

The Fortnightly Rant

Surveying the Wreckage

Waking Wednesday morning and gazing at the banner headlines, one could sense for a moment what it might be like for an innocent man wrongly convicted to roll out of his prison bunk and find all the doors open. Especially if, walking out the front gate into freedom, he could see nothing but wreckage and destruction as far as the eye could see.

Minutes after he took his oath of office, Gerry Ford declared that "our long national nightmare is over." Like so many of us in that more innocent age, Ford had no idea how long a nightmare could be. Or how ugly. Richard Nixon's Watergate scandal lasted just over two years, from the break-in to his resignation. The Bush administration has been four Watergates in a row.

In fact, George W. Bush's record, from the post-election, pre-inaugural shenanigans in Florida to the failure to catch bin Laden, from the fraudulently-justified attack on Iraq through its prolonged *sequela*, not to mention Hurricane Katrina, the Walter Reed Army Hospital disgrace, the Justice Department scandal, the mismanagement of the housing bubble, and the subsequent Wall Street bailout, combine to make Nixon look, in comparison, like a paragon of virtue. Not since the (allegedly) Greatest Generation endured the Great Depression, and then World War II, have the American people longed so deeply to wake from such a prolonged nightmare.

But finally, during the last two weeks of October, as the Presidential campaign dragged interminably on, it seemed like a faint glow might be seen on the horizon. The odds of a Republican victory began to look increasing-

ly slim. The McCain campaign was displaying new symptoms of disarray almost every day. By the end of the month, state-by-state polling showed an apparently insurmountable Electoral College lead for Sen. Barack Obama.

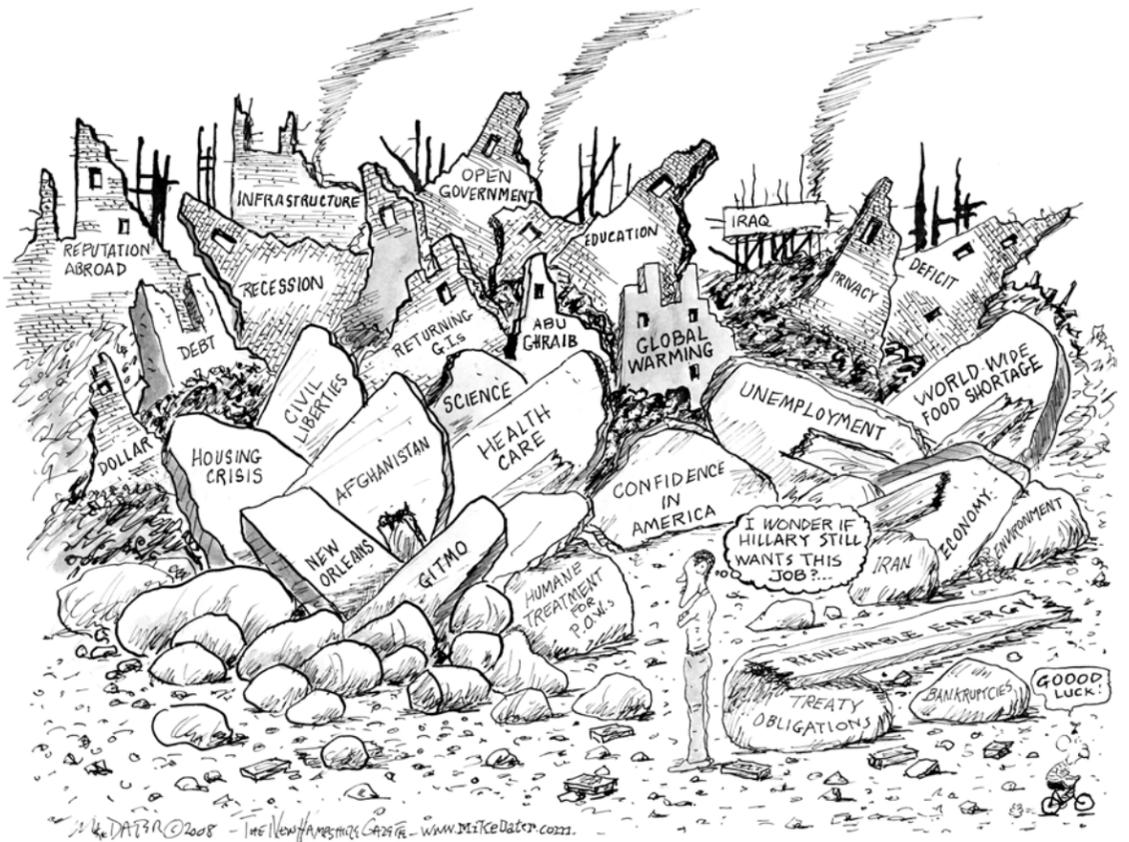
Eruptions of irrational exuberance were forestalled by infusions of Conventional Wisdom, dispensed via intra-cranial drip in the form of talking heads on cable TV. The inescapable CW reminded everyone that the race would inevitably tighten—"It always does."

Just look at the precedent, the argument went: a week before the 2004 election, the polls had shown John Kerry with about 300 Electoral College votes—thirty more than he needed to win—while Bush was coming up short by at least forty. And sure enough, the expected "tightening" appeared right on schedule. Bush squeaked by, 286 to 251.

The CW was inescapable on TV. The alternative view was invisible. A very good case can be made that the 2004 election was rigged. Just don't expect to hear it on TV.

That race hinged on Ohio. Bush took the state's 20 Electoral votes with a margin of just 118,775 votes. If 60,000 of those votes—about one percent—had gone the other way, Bush would have moved back to Texas in 2005.

In a report issued on January 5 that year, the Democratic Staff of the House Judiciary Committee documented "numerous, serious election irregularities in the Ohio presidential election, which resulted in a significant disenfranchisement of voters. Cumulatively, these irregularities, which affected hundreds of thousand of votes and



voters in Ohio, raise grave doubts regarding whether it can be said the Ohio electors selected on December 13, 2004, were chosen in a manner that conforms to Ohio law, let alone federal requirements and constitutional standards."

Thanks to the leadership of Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-IL), Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), and Henry Hyde (R-IL), the Democratic Staff Report was greeted with derision, and has been ignored ever since. It's also worth noting that at that time George W.

Bush's pre-Katrina approval rating was still at a relatively robust 50 percent.

For the record, though, the report recorded "massive and unprecedented voter irregularities and anomalies in Ohio ... [i]n many cases ... caused by intentional misconduct and illegal behavior, much of it involving Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell, the co-chair of the Bush-Cheney campaign in Ohio."

The ultimate effect was the disenfranchisement of "hundreds of thousands of Ohio citizens, predominantly minority and Democratic voters."

Clearly there was more than enough election-rigging in 2004 to have changed the outcome in Bush's favor—whether or not the press or public officials ever acknowledged that fact.

The price Republicans paid for their sleazy election "victories"—beyond whatever untold sums they paid to their myriad operatives—was widespread doubt

about the validity of our elections among the general public.

If last Tuesday's election results had been close, would anyone believe them? And how might a disbelieving public have responded? Was it just a coincidence that the Third Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team was assigned to the Northern Command—namely, the continental U.S.—in October? Thanks in equal measure to John McCain's lurching, ham-handed campaign, and Obama's finely-tuned machine, we will probably never know.

Obama did what he had to do: he won the election by too large a margin—7.3 million votes—for GOP thugs to steal it.

The next President of the United States: Barack Hussein Obama.

Lord only knows why a man would want the task of cleaning up the wreckage of the Bush maladministration, but he's got it now.



News Briefs:

Jeb Bradley Gets His Just Desserts

Toward the end of his campaign to drive Carol Shea-Porter from the Congressional seat he felt was rightly his, former First District Representative Jeb Bradley's revanchist campaign began featuring the rather startling claim that she supported federally subsidized housing for drug pushers and sex offenders.

Our introduction to this bizarre calumny came in the form of a mailer from the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC). This grotesque item showed the stubbled and menacing face of a degenerate person, glaring at the observer from a dark background. We reproduce it at right, shown at one-thirtieth of its original size.

