local.

Eugene Murphy
Priest River, ID

Cold Winter Coming

To the Editor

Congresswoman Carol-Shea Porter, who is the incumbent in District One, is running for reelection. One of the many reasons for my support for her reelection is her continued concern for people who might be hurt this winter by the continued rise in heating costs.

At the urging of Carol and like thinking congressmen, Congress has recently passed a \$409 million increase in fuel assistance funding for 2008. There will now be more money to off-set rising costs of fuel oil which have more than tripled since 2002. It is successes like this, so hard-fought for by Carol, which will offer protection for seniors and children

who might be otherwise living in frigid homes this winter.

Don Botsch
Merrimack, NH

The Shaheen Solution

To The Editor:

New Hampshire Senator John Sununu recently aired his first television ad of this campaign. In it he claimed that he was "faster, quicker, inexhaustible, tireless, and more energetic." Even if one were to accept these statements, how do they qualify him to be our Senator? I, for one, would rather have someone representing me in Washington who has clear, thought out positions that are aimed at helping the middle class and not big business, and that is just what Jeanne Shaheen

What's going on at Two Ceres?



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*Northcountry Chronicle***Waving the Bloody Shirt**

by William Marvel

The term "waving the bloody shirt" seems to have nearly disappeared from American politics. I may not be a sound judge of current phraseology, scolding television as I do, but I spend a lot of miles on the road with National Public Radio, and I've never even heard Juan Williams use it. It was Ben Butler, one of New Hampshire's less creditable natives, who is most often associated with the origination of this interesting construction.

Like most Granite State sons who wanted to make it big, like Daniel Webster and Henry Wilson, Butler headed for Massachusetts. (What a pleasant place this would be if the migration leaned more in that direction today, instead of the other way.) In the tradition of generations of lads with glib tongues, devious minds, and opportunistic natures, he gravitated to politics,

and during the election of 1860 he was a Breckenridge Democrat, vigorously supporting the most conservative of the four major candidates for president that year.

The most liberal of those four candidates won that election, although Abraham Lincoln was somewhat conservative even by the standards of the day, and as soon as Butler saw which way the wind was blowing he became the most radical of Radical Republicans. Lincoln appointed him a brigadier general, then promoted him to major general a month later, when Butler violated orders in an effort to grab some glory for himself.

It was Butler who gave escaped slaves the name "contrabands," through the sly legal reasoning he used to put them to work for the Union army as "contraband of war." As military viceroy in New Orleans Butler developed a reputation for one of the most

corrupt staff organizations in the Union army, and as a field general in Virginia and on the North Carolina coast he demonstrated a degree of logistical and tactical ineptitude that was remarkable even for the political generals of that war. In politics, however, Butler knew what he was doing. Devious and deceitful he certainly was, but no one could have called him inept in that arena.

I've never been able to pin down the exact date, or the venue, but it was a few years after the war that Congressman Butler pulled the stunt that coined the phrase in the title of this column. One day, while declaiming publicly on the need for continued military occupation of the Southern states, he affected a theatrical frenzy and reached beneath his lectern for a shirt that had been dipped in some kind of blood, or something that looked like blood. Fluttering it over his head, he declared that the garment had

belonged a former Union officer who had gone South to work among the freedmen (in other words, a carpetbagger), and he insisted that this loyal soul had been beaten, whipped, or shot by former Confederates.

From whatever day that happened to be, "waving the bloody shirt" came to describe an attempt to rile sufficient patriotic emotion to carry an argument that lacks any logical rationale—usually by appealing to the sympathy of personal sacrifice, whether or not that sacrifice was even necessary. While the term itself has fallen into disuse, though, the tactic has not. It has appeared most conspicuously of late in the demand to "support the troops." That battle cry allows the war party to silence most foreign-policy dissent by simply provoking active hostilities, and recklessly throwing troops in harm's way. Any criticism of such aggression automatically becomes

suspect because it might tend to demoralize "the troops," however pointless or harmful their commitment to combat might be.

That same manipulative call to "support the troops" has become the rallying slogan of those who now comprehend the unpopularity of the war in Iraq—the war with which they insisted on burdening us. While they may not have absorbed any lesson from their mistake, and may not even admit that it was a mistake, they do understand that most people so view it now. Eliciting theoretical support for the troops appears to be their underhand method for seeking effective support for the war itself. As a Wolfeboro man rather awkwardly tried to explain a few weeks back, blizzards of flourishing flags seem inordinately festive for a nation that should be mourning its own moral deterioration and constitutional degradation, along with the latest sacrifices to imperial ambition.

has.

She understands that no matter how fast you are you aren't faster than the rocketing gas and heat prices which have risen 157 percent and 189 percent respectively in the six years since John Sununu has arrived in the Senate. We need a Senator who has solutions, not someone who has empty rhetoric. Jeanne Shaheen knows this and has worked hard to stop our dependence on foreign oil and invest in renewable energy creating green-collar jobs while also reducing the energy costs which are hitting the middle class so hard.

