

## *The Fortnightly Rant*

### Enduring Bush's Parthian Shots

The United States Constitution requires that in just eighteen days, the Bush Administration must vacate the premises at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, hand over the keys to the Pentagon and the State Department, and get the hell out of all the myriad other appendages of the Executive Branch. As they have since they first finagled their way into office, they're doing everything in their power to avoid complying with the document they clearly despise.

Through last-minute rule changes and appointments, George W. Bush and his unindicted co-conspirators are doing their damndest to extend the influence of the worst president in history as far into the future as they can.

With Congress distracted by more pressing business—raising campaign funds to spend on television advertisements—Bush Administration appointees are free to fiddle with the Code of Federal Regulations. It's akin to putting the Pirates of the Caribbean in charge of a convent.

When the Administration of Bush the Younger (and Dumber) was forced on us by the Supreme Court—the most-elitist institution in America—the first things out of their mouths were whines about the “W” keys allegedly missing from White House computers. It was a lie, but the corporate media made sure it was well-spread, and never effectively corrected. But if it had been true, it would have made an illuminating comparison with the rampant destruction being visited upon us, from sea to oily sea, o'er amber waves of genetically-modified grain, by The Last Bush.

No doubt it will be far harder for future-President Obama to reverse these rule changes than it was for Bush to make them. It's always harder to build something than it is to wreck something. In fact, hobbling the incoming president is probably part of the strategy.

The pair of thugs at the apex of the pyramid of failure that is the Bush Administration seem to have a particular desire to ruin the only part of the country they claim to love and respect: the West.

New rules will exempt old coal-burning power plants from newer, higher environmental standards as they are being refurbished.

Lands near national parks will be opened to oil drilling, and to new coal-burning power plants.

Two million acres will be opened for the mining of oil-shale. This crackpot idea is the “Star Wars” of energy production. It

will never work but it just won't die. All the water in the increasingly drought-stricken West won't be enough for this as-yet-undesigned process, and it's pretty clear that more energy will go into it than will ever come out. And so, Bush is slashing the royalties the oil companies will pay to the government for the extracted material.

Uranium mining will now be permitted near the Grand Canyon. What's the harm? Tourists are there only briefly. No one lives there except Native Americans.

Coal companies will be allowed to dump the tops of mountains into rivers, as long as they can “demonstrate” that no water pollution will result. A child can see that that's ridiculous, but by the time legitimate scientists can prove that the coal companies' scientists were lying, West Virginia will be as flat as Kansas.

The Endangered Species Act is being gutted like a deer. Biologists will lose their role in deciding the impact of industry on species. Bureaucrats behind desks at federal agencies are so much better suited for that sort of thing. And the revolving doors between their offices and the corporations they'll be regulating will assure that they don't lose perspective.

Speaking of competence, since self-regulation worked so well on Wall Street, Bush is going to leave it up to agribusinesses to decide whether or not they even need to *apply* for a permit to let the animal waste from their enormous feedlots seep into the nation's aquifers. Just because their executives drink bottled water flown in from the Pyrenees is no reason to suspect they will let their pigs pee in Peoria's tapwater.

Clearly the Bush Administration's War on Earth is total, and will not end on January 20. But there's no need for mere humans to feel slighted by their destructive schemes. Somewhere, there are crosshairs trained on all us featherless bipeds, too.

Literally. To liven up the back-to-nature experience, they're going to allow people to carry loaded, concealed firearms in national parks.

The Bush Administration has always maintained that the government should not intrude into people's personal lives. The latest convenient gargantuan exception to that rule applies to pregnant women. And why not? They're tough enough to look out for themselves. If they want information or advice about abortions, or—God help them—an actual referral, then the delicate religious sensibilities of the health care workers treating them will



be protected by the government's jack-booted thugs. Way to mind your own business, guys.

To help enforce all these new regulations, the Bush Administration is setting up its own domestic version of Operation Gladio.\* Dozens of key federal positions which were formerly filled by presidential appointment are being converted into civil service jobs. The incoming president will be barred from putting his own team in place because Mr. Bush's “reliable” political appointees are now protected by civil service rules. Smaller government, anyone?

The ancient Parthians had no saddles or stirrups. But they were such expert horsemen and archers that they could accurately fire arrows at their enemies while riding

away from them.

The Roman general Crassus learned the power of those Parthian shots in 53 BC, at Carrhae, in what is now southeastern Turkey. But that was a little too late for Crassus—and for the Roman Republic. The Parthians, outnumbered four to one, killed half of Crassus's legionnaires, and captured their battle standards. As for Crassus, the Parthians mocked him, then poured molten gold down his throat. The Roman defeat at Carrhae helped assure the collapse of Roman Republic.

Let's hope Mark Twain was right when he said, “History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme.” If there is any justice in the world, our Republic will survive Bush. And perhaps he will—metaphorically, of course—suffer the fate of Crassus.

\* After World War II, the CIA established a series of clandestine paramilitary “stay-behind” organizations, now known collectively as “Operation Gladio,” in nearly every country in western Europe. Their official purpose was to counter a possible Soviet invasion. Their

membership often included former Nazis and other fascist sympathisers. They meddled in the internal politics of sovereign nations for decades before being exposed in 1990, and were involved in many cases of “false-flag” terrorism and assassination.

## *News Briefs:*

### Trying to Out-Nixon Nixon

This item pertains, naturally, to Vice President Dick “Dick” Cheney. Who else could or would attempt to compete with The Master?

Cheney's lawyers, according to an Associated Press (AP) story datelined December 18, filed papers in federal court last month maintaining that Cheney, and

Cheney alone, has the authority to determine whether or not his papers are subject to the 1978 Presidential Records Act. (Paradoxically, every sentient being on earth knows his decision would be “No.”)

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a “nonprofit 501(c)(3) organiza-

tion dedicated to promoting ethics and accountability in government,” is suing Cheney to force him to turn over his Vice Presidential papers to the National Archives, as the Act requires. Under its provisions, the Archives would review the content of the documents, and return those which are personal or po-

litical, and therefore exempt.

The AP reported without comment that “National Archives officials have said records of Cheney's dealings with the Republican National Committee [RNC] would not require preservation under the law.” This appears to be a dangerous loophole in the Act. Surely *all* Cheney's

communications with the RNC ought to go directly to the Justice Department and be used as the basis for a barrage of felony indictments.

For those who did not have the pleasure of living through those



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AS THE DAYS DWINDLE DOWN, VICE PRESIDENT PINOCCHIO SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT



Most of it has been carted off by now, but a week ago Monday a veritable Everest of snow could be seen dominating the western end of the Worth Building parking lot. Parked right next to the mountain of snow was a little green Subaru Legacy sporting ski racks on the roof, and a bumper sticker bragging that "This car climbed Mt. Everest." Sadly, it seems also to have descended said peak. Thus our Wandering Photographer failed to capture what might otherwise have been a photograph with some entertainment value. The management is, regrettably, forced once again to apologize to the long-suffering reader.

**News Briefs**

from page one

days, the passage of the 1978 Presidential Records Act was due in part to the efforts of former President Richard M. "The Original Dick" Nixon and a few cronies. Not that Nixon was trying to get such a law passed. Far from it—he was trying to screw the taxpayer.

