

The Fortnightly Rant

You May Go Now. Please.

Friday, January 16—Somewhere, way out there in the great metaphysical, metaphorical cosmos, a bright brass chain hangs from the side of a rectangular wooden box. Inside that box is a quantity of water. At the lower end of the chain hangs a wooden handle.

Four days from today, on Tuesday, January 20, the invisible but mighty hand of the Constitution of the United States of America will grasp that handle, and pull down on that chain. The water will flow from the box with a great, rushing gurgle. And the George W. Bush administration will be gone.*

Sadly, the worst administration in American history will not be as completely gone as most Americans would like it to be. This is a low-flush metaphor, after all. Some may think it an unsuitable metaphor to use in conjunction with a Presidential Administration. It is certainly unseemly. But our task is to represent the times as they are, not as we wish they might be.

Assuming for the moment that there are no last-minute she-nanigans emanating from Dick "Dick" Cheney's secure, undisclosed location, let us take one final look at the machinations of the Mayberry Machiavellis.

A Real Class Act

About 800 feet from the gracefully-curved driveway of the White House sits Blair House. Presumably the property of the American public, Blair House's website announces that it is "The President's Guest House." The current President sure treats it

* After almost eight straight years of high crimes and misdemeanors, we are compelled to note that the nation has one hundred hours more to endure from these people, and they cannot be trusted to be gone until we have seen them leave.

like his own.

President-elect Obama requested the use of Blair House for three weeks prior to his inauguration, so that his daughters could begin school conveniently. He was informed that it was not available. The 119-room mansion would be occupied by former Australian Prime Minister John Howard and his wife—for one night.

"If not for the Obamas," Bloomberg.com's Margaret Carlson wrote, "Bush could have said yes for the sake of the taxpayers. The middle of Washington is in gridlock as the Secret Service has built a bunker around the hotel the Obamas moved into at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars in security."

We did a quick bit of research, and we offer the results to the incoming administration: the next time any member of the Bush family calls and asks for a bed for the night, just tell them, "(202) 722-1600"—that's the Motel 6 at 6711 Georgia Ave., Exit #31 off I-495.

Cheat the Press

Bush got a full 128 words into his final press conference January 12 before telling a demonstrable lie. After saying he and the reporters had been through a lot together, he told the assembled reporters: "Through it all ... I have respected you." But the falsehoods began before he spoke. Two rows of seats were filled with White House interns because so few reporters bothered to attend.

Another 430 words in, during which he didn't really say anything, he lied again, telling a reporter he would get to everybody's questions. But Helen Thomas was in the room, and he did not call on her. Thus was lost



one of history's potentially great moments.

Lobbed a low, slow softball by a reporter identified only as "Jim" on the transcript—Jeff Gannon's replacement, apparently—Bush gave his thoughts on those who suffer from "Bush derangement syndrome," feeling animosity not just towards his policies, but him. First he denied their numbers, saying "it's just a very few people in the country."

"I don't know why they get angry," Bush went on. "I don't know why they get hostile. It's not the first time, however, in history that people have expressed themselves in sometimes undignified ways," implying that it's undignified not to approve of him.

Then Bush jumped the shark. "I've been reading, you know, a lot about Abraham Lincoln during my presidency," he said, "and there was some pretty harsh discord when it came to the 16th

President, just like there's been harsh discord for the 43rd President." Mr. President, you're no Abraham Lincoln.

Bush brusquely refused to answer a reporter's question about presidential pardons for the felons in his administration. Her follow-up was the apparently irresistible question, had he made any mistakes, and if so, which was the biggest. Bush offered two.

"Clearly," he said, "putting a 'Mission Accomplished' on a [sic] aircraft carrier was a mistake." So apparently he's done trying to foist that gauche boast off onto the Navy.

"Obviously, some of my rhetoric has been a mistake," he went on. Had he left out the "some of," he'd have gotten that answer right.

Bush then reduced the entire Katrina catastrophe to the self-centered question of whether he should have landed Air Force

One in Louisiana, instead of just flying over—and he concluded that he'd have been criticized either way.

Later, near the end of the press conference, when asked what more needed to be done in New Orleans, Bush gave free rein to his petulant inner twelve-year old.

"People said, well, the federal response was slow," he barked, in a tone of voice that would start a fight if he tried it in a Texas bar without the Secret Service to protect him.

"Don't tell me the federal response was slow when there was 30,000 people pulled off roofs right after the storm passed." So apparently Katrina was a "helluva job" after all.

And since Bush did not mention it, invading Iraq in search of non-existent weapons of mass destruction must not have been a mistake.

News Briefs:

Pirates of the Indian Ocean

It seems bizarre yet somehow fitting that the news these days should include tales of piracy on the high seas. The cutlass-waving pirates of the Caribbean were suppressed several decades before Daniel Fowle founded this newspaper. But the tissue of civilization is thinner than we like to think, and lately many forces have been clawing at it. Now here we are, more than 250 years later, and Somali pirates off the Horn of Africa, armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), are seizing oil supertankers and shiploads of military tanks.

The entrepreneurial spirit of Somali pirates began drawing attention in 2005. Early that year

they seized the Liquid Natural Gas carrier *MV Feisty Gas*, and released it after collecting a \$315,000 ransom.

The pirates' next venture, an attack on the luxury cruise ship *Seabourn Spirit*, was less profitable. They had the misfortune of tangling with Michael Graves, the ship's Master at Arms and former member of the Royal Navy, and Som Bahadur Gurung, an ex-Gurkha. According to a BBC report, the two fought off their attackers armed only with a high-pressure water hose and a "sonic cannon," and were later decorated for their valor by the Queen Elizabeth II. The *Spirit* suffered minor damage from at least three RPGs. The pirates' re-

turn on investment was nil.

If American free enterprise runs on caffeine, Somalia's runs on *khat*, the leaves of the flowering tropical plant *Catha edulis*. Users chew the leaves, absorb an alkaloid stimulant called cathinone, and experience excitement, euphoria, and a loss of appetite. For some reason this combination of effects seems to appeal to people living in a country without a government or an economy.

Few things but *khat* could account for a 2006 incident in which pirates aboard a suspicious vessel fired on the *U.S.S. Cape St. George*, a 567-foot guided missile cruiser, and the *U.S.S. Gonzales*, a 505-foot destroyer. Demonstrating superb restraint, the Navy

managed to kill just one of the pirates, and took the other 12 into custody.

Successfully adapting to the challenges of the marketplace, the pirates took the Danish cargo ship *Danica White* the following year, despite receiving .50 caliber machine gun fire from the *U.S.S. Carter Hall*, a dock landing ship. The pirates lost some small boats, but sailed the *Danica White* inside Somali territorial waters, where the Navy would not follow. They subsequently collected a ransom of \$1.5 million.