This is the kind of forward thinking that we need and is unfortunately lacking in Washington. So join me in supporting Governor Jeanne Shaheen and

working to make New Hampshire and the Country energy independent and more competitive in the twenty-first century.

Alex Cronheim
Portsmouth, NH

Age & John McCain

To the Editor:

Being old is no proof that the years will diminish the ability to be physically and mentally active, but Sen. McCain is *old* old. Inside the Beltway, old corrupt Congress, old K Street, free-wheeling lobbyists, and the blind and deaf congressional acceptance of Wall Street control of the destiny of our Nation.

The old, "conservative," Republican Party's dementia, lies and ways are etched in his brain. They make him believe that

George W. Bush is a great president whose economic and social achievements have led our country to a brilliant future.

Even after the first four years of the Bush/Cheney secrecy and unconstitutional chicanery, John forgot his oath of office to defend the Constitution, and as his mother said, "worked like a dog" to get Bush reelected. This is not patriotism.

Our beleaguered Republic will not survive another four years of a Bush/McCain/Oil industry presidency. Vote for your Civil Rights. Vote for equality. Vote for peace and justice in our Nation and the World. Don't let anger, revenge or apathy keep you from your duty.

Wilbur N. Rhodes
Kittery ME

Comcast Playing Politics

To the Editor:

I have been stewing since mid-July, when Comcast moved MSNBC from their basic lineup to the digital lineup. Only those with the more expensive digital converter boxes can see MSNBC News—the channel that offers a more varied view on politics. Keith Olbermann ("Countdown") has been an ardent voice against the Bush administration, and the illegal occupation of a foreign nation. Comcast is playing politics with their cable line up, and I for one, do not like it. I invite those who are also angry about this to contact COMCAST, and let them know that we want MSNBC back on basic cable NOW!

Contact: Shawn Feddeman,

VP, Public Relations, Comcast, 28 Travis St., Boston, MA 02134; phone: 617.765-4790 x44302; e-mail: shawn_feddeman@cable.comcast.com

Let's ask Ms. Feddeman, who in the Comcast hierarchy made this decision. Get their names, and then let your local cable television advisory committee know what you find out.

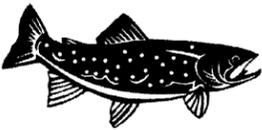
By the way, Ms. Feddeman was Governor Mitt Romney's Press Secretary from 2003 to 2005 ... hmmm ... coincidence?

Barbara A. Brockelman
Stratham, NH

Barbara:

Aha! We've been deeply suspicious about that switch, and dug a little, but couldn't get anywhere. Now it begins to make sense. Thanks!

The Editor



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[Note: We received a phenomenal amount of mail this fortnight, far more than we could publish. These letters are a representative sampling.—The Editor]

Iraq Door-Kicker

Proud of Carol Shea-Porter

To the Editor:

I was a Captain in the Army, Field Artillery, and served in Iraq in 2006 and 2007. I was the operations officer for a small team embedded with the Iraqi Army, kicking down doors in Ramadi and outside of Camp Taji before the surge. I was committed to my job and bringing my troops home safely and am proud of my service there. Now I'm an attorney practicing in Rockingham County.

I am also a committed supporter of Carol Shea-Porter and the job she is doing for us in Congress. Her position on the war—that we should pull the troops

out and commit to winning against Bin Laden in Afghanistan—was right all along and is now emerging as U.S. policy. She is a military daughter and spouse and, while she opposed President Bush's misuse of the military in a tragically misguided war in Iraq, she has supported the troops themselves with advocacy and legislation.

She has pushed for better equipment, higher pay, better educational benefits (the new GI Bill of Rights), better treatment for the Guard and Reserve and improved care for the wounded (including those suffering emotionally) when they get back home. Her heart and her votes are with the troops, and regular folks of all kinds.

Carol Shea-Porter is a true American patriot fighting for our troops, our veterans, their families and, really, all families. I'm proud to have her representing me.

Terence M. O'Rourke
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Thank God for Carol Shea-Porter

To the Editor:

On July 28, 2008 I attended a press conference where Carol Shea-Porter announced the introduction of legislation that would require the VA to upgrade the Manchester VA to a full-service hospital or contract with in-state hospitals to provide necessary services. This announcement shows New Hampshire veterans who their real supporters are in Congress.

As all of us New Hampshire veterans are aware, since we do not have a full service hospital, we are forced to travel out of state for medical care. So the bill introduced by Carol Shea-Porter,

“The Veterans Equity Health Care Act” (HR 6620) is another step she has taken to level the playing field for veterans and give a fair shot at the health care we were promised when we signed on the dotted line and put on the uniform of the United States Military.