In 1969, Congress passed a law prohibiting income tax deductions for personal papers given to the government. Nixon had already donated his pre-Presidential papers to the National Archives. But his tax attorney, Frank DeMarco Jr., had not formally documented the transfer. In early 1970, DeMarco created a backdated deed, which Nixon and his wife Pat both signed. The bogus document got them a tax deduction worth \$576,000.

After the scam was revealed Nixon had to cough up \$386,721 to the IRS. A Treasury official

who was in on the job, Edward L. Morgan, got four months in the slammer. Nixon, though he had signed the document, always pled ignorance and denied any intent to defraud. Others familiar with his habits say Nixon, a former tax lawyer, always scrutinized his returns with a gimlet eye.

And that flap was only over Nixon's pre-Presidential papers. The Presidential papers were the real prize, considering Watergate and all the man's other skullduggery. The 25-year fight over their control finally ended in 2000, when the Justice Department concluded an \$18 million settlement with the Nixon family.

"The Nixon family at one point had asked," a Justice press release said at the time, "that the papers be sold to the United States for up to \$35 million plus 25 years of interest, which would have brought the asking price to more than \$200 million."

This was truly a staggering attempt at holding up the taxpayer.

But the Old Dick couldn't hold a candle to the New Dick.

**It's Oscar Season!**

Here's something we never would have guessed: Jack Nicholson will have to win a fourth Oscar to break his tie with that immortal star of stage and screen [drumroll]: Walter Brennan!

**Paging Mister Orwell ...**

The good news, from a Bushian point of view, is that the administration recently managed to conclude a Status of Forces agreement with the government of Iraq, providing a legal framework for the continued presence of U.S. forces there.

Without that new agreement, U.S. forces in Iraq would have lost the fig leaf previously provided by a United Nations mandate, which expired Wednesday. In theory, the last three weeks of Bush's watch might have been spent scrambling ignominiously trying to fly

our troops elsewhere.

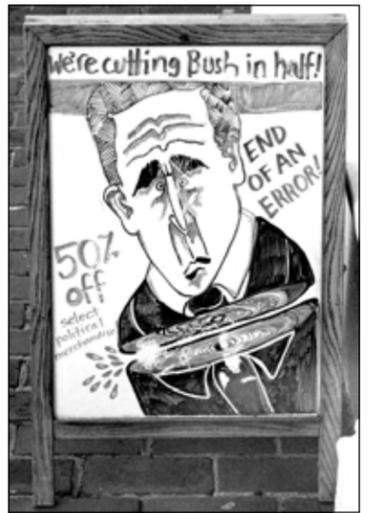
The bad news is that the new agreement requires that all U.S. combat troops must be out of Iraqi cities by June 30, 2009. By that time, of course, soon (but not soon enough) to be ex-president Bush will be busy Bush-whacking the brush around his faux-ranch in Crawford, Texas.

But signals from the camp of President-Elect Obama indicate that he expects to keep "many thousands" of U.S. personnel in Iraq, at least through 2009.

How, then, to reconcile the continued presence of U.S. combat troops with the June 30 deadline?

By waving a Wand, Magic, Mark IV, olive drab, over them, and turning them into "advisers."

"Political language ... is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."—George Orwell



Last chance to buy Bush-insulting trinkets at Macro Polo! Pick up a few for the grand-kids.

**Loafer-Launcher  
Recuperating from Beating  
He Did Not Receive**

Two days after Muntadhar al-Zaidi threw both his shoes at George W. Bush during a Baghdad news conference, an Iraqi government spokesman denied that the loafer-launcher

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The Regular members of the Flag Police have become rather lax of late. They seem to have gone where other uniformed forces have been known to go before, falling for their own PR and resting on their own supposed laurels. Fortunately the Volunteers carry on. This extravagant violation of the Flag Code was captured with some difficulty by a certain Exeter resident whose anonymity we will preserve, in case he likes seafood. He writes, "this is quite the flagrant, 'in-your-face' torn flag, especially considering it is almost as big as the restaurant it flies over (next to Rye Harbor). The failing is writ large in the sky." Indeed it is, sir.

had been injured in the resulting mêlée, or in custody. Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf said "The rumors about [Muntadhar] al-Zaidi being injured or being hurt are baseless. You can check that when you see him in the criminal court tomorrow morning."

Al-Zaidi did not appear in court the following day, however. On December 19, an Iraqi magistrate said an investigation had begun to determine how al-Zaidi came to acquire "bruises around the face and eyes." Three days later a court official told Agence France Presse that the investigation was over, and a trial would begin December 31. He faces a maximum sentence of 15 years.

It's an ill-flung shoe that blows no good. The *Guardian* reported December 22 that the Baydan Shoe Co. in Istanbul has hired

100 extra workers to meet the demand for their Model 271, al-Zaidi's projectile of choice.

**A Weather Report**

Let's see ...

To begin with, on Thursday, December 11 there was a huge ice storm which led to the largest electrical power outage in the state's history, exactly thirteen shopping days before Christmas. Hundreds of thousands of people were without power for days on end.

Then, on a Friday eight days later, as tens of thousands of people went without power and hundreds of utility crews worked around the clock to restore it, and just in time for the last big shopping weekend before Christmas, we had a sizeable snowstorm.

Just for good measure a follow-up snowstorm of near-Biblical



OBAMA THROWS AMERICA HIS FIRST CURVE BALL

proportions (if it snowed in the Holy Land) hit us about forty-eight hours later—on the first day of winter.

We seem to recall that another snowstorm got shoehorned into the calendar prior to this latest one, the clipper that came through Wednesday, but at this point we can't really be sure. Anyway, it seems safe to say that summer is over.

**Reassuring News ... Sort Of**

Nanotechnology is the science of manipulating absurdly small bits of stuff. How small? If you line up 25.4 million widgets, nice and snug, and the whole row measures more than one inch long, they're too big to be called "nano-."

Nanotechnology allows us to do things that were previously impossible. By bonding ions of pure silver to thread, for instance, nanotechnology has made it possible to weave sox that kill bacteria.

This is of course a ridiculous example. But more important things can, and no doubt will, be done with nano-particles.

A cable made of carbon nanotubes, for instance, would theoretically be strong enough to hoist the cab of a space-elevator climbing tens of thousands of meters into space. Such a device would allow humans and equipment to achieve orbit at a fraction of the present cost. And, considering that mechanical things always break down sooner or later, those antibacterial sox might be less ridiculous than they seem. How long might it take to rescue people from a stuck space elevator?

One potential problem with nanotechnology is that stuff so small can be devilishly hard to control. Accidental spills in the manufacture of nano-tubes are considered "inevitable." When inhaled by test rats, they settle in the lungs and brain, and cause serious inflammation. They may prove to be as dangerous as asbestos fibers. Early in December, the U.S. National Research Council concluded there is an "urgent need" for a "national strategic plan" for the field.

Good news came from the U.

of Pittsburgh last month, though. Apparently nano-tube spills can be successfully cleaned up with a paste made of hydrogen peroxide and horseradish.