The pirates' ledgers recorded the receipt of another \$1,000,000 in 2007, for the return of the Japanese chemical tanker, the *Golden Nori*. Again, in this transaction, a

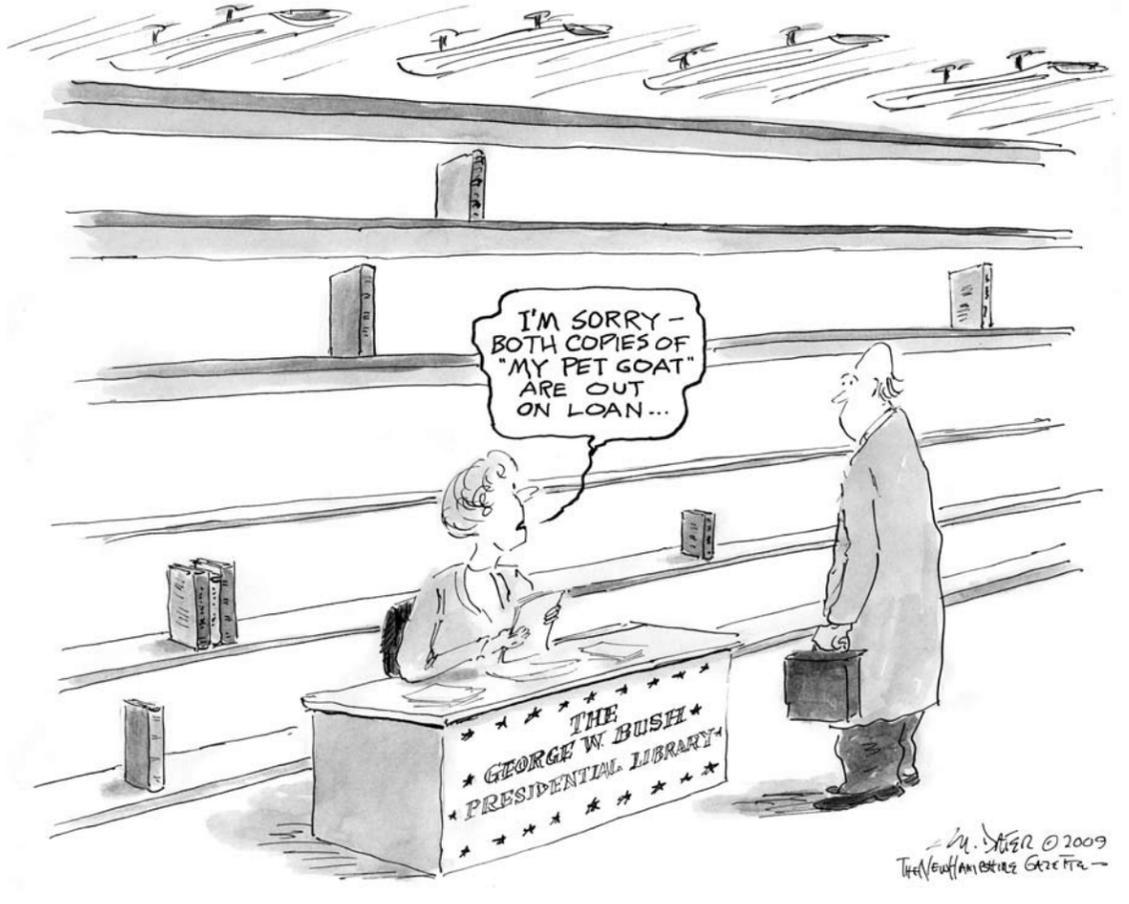
few small boats had to be written off, this time due to fire from the destroyer *U.S.S. Porter*.



The International Maritime Bureau maintains cumulative annual online maps showing pirate attacks on marine shipping. Comparing the maps for 2005 through 2008 makes it clear that in these troubled times, piracy is



In the foreground, at Gracie's Diner, Carl Aichele carefully scrutinizes the counter copy of the Thursday, April 3, 1884 issue of The New Hampshire Gazette. Carl was intrigued by an advertisement on page three for The Science of Life, a "Great Medical Work on Manhood." This tome, available by mail for just \$1.00, "contains 125 prescriptions for all acute and chronic diseases" and all "the untold miseries resulting from indiscretion or excesses." In 1884, the paper was published by Washington Freeman and Charles W. Gardner. Their standards for advertising were somewhat lower than at present. In the middle distance, Dennie DeGenova stands attentively, ready to serve a customer. In the background Jon Ury, cook and owner, prepares to give our Wandering Photographer the bum's rush for annoying the customers. The 124 year-old newspaper remains on the counter for the reading pleasure of the general public.



News Briefs

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one of the world's great growth industries.*

Notable successes for the self-employed Somalis earlier in 2008 included the Japanese bulk carrier *Stella Maris*, for \$2,000,000, and the Malaysian oil tanker *Bunga Melati Dua*, for another \$2,000,000. Several other ships yielded sums in the million-dollar range.

But the feat that established the pirates as true competitors in the global market was their extremely hostile takeover, on September 25, of the Ukrainian-owned, Belize-flagged *MV Faina*. Still held somewhere off the

* For a direct link to these fascinating maps, go to our website at www.nhgazette.com, and under the Links menu, look for News>Piracy Maps.

coast of Somalia, the ship's cargo of 33 Soviet-built T-72 tanks lends a certain air of authority to men whose "offices" are open boats powered by outboard motors.

Their inexperience in the global arms market seems to have tripped up the pirates, though. Their initial demand for \$35 million was too optimistic, and has been cut, at last report, to \$3.5 million. The ship and tanks remain in their inventory.

The results of their latest major transaction, involving the Saudi-owned supertanker *Sirius Star*, were mixed. The pirates acquired the *Sirius Star* on November 15, some 450 nautical miles southeast of Mombasa, Kenya. This represented an impressive expansion of their territory. Using small boats deployed from a "mother ship," they closed with the tanker

from astern, and used grappling hooks to board; apparently merchant seamen don't keep watch the way they used to.

Last Friday the pirates closed the deal. A small white airplane flew over the ship and dropped, by parachute, an orange canister containing \$3 million. The scene was documented by a U.S. Navy photographer. The photos show small open boats alongside the tanker, their occupants apparently preparing to fish the proceeds out of the water.

Mainstream U.S. media have been reporting that after dividing their proceeds, the pirates set out for shore in their open boats. One was said to have overturned in a storm. Five of the pirates were thought to have drowned, while the other three swam several miles to shore.

Mohammed Omar Hussein offered a few additional details at somalawiweyn.com. Hussein quoted a Somaliweyn radio account from

Ali Yussuf, a resident of Harardhere. Yussuf made no mention of a storm, but said, "The pirates ... were on board two speedboats singing in colorful tone," before the boat capsized, "and exchanging some ridiculous words."

The international community is taking a hard line against the Somali pirates' efforts to improve their situation. In addition to the existing Combined Task Force 150, a multi-national effort involving ships from half a dozen countries including the U.S., a force is apparently being organized which would follow the pirates onto dry land. Objectively, this reaction seems to demonstrate once again the truth of the old adage that "it all depends on whose ox is gored."

No reports have surfaced to date indicating that the new multinational land-and-sea force intending to suppress the pirates' trade has any plans to enforce the rights of Somalis to their

fish in their own territorial waters, which have been ravaged for years by non-Somalis.

Nor has there been any sign of a multi-national effort to stop the illegal dumping of nuclear waste into Somali waters.

The sole source of information about this particular crime seems to be a column by Johann Hari, of the newspaper *London Independent*.

Hari quotes Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, the UN envoy to Somalia, who told him "Somebody is dumping nuclear material here. There is also lead, and heavy metals such as cadmium and mercury—you name it.' Much of it can be traced back to European hospitals and factories, who seem to be passing it on to the Italian Mafia to 'dispose' of cheaply."

"When I asked Ould-Abdallah what European governments were doing about it," Hari wrote, "he said with a sigh: 'Nothing. There has been no clean-up, no

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The snide comment we published in last fortnight's issue, regarding the lackluster level of performance lately from the official Flag Police, seems to have stimulated the Volunteers amongst the general populace into action. The image shown above came in on Saturday, January 3.