As a disabled Vietnam Veteran all I can say is thank God for our friend Carol Shea-Porter.

Bill Whitmore
Manchester, NH

Misconceptions of Shaheen's Stance on Taxes

To the Editor:

If you have been watching television in New Hampshire you have probably seen the “tax machine” attack ad, which has been used against Jeanne Shaheen (you know the one about how she “raised taxes” set to black and white footage of collapsing structures while playing old music). You may be asking yourself “Where did this ad come from? Are the accusations true?”

The ad was paid for by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which is a lobbying organization (they spend more money than any other lobbying organization on a yearly basis) concerned with protecting the interests of business. Like any other lobbying organization those members with the most resources will have the most influence in the organization. So this ad is really an ad that attempts to influence elections to protect the big businesses that have benefited from the presence of these incumbents, like John Sununu.

Sununu has accepted over \$220,000 from big oil and \$250,000 from the pharmaceutical industry; in return he voted to give big businesses tax cuts and vote against bills that would help middle class families here in New Hampshire.

On the other hand, Jeanne Shaheen wants to give tax cuts to working class families that are

being squeezed by the Bush/Sununu economic policies.

During the six years Jeanne Shaheen was governor, she kept New Hampshire's tax burden the lowest of any state in the country, and threatened to veto an income tax (and in effect put an end to any effort to implement it). So if you feel the majority of the tax burden should fall on the middle class, John Sununu is your candidate.

If we want a change in DC, we need a Senator. That is why I am voting for Jeanne Shaheen.

Kelly Rincon
Windham, NH

Carol Shea-Porter Supports the Troops

To the Editor:

I fought in Vietnam and feel like I'm seeing real American heroes when I meet our Iraq and Afghanistan troops and vets. And it hurts in a very personal way to see their patriotism exploited. They deploy without complaint to a thankless war in Iraq and then when they come back, many with wounds they will carry the rest of their lives, they are tossed aside by an administration wanting to hide the true cost of the war.

It is important to have Carol Shea-Porter in Congress to help protect them. I don't buy the eye-wash from stay-at-home patriots who try to cloak themselves in military righteousness and charge Shea-Porter and other Democrats with not “supporting the troops.” Carol Shea-Porter and the Democrats oppose George Bush's disastrous misuse of the our military, but support the troops in numerous direct ways. That's why they passed the new GI Bill of Rights and the largest increase in funding in history for the Veterans Administration—all over strong Republican oppo-

sition, until passage was assured. Carol's own “Combat Veterans' Debt Elimination Act” (H.R. 5155) and “Protecting Military Family Financial Benefits Act”(H.R. 6774) are just two of the many initiatives on which she has taken leadership.

Carol Shea-Porter, a military daughter and spouse and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, is the greatest asset we could have in the next Democratic Congress. Anyone who cares about how we care for our wounded Iraq and Afghanistan vets should vote for her.

Bob Ehlers
Hookset, NH

Shea-Porter Demonstrates Commitment to Health Care

To the Editor:

A couple of years ago at a town hall meeting I witnessed Carol Shea-Porter challenge Jeb Bradley on his lack of commitment to affordable health care. I was awed by her respectful, yet pointed questioning of Bradley. Shea-Porter stated that she came to understand the conflict between Bradley's voting record and his rhetoric when she realized that he was simply fundamentally out of touch with the citizens he had been elected to represent. She then invited him to join her in Rochester so that he could meet some of the elderly and working class people who live in our state who can not afford their prescriptions, individuals who must chose on a regular basis whether to buy food or to fill their prescriptions. Since then I have watched with admiration as Shea-Porter has continued to challenge those who are out of touch with the needs of the poor and working class. She has voted to require group health plans to apply the same treatment limits to mental health as to physical health. She voted



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And Other Correspondence

to extend the SCHIP in order to provide health care coverage to 10 million uninsured children and then supported the override of Bush's veto of the bill. Carol Shea-Porter has also sponsored legislation to ensure that veterans in NH have access to at least one full-service hospital within our state or access to more local providers so that our veterans receive the care they need and deserve. As a result of her votes, her actions, and her commitment to the citizens she represents, I urge you to join me in support of Carol Shea-Porter. She is now a proven leader. She is effective, honest, and concerned about the citizens of NH.

Elisa Bolton
Rye, NH

Shaheen's Right on Stem Cells

To the Editor:

To many people stem cell research is just a philosophical debate, but to families across New Hampshire who have been affected by illnesses such as multiple sclerosis, Lou Gherig's disease, or diabetes, it is much more than that.

Senator Sununu has consistently opposed bills that would help to expand stem cell research; he cast a decisive vote that helped to stop a veto-override on a bill that would expand such research that could improve life for New Hampshire families, and possibly even cure or treat life-threatening illnesses. He continues his opposition, even though surveys have shown that 62 percent of New Hampshire Republicans and 89 percent of New Hampshire Democrats support stem cell research, and only 28 percent of New Hampshire Republicans and 5 percent of New Hampshire Democrats oppose stem cell research.