**Globalization, Weather**

**Jack Up Maple Syrup Prices**

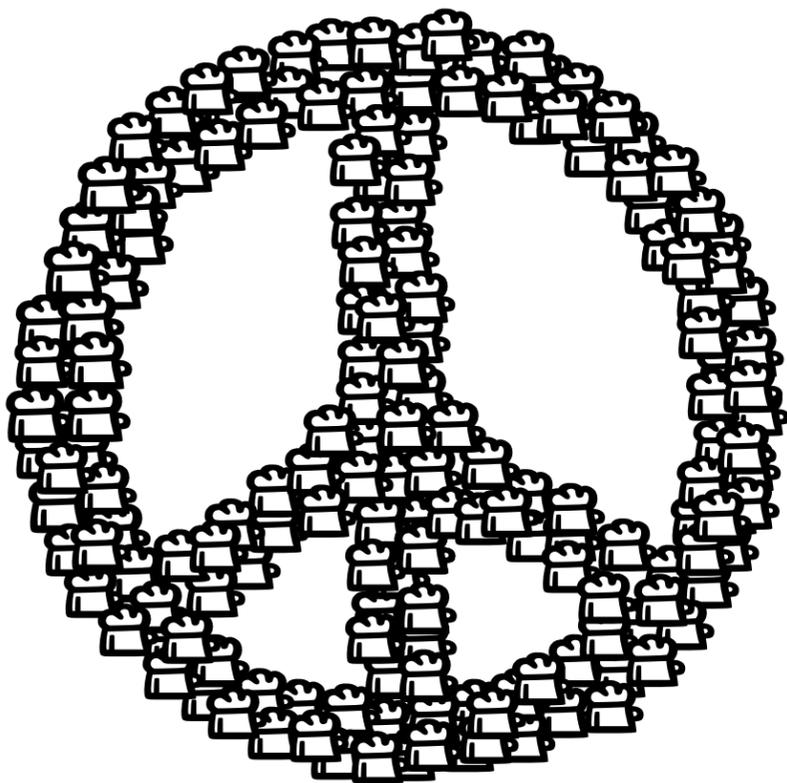
One reason for this paper's continued existence and cheery attitude is the editor's daily bowl of hot oatmeal laced with genuine New Hampshire maple syrup. At about five bucks a pint it's an affordable luxury, one we've enjoyed for decades. So it was quite a shock earlier this year when the cashier at the supermarket formerly known as the Pic 'N Pay swiped a little pint jug across the scanner and the tally screen registered "\$10.49." After a quick double-take, a trip back to the shelf verified that was indeed the price.

What the heck?

Operating at our usual glacial pace, on Tuesday we finally asked Barbara Lassonde, the Publicist for the New Hampshire Maple

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



*Northcountry Chronicle*

# Confessions of a Hypochondriac

by William Marvel

Most people who knew him seem to agree that my father was a tough old bird. When he retired from the Navy he came home to Conway, where it was pretty hard to earn a living, and well into his fifties he worked in the woods as a logger. Pictures from that era show him with an ace bandage around his elbow, hinting at the tendonitis that surely troubled him, and once he went to the hospital with stomach bleeding from taking too much aspirin, but he never made a peep about the aches and pains that must have tormented him. Thirty years later, when hard labor inflamed his arthritis, he submitted to a cortisone shot in the shoulder a couple of times, and he never even mentioned the long, daunting needles that had to dive deep into the joint.

For his last ten or fifteen years I helped him get his wood in. He was about eighty-two the

autumn that we were cutting four-foot bolts of beech and maple on the shelf of land above Black Cat Swamp. We almost had the woods truck full when Fred Wheeler sauntered along with his hunting rifle. Fred was a few years older than my father, who asked him why he didn't go down into the swamp to do his hunting, since that's where the deer were. Fred replied that if he shot a deer down there he would have to drag it up the hill, and he reminded us that he wasn't as young as he used to be.

"I know what you mean," said my father, throwing a seventy-pound bolt of beech high up on top of the load. "This was a lot easier when I was sixty-five."

My mother was just about the opposite. If she fell victim to a stomach flu she was sure it was ptomaine poisoning, or typhoid fever. By the time she was forty her fingers began to ache, and she spent much of her time between drags on her cigarette wring-

ing her hands and moaning. She wrenched her back in a tumble down icy steps, and the campaign to alleviate the resulting pain lasted for years. She spent a couple of inconclusive weeks in Memorial Hospital and one in Massachusetts General, where a bed cost a hundred dollars a day, and then she began a regimen of chiropractors and painkillers that continued through much of the Kennedy administration.

We had no health insurance then. Neither did most people, which is one reason that hospitals were comparatively cheap. My father barely cleared three thousand a year, though, pension and all, so the medical bills dogged him for over a decade. Finally he and the doctors managed to convince my mother that she was merely suffering the onset of the arthritis that so often comes with middle age, so she stopped looking for a miracle cure, but the hand-wringing continued unabated, as did the chain smoking.

She had a couple of heart attacks, and eventually came down with galloping cancer, which killed her at sixty-four. I suspect that she died in the smug satisfaction that she was finally proven right: she really was deathly ill, after all.

I inherited more of my mother's attitude toward health: I'm intensely squeamish about pain, and if I'm not feeling exactly right, then I must be dying. When long-distance driving initiated a few bouts of urinary tract infections, I assumed that some lethal kidney disease was doing me in, and on one occasion I concluded that I might as well just lie down and let it finish the job. The infection cleared up on its own after a couple of days, though, and I had to return—somewhat reluctantly—to work. The tension of raising a teenaged stepson without succumbing to murderous impulses provoked recurrent indigestion that convinced me I had a perforated ulcer. Abdominal cramps

portend appendicitis, or colon cancer. Every twinge anywhere in the chest cavity feels so much like an incipient heart attack that I am constantly reminded of my failure to adequately amend my will.

In fact this column comes as the fruit of that hypochondria. I awoke this morning with what feels like a bruise at the base of my skull, and the more I prod at it the more it feels like a lump. I don't know how fast brain tumors grow, and I wanted to finish this week's contribution to the editorial page while I was still able.

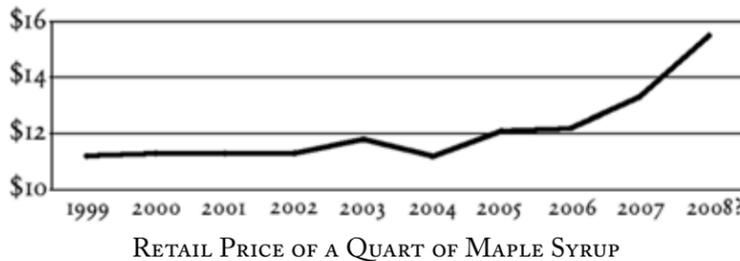


**More News Briefs**

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Producers Association, what was going on. The huge price increase turns out to have been caused by a quadruple whammy.

One whammy: the globalization of trade. "Until a couple of years ago," Barbara said, "Quebec had huge warehouses with thousands of barrels of syrup." Quebec produces three-fourths of the world's supply of syrup: 6.5 million gallons in 2007. That is more than 100 times New Hampshire's production.



Canada began increasing its marketing effort to China and Japan several years ago. To no one's surprise, they liked the stuff. Quebec's stockpile "must have gone in just the last few years," Barbara told us.

Another whammy: weather.

"They had a bad year this spring in Quebec, and didn't have that surplus to fall back on." Maple syrup production is deeply dependent on weather conditions in late winter and early spring. A long winter and deep snow up north hampered production and reduced output.

As if all that were not enough, this spring's oil price spike contributed an additional double-whammy all its own. Many large

producers have been using oil-fired evaporators for years now, to boil their sap into syrup, so there's that added expense. And, syrup is heavy, trucking wasn't cheap before the oil price spike, now it's worse.