"On a drive through Rye today," this Volunteer wrote, "we discovered that not only can't money buy you happiness, but it can't seem to buy a decent flag to fly either. Two homes overlooking the sea and a well-known seafood establishment were among the offenders." That self-same seafood joint was the subject of the January 2 case.

A second Volunteer, reporting from Northwood, documented the dismal condition of the banner at right on Jenness Pond.

"Sad but true," our correspondent wrote. "A battered, forlorn flag lashed to a buoy, perhaps with noble intentions, but too soon forgotten and left to a sad fate—a fate, some would say, similar to our veterans returning to civilian life from

war." "As profoundly disturbing as the evidence is," commented yet a third Volunteer, "your astute metaphor of the tattered, desolate, abandoned flag with war veterans returning to civilian life makes the violation doubly offensive. I can see the 'two thousand yard stare' in the flag's faded stars."

Amen, brothers. [Note: Having weighed our desire to give fuller credit where it is due, against the potential for reprisal against Volunteers from those abusing Old Glory, we have opted to err on the side of discretion.—The Ed.]



compensation, and no prevention."

"The secret of great wealth with no obvious source is some forgotten crime, forgotten because it was done neatly."—Honoré de Balzac, *Le Pere Goriot*

Joe the Plumber's Crack

The Number Three person on the Republican Presidential Ticket this year, Samuel "Joe

the Plumber" Wurzelbacher, was born in 1973. That made him old enough to enlist in the U.S. military and fight the dreaded Saddam Hussein in the first Bush/Iraq War. But no biography we have located suggests that he did so.

During his administration, Bill Clinton sent the U.S. military on scads of missions. Whether or



not those missions were "accomplished," their outcomes seem also to have been unaffected by the participation of "Joe the Plumber."

Despite this, "Joe" has been sent to Israel by the conservative media organization PajamasMedia cover what they are calling "The Gaza War." Since PajamasMedia is an outgrowth of the conservative bloggers' movement, perhaps "Joe's" lack of military experience was seen as an asset, rather than a liability.

"Joe" seems to feel about his new profession the same way Groucho Marx did about country clubs. On January 11, he gave a videotaped interview to the Associated Press. According to a transcript of that interview,

published at RawStory.com, "Joe" told the real war correspondents, "I think media should be abolished from, uh, you know, reporting. You know, war is hell. And if you're gonna sit there and say, 'Well, look at this atrocity,' well, you don't know the whole story behind it half the time. So I think the media should have no business in it."

Purple Hearts for PTSD?

Speaking of matters military, somehow, while fighting two wars (and that's not counting the pirates) the Department of Defense found the time to ask itself whether they should award Purple Hearts to military personnel who develop PTSD. Recently, they decided against it.

On the one hand, some vets

with PTSD might benefit from such a recognition of the sacrifice they made. But changing the eligibility for a medal held in such esteem would also turn a consequence of war into a wedge issue dividing the veteran community into two camps, pro and con.

Besides, a medal isn't the point. Veterans for Common Sense (VCS) had this to say about the question:

"We believe a more important issue is the troubling fact that many soldiers and veterans are waiting months, often years, for mental healthcare and disability benefits.

"What veterans need are pre-

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



Moving Pictures

The Great Depression

by Rodman Philbrick

Inauguration Day is coming up, and while this may be hope that many of us want to believe in, there's that nagging feeling that despite our best efforts (and a trillion or two of our dollars) things could get worse. Bad enough so all those boring old Great Depression tales told by your parents, or grandparents, or your great-aunt Sadie, start to sound plausible. One of my younger siblings, upon hearing a relative carry on about deprivation, called it her "great depressing story." He was four at the time, equipped with the wisdom of innocence. We're considerably older now, most of us, and much less wise, but in the interests of better preparing ourselves for the possibility of our own "great depressing" stories, it "behoovers" us to review a few of the classic tales inspired by the actual historical event.

Bound For Glory is one of

those rare biopics that somehow manages to transcend the main subject—the unlikely rise of an Oklahoma troubadour named Woodrow Wilson Guthrie—and delivers a grand vision of an entire era. Director Hal Ashby cast David Carradine to play his talented but imperfect hero. The screenplay is based on Woody's own book about his life, but Ashby wisely keeps his viewpoint wide enough to take in the rest of the world, and what happens in a country when fully a quarter of the population is out of work. A big picture flick with, as you might expect, great music. Look for a young Randy Quaid in a supporting role.

Boxcar Bertha is also based on a real person, a radical "sister of the road," or so it was thought at the time. In truth *Boxcar Bertha* was invented by notorious anarchist and pathological prevaricator Ben Reitman, for propaganda purposes, but it doesn't really matter when the director pretty

much throws away the book and makes it his way. Especially when the director is a young film school graduate named Martin Scorsese. Twenty-three-year-old Barbara Hershey has the title role as the dangerously wild hobo (the sex scenes made it into *Playboy*) and despite being produced on a Roger Corman budget, *Boxcar Bertha* hangs together as a movie, and hints at Scorsese's potential. It was Hershey, by the way, who first mentioned *The Last Temptation of Christ* to the young filmmaker, providing future investors with generous tax write-offs.

O Brother, Where Art Thou? is much more than the Coen brothers setting *The Odyssey* in deep Dixie during the 1930's. It's George Clooney as Everett Ulysses McGill in one of his great comic roles, holding his own with fellow chain-gangers John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson. It's John Goodman as a charismatic con artist/racist with a heart of cornpone. It's Holly

Hunter as, well, Holly Hunter. It's radio madness. It's one of the great movie soundtracks of all time, featuring John Hartford, The Stanley Brothers, The Cox Family, Emmylou Harris, Alison Krauss, and the fictitious but sonically delicious Soggy Bottom Boys.

Cinderella Man: Yeah, yeah, you already saw this Depression era tale about a boxer fighting for dignity, and for food. See it again. Russell Crowe, the John Garfield of his time, is splendid as real-life heavyweight James Braddock, a has-been fighter with a young family on relief in 1934. Risking his life to make a few bucks—everybody assumes he'll be little more than a sparring partner—Braddock keeps winning somehow, and eventually takes on man-killer Max Baer in one of the greatest upsets of all time. Okay, so there's a happy ending, is that a bad thing?

Paper Moon, based on a novel by Joe David Brown, is, in the



opinion of some, director Peter Bogdanovich's last really terrific feature film. It's a father-daughter thing with Ryan O'Neal as a con man sleazing his way through the Midwest in the 1930's, and the little girl (Tatum) who becomes his accomplice. There are those who find ten-year-old Tatum much the better actor, but O'Neal is actually as good as he gets in this one, he pretty much nails the part. Great scenery, great feeling for the time, and a terrific, Oscar-nominated screenplay adaptation by Alvin Sargent. With Madeline Kahn as "Trixie Delight."

Not so depressing after all. But that's rather the point eh?

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and post-deployment medical examinations as well as prompt and high-quality treatment without stigma. Congress ordered the military to conduct the deployment examinations in 1997, yet the military still refuses to perform the exams required by the Force Health Protection law, PL 105-85, Sections 761 - 771. Once again, VCS urges the DoD to follow the law."

That has the ring of common sense to it.

ParkingGate

The City of Portsmouth appears hell-bent on installing more "Pay and Display" parking meters. But one city resident is intent on getting more citizen input into the process.