"Carol Shea-Porter's vote," read the text, "would allow sex offenders and drug dealers to buy homes in our neighborhood."

In slightly smaller text, the mailer claims "Shea-Porter voted AGAINST prohibiting sex offenders and drug dealers from

buying homes in our neighborhoods made available with taxpayer funds." A footnote refers to "Vote 298, May 5, 2008," which turns out to be HR 5818, the Neighborhood Stabilization Act.

Four letter writers wrote to us about a Bradley television commercial making the same outlandish claim. One, Cynthia Muse of Rye, explained the matter this way:

"The act provides \$15 billion to buy foreclosed properties and prevents further foreclosures.

"House Minority Leader John Boehner ... had John Shadegg (R-AZ) offer a motion to recommit, which sends the bill back to committee, essentially killing it if the motion is passed. But the key

is that they added language to the motion barring subsidies for people they know we don't like, sex offenders and drug pushers. Now when Democrats vote against the motion to recommit, in order to keep this important bill alive, they are trapped into voting against excluding these felons. Democrats know they can later strip this language from the bill on the floor of the House, but the GOP doesn't care. It just wants their original votes on record to use against them.

"Now Jeb [Bradley] ... springs the trap on Carol Shea-Porter in a television ad. The result is an ad meant to mislead voters. Shea-Porter wants the housing bill to pass, but obviously not to benefit sex offenders and drug pushers."

Clearly Ol' Jeb and his pals at the NRCC have been studying the careers of the Great Masters, Joseph Goebbels and Karl Rove—if you're going to tell a lie, make it a great big filthy one!

According to the pundits, Carol Shea-Porter was one of the most vulnerable incumbents in the House. But when the voters got their say, she rolled right over Bradley, beating him by seven percent.

We have one more item we'd like to pass along before Jeb disappears from our rear-view mirror. It's from Zandra Rice Hawkins at Granite State Prog-



Scary Bradley Mailer



Voting was proceeding normally—that is, calmly and efficiently—at Portsmouth's Ward Two on Tuesday afternoon. By that time, the usual horror stories of six-hour waits and equipment malfunctions were already rolling in from Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Florida.

News Briefs

from page one

ress, a Concord-based 501c(4) (granitestateprogress.org).

"A report released by the House Committee on Government and Oversight Reform shows that former Rep. Jeb Bradley directly benefited from the improper and unethical use of taxpayer money to support his 2006 re-election bid.

"The House Committee on Oversight has documented that senior Bush political aides used federal funds to support the re-election campaign of former Rep. Bradley by scheduling federal officials to visit New Hampshire's First Congressional District for campaign events disguised as official business. White House communication records show that the trips were specifically intended to help Bradley win re-election—the very definition of political activity.

"Full documentation can be found at <http://oversight.house.gov/story.asp?ID=2222>."

We're shocked—shocked!—to learn that SBA Administrator Steve Preston was in apparent

violation of the Hatch Act when he visited Manchester on October 10, 2006!

The Sports Section

The McCain for President campaign e-mailed a jubilant press release on Monday, October 27. Actually, they sent a news story from the *Manchester Union Leader*, verbatim, but it's hard to tell the difference. Here's the meat of the lede paragraph: "Local baseball fans and Republicans were in heaven last night as Boston Red Sox ace pitcher Curt Schilling campaigned" for John McCain.

As a good lede paragraph should, this one neatly summarizes the whole story. And, as is customary with the *Union Leader*, it is densely packed with a subtle form of wrongness.

In its original context, the *Manchester Union Leader*, the story is mildly amusing, though not really worthy of much notice. As a boast from the McCain camp, though, it's hilarious, in an appalling sort of way.

The paper has always had a fa-

natical reverence for traditional forms, and for what its editors consider to be the proper order of things. So a World Series-winning Red Sox pitcher's appearance, in their hometown, to support the GOP's presidential nominee, is sure to make the paper. And the *Union Leader's* Staff Writer, Benjamin Kepple, handles the task effortlessly: Schilling, the unrepentant George W. Bush-backer, delivers the old rah rah for Bush's would-be successor to the patrons of The Wild Rover on Kosciuszko Street. In turn, they shower him with adoration. The glory days of 2004 are briefly recounted. Enthusiasm for the new GOP ticket is unbounded. All is right with the world.

Being the pro that he is, Kepple skipped right over the awkward fact that this year, Schilling has thrown a grand total of one pitch for the Sox: the ceremonial opening pitch for Game 5 of the American League Championship Series at Fenway, which bounced on its way to the plate. In return for this mighty service, and for

allowing his name to grace their disabled list all season, the Red Sox paid Schilling eight million bucks. No wonder he feels at home with the Republicans.

Right-Wing Misbehavior: Austrian Division

A spate of recent reports suggest that our political "preferences" may be less a matter of choice than was previously assumed. Identical twins with more similar DNA, for instance, are more likely to vote alike than fraternal twins. Reckless hack journalists will no doubt seize on this thin slice of data to make all kinds of dubious extrapolations—so let's get started!

If our politics are partly inherent, then the political types we're so familiar with in this country may be found elsewhere. Any evidence of that? Hmmm ...

Early last month Jörg Haider, the Austrian politician best known for his extreme right-wing views and a racist antipathy towards immigrants, died in an automobile accident.

One Austrian journalist wrote that that the hard-line authoritarian "died as he lived: always full-throttle, always over the limit."

Too true. Haider crashed his expensive Volkswagen Phaeton on his way to his mother's 90th birthday party. He was driving at

twice the speed limit, with three times the legal limit of alcohol in his blood. His car came to rest against a house painted orange—the signature color of Haider's political party.

As if that weren't reminiscent enough of certain American right-wingers we could mention, according to news reports he had just left a bar where he'd been drinking with a young man, after a quarrel with one Stefan Petzner, who, after Haider's death, declared that the two had shared a relationship that "went far beyond friendship."

We're Number 29!

In certain circles—among Republicans running for office, for instance—the superiority of American health care is a veritable shibboleth. To suggest otherwise is to invite scorn and derision. Equally sacrosanct is the presumption that, next to perhaps God and the Flag, America's children are our highest priority. Neither of these articles of faith jibes very well with a report issued last month by the Centers for Disease Control. It seems we're still slipping when it comes to infant mortality.

Back in 1960 the U.S. was ranked 12th on that fairly fundamental score. (One is tempted to ask, why were we doing so poorly then? Who was in serious com-

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Obama supporters have been campaigning in front of the North Church almost every day for the past couple of weeks. Similar efforts by McCain supporters have been notably less visible. For the most part, the weather has been cooperative, if sometimes a bit chilly. On the Tuesday one week before the election, it happened to rain fairly heavily for a couple of hours. Who would stand in the rain for hours, supporting their candidate? Why, Veterans for Obama, of course—no sense letting all that prior military experience go to waste!