Add those four factors up and it's no wonder the price of syrup is so high. For six years it bounced between \$11 and \$12 a quart. It went just over \$12 in '05 and '06, then jumped to \$13.30 in '07. Then this year it just took off.

"The figures for 2008 will not come out until June, 2009," Barbara says, "but my guess is it will probably be somewhere between \$14 and \$17 per quart." [Our graph splits the difference at \$15.50—The Ed.]

"New Hampshire's production

jumped from a reported 60,000 gallons in 2007 to 85,000 gallons this year," according to Barbara, "which was a banner year for those in the southern half of the state. Some producers said it was the best season they'd had in 75 years!"

Which, for the area's small producers, is a much-deserved reward. In a typical year, most of them barely make minimum wage, considering the labor involved.

**Don't Worry About the Tree ...**

Whenever we get onto the topic of maple syrup, we can't help but fondly recall the late and much-lamented Donny Crane,

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**Moving Pictures**

**January DVD's**

by Rodman Philbrick

If January turns out to be a very long month, don't blame the weather. It's a problem of relativity in which "E" equals your personal energy level, "M" represents the hours of darkness, and "C" the damp wool socks stiffening by the back door. There's only one sane solution to the equation, and that's to throw another log on the fire, pour yourself a stiff drink, and veg out in front of the flat screen until the sun starts doing chin-ups at a reasonable hour.

A few new DVD's may help reduce that pesky IQ.

*Appaloosa*: Fans of the Boston based 'Spenser' novels long ago twigged to the notion that author Robert B. Parker was really writing modern Westerns. His detective is, for all intents and purposes, a white hat gunslinger with a kick-ass sidekick, and at some point they always face down the bad guys in a shoot-

out that's an urban variation on *Gunfight At The O.K. Corral*. So it should come as no surprise that when Mr. Parker pens an actual Western, it nicely fits the conventions of the genre, delivering solid characters, some of whom will figure out that a man's gotta do what a man's gotta do, especially if Rénee Zellwegger needs support, moral and otherwise. Adapted by actor/director Ed Harris, who also stars as itinerant lawman Virgil Cole (sidekick by Viggo Mortensen), *Appaloosa* demonstrates that at least one great American (literary) invention has survived the recent meltdown.

*Bangkok Dangerous*: Once upon a time (in 1999 to be exact) young Hong Kong director Danny Pang and his twin brother Oxide (real name) moved to Bangkok and made a movie about a doomed assassin who finally chose true love over murder, or in his case, survival. The assassin is a bad, bad dude, but in

the conceit of the genre, he's also remarkably cool and somehow sympathetic, unlike real life but-ton men; for example, Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, who is about as cool and sympathetic as a rabid weasel. The Pang brothers made a name for themselves with *Bangkok Dangerous* and went on to make a whole series of spooky Hong Kong-style flicks, notably *The Eye*, about a blind girl who gets a cornea transplant and then sees, gasp, dead people, which spawned more sequels than you can shake a skeleton at. In 2008 the Pangs went back to the beginning, reshooting *Bangkok Dangerous* with a major American star, Nicolas Cage. Stylish, violent, and way more fun than the flu.

*City of Ember*, based on the novel by Jeanne Duprau, is a vividly told dystopian tale about the survivors of an apocalypse living deep beneath the earth. The lights are about to go out, and two young protagonists set out on

a wild adventure to save the last remnants of the human race before the final darkness descends. Okay, that's Bill Murray as the Mayor and yes, this is meant to be family entertainment with an uplifting message (sorry, no cool assassins), but if you'll put aside your comforting cloak of ironic detachment for ninety minutes or so, you'll emerge feeling better about yourself, if not the rest of humanity.

*Vicky Christina Barcelona* is for all you alpha males who are interested in exploring your feminine side. Or maybe you just like Woody Allen movies. And if that doesn't float your boat, maybe Penelope Cruz or Scarlett Johansson will do the trick. Besides, all that irony you put on hold (see above) will come in handy. Vicky (Rebecca Hall) and Cristina (Ms. Johansson) both fall for Spanish *artiste* Javier Bardem, whose ex-wife (Ms. Cruz) isn't quite through with him. Think *ménage* with a twist and just go with the



flow. Speaking of flow, if you're into reefer madness, *The Pineapple Express* goes where Cheech and Chong often dared to go. You will not be surprised to discover the ubiquitous Seth Rogan playing a stoner slacker whose best bud is dealer James Franco. After witnessing a murder, the two decide the best thing to do is get wasted and then find themselves on the run from gun-toting Rosie Perez. We've all been there, right? Pass the pipe, dude, and don't forget that E=MC stoned.

of the little town of Washington. Donny used the modern method of plastic tubing and gravity to collect most of his sap. But he also worked a considerable part of his sugar bush the old way, with a team of white and black oxen.

The massive animals would pull the big, old, heavily-built wooden sledge through the snow with hardly a word from Donny. It was like it was their idea, and he was working for them.

The sledge held a huge oaken cask, maybe five feet wide at the base and tapered towards the top, to take the slopes of the hills without tipping over. The top of the cask was all closed up except for a hinged wooden hatch.

Donny's part was to carry the

buckets from the trees to the cask, open the door, empty the buckets, then trudge back to the tree to hang the buckets back up, as the oxen slowly set off, on their own, for the next tree.

Donny talked once about representing New Hampshire's sugar producers one year at the "The Big E," the Eastern States Exposition that takes place every September in Springfield, Mass.

"The one thing people always want to know about sugaring," he said, in his slow, dry drawl, "is, what does it do to the tree? You know what they never ask?"

"What does it do to the man?"

**Supporting Subscribers**

Rumor has it that the overall economy is not doing quite as well as many would hope. Natu-

rally, here in the Piscataqua region, where all the men are industrious, all the women are diligent, and some of the kids ought to be put to work in the coal mines, we haven't suffered some of the indignities which burden other areas we could mention, like Detroit, or Las Vegas, or California in general. But like influenza, religious hysteria, and flawed economic theories, you never know when things might spread.

It's also worth noting that a number of news organizations less venerable than our own have found current economic conditions to be rather more challenging than they were prepared for. *The New York Times*, for instance, is putting its share of the Boston Red Sox up for sale. We will not

be bidding, by the way. Part-ownership in a baseball club might be a bit rich for our blood. Besides, a newspaper needs a baseball club like a fish needs a bicycle.

We generally try to concentrate, to the extent we are able, on getting ink onto these pages in such a way that it doesn't just replicate something that the reader might find elsewhere. Between that, and trying to make sure at least some of it makes sense, we keep as busy as we'd like to be.

The present economic situation being what it is, though, we'd like to make the point that just because it seems like we have always been here, does not guarantee that we always will.

Also, our advertisers—about whom more in a moment—may

not all be able to afford the same kind of preternatural serenity we seem, rightly or wrongly, to have achieved. And, in fact, they supply us with the lion's share of the funds we need to operate.

So, we take this space to note that if our advertising dwindles in the coming months, our continued existence could depend on our having a sufficient number of Supporting Subscribers. (The handy form is just below.)