George McQuilken, a local entrepreneur and *bon vivant*, created a "Cause" named ParkingGate on the social networking site Facebook, to connect people who aren't ready to roll over just yet. Among other things, ParkingGate provides links to stories about problems with the meters in other cities.

Within two days of its creation, ParkingGate had 16 members. Its positions are:

1. Current plans for new meters are not cost-justified,
2. At least two alternatives should be presented, and
3. A public hearing should be held.

Here in the physical world, ParkingGate members are circulating a hard-copy petition. It had 110 signatures as of Tuesday.

Given the lack of organized resistance anywhere else, and Facebook's viral potential, this could be something to watch. Facebook is free, easy to use, and fun. Anyone interested in resisting the newfangled meters ought to consider signing up on Facebook just to join George's cause.

Nuke Memorial Bridge?

Speaking of hell-bent, how about those Departments of Transportation in Maine and New Hampshire?

After deferring maintenance on Memorial Bridge for a couple of decades, they've decided it would cost too much to rehab the thing, so they're going to spend a few million to study—just study—a new arrangement that would knock down one or two bridges, and build a new high bridge. Or so they say.

This despite the fact that the New Hampshire approach to a high bridge would have to start somewhere around the Pick 'N Pay. It's enough to make one wonder if somebody's chewing too much *khat*.

Our pal Nancy Grossman recently tipped us off to an online survey about the Piscataqua River bridges. It's being conducted by her friend Ben Porter, who's currently teaching a course in management decision making at UNH.

Explaining the rationale behind the survey, Ben wrote, "while the two state departments of transportation are spending millions to further study the options concerning the two bridges, I see little effort expended to gain input from people who actually use the bridges. I think it would be very interesting to see what a large group of people who

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Northcountry Chronicle

Mission Accomplished

by William Marvel

Next week ends one of the gloomiest epochs in American history. The most cynical, self-ish, and shortsighted presidential administration in 220 years will conclude just as it began, with most of the country's population opposed to its occupation of the White House. Now others must begin the enormous task of repairing the pervasive damage George W. Bush has done to our environment, our economy, our international prestige, our future, and our national spirit.

Our deliverance does not come without further volleys of Republican hypocrisy. Republicans who lambasted Al Gore for his legal challenge to the close results of the Florida election now put their last hope in a legal challenge to the close results of the Minnesota election, straining to at least delay any increase in the Senate's Democratic majority. Republicans who declared Bush's one-percent margin a "mandate" in 2004 now belittle Barack Obama's 53-to-47-percent victory as "not that significant"—studiously forgetting that Abraham Lincoln's resounding 1864 triumph barely gleaned 55 per-

cent of the popular vote, and that Andrew Jackson's legendary landslide of 1828 only reached 56 percent.

Although he shows little regard for history, and even less knowledge of it, Bush appears belatedly concerned about his historical image. To resuscitate his miserable environmental record, for instance, he lately transformed many leagues of the Pacific Ocean into national monuments—but only because the energy tycoons of his coterie have no practical means of exploiting the resources there. Meanwhile, he spent his final days in office auctioning off mining and drilling concessions in some of our more precious domestic preserves, sacrificing historical and natural treasures for the sake of a few more months of fossil-fuel pollution.

In order to prevent embarrassing revelations about the President or his associates, the Bush administration routinely disregarded the Presidential Records Act, the Freedom of Information Act, or any other law that might provide incriminating documents. E-mails conveniently disappeared, in flagrant violation of federal statute, and in many in-

stances their deletion represents the destruction of criminal evidence.

This unlawful secrecy ensnared even the pension records of the last surviving veteran of the Civil War. Half a century after his death the Department of Veterans Affairs should release his records, but that requires a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act. I filed such a request two years ago—but, six years into the Bush presidency, I was informed that there was a six-year backlog of such requests. The old veteran's pension file probably doesn't hold very dangerous insights into the workings of the Bush-Cheney cabal, but letting more innocent FOIA requests accumulate by the thousands effectively buries the really damaging information.

Democrats, to their eternal discredit, assiduously avoided every opportunity to prosecute a president who smirked his way through innumerable offenses far more serious than hiding an extramarital affair. Were every American truly equal under the law, Bush should have been impeached two years ago for violating federal statutes against domestic wiretapping and torture.

Bush and Cheney might even have been handed over to The Hague for war crimes.

Instead, hand-wringing Democrats cringe at the thought of "putting our country through such an ordeal," just as they did in 1974. That didn't stop ruthless Republicans from frivolously impeaching a Democrat, and the Democrats' perennial cowardice about impeachment only allows those Republicans to resume the attack with all the self-righteousness of the unindicted. They are doing just that, too, by ballyhooing the investigation of one dubious Democratic governor to make the public forget Tom DeLay, Duke Cunningham, Jack Abramoff, Mark Foley, Scooter Libby, Ted Stevens, all the pardoned Reagan-era criminals whom Bush re-appointed, and countless other Republican scoundrels.

Bush ultimately betrayed almost everyone. His rapacious economic and foreign policies horrified even the traditional conservatives of the Republican party, including his own father. Under the dishonest guise of compassionate conservatism, his cronies cultivated the worst elements of the Republican base. Bush leaped



blindly into the abyss of neoconservatism. He enthusiastically embraced the apocalyptic world view of his fellow biblical literalists, whose primitive lunacy and enforced ignorance mirrors that of their fundamentalist Muslim counterparts.

Through their failure to control the renegades who hijacked the party, and their willingness to accept reckless leadership in return for electoral victory, Republican leaders forfeited any further claim on the loyalty of the American public. Their party now represents almost no one but corporate hyenas, chauvinistic imperialists, and religious fanatics. Those deplorable constituencies are all personified by that swaggering monument to unearned privilege who starts back to Texas Tuesday afternoon.

live and work in the two communities actually think about the options being discussed."

The survey can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/85dpmv>.

Don't dawdle, though—the data will be collected Monday morning, January 19. It will be analyzed by Ben's students, and the results will be shared with all those who take the survey, and presumably the state DOT's.

Since the bridge is a monument to the "Sailors and Soldiers of New Hampshire who partici-

pated in the World War 1917-1919," and since the Preamble to the American Legion's Constitution states that one of its primary purposes is "to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars," one might think they would already be standing guard to prevent its destruction.

Well ... let's just say, "Not yet."

Maybe they're busy. Drew Zahn reports on WorldNet Daily that "The nation's largest veterans organization released this week a

policy bulletin that takes a firm stand against illegal immigration and calls on its members to hold elected officials accountable for implementing and enforcing U.S. immigration law."

Two Regime Change Celebrations

Seacoast Local has organized pre- and post-Inaugural events around the upcoming Regime Change. On Monday night, January 19, a pre-inaugural "Bush Bash" will be held at the Blue Mermaid, on The Hill. Festivi-

ties will start at 7:00 p.m. with a Bush Trivia contest. Beginning at 9:30 p.m. the Mangobamas (aka Mango Wranglers) will provide a night of "real American Barack-and-roll." A portion of proceeds will go to (H)EAT, raising \$50,000 to provide fuel and food assistance to area residents in need. The Blue Mermaid will be offering a specially-priced menu, with items under \$10. Suggested donation: \$5.

And on Friday, January 23rd, Le Club Boutique at 41 Vaughan

Mall will host an Inaugural Ball. This gala event will kick off at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$50, which gets you food, a live band, and an open bar. As above, a portion of the proceeds will go to (H)EAT.