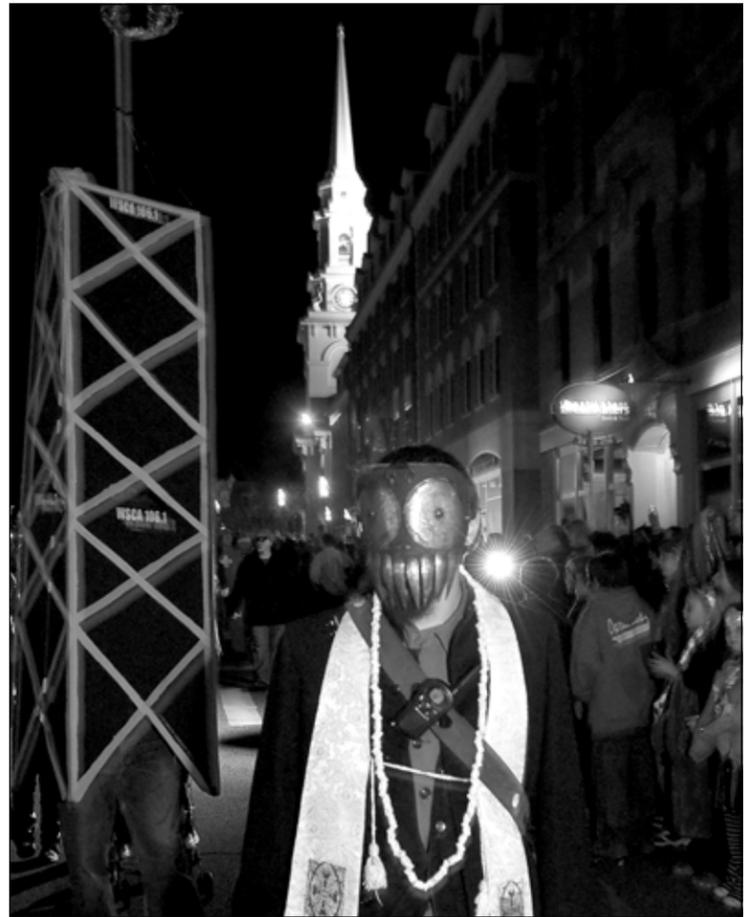
Readers who feel nauseated when contemplating their 401(k)s may appreciate this. In 1999, Gemstar International Group paid \$9.2 billion to Rupert Murdoch for the then-best-selling magazine in America, TV Guide. Last month Gemstar's successor, Macrovision, sold the same property to OpenGate Capital for the sum of \$1.

petition with us in those days?)

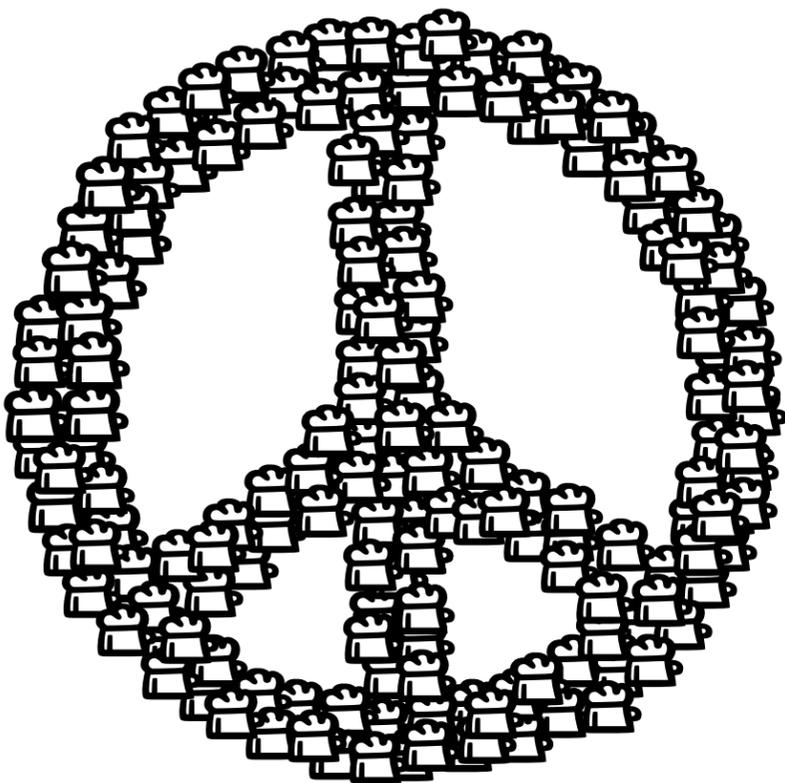
The new report says that in 2004, the most recent year for which data is available, we slipped to 29th. Data from the United Nations gives further insight. Among those nations beating us on this front are Slovenia, New Caledonia, and Cuba.



For our readers outside its distribution area, we note a "Person on the Street" item from the Nov. 2 Portsmouth Herald. It asks, "Where do you get your political humor?" Mike Paquette of Hampton replies, "The New Hampshire Gazette. I don't know if he's attempting to be funny, but occasionally it's obvious. He's making depressing facts a little less depressing ... and HBO's 'Real Time with Bill Maher.'"



Yet another fabulous Halloween Parade brought out the (un)usual suspects. Photos by Jeremy Heflin.



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



Moving Pictures

Changeling

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich, Jeffrey Donovan, Colm Feore, Michael Kelly, Jason Butler Harner; Screenplay: J. Michael Straczynski; Director: Clint Eastwood; Rating: [R]

It's every parent's nightmare scenario, with a cruel nightmare twist. You come home to find your child missing. The cops are indifferent, or blame you for being a bad parent. Your kid seems to have vanished into thin air until, in a staged public relations event, the cops claim to have located your child and return him to you as the camera click and the bulbs flash. But standing beside you is a child not your own. The boy who calls you "Mommy" but is obviously not your son. For one thing he's three inches shorter, and circumcised. His dental work doesn't match—not even close. His school teacher doesn't recognize

him, nor do the kids from the neighborhood. But the niggling details don't matter—the cops want a happy ending, and when you insist they should keep looking for your missing child, they announce you're delusional and have you committed to a corrupt psychiatric hospital that specializes in torturing any citizen who defies the authorities. The only way you can get out of the snake pit is to sign a legal document stating that the strange child left your care is in fact your missing son. You refuse to sign, and the torture resumes.

It's the stuff of fiction [in the spirit of full disclosure, your reviewer has penned a number of such thrillers under a pseudonym] but in this case based on the all-too real case of Christine Collins (Angelina Jolie) whose nine-year-old son was abducted in Los Angeles, in 1928. Walter Collins was one of at least twenty such boys reported missing and barely investigated by an indif-

ferent and actively corrupt police force that made Chicago's finest look positively saintly. Mrs. Collins, a divorcee and shift supervisor for the telephone company, was indeed presented with a child obviously not her own, and was then declared psychotic when she wouldn't go along with the deception. Only when her case was taken up by a radio preacher (John Malkovich) was she released finally from custody.

The main reason to give Changeling a look isn't Ms. Jolie, whose work is adequate but not transformative—she's no Hilary Swank, in other words—but because like Million Dollar Baby, this is directed by Clint Eastwood. The man knows how to make a solid, intriguing movie out of difficult material, even when he's dealing with a reality-based story that can't have a conventional happy ending. Much of the story takes place in 1928, before the dust bowl brought the Joads and their ilk to Cali-

fornia, and he gets most of the little details right. The fashions, the middle-class prosperity, the street cars, and the Prohibition era corruption that allowed the LA police chief (Colm Feore) to assemble a "gun squad" of detectives whose job it was to execute suspected gangsters and dump the bodies in the streets of Los Angeles as a demonstrations of power. Think of the current cop/drug wars in Mexico, with kids discovering executed bodies in the school yards, and you won't be far off.

The few anachronisms—"single mother," "serial killer," some references to modern pop psychology—that creep into Changeling were probably intentional, to help move the story along. At well over two hours, it does need a nudge every now and then. To cut Clint some slack, he's attempting to tell a big story in a large setting. The Collins case became a cause célèbre of the time, as outraged citizens de-

manded justice and had to settle for something less than complete reform, a movement that continues to this day.

As per usual with Mr. Eastwood, his casting is for the most part impeccable. John Malkovich, getting deep into character, resists chewing the period-piece furniture and in truth isn't on screen all that much, although when he's there he seems exactly right. Jeffrey Donovan (from Burn Notice) plays an odious police captain to whom the truth is of no consequence, and you'll love to hate him. Jason Butler Harner does a very chilling job playing Gordon Stewart Northcott, the grinning killer of boys (in real life possibly aided by his mother), and Michael Kelly is solid as the one detective who actually wants to solve a crime so horrible, and so notorious at the time, that that farm town of Wineville, California, changed its name to the less blood-soaked Mira Loma.

More Hate Mail, &c.

from page seven

a first-person account of why, despite Bradley's many misleading ads claiming broad support from veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars supported Shea-Porter, instead. The Editor

To Thine Own Self Be True

To the Editor:

Simon ben Zoma, an insightful Jewish sage and Talmudic scholar who, some 2,000 years ago, dared to think outside the box, observed:

"The truly wise are those who learn from every which source;

"The truly rich are those who appreciate what they have;

"The truly powerful are those

who subdue negative impressions;

"The truly esteemed are those who give honor to others."