As a result of in-vitro fertilization procedures, there are more than 400,000 embryos sitting in cold storage, and as many as 10 percent are believed to have been abandoned (simply forgotten by the parents) and may end up being discarded if they are not put into research. All the while the existing stem cell lines were rushed to be cultivated before the Aug. 9, 2001 deadline; the 22 lines that now remain were nourished with material from lab mice and are not suitable for human use.

Jeanne Shaheen supports both embryonic and adult stem cell research, with ethical oversight from the National Institutes of Health. This is just one more example of where she is in touch with changes that can help NH families, and Senator Sununu is not. We need a change of direction, we need a new senator; that's why I support Jeanne Shaheen.

Barbara Brown
Salem, NH

Who Supports Our Troops & Vets?

To the Editor:

I am supporting Carol Shea-Porter for re-election to the House. Currently she is a Member of the House Armed Services Committee and sits on the Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Readiness. Rep. Shea-Porter is a leading advocate for our military personnel, veterans, and their families. Some examples include: initiation of an investigation into allegations that wounded soldiers are being redeployed to Iraq; introduction of a bill to prevent the VA collecting debts of soldiers killed in action; voted for legislation that would provide full educational benefits to returning veterans and added an education and job training for

military spouses; secured \$12.0 million for cold weather gear for the Navy and Marine Corps referred to as a Layering System, thus protecting Infantry Marines from sub-zero temperatures regularly encountered in mountains of Afghanistan; expanding VA funding and make it more automatic and reliable; expanding Manchester VA hospital services; reforming the VA disability benefits rating system to speed up the process and make it much easier for vets; vastly improve the treatment for PTSD and TBI (traumatic brain injury); and increase military pay-3.5 percent instead of 3 percent as proposed by the administration. These are concrete examples of Carol Shea-Porter's thoroughness, understanding and dedication to veterans and their families.

Kathryn Cauble
Effingham, NH

Another Military Family for Shea-Porter

To the Editor:

My father was in the Army for 20 years and a veteran of the Korean Conflict. My husband was a veteran of the Vietnam War and my father-in-law was a prisoner of war in World War II in the Battle of the Bulge. Needless to say, I have a deep commitment and loyalty to the military. I was very interested to hear about Carol Shea-Porter's commitment to all Veterans of the armed services. I was surprised to learn that veterans in New Hampshire do not have all the medical services available to them as veterans in other states do. We do not have a full service medical VA hospital and as a result, many veterans have to travel to other states to receive the care they need. Carol has introduced a bill in Congress asking for funding to make the VA medical center into a full service hospital. This would be such a benefit to the approximately 130,000 veterans

living in New Hampshire and help them to avoid the inconvenience and costly trips to other out of state agencies. I would like to thank Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter for her efforts to help our veterans.

Andrea Downs
Dover, NH

Bradley No Supporter of Vets

To the Editor:

I'm a Vietnam vet who does not think Jeb Bradley supports veterans. When a bill to improve the "concurrent receipt" problem (vets can't receive both retirement and disability payments even though they'd earned both) was introduced in January of 2005, Jeb was not an original cosponsor. He did add his name as cosponsor later so he could tell vets he supported them. But the Republicans in control would not bring the bill to the floor, so Democrats tried to force it by filing a "discharge petition." Jeb wouldn't sign it! When Jeb could have stood up for veterans by standing up to the Republican leadership to get the bill on the floor for a vote—it had 240 cosponsors and would have passed—he refused. In contrast, Carol Shea-Porter is actively working to improve the concurrent receipt problem. And she has just introduced a bill to require the VA to restore services at the Manchester VA Medical Center or contract with local hospitals to do what is needed for vets. Why did Jeb never do that in his 4 years representing vets? In fact, he never passed a single bill of any kind. Shea-Porter has shown that she is a better choice for veterans and everyone.

Bill Duncan
New Castle, NH

Re-Elect Carol Shea-Porter

To the Editor:

Two years ago, Carol Shea-Porter, a former military wife from Rochester, said she would "represent the rest of us" if elect-



ed to Congress. She has far exceeded my expectations. New Hampshire has never had a Representative in Washington who fights harder for the average person than Carol.

Carol understands the burdens we are facing. She sponsored and fought for the minimum wage increase, giving the working poor their first pay increase in 12 years. She also sponsored a bill to make our government negotiate with drug companies to get us the cheapest prices for prescription drugs. And, she voted to stop companies from price gouging seniors on their heating oil bills.