And on the Big Day, January 20, the Press Room on Daniel Street will hold an End of an Error Bash beginning at 8:00 p.m. Chris Elliott will emcee, and The Leftist Marching Band and Dan Blakeslee will be among the performers.

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Dick Rowe for RNC

To the Editor:

Well, that didn't take long.

Barely two months after their well-deserved November 4th shellacking, apologists for the Bush-Cheney regime have emerged from their foxholes spouting the usual nonsense on TV, radio, and in any other public forum crazy enough to allow them face time. A few of the highlights, or lowlights, actually:

1) Despite a resounding defeat in both the popular and electoral vote, an army of GOP flaks, led by such luminaries as Pat Buchanan, Bill Bennett, Joe Scarborough, and Mary Matalin, quickly swarmed the cable TV shows, asserting the same party line: this was by no means a repudiation of most GOP policies, and the U.S. remains a "center-right" country. Apparently they missed the memo where all polls indicated at least 80% of voters thought the country was on the wrong track.

2) Citizens of several states, including perennial Presidential candidate Alan Keyes, continued to insist that Barack Obama is not a U.S. citizen, upping the ante by attempting to overturn his election via the courts. All suits were summarily rejected by their respective state courts. Good thing this went no further: in view of their repugnant kowtowing to the GOP since 2000, the issue might well have been in doubt had it ever reached the Supreme Court.

3) Chip Saltsman, a candidate for RNC head, distributed a CD with a parody entitled "Barack the Magic Negro." While it's highly doubtful he'll win, the comments from those supporting him and the number of votes he receives should prove a useful barometer of how out of touch the GOP is as we head towards the 2010 Congressional races.

4) Sarah Palin's ceaseless treadmill of post-election interviews culminated recently with remarks that eclipsed all previous ones for outrageousness. Free of any restraints from political handlers, Palin unleashed a slash and burn campaign against the media, and even McCain staffers, for her abject failure on the national stage. Even a cursory glance at the election results would suggest that the blame for her woes lies in the mirror.

5) Not to be outdone, George Bush weighed in from his alternate universe with a rambling press conference, ranging from vaguely apologetic and conciliatory to smirkingly surly and defiant and, ultimately, downright comical. How he managed to keep a straight face while stating he had no idea where the negative tone in Washington the past eight years came from is beyond me. Days later, during his final Cabinet meeting, he cemented his status as the most delusional President ever, telling his audience a) that the country "is lucky to have folks like this" and b) "We also reviewed our record, and this administration has had a good, solid record. I'm very proud of it."

These guys, individually and as a group, seem like the political version of early '60s pop stars such as Bobby Vinton, Fabian, and Frankie Avalon, who were swept away forever by the epochal tidal wave of the Beatles and subsequent British invasion.

It is in this vein that I humbly submit the name of Dick Rowe

for honorary candidate to head the RNC. Though he died in 1986 and was a U.K. citizen, he was the Decca Records producer who, upon refusing to sign the Beatles after their 1962 audition, proclaimed "Guitar groups are on their way out."

With any luck, the GOP and its minions will prove just as prophetic—and irrelevant—for at least a generation.

Alan Grossberg
Durham, NH
Alan:

If only you had the time to include the state GOP in your survey of unrepentant madness. But we understand—time's a precious commodity these days, and that would be a lot of work. Hereditary Senator Gregg's recent recollection that he's a deficit hawk has been fairly amusing, for instance. But the killer for us is the resurgence of former-Hereditary Senator John E. Sununu's Big Daddy.

For a while there it looked like the Republicans were going to have to institute a draft to find someone willing to sit in the Chairman's seat. Somehow that felonious incident regarding telephones seems to have taken the luster off the position. They were already scraping pretty hard when they put a former Union Leader editorial writer in it. Now the Smartest Man on the Planet has deigned to give up his duties as Hog Reeve in Hampton and take up the GOP Chairman's official Cudgel.

Frankly, we're praying he wins. With Bicycle Boy and "Dick" out of office, we were afraid we'd lose our edge here at Ye Olde Rag. With Big John in Concord's Corner Office, we will never lack for hilarity.

It will actually be a very sad day when the Republican Party closes up shop in the Granite State. Like all organisms, the Democratic Party needs something to struggle against in addition to your basic background of existential despair. But what a way to go down in flames!

The Editor

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

Gaza:

More Massacre than Battle

To the Editor

In a recent letter to the editor by Chuck Galle (*Portsmouth Herald*, 12/31/2008, "Where was peace group during Hamas attacks?"), Seacoast Peace Response was challenged with the question, "Where was [SPR] during Hamas attacks?" I think there are several major distinctions between the violence of each side.

The mostly homemade rockets of Hamas fighters have killed a few Israelis over the years, but are not creating a humanitarian crisis in Israel. Under international law, Israel's military occupation of the Palestinian territories has been ruled illegal. Under international law, occupied people have the legal right to resist occupation violently.

What's happening right now in Israel and the territories Israel occupies is more of a massacre than a battle. This conflict is almost totally one-sided. War is always bloody, but Israel shows little regard for civilian casualties as Palestinians are killed by the hundreds.

But none of these facts should be the primary concern Americans have about this humanitarian disaster. It is almost as bad to pay for murder as it is to be the murderer, as I am forced to do as a US taxpayer. The U.S. government provides \$6 billion dollars that Israel uses to buy a huge military arsenal, which is used to occupy Palestinian land, torture their people, inflict "collective punishment," and otherwise violate their basic human rights.

Citizens and taxpayers must hold themselves accountable for the crimes committed in their names by their government. As an involuntary supporter of Israel's violence and not Hamas's,

I demonstrate and agitate to end the violence and injustice I am indirectly responsible for. I ask you to do the same, so that future generations might enjoy a world free of imperialism, colonialism, and militarism.

Steven Diamond
Dover, NH
Steven:

The calamitous situation in Gaza could easily serve in future dictionaries as the definitive example of what media critics call a "false equivalence." If our news media couldn't hide behind that, and reported as if Israelis and Palestinians had equal human rights, we wouldn't recognize the news.

The Editor

A Reward for Bungling

To the Editor:

Last month a local newspaper columnist asked if left-of-center people were hoping Barack Obama would choose "some untested liberal ideologues," which reminded me that when Hillary Clinton had her health-care test while Bill Clinton was president, she flunked. Both Clintons botched the chance to build on the base of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid that Democrats Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson had the political skills to bring about.

The column praised Obama for choosing "centrist, highly competent, experienced individuals." Hillary Clinton showed more incompetence by supporting Bush's foreign-policy fiasco in Iraq and shows she's all in thrall to Israel, the savage state that's imprisoned people in Gaza without food and medicine, then attacked to bomb and kill without mercy. Obama's choosing to have her as Secretary of State is a reward for bungling, and a license to do more of it.

Marjorie Gallace
Camden, ME

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And Other Correspondence

Marjorie:
 We hope you were not looking for an argument, because you won't get one here.
 The Editor

Who Do You Trust?