Food for thought for hungry minds to digest ...

Dr. Charles Frederickson Bangkok, Thailand

The Hole In The Wall Street Gang

To the Editor:

According to a Bloomberg report, Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch have set aside 13 billion dollars to give out as year end bonuses, despite the financial meltdown.

Wow! I gotta give Hank "The Bank" Paulson credit. As the leader of the Hole In The Wall Street Gang, he has pulled off

perhaps the biggest heist in history. He knows how to make money the old fashioned way—extortion.

"A poor man must swing for stealing a belt buckle. But if a rich man steals a whole state, he is acclaimed as statesman of the year."—Chuang Tzu

Gary Walker Campton, NH

The Kiss of Death

To the Editor:

The Communist Chinese over-produced a chemical called melamine. It is used in plastics and as a dye. It can make you very sick if you eat it or get exposed to it. It is a poison with a twist—it shows up as protein in certain tests on food.

When food comes into the U.S., one of the tests performed is for protein levels—to see if it is good food. If the food is loaded with melamine the tests would indicate it was good food.

Melamine appeared in the Chinese milk supply. Over 50,000 children were injured. There is no telling how many died.

The poison showed up in candy. One example is Cadbury's in China. Hershey's distributes chocolate in the U.S. for Cadbury's. Poisoned chocolate was sent to the U.S.

Controls on Import/Export businesses are lacking. China produces a certain amount of food that is barely enough to feed its population of over one billion people, and yet they seem

to be exporting more than they are producing.

Vietnam also has a hard time producing food, but an over-abundance of melamine—they supply cocoa to China.

If the Vietnamese add melamine, and then the Chinese do, and our government lets them ship that poison into this country, your next bite of chocolate could be your last.

What other products containing "protein" is China sending to our supermarkets?

Do you want to celebrate Halloween or Valentine's Day by giving your loved ones a Hershey's Kiss of Death?

Alfred Brock Wayne MI

Advertisement for a business listing. Includes a photo of a white door and a list of services such as 'Small Bldg', 'Antiques', 'Decorative', etc. Phone: 433-2373

Advertisement for Phineas digital color printing. Text: 'now offering short run digital color printing (& color copies) PHINEAS graphic design/printing solutions'. Contact: 436.4402, 108 Penhallow, info@phineasgraphics.com

Advertisement for Gracie's Diner. Text: 'Gracie's Diner 165 Deer Street (next to Gary's) (603) 436-9600 - Closed Tuesday Now Serving Dinner 4 p.m. 'til Closing'

Advertisement for Bill Eslinger Round Guy ... Square Deal. Text: 'Bill Eslinger Round Guy ... Square Deal PORTSMOUTH USED CAR CENTER Route 1, Lafayette Rd, Portsmouth, NH CELL: (603) 969-3649 beslinger@portford.com'

Advertisement for RiverRun Bookstore. Text: 'RiverRun BOOKSTORE 20 Congress St Portsmouth NH 603-431-2100 www.riverrunbookstore.com'

Northcountry Chronicle

Rebuking the Reich

by William Marvel

For nearly seven years now, the Bush administration has labored under unpleasant comparisons to the Third Reich. Accusations of Nazi-like behavior have periodically arisen and subsided, provoking indignant outbursts by Republican supporters who point out that the worst evils of Hitler's Germany are nowhere imitated by the federal government under Bush. Millions of prisoners have not been collected in concentration camps for labor exploitation and ultimate execution, they insist, and in that particular claim they are fortunately correct.

That remains the paramount distinction between the United States under Bush and Germany under Hitler. In many other respects, however, the hint of Nazi doctrine lingers unrecognized in much of the Bush administration's policies. The difference is often only a matter of degree.

The United States does have its gulags, after all, Guantanamo being the foremost example; there

are just no gas chambers or crematoria. Our political prisoners are subjected to the same biased military tribunals that assured the Reich of desired convictions: token acquittals merely disguise that intent, and secret executions have not (we hope) yet been imposed. The Geneva Convention notwithstanding, torture is now an accepted treatment for American prisoners of war: the actual pain is simply inflicted by foreign allies—most of the time. Under the lesser Bush the United States has even adopted a policy of preemptive invasion on pretended excuses of anticipated attack: the main difference between the invasion of Iraq and the blitzkrieg of Poland was that fewer Iraqis were executed by the victors.

The Republican party harbors plenty of intolerant authoritarians who would welcome a police state, but—either through factional blindness or the failure to study history—most who identify themselves as Republicans probably fail to comprehend the common features of the Third Reich and the Bush regime. They

were probably puzzled, or insulted, when Venezuelan protestors recently depicted George Bush with Hitler's moustache, and it would surely astonish them to discover how many of their own fellow Americans find the analogy at least somewhat apropos.

Even in his sad descent into overweening ambition, John McCain could evoke no image of the Führer, but the painted Pentecostal demagogue he has chosen for his running mate surely does. In the historic parallel McCain is more the match of Paul Hindenberg, the superannuated German general who served as the last president of the Weimar Republic. Sarah Palin comes much closer to the rabble-rousing young upstart who became Hindenberg's chancellor and seized the presidency at Hindenberg's death, replacing the republic with a regime devoted to cultural purity and a rabid, militaristic nationalism honed in wars for the Fatherland.

Palin's repeated characterizations of her political opponents as a nebulous "they" who "are

not like us" sound a chilling note among those familiar with Hitler's appeals to ethnic homogeneity and political orthodoxy. Her candidacy has reinvigorated the neglected troglodytes of the Republican Party, whose popularity has waned with that of their Bubba-in-chief. Bigoted, bellowing throngs have rallied fervently around Palin, and by extension around McCain, demonstrating the same chauvinistic ardor that typified the National Socialist rallies of the 1920s and 1930s. The adoration she attracts from such flag-waving, Pledge-mouthing mobs seems especially ironic, considering that Palin's own husband is associated with a secessionist cult hostile to the U.S. government, but reason seldom afflicts the communicants of the political fringes.

McCain's impossible promises and his proposed continuation of George Bush's disastrous economic agenda may be enough to assure that Barack Obama will prevail on Tuesday. There is, however, more to this election than the dire need to install a fresh

administration with completely new policies. Perhaps the most important goal of this quadrennial is to restore the American image, both abroad and at home, and to reassert the dedication to liberty, equality, and fraternity that inspired the creation of our own and kindred republics.

That will require an overwhelming reproach to a president and vice president who have consistently betrayed those ideals, and to the party that enabled them. Such a rebuke can only be achieved by trouncing the Republican Party that controlled all three branches of government for six of the past eight years—the same hypocrites who now bemoan the thought of Democrats controlling only two. Anything less than resounding defeat for the Republican Party will announce to the world that epidemic corruption, abusing political power, misusing military superiority, and compromising civil liberties are now nearly respectable in a nation that once presumed to pose as the world's champion of goodness and right.

The Portsmouth Blacklist

To the Editor:

On Saturday morning while riding informally as part of the annual Seacoast Century ride, I noted with interest the Sept. 20 article in the *Portsmouth Herald*, "Legality of bars' black list is questioned," and stopped in town for a coffee and walk around to learn what I could about the blacklist.

I stopped in at the Portsmouth Brewery and thanked employees for their businesses' decision not to participate after originally being included among blacklists. Also, I queried the manager at

the Muddy River Smokehouse, who was not aware of the blacklist and could not answer my question of whether her establishment is included (it is) and visited Flatbread, a business which I have consistently given substantial business in my adopted town of Amesbury, Mass. Later in the afternoon, I spoke with the manager, and he was able to confirm that Flatbread is not participating in the blacklist program.

As a 40-something professional, I do not expect to be subject to this blacklist program personally, though as a matter of principle,

and as an American who remembers that we once had a vibrant Constitution before the ascent of the Cheney-Rove junta, I view this development with alarm. As far as I am aware, our Constitution does not confer extra-legal privilege for private businesses to work hand in hand with police outside of the courts.