Carol knows working people are facing a tough winter heating season, so she sponsored and pushed through a bill to triple heating oil assistance. To help

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page four

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Puffy clouds in the wake of leisure craft the river darkens
Tom D'Evelyn
haikumuse.com

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, September 7	Monday, September 8	Tuesday, September 9	Wednesday, September 10	Thursday, September 11	Friday, September 12	Saturday, September 13
<p>2000—[When I am President, we] will not have our veterans standing in line waiting for benefits that they've been promised," says G.W. Bush.</p> <p>1996—Two women walk into the Norfolk (Va.) Naval Base with a banner reading "Love Your Enemies." They're arrested.</p> <p>1978—In London, an umbrella-wielding KGB agent gives Bulgarian defector Georgi Markov a fatal jab in the leg.</p> <p>1970—"Plant one, plant two [Secret Service agents] on [Ted Kennedy]," Richard Nixon says to aides. "We might just get lucky and catch this son-of-a-bitch—ruin him for '76. It's going to be fun."</p> <p>1964—Lyndon Johnson's infamous "Daisy Ad," is aired, once, during NBC's "Monday Night at the Movies."</p> <p>1960—The Rev. Norman Vincent Peale opines that any Catholic president would be "under extreme pressure from the hierarchy of his church."</p> <p>1914—French generals send 6,000 infantrymen from Paris to the Battle of the Marne in taxicabs. They hold the line, saving the city.</p> <p>1892—John Greenleaf Whittier dies in Hampton Falls, N.H.</p> <p>1876—The James/Younger Gang attempts to rob banks in Northfield, Minn., with a notable lack of success.</p>	<p>2005—A post-mortem tribute to former Quebec premier Lucien Bouchard, being broadcast on a Canadian radio station, is cut short when the station is informed he is not dead.</p> <p>1978—The Shah of Iran uses U.S.-made tanks and helicopter gunships to put down the Black Friday riots in Tehran; 89 die. Six months later the Ayatollah's in charge.</p> <p>1974—President Gerald Ford pardons ex-President Richard Nixon for any crimes he "committed or may have committed" as president.</p> <p>1974—Evel Knievel rides a rocket-powered motorcycle partway across the Snake River Canyon.</p> <p>1972—In exchange for a \$200,000 contribution from Ray A. Kroc to R. Nixon's reelection campaign, the Federal Price Commission gives McDonald's permission, which it had denied on May 21, to raise the price of a quarter pounder.</p> <p>1965—Farmworkers begin a strike against grape growers.</p> <p>1944—The first V-2 rockets are launched from the Netherlands, killing three in London.</p> <p>1935—Sen. Huey Long is shot by Dr. Carl A. Weiss, Jr. Weiss is killed on the spot by Long's bodyguards; Long dies two days later.</p> <p>1923—A squadron of 14 new Navy destroyers runs aground off California due to incompetence. Seven ships are lost, 23 sailors killed.</p>	<p>1999—Louis T. "Moondog" Hardin, American composer, street musician, and blind, Viking-helm-wearing eccentric, dies at 83 in Germany.</p> <p>1980—The <i>MV Derbyshire</i> sinks in a typhoon off Japan with all hands. Just four years old, the cargo ship is the largest UK vessel ever lost at sea. The company blames the crew but a union investigation leads to their exoneration decades later.</p> <p>1971—A four-day riot begins at Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, NY. Prisoners take nine guards hostage.</p> <p>1966—San Francisco's hippie paper <i>Oracle</i> begins publication.</p> <p>1950—The Hank McCune Show introduces TV's "laugh track."</p> <p>1949—A bomb planted by Albert Guay brings down a Canadian Pacific DC-3, killing all 23 on board including Albert's wife Rita. Al is not on board.</p> <p>1944—Japanese incendiaries fall on Oregon, but fail to ignite forests.</p> <p>1919—Boston police strike when union leaders are fired; looting follows. Gov. Calvin Coolidge calls out the militia.</p> <p>1910—Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas move in together.</p> <p>1841—Tom Hyer beats—literally—George "Country" McChester in a 3-hour, 101 round fight.</p> <p>1739—Eighty slaves revolt in S. Carolina, killing 20 whites.</p>	<p>1977—Hamida Djandoubi, a one-legged Tunisian pimp, becomes the last man to die in a French guillotine.</p> <p>1945—In Fruita, CO Lloyd Wilson chops the head off "Mike," a young rooster who goes on to have an 18-month career as "The Headless Wonder Chicken."</p> <p>1939—<i>HMS Oxley</i> becomes the first British sub sunk in WW II—by <i>HMS Triton</i>.