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**The U.S. Clings To Its Cluster Bombs and Land Mines**

To the Editor:

In 2006, Israel dropped thousands of tons of bombs on Lebanon. The bombs were courtesy of the United States, which country even sped up the delivery of said bombs when requested. Among the bombs employed were cluster bombs. Cluster bombs are bombs which when used release hundreds of bomblets which, when detonated, shoot out hundreds of fragments capable of penetrating four-inch steel.

On September 12, 2006, *Haaretz*, an Israeli newspaper, quoted a rocket unit leader, "What we did was insane and monstrous, we covered entire towns in cluster bombs."

It is estimated that one million bomblets did not detonate at the time and have killed or wounded more than 300 Lebanese since 2006. Victim 301 of these bomblets was fifteen-year old Mohamed, who, on May 4, 2008, lost his right eye and normal use of one hand. This occurred one and a half years after the bombing!

"Insane and monstrous" indeed, but the monstrousness goes beyond even that because despite two years of requests by the United Nations, the international community, and humanitarian organizations, Israel has refused to supply information of its strike data, which data would help the teams trying to rid the region of the bomblets.

On September 5, 2008, Stephen Vampetgehem, a Belgian, age 35 and the father of two, a member of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon was killed while clearing cluster bomblets.

The United States is absolutely complicit in that death as well as the billions of dollars of damage done to the buildings and infrastructure of Lebanon, the people killed and wounded, those traumatized, and farmers afraid to farm their land.

This month, 94 countries including Great Britain, Australia, Canada, France, and Germany signed a convention agreeing not to use such weapons. The United States did not. Secretary Robert Gates said that his country would continue to use its arsenal (at least 750 million submunitions) for the next ten years.

Lester LeViness  
Nyack, NY

Lester:

*Odd as it may seem, there is something that unites U.S. defense policymakers and people who have just lost an eye, or a limb, or a relative to either a cluster bomblet, or to a land mine.*

*Bureaucrat or peasant, neither one sees a dime's worth of difference between the two explosive devices. The U.S. won't sign a treaty to ban either one. And it hardly matters to their victims whether they're killed or maimed by one or the other.*

*Here's the difference: if the crazed dweller of a remote cabin builds an object intended to explode and maim or kill, the law calls it an "infernal device." If a corporation uses mass production to build thousands of such objects, then sells them for a profit to a superpower that resells them to a client state so as to maintain global dominance, that's the use of a legitimate munition in accordance with international standards.*

*Perhaps after January 20 there will be a change in U.S. policy that we can believe in.*

The Editor

**War Crimes in Gaza**

To the Editor: The following is an open letter to Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter:

Both as a Vietnam veteran and as a psychotherapist, I have dealt with the immeasurable costs of war, including treating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. PTSD is a scourge that can strike not only individuals but societies as a whole.

A prime example is Israel, which carries both the trauma born of its short violent history as a nation and the collective traumatic memories of the Jewish people. With such a history, it is understandable that Israel would tend to be fearful and to overreact to perceived threats to its existence.

But because Her actions are understandable does not make them right. What Israel is doing in Gaza is unconscionable! In the first day alone of aerial bombing, Israel killed or wounded 1000 Palestinians—all this in retaliation for recent mortar attacks which did not kill a single Israeli citizen.

As Israel's biggest supporter, it is time for our country, along with Israel's many friends around the world, to do an intervention to help Her from destroying herself from her own irrational, counterproductive, immoral actions.

We need to break through Israel's denial and condemn Her recent actions for what they are: war crimes.

Jean Stimmell  
Northwood, NH

Jean:

*As astute a summary of the situation as we've seen. Your background in psychology gives it credibility. America's adventure in Vietnam had a similar effect on our own country. Without our collective PTSD from Vietnam, would we have fallen for Bush's invasion of Iraq?*

The Editor

*Mash Notes,* **HATE MAIL,**

**Bailout? What Happened to the PNGV Efficient Vehicles?**

To the Editor:

As the disgraced Detroit three automakers are asking Congress for tens of billions of taxpayer dollars, we should remember the last several billion that we gave the industry, and the outcome of it. In the 1990s, the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles worked to make 80+ miles per gallon cars and allowed for communications amongst the scientists of the big three automakers to help speed that process along.

The Partnership was a huge success, with three 70+ miles per gallon prototypes. General Motors had the Precept, a 5-seat sedan with ample trunk space, with one version getting 108 miles per gallon equivalent, running on hydrogen. Ford had the Prodigy, getting 72 miles per gallon, and Daimler-Chrysler also had a 72 miles per gallon vehicle. Taxpayers were proud that their billions were not wasted, and expected these vehicles on the market.

But none of the automakers put any of these vehicles into production, or anything similar. Instead, they chose gas-guzzling SUVs, the epitome of stupidity from a climate change and energy conservation perspective. Using slick ads to push their behemoth vehicles, the auto makers are among the biggest culprits in the fast rise in greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

What happened to the efficient vehicles? The failure to incorporate that technology was also a major cause of our economic collapse. With the rise in gas prices this past summer, the values of SUV's plummeted, and for many, their gas guzzlers are now worth less than the loan they have on them.

Why should we give a bail-

out now, when the automakers are the ones who put themselves into the crisis they are in through their own idiocy? Why don't they dust off these efficient vehicles and put them into production, something both our wallets and our planet could have used a decade ago?

They say those who forget history are bound to repeat it. After the foolish follies of the auto industries, in pushing gas guzzlers on the American public (along with tax breaks that they manipulated through Congress), why should we bail them out?

What we need is massive investment in mass transit and high speed passenger rail: a much better way to travel with exponential fuel savings compared to the most efficient vehicles.

Chad Kister  
Nelsonville, Ohio

Kister is the Author of *Arctic Quest: Odyssey Through a Threatened Wilderness Area; Arctic Melting: How Climate Change is Destroying One of the World's Largest Wilderness Area and Against All Odds: The Struggle to Save The Ridges*. He is also the producer of the 2006 film, *Caribou People*. [www.chadkister.com](http://www.chadkister.com)

**Camp Hope Holds Obama To "Change" Pledge**

To the Editor:

*"From the people who put you in office ..."*

Determined to keep President-elect Barack Obama true to his promise of change, peace and economic justice activists kick off an 18-day outdoor vigil January 1, four blocks from the Illinois Senator's home in Chicago.

Camp Hope ([camphope2009.org](http://camphope2009.org)), headquartered in the Windy City's Drexel Square Park, seeks to have Obama swiftly enact eight initiatives on issues he supported during his campaign.

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# And Other Correspondence

A Thursday, 1:00 p.m. news conference will feature ministers, a Chicago City Alderman, a 25 year-old father facing deportation after living in the U.S. for 17 years, and the mother of Tomas Young, a paraplegic Iraq war veteran featured in the movie, *Body of War*.

Kathy Kelly, co-director of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, the Chicago group organizing Camp Hope, said, "We feel responsible to give visibility to needed, progressive change at a time when the powerful seek to maintain the status quo of warfare and unbridled greed. The reckless abandon they exhibit is a sad reminder of the Bush Regime."

The Chicago native said the camp is simply saying to President-elect Obama, "Don't leave these ideas out in the cold. They are from the people who put you in office."

The ideas are in eight policy areas, including: War in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Global Climate Change, Nuclear Weapons, Guantanamo and Torture, Immigrant Rights, Unemployment and the Prison-Industrial Complex, Housing Foreclosures, and Universal Health Care

To date groups in California, Missouri and Maine plan local activities in conjunction with Chicago's Camp Hope. Initial press inquiries have come from French and Japanese journalists but to date, none from U.S. corporate news outlets.