Portsmouth Gas Light Co. owner Paul Sorli echoes my concern that the program "has no due process." Portsmouth Police Chief Michael Magnant's comment suggests that he knows that the program may be illegal but is willing to set a precedent anyway,

echoing behavior of other players in national government: it "may not fly in the court, but let's see where it does fly."

The *Herald* article contained one huge omission. It failed to list the names of the businesses participating. I will do that for your readership and suggest that those who still value constitutional American principles will take note and avoid patronizing businesses that have turned a management problem into an ill-advised legal conundrum that is inherently un-American:

Fat Belly's, Poco's Bow Street Cantina, Harpoon Willy's, TJ's,

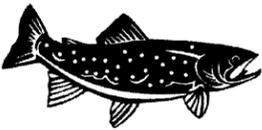
Muddy River Smokehouse, Molly Malone's, The Ferry Landing, Rudi's, State Street Saloon, The Page, The Red Door, The Dolphin Striker, The Oar House, and Two Ceres Street.

Christopher W. Hyde
Amesbury, MA

Christopher:

The last we heard of the blacklist, it was "undergoing further study," or some such euphemism. We suspect that "study" is in the nature of an autopsy. In defense of the Herald (!?), we seem to recall that when this controversy first erupted, they did publish a full list.

The Editor



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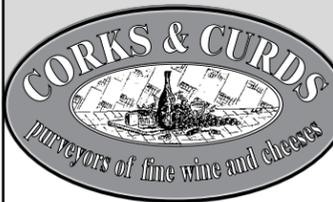
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The Finish Line

To the Editor:

As the Editor has implored readers to be concise, here goes:

1) This ridiculously long, two-year campaign is mercifully within five days of the finish line. I think the first order of business should be a law limiting the campaign season to six months or less. Fat chance.

2) *The New Hampshire Gazette* would have to go weekly or, better yet, daily, to keep ahead of the tidal wave of news stories and talking points just since the conventions. That would be my second order of business. (Hopefully, there's a fatter chance of that.) Even going daily might not suffice, because ...

3) The voters would still need the 360-degree head and neck dexterity of Linda Blair in *The Exorcist* to keep track of the torrent of flip-flops, misstatements, distortions and outright lies uttered by John McCain, Sarah Palin, and their flaks just over the past few news cycles, let alone since the conventions.

4) For any sane individual, there can be only one logical reason for enduring a) a two-year election campaign, b) eight years of George Bush, c) 28 years of Republican presidents in the past 40: because it feels so good when we stop hitting ourselves over the head with the proverbial hammer.

Those masochists who prefer the status quo obviously would agree with McCain campaign

manager Rick Davis's assertion that "this election is not about issues," but rather "about a composite view of what people take away from these candidates."

For the rest of us, his point rings truer than he realizes.

Above all else, this election is ultimately about us: if we can maintain an attention span longer than a fruit fly and see through the artful, painstakingly constructed fog, the choice has never been clearer.

Alan Grossberg
Durham, NH

Update: Hallelujah!

To the Editor:

After the Vietnam war ... Watergate ... eight years of the highly over-rated Ronald Reagan's "Morning in America" charade ... four years of George Bush's lazy, do-nothing, place-holding third term for Reagan ... and W.'s eight (EIGHT!) disastrous years of incompetent, gallingly arrogant "compassionate conservatism" ... I doubt there's anyone in the United States universe more jaded and cynical than myself.

But with Barack Obama's election, this is the first time since 1960 that I can even dare to think the light at the end of the tunnel is anything more than that of an oncoming train.

Alan Grossberg
Durham, NH

Democracy is More Than Voting

To the Editor:

Democracy is much more than voting. Democracy is a verb. This means that *We The People* must understand our Constitution, and the founding principles of this nation, and the core issues of national strength, and work every day to insure that our government is truly our government.

E pluribus unum. It means, "out of many, one." The last six words in the Pledge of Alle-

giance are—"with liberty and justice for all." Our Declaration of Independence says that we are all "created equal." The message is clear. This country was founded upon the understanding that diversity creates strength.

When I hear the labels "illegal," or "terrorists," or condemnations of race, religion, or beliefs, I hear fear and hatred. Fear and hatred are an easy sell. They have been used for eons. They are also the antithesis of democracy.

Vote, but do much more. Work every day to insure that our government provides the programs and structure that allow *We The People* to be the best that we can be. Democracy is more than a vote, it is a verb.

Arnold Stieber
Grass Lake, MI

Why Vietnam?

To the Editor:

On Bloomberg's "Night Talk" with Mike Schneider (Wed., Oct 22) Nicholas Katzenbach said that Lyndon Baines Johnson knew that our war in Vietnam was "unwinnable," but he couldn't pull out for fear the "radical right" would make it impossible for him to govern, much as what went on in the 50's with "McCarthyism."

So, basically LBJ sacrificed our soldiers and countless others in Southeast Asia to be able to carry on his domestic policies ...

Wonder what GWB is doing keeping U.S. in Iraq, at all costs, until he leaves office ...

At the end of part one of PBS's documentary on LBJ, he states that he used the Tonkin Gulf "incident" to show the Republicans, and the country, that he could be tough on communists ...

Chris Lane Gray
Monticello, AR

Chris:

JFK felt he had to be tough in Vietnam in part because the right-wing Republicans howled so after the "loss" of China to the Com-

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

mnists in 1949. Then LBJ changes our role in Vietnam from advisors to combatants, as a pre-emptive strike against those same right-wing Republicans. And he stayed in Vietnam when he knew it was unwinnable for fear of the same crowd. Let's hope Obama shows more guts.

The Editor

Correcting the Narrative on New Hampshire's Budget Deficit

To the Editor:

New Hampshire remains the fourth-lowest spending state in the Union, and despite efficiencies, that means our state provides a very low level of service to its citizens. Republican candidates for state office have been fed a story line about irresponsible Democratic budgets based on wild revenue estimates which I would like to correct.

New Hampshire's two-year budget was set in June 2007 using the usual 5 percent annual rate of growth, even though we had to fit in essential and costly responses to unexpected debts left by the prior Republican majority, for the state/municipal retirement system, highways and prisons. The budget's estimated revenue growth, under 5 percent a year, was set below the prior term's performance.

This rate was achieved until the developing credit crisis began to impact revenues in December, and half our revenue growth for the fiscal year disappeared, leading us to cut almost all the new discretionary spending we had put in the budget. That spending was on prevention, small increases now in order to reduce future mandatory human service, prison and safety costs.

Recently the credit crisis has gone from bad to horrendous, and we and all states will have

to cut back to pre-2007 levels of spending. The feds helped bail states out before, but may not this time. More cuts will almost certainly have to be made. New revenues take time to appear, and increased taxes increase the likelihood of harm in a faltering economy.

We Democrats approach cutting differently than the Republicans. They cut across the board, and then saw who screamed loudest. Functions vital to our public safety, quality of life and economic future tended to disappear quietly, like the substance abuse and mental health programs that once made our state a leader in prevention. When this administration cut hospital payments in the first round, they worked to protect community hospitals that were already struggling to stay open. We legislators have stepped up formal and informal audits of agencies, programs and dedicated funds, searching to save money without hurting services. We are committed to getting the state through this crisis without lasting damage.

Rep. Susan Almy,
Chair, House Ways & Means
Lebanon, NH

The North Mill Pond Salt Pile

To the Editor

The Granite State Minerals salt pile located on the North Mill Pond collapsed on Sept. 23, 2008. As of October 26, 2008, no measures have been taken to protect the North Mill Pond.

The collapse was most likely caused by the storing of an extremely large quantity of salt in the storage yard just a few feet from the shore. I suspect the weight of that salt collapsed the asphalt storage surface on which it rested; the salt just didn't shift to the side, as some would have

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And Other Correspondence

us believe. I believe the collapse forced the shore to blow out into the North Mill Pond similar to squeezing a tube of toothpaste. This storage yard is located over salt marsh and mud flat areas that have been filled in over the years, starting in the mid-1800s by the railroad, followed by other entities as well as by Granite State Minerals. Does anyone know what is in this fill and was it engineered for its current use?