</p> <p>1913—The first coast-to-coast paved road—the "Lincoln Highway"—opens.</p> <p>1897—When strikers at a Lattimer, Pa., coal mine refuse to disperse, a sheriff's posse opens fire, killing 19 and wounding 36. Most were shot in the back.</p> <p>1869—In Yokohama, the rickshaw is invented—by a Baptist minister.</p> <p>1857—Mormon Bishop John D. Lee and his followers trick 120 Arkansans en route to California, who had just been attacked by Indians, out of their wagons and murder about 100 of them in the Mountain Meadows Massacre.</p> <p>1813—Commodore Perry's small fleet of American ships defeats a British squadron at the Battle of Lake Erie. Two cannons which were part of the booty now grace the entrance to the Portsmouth Athenaeum.</p> <p>1676—The founder of the Diggers, Gerrard Winstanley, dies at 67.</p>	<p>2006—The U.S.A.F. announces that 106 T-3A Firefly trainers bought for \$32 million, grounded after 3 fatal crashes, repaired for \$10 million, then stored without maintenance, will now be scrapped.</p> <p>2001—Four American airliners are hijacked and crashed; thousands die. George Bush scurries to safety, Donald Rumsfeld looks for excuses to attack Iraq, and Dick "Dick" Cheney authorizes the shooting down of civilian airliners.</p> <p>1975—In Portsmouth, President Ford stumps for Louis Wyman in his ill-fated Senate race.</p> <p>1973—Duly elected President of Chile, Salvador Allende, is overthrown by CIA-backed thugs.</p> <p>1966—"Free" elections are held in South Vietnam, all but assuring a peaceful future.</p> <p>1942—After its pilot parachutes to safety, a burning airplane crashes into the Curtiss-Wright airplane factory in Buffalo, NY, killing 12 and injuring 35.</p> <p>1942—Wheeler Lipes, a 22-year old dropout, successfully removes the inflamed appendix of a shipmate aboard the submerged U.S.S. <i>Seadragon</i>. The Navy's Surgeon General rewards him with the threat of a court martial.</p> <p>1649—In Drogheda, Ireland, Oliver Cromwell and his New Model Army slaughter 2,800 soldiers and 700 civilians.</p>	<p>1994—After an evening spent drinking alcohol and smoking crack with his brother, Frank E. Corder dies at about 1:49 a.m., crash-landing a stolen Cessna on the South Lawn of the White House.</p> <p>1990—Charles Walker's heart beats for five minutes after Illinois begins killing him, because a lethal injection tube is kinked.</p> <p>1977—Steven Biko dies while in the custody of South African police.</p> <p>1972—Wm. "Hopalong Cassidy" Boyd heads for the last roundup.</p> <p>1970—Timothy Leary busts out of prison with help from the Weather Underground.</p> <p>1909—Emiliano Zapata, 30, is elected to head the town council of Anenecuceno, Mexico.</p> <p>1880—H.L. Mencken, newspaperman, is born in Baltimore.</p> <p>1860—American adventurer William Walker, former dictator of Nicaragua, deposed by Cornelius Vanderbilt and captured by the British, is executed by a Honduran firing squad.</p> <p>1818—Birth of Richard J. Gatling, inventor of the hand-cranked machine gun.</p> <p>1798—Ben Franklin's grandson, Benjamin Franklin Bache, a newspaper editor, is arrested for violating the Sedition Act.</p> <p>1776—Nathan Hale sets off on spy mission.</p>	<p>1981—William Loeb, alleged newspaperman, goes to his eternal torment at the age of 75.</p> <p>1971—To restore order at New York's Attica state prison, five hundred state troopers fire 2,200 rounds in nine minutes. The dead include 29 prisoners and ten guards.</p> <p>1959—The Soviets beat the U.S. to the moon—<i>Luna 2</i> lands.</p> <p>1940—The Luftwaffe destroys Buckingham Palace.</p> <p>1922—The temperature hits 136.4 in the shade at El Aziziya, Libya, setting a world record.</p> <p>1913—Mary, an elephant who had killed her untrained trainer the day before, is hanged from a railroad crane in Erwin, TN.</p> <p>1899—Henry Bliss, a real estate agent, gets off a New York City streetcar and is struck by an electric car.</p> <p>1860—Future general John J. "Black Jack" Pershing is born.</p> <p>1859—Sen. David Broderick (D-CA) is fatally shot in the chest by his duelling opponent, California's Chief Justice David Terry.</p> <p>1847—Six teenage cadets of the Mexican Army defy orders to retreat and die defending Chapultepec Castle.</p> <p>1759—On the Plains of Abraham, General James Wolfe, 32, dies victorious. General Louis Montcalm, 47, dies defeated. They just don't fight battles like they used to.</p>