A St. Louis activist, Bill Ramsey, in an op-ed titled, "Charting a Course Toward Change," said, "The helm is in transition and those who row can change the course. Setting down our oars and speculating how the new captain will steer is not an option."

He added, "The fundamental social changes we claim as

our common history ... were achieved when social movements insisted that new presidents take immediate actions, which then became the impetus for more profound changes."

Woodrow Wilson, elected in 1912, did not support "votes for women." But determined suffragists lobbied Congress and kept the issue in the forefront of public opinion with parades, arrests and hunger strikes. In 1918 Wilson finally urged Congress to pass the 19th amendment which states ratified in 1920.

Franklin Roosevelt began his first term with labor strikes becoming common. Within the first 18 months of his first term, a wave of strikes and radical protests by the unemployed brought about the first labor laws, unemployment and social security.

Kennedy was elected in 1960, the year the lunch counter sit-ins of the civil rights movement began. The protests grew until a reluctant president and his attorney general stepped in on the side of the movement, eventually leading to passage of civil rights legislation in 1964 and 1965. In the spring of 1962, a delegation of Quakers vigiled outside the White House. Kennedy invited six of them to the Oval Office to listen to their case. Grassroots pressure was an important factor, along with intervening historical events, that helped steer Kennedy away from his original cold warrior path to support a nuclear test ban and order the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam. [?—Ed.]

In 1976, grassroots pressure, including vigils outside his home in Plains, Georgia, succeeded in getting Jimmy Carter to listen to their reasons to grant amnesty to Vietnam war resisters and cancel the B-1 Bomber. On his second day in office Carter granted amnesty to the resisters and within

6 months cancelled the B-1 Bomber.

The program for Camp Hope's 18-day vigil includes presentations from Dr. Quentin Young, an expert on universal health care; Stephen Kinzer, author and former *New York Times* foreign correspondent, Col. Ann Wright and Veterans For Peace Director, Michael McPhearson on "Abandoning War," a screening of the Stanley Kubrick classic, *Dr. Strangelove* and the 2007 Academy Award-winning documentary, *Taxi to the Dark Side*.

Mike Ferner  
Toledo, OH  
Mr. Ferner is the author of *Inside the Red Zone: A Veteran For Peace Reports from Iraq*, www.mikeferner.org

Mike:  
*You said it. The corporate media are doing a job of allowing propagandists like Fox News to insert the bogus concept of a "center-right America" into the political dialogue. We need to set Obama and the Democrats in Congress straight.*  
The Editor

### Our Once Great Republic Is Now Fascist

To the Editor:  
It was Thomas Jefferson who said: "The issue today is the same as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite."

It appears to many, that our once great republic has been morphed into an oligarchy that incrementally has taken our government in an opposite direction; that is, from being the protector of our freedoms, to restoration of the feudal chains from which our forefathers escaped.

This direction is perceived by many as "socialism," the historical predecessor of "communism."

This direction actually represents public interests, but it has insidiously put big business monopolies into rewriting laws to

privatize core public institutions for private Corporate profit. A good example is the unconstitutional "Easy Pass" monopoly, which violates constitutional Article 83, Part II. Accordingly, these monopolies are in collusion with corporate government at the expense of the taxpayers. Such behavior is the betrayal of honor, in regard to core Constitutional virtues "of, by and for the people." It is a scoffing at the mandates of the supreme law of the land. Violations of Oaths of Office and a "Wink and a Nod" are the order of the day as the taxpayers pockets are being picked.

Most will describe it as anti-fascist; but, is this direction really "socialist?"

History will attest that "fascism" was defined by Benito Mussolini, who is second only to Hitler in giving meaning to the word "fascism."

Mussolini said, "Fascism should more appropriately be called corporatism because it is a merger of state and corporate power."

Dick Marple  
Hooksett, NH  
Dick:  
*For some reason, whenever we agree with you, we find it a little bit frightening.*  
The Editor

### Dear Governor Lynch

To the Editor: The following is an open letter to Governor Lynch:

When "W." appointed his buddy to head FEMA (Joe Allbaugh) and the New Orleans disaster struck, both Bush and Allbaugh were responsible for the mess that followed. When the Governor of Massachusetts [Republican Paul Cellucci] appointed Virginia Buckingham, his press secretary, to head [Massport, responsible for] Logan Airport, by her own admission she had zero experience. She didn't have the experience to run the Law-



rence, or Nashua, or Dartmouth airports, and 9/11 falls clearly on their shoulders. She was totally unprepared to deal with the needed security and could have caught the terrorists with box cutters and avoided the 9/11 disasters.

Governor Lynch, This is not your first term as Governor, so this whole New Hampshire Ice Storm, of record proportions, falls clearly on your shoulders. The PUC and PSNH and Unutil management cannot be blamed on Benson, this mess occurred on your watch.

You carried towns that Obama, Shaheen, and Shea-Porter didn't. You got a mandate and won reelection in a cakewalk. If heads don't roll and there is not an investigation into the ill preparedness of the PUC, PSNH and Unutil, your next election will not be a cake walk.

This is New Hampshire, not Tennessee. At least an ice storm in Tennessee would be considered an abnormality, but in New Hampshire an ice storm that affects over 300,000 homes and takes over 12 + days to recover should have been an agenda item at someone's meeting to discuss what if disaster plans. Heads gotta roll.

Joel Saren  
Portsmouth, NH  
Joel:  
*You seem a bit harsh on Lynch, but the PUC clearly needs deep scrutiny.*  
The Editor