Until there is a published objective engineering report that investigates the cause of the collapse one must assume that the weight of the salt pile exceeded the strength and ability of the wetland fill under the storage surface. No one will really know what happened until the salt pile is removed, and I suspect that once the salt is removed we will find a huge hole or depression in the asphalt surface, a void that is now filled with road salt.

But in the mean time I estimate 300-400 cubic yards of dirt, debris, and fill of unknown quality has been forced into the North Mill Pond. This material is now eroding away with each and every tide and rainfall—polluting the North Mill Pond, the Piscataqua River, the Great Bay and the Gulf of Maine. And to date not one thing has been done to protect the environment.

This collapse was not an “act of God” as stated in a local daily paper (“DES investigator says no salt went into North Mill Pond,” By Geoff Cunningham, *Foster’s*, Thursday, September 25, 2008) but rather a man-made event. In my view, what happened is a near perfect example of why building on wetlands is always a bad idea and that the public and/or the environment always ends up paying the price for these bad ideas.

Has anyone tested the blown out material that is now eroding away? Has anyone looked to see what is the structural strength of the fill under the storage yard? Has anyone taken any measures to stabilize the blown out shore? It is apparent to me the answer to these questions is no but I would like to know what is going on, and I am more than surprised that no one seems to be asking.

What needs to happen now? First, find out what is in the fill, both the blown out material that is now in the North Mill Pond eroding away and the material under the storage yard; second, find out the structural strength of the storage yard. Third, the material forced into the North Mill Pond should be removed right away and the shoreline stabilized and rebuilt to pre-Sept. 23, 2008 dimensions to say the least. Once we know more about what happened and why there may be other consequences of this collapse, but that is for later, right now someone needs to pay attention and correct the mess we have on our hands.

Steve J. Miller
Portsmouth, NH

Abraham Lincoln said ...

To the Editor:

Abraham Lincoln said, “I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. Corporations have been enthroned and an era of corporation in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.”

It is unfortunate that we no longer have people of this caliber leading this country.

It is time that the State of New Hampshire, like the Towns of Atkinson, Barnstead, and Nottingham, passes ordinances that take away the personhood of corporations. This will be a major step in curtailing their misuse of power and intolerable greed.

Gail Mills
Nottingham, NH

Gail:

Lincoln’s writings have been as closely scrutinized as the Bible. Our understanding is that the documentation for that quote may be weak. Be that as it may, we don’t doubt Lincoln might have agreed with the sentiment. And as for the facts, well, all one has to do is look around.

The people of the towns you have mentioned have been doing great work on this front. As you say, it should continue, and Concord ought to take up the fight.

The Editor

Food for Thought

To the Editor:

1. Why has Florida (and other states) allowed “early voting,” and what are the consequences thereof? Today’s news reports waits of up to 5 hours to vote, and the voting hours have been reduced to 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., making it difficult for working people to vote. Is there any behind-the-scenes pressure applied by either party to turn it to their advantage?

2. The U.S. government routinely pays huge sums of money to win the support of certain Afghan tribal leaders. Many of these chiefs support their people by growing opium poppy. Indeed, Afghanistan is by far the world’s largest supplier of opium poppy. Interestingly, when the Taliban were in charge, poppy growing was forbidden, and production ground to a halt.

The poppy is converted to heroin, and sold worldwide. It is one of the most dangerous illegal drugs on the street. Research by the National Institute of Drug

Abuse,* a component of the National Institutes of Health, found that more than 350,000 Americans used heroin in the preceding 12 months. Many are forced to support their habit by criminal activities, thereby involving an even larger segment of the population.

It is against the law for any U.S. citizen to support a criminal enterprise. Illegally selling poppy and its derivative, heroin, on any scale is, by definition, a criminal enterprise. Ergo, the United States government is violating its own law with its financial support of the Afghan poppy growers. This raises the question of whether U.S. government employees (military or civilian, elected or appointed) who approve, conduct, or otherwise are engaged in this program are guilty of supporting a criminal enterprise, and should be brought to justice. Or is there an exemption hidden away somewhere in the law of which we have not been informed?

* NIDA Research Report Series, *Heroin Abuse and Addiction* www.nida.nih.gov/ResearchReports/Heroin/heroin2.html#scope.

Bob Vincent
Rye, NH

Bob:

The U.S. was deeply involved in the opium trade during the Vietnam War, too. If anyone’s ever punished for this episode, we expect it will be the lower-level, grunt-types.

The Editor

Bradley and Shea-Porter: Compared and Contrasted

To the Editor:

Mostly I do not like attack ads but that seems to be the vogue more than ever this year. Even though I am an old fogie, I don’t want to miss out on the latest fashions.

Recently there was a letter to the Editor about Bradley getting a draft deferment during the Vietnam War, and heading for



Switzerland. I don’t know much about that, since I was in the Army in Vietnam at the time.

But I do remember Jeb as a Democrat in his very early political career. Then, when it was evident the Republicans were on the rise, he became a Republican. Now some people may see him as a convert but most of us who knew him back then see him as an opportunist and not a good public servant.

Carol Shea-Porter replaced Bradley because many voters also saw this. She has served us well in Washington and I recommend that people vote to keep Carol Shea Porter as our representative.

I received treatment at the VA in Manchester while Bradley was in office, and I still receive treatment while Carol has been in office. I know the level of treatment has improved with Carol in office and she is still working to make it better. Bradley makes many claims but I see her work as positive improvements with my first hand experience.

Please return Carol to Washington to continue working for us vets, and all of us.

Wes Flierl
VietNam veteran ‘68-’69
Rochester, NH

Wes:
Obviously the election is now over. We run your letter anyway because (a) we like it, and (b) it gives