To the Editor:
 We are told by the politicians that the \$165 Billion given to Main Street last year didn't "work" because too many individuals put their checks into personal savings. We are also told that Amer-

icans do not have enough of their money in personal savings.
 But rather than giving even more money to Wall Street and Big Banks (who have either hoarded it or spent it on spas, mergers, golden parachutes, bonuses, initiatives, their debt and large shareholder dividends) why not give another round of checks to Main Street. This time specifically ask us to put it in personal savings in local banks that make loans to local people. This would



YES, IN FACT, IT IS A FEDERAL CASE

Portsmouth, January 16— For eight long, dreary years, the dunce on the left, above, has bestowed his vacuous smile on us, and the ogre on the right has smirked as the nation crumbled. In a just world, notices saying "Wanted for High Crimes and Misdemeanors" would be pasted under them. Failing that, simple, morbid curiosity led us to inquire about the removal of these photographs from the lobby of the Post Office on Daniel Street.
 This being a free country, a newspaper can't ask the person in charge of a Federal Building. All inquiries must go through a political officer. Public Affairs Officer. We tracked one down, in Boston, and received this reply:
 "In response to your inquiry regarding the photos of President and Vice President, I have the following to share.
 "The General Services Ad-

ministration will be taking down photos of President Bush and Vice President Cheney from all GSA Owned and Operated facilities just after noon on Tuesday, January 20, 2009.
 "The official photos of President-Elect Obama and Vice President-Elect Biden have been released by their Transition Team and are located on their web site at www.change.gov
 "Printing of these photos for our purposes is being handled by the Government Printing Office and will start within the next few weeks. We anticipate receiving photos in approximately one month for posting in our buildings.
 "If I get any further information that I think might be helpful, I'll pass that along."
 Paula M. Santangelo
 Public Affairs Officer
 GSA-New England Region

spread the money, ultimately our money, across the nation rather than pooling it in the North East, or sending it to foreign banks.

If the Economy depends on trust, who do you trust - Main Street or Wall Street, Big Banks or Local Banks, Politicians or Individuals.

Chris Lane Gray
 Monticello, AR

A Chickenhawk Question

To the Editor:
 What do your contributors think about a guy who was classified 1-A back in 67, and purposely impregnated his then girlfriend so he could elude the draft? As most of us know, marriages of convenience seldom if ever work out. His didn't either. Ironically, a few years ago, he was hauled into court for impregnating another girl and refusing to pay support payments. Now he's pushing sixty and tries his best to pick fights with anyone who served. I guess he grew or thinks he grew a couple after Vietnam was over. Once a draft dodger, al-

ways a draft dodger. This piece of sh-t will go to his grave knowing deep down inside that when asked to serve his country, he chicken hawked out. I served as a helicopter crewchief from 67 to 70. Being a sole surviving son, I could have side stepped a hardship tour. But chose to serve where ever I was sent. I couldn't run out on the guys I served with.

David Robinson, via nhgazette.com

Whereabouts Unknown

David:
 As the Alleged Editor(s), we'll let contributors speak for themselves. Given the facts you provide, though, it does seem like the guy has a problem with unwarranted self-esteem. Hard to believe he's got the stones to pick fights with guys who served ... literally? One would think he must spend a lot of time in the hospital. His pugnacity and his "screw your way to a deferment" method remind us of our soon-but-not-soon-enough-to-depart Vice President — but "Dick's" got Secret Service protection.
 The Editor



"SOME PEOPLE WILL SAY THAT WORDS LIKE SCUM AND ROTTEN ARE WRONG FOR OBJECTIVE JOURNALISM— WHICH IS TRUE, BUT THEY MISS THE POINT. IT WAS THE BUILT-IN BLIND SPOTS OF THE OBJECTIVE RULES AND DOGMA THAT ALLOWED NIXON TO SLITHER INTO THE WHITE HOUSE IN THE FIRST PLACE."
 —HUNTER S. THOMPSON, IN ROLLING STONE, JUNE 16, 1994, ON THE DEATH OF RICHARD NIXON.