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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, January 4	Monday, January 5	Tuesday, January 6	Wednesday, January 7	Thursday, January 8	Friday, January 9	Saturday, January 10							
<p><b>2008</b>—Five Iranian small boats approach three Navy warships in the Gulf of Hormuz. The Navy mistakes a crazed ham radio operator's "You will explode" for a real threat.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Thomas Stevens becomes the first man to bicycle around the world.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—In Vietnam, soldier George Mellendorf mails a letter to White House complaining of slow mail delivery. It arrives in 1978.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—The Free Speech Movement holds its first legal rally.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Washington, the Sam Rayburn Office Building is completed; the cost overrun is somewhat more than four thousand percent.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—An automobile provides an answer of sorts to Albert Camus' big question.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Sputnik burns up on re-entry.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—U.S. agrees to pay Japan for nuking the Marshall Islands.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Anti-draft revolt begins in Raguse, Italy.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—In Primghar, Iowa, farmers put a rope around a banker's neck and threaten to lynch him unless he promises to end foreclosures.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—Topsy, an elephant who had killed three trainers, is electrocuted at Coney Island.</p> <p><b>41 BC</b>—The Roman Emperor Caligula is murdered by his own troops, angry over unpaid wages.</p>	<p><b>1996</b>—Tenor Richard Versalle, as Vitek in Janáček's <i>The Makropulos Case</i>, delivers the line "you can only live so long," suffers a heart attack, falls to the stage, and dies.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—President Reagan produces first trillion dollar budget with \$107 billion deficit.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Mine workers union presidential candidate Joe Yablonski is killed on orders of incumbent president "Tough" Tony Boyle.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Dr. Spock is indicted for expressing concern about the health of his former patients now in uniform.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Mutual Broadcasting's John B. Hughes begins an anti-Japanese-American radio campaign that results in the establishment of U.S. concentration camps.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—The Abraham Lincoln Brigade is formed to fight fascism—"prematurely," some say.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—Henry Ford establishes 8 hr. day &amp; \$5/day pay.</p> <p><b>1895</b>—Stepping onstage in response to cries of "Author, author," after the first performance of his play <i>Guy Rognonville</i>, Henry James finds himself jeered off.</p> <p><b>1825</b>—Young Alexander Dumas, <i>père</i>, fights his first duel, during which his pants fall down.</p> <p><b>1781</b>—Former American General Benedict Arnold assists the British in the burning and plundering of Richmond, Va.</p>	<p><b>1986</b>—One dies, 100 injured in accident at Kerr-McGee nuclear fuel plant in Oklahoma.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Supreme Court upholds the suppression of an anti-war underground newspaper at Fort Bragg, N.C.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Thousands of active-duty GIs in the Philippines attempt to storm Headquarters in protest of slow re-deployment back to the U.S.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—RIP Ida Tarbell, muckraker, in Bridgeport, Conn.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—Freelance executioner R. Elliot electrocutes three convicts in Charlestown, Mass., then three more in Sing Sing, NY.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—U.S. Marines invade Nicaragua. Again.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Birth of future Man-O'-God Rev. Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Appointed Britain's Foreign Secretary, George Curzon complains bitterly that the supplied inkpots are made of glass and brass rather than crystal and silver.</p> <p><b>1895</b>—Former Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii is arrested following a failed coup against the government of Sanford Dole.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—U.S. Army captures 11,000 Navajos, later force-marching them to Ft. Sumner, killing thousands.</p> <p><b>1853</b>—President-elect Franklin Pierce and his wife Jane witness the death of their son, Benjamin, in a train wreck.</p>	<p><b>1999</b>—Congress begins impeachment trial of Bill Clinton for threatening the Constitution with a cigar.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—San Francisco honors the 100th anniversary of the death of Emperor Norton I with a party.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Woodstock, N.Y. farmer Max Yasgur is sued by his neighbors for damages resulting from his entertaining over 500,000 guests.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—<i>Look</i> magazine calls Jimi Hendrix a "menace to public health."</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Nicola Tesla dies in obscurity in New York City.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—The comic strip "Buck Rogers" makes its debut.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—The Harlem Globetrotters play their first game.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Five socialists are expelled from the NY Assembly.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—Birth of Zora Neale Hurston, famous black female writer during Harlem Renaissance, maid in the 1950s.</p> <p><b>1806</b>—Cherokees cede 7,000 square miles of land in Tennessee and Alabama. In return, they are not killed.</p> <p><b>1800</b>—Birth of future President Millard Fillmore.</p> <p><b>1773</b>—Capt. James Cook crosses the Arctic Circle for the first time in <i>HMS Resolution</i>.</p> <p><b>1400</b>—For plotting to kill King Henry IV of England, the Duke of Surry is relieved of his head.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—Hillary Clinton wins the New Hampshire primary.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—The sub <i>U.S.S. Newport News</i> collides with an oil tanker in the straits of Hormuz.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—"The war on terror involves Saddam Hussein," explains George W. Bush, "because of the nature of Saddam Hussein, and his willingness to terrorize himself."</p> <p><b>1992</b>—At a formal dinner in Japan, Bush #41 turns his head to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and vomits in his lap.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The Watergate Burglar trial begins.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—In the largest single operation of the Vietnam War, 8,000 U.S. troops go looking for VC HQ in the Ho Bo Woods. They don't find it.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Sen. Everett Dirksen proposes adoption of the marigold as America's national flower.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Accident at Chelyabinsk plutonium plant in U.S.S.R. kills hundreds.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Haroani Indians in the Ecuadorian rainforest register their annoyance with missionaries by spearing five to death.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Over 10,000 GIs in Saipan, Guam and France protest slow re-deployment back to the U.S.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Allies retreat from Gallipoli after a campaign costing half a million lives.</p>	<p><b>2002</b>—Future Attorney General Alberto Gonzales writes that parts of the Geneva Conventions are "obsolete" and "quaint."</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Signs of progress in Vietnam: 116,858 South Vietnamese troops deserted this year, up from 113,000 last year. North Vietnamese desertions numbered 20,242.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Panama suspends relations with U.S. after U.S. troops kill 21 anti-American protesters.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—"Dear Abby" begins dispensing advice in newspapers.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—In Phenix City, Alabama, anti-vice crusader Hugh Bentley's house is destroyed by a bomb.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—In Missouri, 1,700 tenant farmers and their families stage a sit-down strike in the middle of Highway 60.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—Richard Milhous Nixon is born in Yorba Linda, CA.</p> <p><b>1883</b>—In Lyons, France, 68 anarchists are brought to trial.</p> <p><b>1805</b>—Ohio passes "Black laws" prohibiting blacks from giving testimony in court.</p> <p><b>1793</b>—In Philadelphia, Jean-Pierre Blanchard makes the first hot-air balloon ascension in the United States, with George Washington in the audience.</p> <p><b>1766</b>—In Portsmouth, "a grand mob" forces stamp-master G. Meserve to surrender his commission. Then they raise the first "No Stamp" flag in the colonies.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—"You took an oath to defend our flag and our freedom," George W. Bush tells members of the VFW, "and you kept that oath underseas and under fire."</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W. Bush denies that he has ever met Ken Lay, his largest campaign donor.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Crewmen at Warren AFB, near Cheyenne, WY, responding to a false alarm about an accidental missile launch, park an armored car atop the silo.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Lester Maddox, high school dropout <i>restaurateur</i> who gave pick-ax handles to customers to prevent integration, becomes Governor of Georgia.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Four black churches and homes of two black leaders in Birmingham, Ala. are bombed.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—"I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its stupidity," says Dwight D. Eisenhower in Ottawa.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Victor Berger (Socialist-Wisconsin) is refused a seat in Congress for opposing WW I.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—The double murder for which Joe Hill will be hanged is committed in Salt Lake City.</p> <p><b>1880</b>—The funeral of Emperor Norton I draws 20,000.</p> <p><b>1855</b>—The last 88 Clackamas Indians sign away the best timberland in Oregon for \$500 and some food.</p>							
4:06	4:30	4:59	5:30	5:56	6:34	6:55	7:38	7:56	8:41	8:54	9:39	9:51	10:34