<p>5:16 5:32</p> <p>11:05 11:57</p>	<p>6:19 6:34</p> <p>12:04</p>	<p>7:25 7:38</p> <p>1:02 1:08</p>	<p>8:25 8:35</p> <p>2:04 2:09</p>	<p>9:17 9:25</p> <p>2:58 3:03</p>	<p>10:01 10:10</p> <p>3:44 3:50</p>	<p>10:40 10:51</p> <p>4:25 4:33</p>
Sunday, September 14	Monday, September 15	Tuesday, September 16	Wednesday, September 17	Thursday, September 18	Friday, September 19	Saturday, September 20
<p>2005—At the UN, during the World Summit, the Leader of the Free World passes a note to Secretary of State C. Rice saying, "I think I may need a bathroom break. Is that possible?"</p> <p>2001—George W. Bush declares that America's "responsibility to history" is to "rid the world of evil."</p> <p>1964—At the White House, arch-propagandist Walt Disney is awarded the Medal of Freedom.</p> <p>1964—UC Berkeley's Dean of Students tells "off campus" organizations they can't use sidewalks to distribute information.</p> <p>1938—The <i>Graf Zeppelin II</i>, world's largest airship, first flies.</p> <p>1927—Isadora Duncan is throttled by her scarf and a car.</p> <p>1899—Henry Bliss becomes the first person in the U.S. to be killed by an automobile.</p> <p>1874—In a bloody coup d'état, the White Leagues take over the Louisiana state government.</p> <p>1847—U.S. Marines under General Winfield "Old Fuss and Feathers" Scott take the Halls of Montezuma.</p> <p>1836—Aaron Burr, the first vice President to shoot a man, dies in Port Richmond, NY.</p> <p>1814—Francis Scott Key is inspired to write <i>The Star Spangled Banner</i>, cribbing the tune from <i>To Anacreon in Heaven</i>, a British drinking song.</p>	<p>2004—Washington, DC police respond to a 911 call from the bathroom of Rep. Don Sherwood (R-PA), 63, whom the caller, Cynthia Ore, 28, accuses of choking her.</p> <p>1980—A B-52 armed with nukes burns for hours at Grand Forks AFB, ND. The fire is put out before anything explodes.</p> <p>1963—Two Ku Klux Klan members bomb Birmingham's 16th St. Baptist Church, killing 4 girls and injuring 22. One bomber is convicted 14 years later; the delay is caused by J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover's withholding of evidence.</p> <p>1950—U.S. forces land at Inchon, Korea.</p> <p>1946—The Dodgers beat the Cubs 2-0 in just 5 innings; game is called on account of gnats.</p> <p>1940—During the Battle of Britain, RAF fighter pilot Ray Holmes spots a Dornier heading for Buckingham Palace. His Hurricane out of ammo, he rams the Dornier, downing it, and parachutes to safety.</p> <p>1931—At Invergordon, British sailors mutiny for more money.</p> <p>1916—First tanks in battle, Flors, France.</p> <p>1913—John Mitchell, future Republican Attorney General of the U.S. and jailbird, is born.</p> <p>1885—In St. Thomas, Ontario, P.T. Barnum's elephant Jumbo dies after being hit by a train.</p>	<p>2001—Dick "Dick" Cheney accepts Tim Russert's assertion that he would accept Osama bin Laden's head on a platter, and admits that the U.S. has no evidence linking Saddam Hussein or Iraq to 9/11.</p> <p>1975—New Hampshire Democrat John Durkin wins a Senate seat after a marathon nine-month battle following the closest Senate election in history.</p> <p>1974—President Ford announces a conditional amnesty for Vietnam War deserters.</p> <p>1968—R. Nixon, on "Laugh-In," says, "Sock it to me."</p> <p>1940—A remarkably prescient draft goes into effect over a year before Pearl Harbor is attacked.</p> <p>1925—Riley B. "B.B." King is born in Itta Bena, Miss.</p> <p>1920—A bomb in a horse-drawn wagon explodes in front of the J.P. Morgan building on Wall Street, killing 38 and wounding 400.</p> <p>1893—Ten thousand people race for 42,000 parcels of land in the Oklahoma Land Rush.</p> <p>1864—Confederate Cavalry chief Wade Hampton and his men steal 2,500 head of Union Army beef.</p> <p>1692—Giles Cory, 80, is crushed to death in Salem for refusing to testify in his trial for witchcraft.</p> <p>1620—The <i>Mayflower</i> leaves Plymouth, England. On board are 48 crew members and 101 colonists, of whom only 35 are Pilgrims.</p>	<p>2002—"There's an old saying in Tennessee," G.W. Bush mumbles in Nashville, "I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee—that says, fool me once, shame on—shame on you. Fool me ... you can't get fooled again."</p> <p>2001—George W. Bush tells the press he wants bin Laden "dead or alive," but he tells the Pentagon to plan an invasion of Iraq.</p> <p>1991—In what passes for praise before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Yale Law School Dean Guido Calabresi opines that, if confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice, Clarence Thomas might grow intellectually.