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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 18	Monday, January 19	Tuesday, January 20	Wednesday, January 21	Thursday, January 22	Friday, January 23	Saturday, January 24
<p>2004—Israeli PM Ariel Sharon praises Ambassador to Sweden Zvi Mazel for vandalizing art critical of Israel in a Stockholm museum.</p> <p>1998—Matt Drudge reports that <i>Newsweek</i> is sitting on a sordid story involving President Bill Clinton and an intern.</p> <p>1990—Washington D.C. Mayor Marion Barry is arrested in an FBI drug sting.</p> <p>1969—Peace talks begin in Paris between U.S. and Vietnamese.</p> <p>1943—The U.S. bans the sale of pre-sliced bread, thus conserving the divisions between slices for the war effort.</p> <p>1943—The Red Army breaks the 890-day Nazi siege of Leningrad.</p> <p>1941—Epinard, one of the great race horses of its time, is stolen in France. The nag is later discovered hauling a delivery wagon.</p> <p>1932—Spanish anarchists proclaim a libertarian commune; it lasts a week before the government jails the members.</p> <p>1911—In San Francisco Bay, Eugene B. Ely becomes the first man to land a plane on a ship.</p> <p>1884—Dr. Wm. Price, a nudist, vegetarian, and Druid, 84, attempts the first legal cremation in Britain, of his dead 5-month old illegitimate son, Jesus Christ Prince.</p> <p>1863—Apache chief Mangas Colorado, wearing manacles, is shot by two soldiers.</p>	<p>2004—Over 100,000 Iraqis turn out to protest the U.S. occupation.</p> <p>1996—Hollywood movie producer Don Simpson's \$2,000/day drug habit catches up with him at the age of 52.</p> <p>1983—Apple Computers unveils the Lisa, failed though innovative precursor of the Macintosh.</p> <p>1977—Snow falls on Miami.</p> <p>1977—Pres. Jerry Ford pardons Iva Toguri "Tokyo Rose" D'Aquino.</p> <p>1915—Two Britons are killed and three injured in the first Zeppelin attack of WWI.</p> <p>1915—George Claude patents the neon tube sign.</p> <p>1915—To preserve order, factory guards in Roosevelt, New Jersey shoot 20 rioting strikers.</p> <p>1865—Death of Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, anarchist and author.</p> <p>1847—Charles Bent, the new Territorial Governor of New Mexico, is scalped at his Taos home in front of his wife and children.</p> <p>1825—The process of canning food in tins is patented.</p> <p>1812—Luddites torch a mill in Yorkshire, England.</p> <p>1810—Portsmouth's temperature drops 50 degrees overnight.</p> <p>1809—Edgar Allan Poe is born.</p> <p>1808—Lysander Spooner, a utopian anarchist who established a private post office so successful the government outlawed it, is born in Massachusetts.</p>	<p>2005—J.P. Morgan Chase admits two banks it swallowed years before had taken slaves as collateral.</p> <p>2001—George W. Bush becomes #43—God help Earth.</p> <p>1981—Ronald Reagan is sworn in as president. Minutes later, 52 American hostages in Iran are released. Just a coincidence.</p> <p>1961—87 year old Robert Frost recites <i>The Gift Outright</i> at JFK's inauguration.</p> <p>1958—Elvis Presley gets his draft notice.</p> <p>1949—J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover gives Shirley Temple a tear-gas pen.</p> <p>1942—Nazi officials at Wannsee determine a "final Solution" to the "Jewish problem."</p> <p>1936—In England, after uttering his last words ("God damn you") King George V is killed with a lethal injection.</p> <p>1932—Peasant uprising begins in El Salvador, leading to the Matanza Massacre in which 30,000 are killed.</p> <p>1902—In the Philippines, U.S. Major Littleton Waller summarily executes 11 native guides. He's court-martialed for murder and acquitted.</p> <p>1649—The tip of King Charles I's cane falls off as he pokes the prosecutor charging him with treason. To retrieve it, Charles has to stoop before the commoner.</p>	<p>2000—"When I was coming up," says George W. Bush, "it was a dangerous world, and you knew exactly who they were. It was us vs. them, and it was clear who them was."</p> <p>1997—Newt Gingrich makes Congressional history by becoming the first Speaker to be disciplined for unethical behavior.</p> <p>1977—Pres. Carter pardons up to half a million draft dodgers.</p> <p>1969—An experimental underground reactor malfunctions in Switzerland, releasing huge amounts of radiation into a cavern which is later sealed.</p> <p>1968—North Vietnamese forces begin a 78-day siege of a U.S. Marine base at Khe Sanh. Despite being outnumbered more than 5 to 1, and suffering 737 KIA/MIA, the Marines prevail. Semper Par.</p> <p>1968—Four H-bombs go missing when a B-52 crashes in Greenland.</p> <p>1959—Former Little Rascal Carl "Alfalfa" Switzer is fatally shot in the belly by a bear-hunting companion in a dispute over a lost dog.</p> <p>1908—A new ordinance makes it illegal for women to smoke on the streets of New York.</p> <p>1867—In San Francisco, an overzealous cop arrests Emperor Norton I for involuntary treatment of a mental disorder. Civic unrest follows. The Police Chief apologizes to the Emperor, and officers begin to salute him on the street.</p>	<p>2008—The Center for Public Integrity documents 935 instances of "orchestrated deception" by President Bush and seven top officials leading up to the Iraq War.</p> <p>2005—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports that Donald Rumsfeld has been running a secret DoD intel shop.</p> <p>2005—Donald Rumsfeld cancels an appearance at a conference in Germany to avoid a possible arrest for war crimes.</p> <p>2004—George W. Bush advises quail hunting Sen. Pete Domenici, "Just remember it's the birds that's supposed to suffer, not the hunter."</p> <p>2004—Dick Cheney, on NPR, cites imaginary chemical weapons labs and fictitious connections between Iraq and al Qaeda to justify the Iraq War.</p> <p>1987—Pennsylvania Treasurer Budd Dwyer, charged with fraud, blows his brains out on live TV.</p> <p>1967—Salvadorans protest against state violence in Managua; government troops kill 200.</p> <p>1959—Ordered to leave just six feet of rock between them and the bed of the Susquehanna River above them, twelve miners are drowned in Pennsylvania.</p> <p>1957—George "The Mad Bomber" Metesky is arrested in New York for planting 30 bombs over a 16 year period.</p> <p>1939—First uranium atom split by man in New York.</p>	<p>2005—The U.S. Ambassador to Iraq confirms its Defense Minister Hazim al-Shaalani is under investigation over a missing \$300 million (which sum quickly triples).</p> <p>2004—"The illiteracy level of our children are appalling," says George W. Bush.</p> <p>1996—Virginia executioners take 22 minutes to find a vein in Richard Townes, Jr. Had he told his jury of his 29 felony convictions, which made him ineligible for parole, he'd not have been killed at all.</p> <p>1986—In a mixup, half a ton of uranium is pumped into the sea at Windscale, England.</p> <p>1973—President Nixon announces "Peace with Honor."</p> <p>1968—North Korea seizes the <i>USS Pueblo</i> for spying within territorial waters.</p> <p>1957—Ku Klux Klan members in Montgomery, Ala. force Willie Edwards Jr. to jump from a bridge. Nineteen years later three men are indicted, but a judge quashes the indictment on the grounds that "forcing a person to jump from a bridge does not naturally and probably lead to the death of such person."</p> <p>1943—Radio critic Alexander Woollcott, 56, dies of a heart attack during a CBS program.</p> <p>1911—A dozen anarchists are hanged in Japan for plotting to assassinate the emperor.</p>	<p>2003—The Dept. of Homeland Security opens for business.</p> <p>1999—Joe DiMaggio, watching "Dateline NBC," is disturbed to read in the "crawl" that he has died.</p> <p>1992—Arkansas executes the lo-batomized Rickey Ray Rector—who saved dessert from his last meal "for later."</p> <p>1986—<i>Voyager</i> flies past Uranus and discovers moons.</p> <p>1978—A Soviet satellite powered by a nuclear reactor crashes on Great Slave Lake, in Canada, contaminating 61,000 sq. mi.</p> <p>1972—"It is with much embarrassment that I have returned alive," says Shoichi Yokoi, a Japanese draftee who has been hiding on Guam since 1944.</p> <p>1965—Winston Churchill dies at 90, having defied Hitler, the odds, and his own doctors.</p> <p>1961—A B-52 releases a 24 megaton H-bomb before crashing near Goldsboro, North Carolina; the last of six fail-safe devices prevents an explosion.</p> <p>1955—Ira Hayes, Iwo Jima flag raiser, dies of exposure.</p> <p>1892—In Mengo, Uganda, French and British missionaries battle, with gruesome results.</p> <p>1848—Gold is discovered at Sutter's Creek, California.</p> <p>1848—Pioneering dentist and chloroform addict Horace Wells commits suicide painlessly.</p>
<p>4:37 5:09</p> <p>10:53 11:05</p>	<p>5:35 6:15</p> <p>11:57</p>	<p>6:36 7:20</p> <p>12:04 1:02</p>	<p>7:35 8:20</p> <p>1:05 2:02</p>	<p>8:30 9:13</p> <p>2:03 2:56</p>	<p>9:19 9:59</p> <p>2:55 3:44</p>	<p>10:03 10:40</p> <p>3:42 4:25</p>