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page four

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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, November 9	Monday, November 10	Tuesday, November 11	Wednesday, November 12	Thursday, November 13	Friday, November 14	Saturday, November 15
<p>1998—NASDAQ brokerage houses pay bilked customers \$1 billion for rigging the game.</p> <p>1989—The Berlin Wall becomes porous.</p> <p>1979—Due to a computer error, for six minutes the U.S. Air Defense Command mistakenly believes that the U.S.S.R. is attacking the U.S.</p> <p>1969—78 Indians occupy Alcatraz.</p> <p>1967—<i>Rolling Stone</i> begins publication.</p> <p>1966—Due to a failure at a single power plant in Ontario the entire northeast is left in the dark.</p> <p>1953—Dylan Thomas dies in New York at 39.</p> <p>1942—The first "Liberty Ship," the <i>Robert E. Peary</i>, is launched.</p> <p>1938—German Nazis demonstrate their racial superiority during Kristallnacht by killing 91 Jews.</p> <p>1932—In Switzerland, a crowd of thousands demonstrate against fascism; the Army opens fire, killing 13.</p> <p>1911—Charles Justice is executed in Ohio's electric chair—which he had built himself while an inmate 14 years earlier.</p> <p>1880—Twenty years after drilling the first successful oil well, Edwin Drake dies broke.</p> <p>1874—<i>The New York Herald</i> reports that wild animals, escaped from the Central Park Zoo, have killed 27 people. It's a hoax.</p>	<p>2004—George W. Bush nominates as his new Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales—who goes on to make his predecessor, John Ashcroft, look good.</p> <p>1982—Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Communist Party and all-around fun guy, kicks off from a bad ticker.</p> <p>1975—The <i>Edmund Fitzgerald</i> sinks on Lake Superior, taking with her a crew of 29.</p> <p>1973—In Drake, North Dakota the school board fires a teacher and burns the book he assigned, <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>.</p> <p>1964—In Australia, the draft is re-introduced, apparently to protect that part of the British Empire from invasion by Ho's forces.</p> <p>1950—Flying over Canada a U.S. Air Force crew in a B-50 experiences engine trouble. They chuck the bomb (minus its plutonium core) which then explodes in Riviere du Loup, Quebec.</p> <p>1898—400 Democratic Party activists in Wilmington, N.C. murder 40 to 100 blacks, depose the mayor, and establish a new government by force.</p> <p>1871—Newspaperman Henry Morton Stanley, meeting a white man near Lake Tanganyika, says "Dr. Livingston, I presume?"</p> <p>1775—The Continental Congress creates the Marine Corps.</p>	<p>1959—"Rocky and His Friends" debuts.</p> <p>1956—Soviet forces crush the Hungarian resistance.</p> <p>1933—"The Great Black Blizzard," the first of the great dust storms, hits the Great Plains.</p> <p>1921—President Warren G. Harding dedicates the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.</p> <p>1919—In Centralia, Washington, members of the American Legion kidnap, torture, and castrate fellow WW I vet Wesley Everest, who had been thoughtless enough to join the IWW.</p> <p>1918—At 11:11 a.m., the War to End All Wars ends.</p> <p>1911—"The Great Blue Norther" strikes the midwest. In Springfield, MO the temperatures drops from 80 degrees at mid-afternoon to 13 at midnight.</p> <p>1887—The anarchist Haymarket Martyrs are hanged in Chicago.</p> <p>1880—Rebellious Australian bush-ranger Ned Kelly is hanged.</p> <p>1831—Nat Turner, slave, is hanged for rebellion in Virginia.</p> <p>1751—Julien Offray de La Mettrie, physician and philosopher, dies at 41 after gorging on <i>pate aux truffes</i>.</p> <p>1647—Massachusetts passes the first compulsory education law.</p> <p>1620—Influential Pilgrims draft the Mayflower Compact to control unruly colonists.</p>	<p>2001—Flight 587 falls apart and crashes in NYC, killing 261.</p> <p>1980—New York City Mayor Ed Koch admits he tried marijuana.</p> <p>1971—The Berkeley City Council votes symbolically to provide sanctuary for draft resistors.</p> <p>1970—The Oregon Highway Dept. discovers that half a ton of explosives isn't enough to dispose of a dead eight ton whale.</p> <p>1941—Abe "Kid Twist" Reles earns the posthumous sobriquet "the canary who sang but couldn't fly" when he leaps—or is thrown—from a sixth floor window in Coney Island while under the protection of six cops.</p> <p>1933—The first photo is taken of the Loch Ness Monster.</p> <p>1927—Stalin reigns alone after Trotsky is expelled from the Communist Party.</p> <p>1926—A feud between rival beer and rum factions in Illinois results in the aerial bombing of a farmhouse by a civilian plane.</p> <p>1865—Former Senator Preston King (R-NY) ties a bag of bullets around his neck and leaps to his death from a ferryboat.</p> <p>1815—Birth of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, suffragette.</p> <p>1779—Twenty slaves petition the New Hampshire legislature to abolish slavery, but to no avail. Primus Fowle, Daniel Fowle's enslaved pressman, is not among them.</p>	<p>2003—Because he would not remove a monument to the Ten Commandments from his courthouse, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore is himself removed.</p> <p>2002—Iraq agrees to submit to UN Resolution 1441 and allow weapons inspectors into the country. Fat lot of good it did.</p> <p>1982—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, and Robert McNamara are no-shows.</p> <p>1974—Disgruntled Kerr-McGee worker Karen Silkwood turns up conveniently dead.</p> <p>1970—Up to half a million die as a cyclone hits Bangladesh.</p> <p>1933—Workers at a Hormel plant in Austin, Minn. invent the sit-down strike.</p> <p>1922—The Supreme Court rules that Japanese persons cannot become naturalized citizens because they are "not Caucasian."</p> <p>1887—British police charge a demonstration by the unemployed in Trafalgar Square, killing 3 and arresting 300.</p> <p>1877—A locomotive and three freight cars plunge from an open drawbridge into the Piscataqua, just missing three ships; no injuries.</p> <p>1862—Lewis Carroll begins writing <i>Alice in Wonderland</i>.</p> <p>1829—Famed stunt diver Sam Patch makes one final, fatal plunge.</p>	<p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld predicts the Iraq War will last "five days or five weeks or five months, but it certainly isn't going to last any longer than that."</p> <p>1957—In Apalachin, NY, a meeting of important businessmen is interrupted by cops.</p> <p>1954—A campaign begins to collect 10 million signatures petitioning the Senate not to censure Joe McCarthy. It falls short by 9 million.</p> <p>1927—Workmen in Pittsburgh's industrial center, attempting to fix a leak in the world's largest gasometer with an open flame blow-lamp, ignite 5 million cubic feet of natural gas, effectively clearing a one square mile area.</p> <p>1916—"Put out the bloody cigarette!" says H.H. "Saki" Munro to another soldier in a trench. Seconds later a sniper's bullet extinguishes him.</p> <p>1909—Birth of Joseph R. McCarthy, "... a great American [whose] stature will grow with the passage of time," according to NH Sen. Styles Bridges.</p> <p>1909—Joshua Slocum, first man to sail around the world single-handed, disappears on his way to the Orinoco.</p> <p>1831—"Only one man ever understood me," says Hegel on his deathbed, "and even he didn't understand me."</p>	<p>2006—Jack Abramoff, former Washington lobbyist, arrives at his new digs in a federal prison near Cumberland, MD.</p> <p>1996—British officials return the Stone of Scone to the Scots, from whom they had stolen it 700 years earlier.</p> <p>1967—"I have never," declares Gen. Wm. Westmoreland, "been more encouraged in my four years in Vietnam," eleven weeks before Gen. Giap springs the Tet Offensive on him.</p> <p>1917—Bolsheviks take Moscow, ending Russian Revolution.</p> <p>1908—Teddy Roosevelt becomes the first sitting President to travel abroad, visiting Panama.</p> <p>1887—Birth of Franklin Pierce Adams, namesake of New Hampshire's only president, godfather of the newspaper column, born in Chicago.</p> <p>1864—General William T. Sherman burns Atlanta, inspiring well-known movie.</p> <p>1805—Lewis, Clark, Sacajawea, and the rest of the mob reach the mouth of the Columbia.</p> <p>1754—First playing of a trombone in America.</p> <p>1626—The Pilgrims at Plimoth Plantation buy out their London creditors for £1,800.</p> <p>655—Penda, the last pagan warrior-king of the Anglo-Saxons, is killed at the Battle of Oswiu.</p>
<p>7:24 7:48</p> <p>1:03 1:33</p>	<p>8:11 8:39</p> <p>1:51 2:25</p>	<p>8:56 9:29</p> <p>2:38 3:14</p>	<p>9:41 10:17</p> <p>3:24 4:03</p>	<p>10:28 11:07</p> <p>4:11 4:52</p>	<p>11:16 11:57</p> <p>4:59 5:41</p>	<p>12:06</p> <p>5:49 6:33</p>