</p> <p>1967—The Mt. Washington cog railway train derails, killing eight.</p> <p>1952—Long-forgotten "I Am an American Day" and "Constitution Day" are combined in also-forgotten "Citizenship Day."</p> <p>1948—Count Folke Bernadotte, in Jerusalem to mediate the Arab-Israeli conflict for the UN, is assassinated by the Zionist Stern Gang.</p> <p>1935—Len Koenecke, an outfielder just cut from the Dodgers, charts a plane, starts a fight with the pilot, and is killed by a blow to the head with a fire extinguisher.</p> <p>1908—Thomas Selfridge becomes the first person to be killed by a powered aircraft.</p> <p>1851—The <i>New York Times</i> begins printing fit news.</p>	<p>2001—Five anthrax-laced letters are mailed to news media by a person or persons still unapprehended. Five people die.</p> <p>2001—EPA Chief Christine Todd Whitman, acceding to a White House request, says the air at "Ground Zero" is safe to breathe.</p> <p>1980—The Soviet Union puts the first black person in space: Cuban Arnoldo Tamayo.</p> <p>1975—The FBI catches "Tanya," press baron Wm. Randolph Hearst's bank-robbing granddaughter.</p> <p>1968—Mexican troops invade the National University with predictable—i.e., fatal—results.</p> <p>1895—Booker T. Washington, in his "Atlanta Compromise" speech, renounces black agitation for equal rights as "extremist folly."</p> <p>1873—The overextended Jay Cooke, who helped finance the Civil War, goes bust on railroads, precipitating the Panic of 1873.</p> <p>1830—Near Baltimore, <i>Tom Thumb</i>, the first American steam locomotive, racing a horse, springs a leak; the horse wins.</p> <p>1793—Using secret Masonic rites, G. Washington lays the cornerstone for the U.S. Capitol.</p> <p>1709—Birth of Samuel Johnson, scrofulous lexicographer.</p> <p>96—The pioneering Roman Emperor Domitian, first to use women and dwarves in gladiatorial combat, is stabbed to death.</p>	<p>2001—George W. Bush tells CIA chief George Tenet to look for links between S. Hussein and al Qaeda, and recommends Dick "Dick" Cheney as a source.</p> <p>2001—Official start of U.S. war against Afghanistan.</p> <p>1991—Alpine tourists discover Oetzi the Iceman.</p> <p>1980—In Arkansas, an Air Force repairman drops a tool that punctures a fuel tank that leaks vapors that explode and hurl a nuclear weapon 600 feet, but only one person is killed.</p> <p>1961—Betty and Barney Hill of Portsmouth, NH find their trip back home from a vacation takes two hours longer than expected.</p> <p>1959—Nikita Khrushchev is denied admission to Disneyland.</p> <p>1957—First U.S. underground nuclear explosion: Nevada.</p> <p>1952—The U.S. (with Richard Nixon as Vice President, Joe McCarthy a Senator, and Bill Loeb publishing a newspaper) bars Charlie Chaplin from entering unless he proves he's of sound moral character.</p> <p>1945—William Joyce, aka "Lord Haw-Haw," an American-born fascist of Irish descent, is sentenced to death in England for broadcasting German propaganda.</p> <p>1796—President Washington warns against any "small, artful, enterprising minority" that might try to control the government.</p>	<p>2001—Before a joint session of Congress, George W. Bush declares "War on Terror." The idiots listen and take him seriously.</p> <p>1988—Desperately pandering for votes as usual, Veep George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush visits a flag factory.</p> <p>1977—The United Nations admits Vietnam.</p> <p>1976—<i>Playboy</i> publishes Jimmy Carter's confession of lust.</p> <p>1973—Billy Jean King beats Bobby Riggs in tennis.</p> <p>1958—A deranged woman stabs Martin Luther King while he autographs books in Harlem.</p> <p>1945—German rocket scientist Werner von Braun begins working for the U.S.</p> <p>1906—Upton Sinclair's <i>The Jungle</i> is published.</p> <p>1885—Birth of Ferdinand "Jelly Roll" Morton.</p> <p>1878—Birth of Upton Sinclair.</p> <p>1873—In response to the Panic, the NY Stock Exchange shuts down for ten days.</p> <p>1830—In Philadelphia, 38 free blacks form the National Negro Convention to abolish slavery.</p> <p>1797—The frigate <i>Constitution</i> is launched in Boston.</p> <p>1378—French cardinals elect Robert of Geneva, aka "The Butcher of Cesena," to be Pope Clement VII, bringing the current number of Popes to two.</p>
<p>11:16 11:30</p> <p>5:02 5:15</p>	<p>11:51</p> <p>5:38 5:55</p>	<p>12:10 12:28</p> <p>6:15 6:37</p>	<p>12:51 1:07</p> <p>6:54 7:20</p>	<p>1:33 1:49</p> <p>7:35 8:06</p>	<p>2:19 2:34</p> <p>8:19 8:56</p>	<p>3:09 3:25</p> <p>9:07 9:50</p>

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