Sunday, January 25	Monday, January 26	Tuesday, January 27	Wednesday, January 28	Thursday, January 29	Friday, January 30	Saturday, January 31
<p>2005—Conservative columnist Maggie Gallagher confesses she accepted \$21,500 from the government to promote Bush Administration proposals—after she's been exposed by <i>Salon</i>.</p> <p>2004—Senator John McCain confirms to Vermin Supreme that Karl Rove dynamited the Old Man of the Mountain "in a fit of anger" over McCain's defeat of George W. Bush in the 2000 New Hampshire Presidential Primary.</p> <p>1995—A Norwegian research rocket is briefly mistaken by Russians for a U.S. Trident missile.</p> <p>1971—General Idi Amin Dada takes power in Uganda.</p> <p>1971—Charles Manson and his followers are convicted in the Tate/LaBianca murders.</p> <p>1968—The election of Alexander Dubcek in Czechoslovakia, kicks off the "Prague Spring."</p> <p>1961—John F. Kennedy holds the first live televised press conference.</p> <p>1926—In Passaic, New Jersey, 16,000 textile workers strike.</p> <p>1890—Elizabeth "Nellie Bly" Cochrane completes 72 day circumnavigation of the globe.</p> <p>1855—French poet Gerard de Norval, known for walking a lobster on a leash, hangs himself.</p> <p>1787—Disgruntled Revolutionary War vet Daniel Shays and 2,000 others storm the Springfield Armory, but are repulsed.</p>	<p>2006—Western Union stops sending telegrams.</p> <p>2006—The Energy Dept. admits rent-a-cops at the Oak Ridge nuclear site have cheated on antiterrorism drills for up to twenty years.</p> <p>2005—<i>USA Today</i> reports that federal spending on public relations has doubled under George W. Bush.</p> <p>2004—In Tainan City, Taiwan, gasses building up inside a dead 50-ton sperm whale cause it to explode as it is being trucked through town.</p> <p>1998—The Project for a New American Century sends a letter to Bill Clinton urging him to overthrow Saddam Hussein. Signers include E. Abrams, J. Bolton, W. Kristol, R. Perle, D. Rumsfeld, & P. Wolfowitz.</p> <p>1986—In the Ukraine, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explodes.</p> <p>1979—Ex-Veep Nelson Rockefeller, 70, alone in his townhouse with 26-year old Megan Marshak, dies of a heart attack. Oddly, his corpse is not discovered until an hour later, five blocks north at Rockefeller Center, by a security guard.</p> <p>1973—In the U.S., the draft is put on hold.</p> <p>1972—Vesna Vulovic, a stewardess, falls 33,000 feet from a plane exploding in flight, lands in deep snow, and lives.</p>	<p>2008—The NSA warns that a malfunctioning, bus-size spy satellite is going to fall out of orbit soon.</p> <p>2005—<i>Salon</i> reveals that conservative columnist Michael McManus has been paid \$10,000 to promote Bush programs.</p> <p>2000—In Nashua, George W. Bush tells an audience "I know how hard it is for you to put food on your family."</p> <p>1987—Gorbachev announces the new policy of <i>glasnost</i>.</p> <p>1973—The Vietnam War ends with the signing of a peace treaty in Paris.</p> <p>1972—G. Gordon Liddy presents to Attorney General John Mitchell a plan to disrupt the Democratic Convention with "mugging squads, kidnapping teams, and prostitutes."</p> <p>1967—Fire in <i>Apollo</i> capsule kills three astronauts.</p> <p>1957—Martin Luther King's home is bombed for the second time.</p> <p>1951—The U.S. starts breaking in a new nuclear weapon test site in Nevada.</p> <p>1926—John Logie Baird demonstrates the first television.</p> <p>1922—R.I.P. Nellie Bly.</p> <p>1913—Paterson, N.J. silk workers strike.</p> <p>1908—Supreme Court upholds railroad official's right to fire workers for belonging to a union.</p> <p>1880—Edison patents the incandescent lamp.</p>	<p>2008—George W. Bush delivers his last (!) State of the Union speech, promising a budget that will keep the U.S. "on track for a surplus in 2012."</p> <p>2004—Ex-U.S. weapons inspector David Kay tells the Senate pre-war WMD intelligence was "almost all wrong."</p> <p>2003—During his State of the Union Address, George W. Bush cites misidentified aluminum tubes, non-existent viruses, fictitious alliances, and imaginary uranium as justifications for war.</p> <p>1986—The space shuttle <i>Challenger</i>, launched under dubious conditions to give R. Reagan an applause line in his State of the Union speech, explodes, killing NH teacher Christa McAuliffe.</p> <p>1968—Called a "crypto-Nazi" on live TV by Gore Vidal, William F. Buckley, Jr. calls Vidal a "queer."</p> <p>1958—In Nebraska, Charles Starkweather, 17, and Carol Fugate, 14, kill their 8th through 10th (out of 11) victims.</p> <p>1936—Thrill-killer makes an unwanted sexual advance to a fellow-prisoner and is murdered, prompting reporter Ed Lahey to write this lede for the <i>Chicago Daily News</i>: "Richard Loeb, who was a master of the English language, today ended a sentence with a proposition."</p> <p>1887—Newsboys in New York strike for a better deal.</p>	<p>2001—"I am mindful not only of preserving executive powers for myself," says George W. Bush, "but for predecessors as well."</p> <p>2000—Campaigning for president in Concord, NH, George W. Bush asks, "Will the highways on the Internet become more few?"</p> <p>1969—Union Oil drillers, using sub-standard pipe, cause a 200,000 oil spill off Santa Barbara, creating an 800 square mile oil slick and enervating the environmental movement.</p> <p>1967—LBJ's pal Bobby Baker is convicted of income tax evasion, theft, and conspiracy to defraud the government.</p> <p>1964—Kubrick's <i>Dr. Strangelove</i> premiers.</p> <p>1916—Zeppelins bomb Paris.</p> <p>1880—William Claude Dukenfield is born in Philadelphia.</p> <p>1863—In Utah, 400 Bannock and Shoshone Indians are massacred in four hours.</p> <p>1856—An attack on Seattle by 1,000 Nisqually and Yakama Indians is repulsed by ships in the harbor.</p> <p>1834—Striking workers on the Chesapeake Canal riot after their strike is met with violence. President Jackson initiates an American tradition by calling out Federal troops.</p> <p>1820—King George III dies in Windsor Castle, insane.</p>	<p>2005—A U.S. official reports that \$9,000,000,000 is ... well ... sort of ... missing in Iraq.</p> <p>1981—An FB-111A "Aardvark" based at Pease AFB crashes near homes at Mariner's Village, about 1.25 miles northwest of Market Square. One apartment building is destroyed, no one is injured.</p> <p>1976—The Supreme Court decides that limiting campaign contributions would unfairly restrict the speech of rich people.</p> <p>1968—Two hundred U.S. colonels in the U.S. MACV staff attend a pool party in Saigon. "Not one ... knew Tet was coming" the next day, an analyst said later.</p> <p>1948—A deeply religious Hindu person kills Mahatma Gandhi.</p> <p>1835—Deranged Brit Richard Lawrence fires two pistols at President Andy Jackson. They misfire. Jackson takes a cane to Lawrence.</p> <p>1798—On the floor of the House, Rep. Matthew Lyon (R-VT) insults Rep. Roger Griswold (Federalist-CT). Griswold responds by calling Lyon a coward. Lyon retaliates by spitting in Griswold's face.</p> <p>1661—Oliver Cromwell, already dead more than two years, is posthumously executed and decapitated. His head goes unburied for 300 years.</p> <p>1649—Oliver Cromwell and the Roundheads decapitate King Charles I.</p>	<p>2007—Reacting to 18 gadgets showing an LED-illuminated cartoon figure, Boston transit authorities close I-93 and two bridges.</p> <p>2001—"There's no such thing as legacies," says George W. Bush to a group of leading Catholics, "at least, there is a legacy, but I'll never see it."</p> <p>1971—In Detroit, Vietnam Veterans Against the War begin the Winter Soldier hearings, testifying against U.S. policies in Vietnam. Few listen.</p> <p>1968—The Tet Offensive demonstrates that R.S. McNamara has learned nothing in five years.</p> <p>1963—"The war in Vietnam is going well and will succeed," says Robert Strange McNamara, U.S. Secretary of Defense.</p> <p>1958—At a U.S. air field in North Africa, a B-47 crashes on takeoff and burns for seven hours. Luckily the armed nuke on board doesn't go off.</p> <p>1950—Truman orders the construction of the first H-bomb.</p> <p>1945—The U.S. Army executes Pvt. Eddie Slovik for desertion.</p> <p>1915—Germany becomes the first civilized nation to employ poison gas in warfare.</p> <p>1900—William Goebel is sworn in as Governor of Kentucky while lying on his back, having been shot by an assassin the day before. Three days later he dies.</p>
<p>10:42 11:16</p> <p>4:23 5:02</p>	<p>11:18 11:49</p> <p>5:00 5:35</p>	<p>11:51</p> <p>5:36 6:07</p>	<p>12:21 12:25</p> <p>6:11 6:39</p>	<p>12:52 1:00</p> <p>6:48 7:12</p>	<p>1:26 1:37</p> <p>7:28 7:48</p>	<p>2:03 2:20</p> <p>8:11 8:29</p>

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