Sunday, November 16	Monday, November 17	Tuesday, November 18	Wednesday, November 19	Thursday, November 20	Friday, November 21	Saturday, November 22
<p>2000—Bill Clinton finally goes to Vietnam. The visit fails to silence his critics.</p> <p>1989—U.S.-backed pro-government forces in El Salvador murder six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and the housekeeper's daughter.</p> <p>1969—White House Communications Director Herb Klein says he opposes government intervention in the news, but that the networks invite it if they don't regulate themselves.</p> <p>1966—University of Strasbourg students blow the entire year's student government budget on a pamphlet, "On the Poverty of Student Life."</p> <p>1907—The first taxi cab meter goes into service.</p> <p>1890—George Seldes, journalist and media critic, is born. He'll live to be 105.</p> <p>1873—W.C. Handy is born.</p> <p>1849—Fyodor Dostoevsky is sentenced to death for spreading "impudent words."</p> <p>1811—An earthquake causes the Mississippi to flow backwards.</p> <p>1747—In Boston, hundreds of sailors, laborers, and free blacks rise up in protest against British naval press gangs.</p> <p>1665—The <i>Oxford Gazette</i>—the world's oldest surviving periodical—is founded.</p> <p>1384—Jadwiga, a ten year-old girl, is crowned King of Poland.</p>	<p>2006—"We'll succeed [in Iraq] unless we quit," says George W.</p> <p>2005—During a floor speech, Rep. Marion Berry (D-AR) calls Rep. Adam Putnam "a Howdy Doody-looking nimrod."</p> <p>2003—Californians find themselves with an Austrian muscleman in the governor's office.</p> <p>1992—NBC's <i>Dateline</i> broadcasts a rigged video showing a GM truck exploding.</p> <p>1973—Speaking to a convention of newspaper editors at Disneyland, Richard M. Nixon declares, "I am not a crook."</p> <p>1967—Lyndon Johnson tells the nation "we are making great progress" in Vietnam.</p> <p>1958—To allow more time to investigate possible violation of Massachusetts anti-anarchy laws, Alan Freed's trial for inciting to riot is postponed.</p> <p>1953—An Air Force C-119 "Flying Boxcar" kills nine Fort Bragg paratroopers in mid-air; six more servicemen die when the C-119 subsequently crashes.</p> <p>1896—Huge mysterious airships are sighted over Sacramento, Calif; other sightings follow across US for another six months.</p> <p>1734—John Peter Zenger is jailed for seditious libel.</p> <p>1558—In celebration of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth I, several bags of cats are burned.</p>	<p>2005—Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-OH) apologizes on the floor of the House for implying Vietnam combat veteran Rep. Jack Murtha (D-PA) is a coward.</p> <p>1997—A declassified 1962 document outlines a Pentagon plan to build support for an invasion of Cuba by staging fake terrorist attacks in the U.S.</p> <p>1978—Jim Jones and 913 followers drink cyanide-laced Flavor-Aid in Jonestown, Guyana.</p> <p>1964—Snubbing Richard Nixon, J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover calls Martin Luther King Jr. "the most notorious liar in the country."</p> <p>1929—Marshall Ratliff, sentenced to the chair for a fatal bank robbery in which he wore a Santa Claus suit, kills a man in a failed breakout from the Cisco, Texas jail.</p> <p>1916—The Battle of the Somme is called off. The Allies have gained 125 square miles, at a cost of 1,250,000 British, French, and German casualties—one for every 2.5 square yards. Germans later re-take most of it.</p> <p>1686—Pioneering surgeon Charles Francois Felix operates on King Louis XIV's anal fistula, having practiced on peasants to hone his skills. Unlike some of the peasants, Louis survives.</p> <p>1477—William Caxton's press issues the first dated book printed in England.</p>	<p>1998—Congress begins considering whether to impeach Bill Clinton over his sex life.</p> <p>1969—Congress undercuts opposition to the Vietnam War by introducing a draft lottery.</p> <p>1967—Dick "Dick" Cheney is convicted of driving drunk in Cheyenne, WY.</p> <p>1961—Michael Rockefeller disappears in Papua, New Guinea and is presumably eaten by cannibals.</p> <p>1955—<i>National Review</i> begins.</p> <p>1929—A Texas mob takes Marshall Ratliff from the Cisco, Texas jail to lynch him. The first rope breaks, the second doesn't.</p> <p>1915—A firing squad executes IWW organizer Joe Hill; his last words: "Don't mourn, organize."</p> <p>1874—Grand Sachem of Tammany Hall William Marcy "Boss" Tweed is convicted of 204 counts of fraud.</p> <p>1863—The nation's Chief Executive opens a cemetery in Pennsylvania.</p> <p>1812—A third U.S. attempt to invade Canada fails; troops refuse to follow Gen. Henry Dearborn's orders.</p> <p>1797—Birth of Isabella Baumfree, who will change her name to Sojourner Truth, in 1843.</p> <p>1675—European colonists kill 300 Narragansett women and children near what is now Kingston, Rhode Island.</p>	<p>1975—After stalling for an unseemly length of time, Spanish dictator Francisco Franco finally dies. He is still dead.</p> <p>1967—The U.S. population passes 200,000,000.</p> <p>1962—The Cuban Missile Crisis blows over, rather than up.</p> <p>1946—Viet Minh and French forces clash near Haiphong, leading to French occupation.</p> <p>1945—Nuremberg trials begin.</p> <p>1936—Buenaventura Durruti, the Spanish anarchist, dies defending Madrid from fascists.</p> <p>1917—In northeastern France, British forces use tanks in battle for the first time.</p> <p>1894—The U.S. intervenes in Nicaragua.</p> <p>1866—Pierre Lallemont of Paris invents a rotary crank bicycle.</p> <p>1820—A sperm whale attacks the Nantucket whaling ship <i>Essex</i>, inspiring the greatest fish story ever told.</p> <p>1817—Settlers attack Seminoles in Florida.</p> <p>1816—Striking members of the Albany Typographical Union use the term "scab" for the first time.</p> <p>1772—At a Boston town meeting called by Samuel Adams, the first Committee of Correspondence is formed.</p> <p>1316—France's King John I, aka "John the Postumus," dies at the age of five days.</p>	<p>1986—Ollie North and Fawn Hall start shredding evidence of criminal arms-for-hostages deals.</p> <p>1980—In Louisiana, an oil rig on Lake Peigneur accidentally drills into a salt mine, creating a whirlpool that drains the lake and takes the oil rig with it.</p> <p>1974—On the same day the Texas Air National Guard gives George W. Bush an inexplicably honorable discharge, the Freedom of Information Act passes over Gerry Ford's veto.</p> <p>1973—Nixon's Chief of Staff Al Haig accurately attributes an 18.5 minute gap on an audio tape to "sinister forces."</p> <p>1969—Looking for POWs, U.S. troops raid Son Tay prison camp, evacuated three weeks earlier.</p> <p>1967—Vietnamese commies are "unable to mount a major offensive," says Gen. Wm. Westmoreland. "We have reached an important point when the end begins to come into view."</p> <p>1921—The first Columbine Massacre: striking miners are machine-gunned by state cops in plain clothes.</p> <p>1894—Japanese troops conduct the Port Arthur Massacre.</p> <p>1801—For the 2nd time in 13 days, a suspicious fire destroys Treasury records after Republicans demand proof of Federalist Thomas Pickering's expenses.</p>	<p>2000—In Miami, two dozen well-dressed hooligans, half a dozen of them on the Republican payroll, stage the "Brooks Brothers Riot," intimidating election officials into shutting down a recount.</p> <p>1987—Chicago television viewers see Dr. Who and a Chicago Bears game interrupted for 90 seconds by a man wearing a Max Headroom mask</p> <p>1975—U.S.S. <i>John F. Kennedy</i> and U.S.S. <i>Belknap</i> collide in the night near Sicily. A two-hour fire aboard the <i>Belknap</i> stops 30 feet short of the nuclear weapons magazine.</p> <p>1972—The U.S. loses its first B-52 over Vietnam.</p> <p>1967—The U.N. adopts a resolution calling for Israel to leave the occupied territories.</p> <p>1963—A miraculous bullet, conceived years later in the vivid imagination of Senator Arlen Specter, goes back in time and kills President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas.</p> <p>1954—Sammy Davis Jr.'s left eye goes permanently on the blink.</p> <p>1930—Prophet Elijah Mohammed founds the Nation of Islam.</p> <p>1922—Howard Carter opens Tutankhamun's tomb.</p> <p>1916—Jack London writes one last chapter, in his own blood.</p> <p>1909—A New York judge tells ILGWU strikers, "You are on strike against God."</p>
<p>12:49 12:58</p> <p>6:40 7:26</p>	<p>1:43 1:54</p> <p>7:35 8:21</p>	<p>2:41 2:54</p> <p>8:34 9:20</p>	<p>3:43 3:58</p> <p>9:38 10:21</p>	<p>4:47 5:05</p> <p>10:46 11:23</p>	<p>5:50 6:13</p> <p>11:55</p>	<p>6:50 7:17</p> <p>12:23 1:00</p>

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