10:21	10:37	11:19	11:32	12:21	12:30	1:24	1:31	2:25	2:30	3:23	3:29	4:18	
Sunday, January 11	Monday, January 12	Tuesday, January 13	Wednesday, January 14	Thursday, January 15	Friday, January 16	Saturday, January 17							
<p><b>2008</b>—"There will be a signed peace treaty [between Israel and the Palestinians] by the time I leave office," says George W. Bush.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—"You can count on this," Donald Rumsfeld tells Saudi Prince Bandar, showing him plans for the Iraq War. "This is going to happen."</p> <p><b>2000</b>—"Rarely is the question asked," says George W. Bush, "is our children learning?"</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Thomas Moorer is reported to have placed spies in the executive branch to obtain secret information on U.S. diplomatic initiatives.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—London's <i>Daily Mirror</i> reports that Jimi Hendrix has moved into George F. Handel's old digs.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Edward Aloysius Murphy Jr., creator of "Murphy's Law," is born.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—In Lawrence, Mass. 32,000 women and children strike for bread ... and roses.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—For refusing to obey the law and register as an Asian, Mohandas Gandhi is jailed in South Africa.</p> <p><b>1906</b>—Birth of Albert Hofmann, discoverer of LSD.</p> <p><b>1887</b>—Frenchman Clement Duval is condemned to death. Fellow anarchists protest and his sentence is commuted: Devil's Island. He escapes, and lives to be 85 among Italian anarchists in New York.</p>	<p><b>1991</b>—Congress authorizes the first Bush vs. Hussein War.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Reverend Philip Berrigan is indicted for conspiring to kidnap President Nixon and bomb federal buildings.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Dr. James H. Bedford becomes the first human frozen in hopes of later re-animation.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State and brother to C.I.A. chief Allen Dulles, announces that the containment of Communism is over, and the threat of massive retaliation is here.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Wheelchair-bound Albert Guay, convicted of bombing an airliner, is rolled to the gallows in Canada.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Ark.) becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Ruth Snyder becomes the first woman to be photographed dying in the electric chair.</p> <p><b>1879</b>—British forces in Natal invade Zululand.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Kit Carson and his fellow heroes kill 11 Navajos in Canyon de Chelly, Arizona Territory.</p> <p><b>1833</b>—A new law makes it illegal for any Indian to remain within the bounds of the state of Florida.</p> <p><b>1641</b>—In James City, Va., a law is passed providing that, if any Indian commits a crime, the first Indian caught must pay the penalty—with his life, if necessary.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—The CIA bombs a village in Pakistan, but instead of killing Ayman al-Zawahiri, they get 18 innocent people.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W. Bush, watching a ball game, passes out. He claims to have been overcome by a pretzel.</p> <p><b>Ex-British Foreign Secretary Lord David Owen</b>—an MD—later writes that lab techs found alcohol in a sample of Bush's blood.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Japan apologizes for making sex slaves of tens of thousands of Korean women during WW II.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—In Belgium, the head of the anti-narcotics force is arrested for smuggling drugs.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Dr. Hunter S. Thompson throws a Super Bowl party; one guest: George W. Bush.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Cumberland, Maryland gets lucky: a B-52 crashes, but the nukes on board don't go off.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—The Supreme Court rules that there's nothing cruel or unusual about electrocuting a man a second time if you fail to kill him the first time.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—In Paris, 500 GIs adopt an Enlisted Man's Magna Carta, calling for radical reforms of the master-slave relationship between officers and enlisted men.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—The New York police club unemployed demonstrators. Police Commissioner Abram Duryée calls the violence "the most glorious sight I have ever seen."</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—" [M]an should never try to put words in God's mouth," says George W. Bush on TV.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—"This is still a dangerous world," warns George W. Bush. "It's a world of madmen and uncertainty and potential mental losses."</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Explosions on the <i>U.S.S. Enterprise</i>, a nuclear aircraft carrier, kill 17 and injure 85.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The First Human Be-In is held, in San Francisco.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—"I never should have switched from Scotch to Martinis," says the Humphrey Bogart on his deathbed.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—Death of Rev. Charles L. Dodgson, author and fervent admirer of little girls.</p> <p><b>1893</b>—Joseph Conrad quits the sea of salt water for a sea of ink.</p> <p><b>1878</b>—The U.S. Supreme Court rules that states may not require railroads to provide equal accommodations to passengers regardless of race.</p> <p><b>1850</b>—Imprisoned anarchist Mikhail Bakunin is sentenced to death. After that sentence is suspended, he spends years in a dungeon, comes down with scurvy, is sent to Siberia, escapes, makes much trouble, and eventually dies in Switzerland, at 62.</p> <p><b>1794</b>—Dr. Jesse Bennett performs the first successful Cesarean section in the U.S., in Edom, Virginia, on his own wife.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—Saddam Hussein's half-brother Barzan Ibrahim is further subdivided when a noose separates his head from his body.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—George W. Bush promises an administration that "will see service to our country as a great privilege and who will not stain the house."</p> <p><b>1992</b>—"You cannot be president of the United States if you don't have faith," says George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush, campaigning in NH. "Remember Lincoln, going in his knees in times of trial and the Civil War and all that stuff. And we are blessed. So don't feel sorry for...don't cry for me, Argentina."</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Jeanette Rankin, 87, Congresswoman who voted against WWI and WWII, leads a march against the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Near Dak To, SP/5 Dwight H. Johnson engages so fiercely in a firefight that he is later awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1971 he's shot to death in a suicidal robbery.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Air Force's "Texas Tower" radar station collapses into the Atlantic off New Jersey.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—The Irish Free State is established.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—In Boston, 2,300,000 gallons of molasses, intended for manufacturing explosives, escape from a badly-built storage tank, killing 21 and injuring 150.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Space Shuttle <i>Columbia</i> takes off for the last time.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Mistaken for a drug trafficker, Jimmy Buffet and his seaplane are fired on in Jamaica.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—The Salvadoran Civil War ends.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—The Dept. of Energy announces a seven-year search for a nuclear waste dump site. One potential site: Hillsborough, NH. After five months of vigorous protest, it's called off.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Paul McCartney is arrested in Barbados for marijuana possession.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Paul McCartney is jailed briefly in Japan for marijuana possession.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Anti-drug pencils are recalled in New York because "Too Cool to Do Drugs" becomes, on sharpening, "Cool to Do Drugs," then "Do Drugs."</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Serial killer and cannibal Albert Fish is executed at Sing Sing.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Prohibition takes effect: 13 years to the next legal drink.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—German Foreign Secretary A. Zimmermann telegraphs the German ambassador in Mexico telling him to propose a German/Mexican alliance, and offering the return of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.</p> <p><b>1777</b>—Vermont declares independence from New York.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—The U.S. death toll in Iraq reaches 500.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W. Bush tells wounded troops at Walter Reed we "must provide the best care" for veterans the same day the VA cuts off health care for 164,000 veterans.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Newt Gingrich's lawyer tells a Congressional subcommittee his client's lies were merely "glaringly inconsistent."</p> <p><b>1991</b>—Gulf (&amp; Exxon) War I begins with air attacks on Iraq.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—About to become the first American executed (by firing squad) after a ten-year hiatus, Gary Gilmore says, "Let's do it."</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Asked by Lady Bird Johnson what she makes of the Vietnam War, Eartha Kitt answers, "You send the best of this country off to be shot and maimed. No wonder the kids rebel and take pot." For telling the truth, her career suffers.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—G.W. Bush manages to squeak by the Texas Air National Guard's pilot aptitude test, with a score of 25 percent.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—An Air Force tanker and a B-52 collide over Spain, dropping H-bombs &amp; scattering radiation.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Patrice Lumumba is assassinated, possibly by the Military-Industrial Complex.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Pres. Eisenhower warns against the "acquisition of unwarranted influence" by the "Military-Industrial Complex."</p>							
10:46	11:27	11:39	12:31	1:08	1:23	1:58	2:15	2:49	3:09	3:41	4:07		
4:24	5:11	5:20	6:01	6:13	6:51	7:06	7:39	7:59	8:27	8:54	9:17	9:52	10:09

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