

The Fortnightly Rant

Free At Last! Free At Last! Thank God Almighty, We Are Free At Last!

This past fortnight, the nation saw another peaceful transfer of executive power from one Presidential Administration to the next.* If any single common sentiment united the country on that day, it was probably the hope that the new administration will prove to be nothing like the last.

The former president's appearance on the inaugural platform was greeted with audible jeers, booing, and the derisive chant "hey, hey, hey, goodbye." Even MSNBC's commentators—the only solidly anti-Bush news team with television cameras pointed at them—called the taunting "bad form." [Note: This newspaper will refrain from making any such editorial judgment—The Ed.]

Vice President Dick "Dick" Cheney was also booed resoundingly, despite making his appearance in a wheelchair. Most people acquire an air of vulnerability, and thus some measure of sympathy, when so ensconced. But Cheney succeeded only in appearing more sinister. All his Dr. Strangelove impression lacked was curly hair, dark glasses, and one black leather glove.



Cheney apparently injured his back while moving boxes of evil into his newly-built home.** Everyone knows the three most important things about real estate are location, location, and location. Cheney's new lair has all three—it's less than a mile from CIA headquarters.

Despite these clear examples of undeniable hostility (which we describe here only so that the historical record might be complete) it was not all jeers and catcalls for the departing administration. President Bush did get one rousing and spirited cheer from the crowd. It came shortly after the ceremony, as the helicopter formerly known as Marine Corps One carried him away.

Before he finally left, Bush heard the man he had made Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Roberts, attempt to administer the Oath of Office. Roberts prompted Obama with the right words, but in the wrong order. Obama calmly responded

as well as anyone could under those circumstances. Eventually the two got it done, but in such a way that the nation's vast cadre of autodidactic right-wing legal scholars would be sure to raise objections. The next day, for the protection of themselves and the nation, they staged a "do-over." Perhaps after Roberts mangled the oath, Bush said to himself, "Heck of a job, Johnny."

The combination of his well-known oratorical skills, the historical singularity of the event, and the magnitude of the audience, combined to create high expectations for Obama's Inaugural Address; perhaps he would part the waters of the Reflecting Pool so that Abraham Lincoln could rise from his marble seat and stroll on over to watch the proceedings without getting his feet wet.

No miracles occurred, but Obama did one thing that came pretty close. After acknowledging our troubled times, he said that we would get through them, as we have before, "because we, the people, have remained faithful to the ideals of our forebears and true to our founding documents."

Given our recent history, a clear declaration that the governance of America is all about the Constitution, and not about some self-serving mish-mash of religion and half-baked economic theories was altogether fitting and proper.

Obama then proceeded to speak truth to the formerly powerful. He cited the wars in which we're ensnared, an economy that's "badly weakened," lost homes, lost jobs, closed businesses, expensive healthcare, shoddy schools, and self-destructive energy habits, and blamed these problems on greed, irresponsibility, and "failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age." Skewering the very heart of the Bush administration's philosophy, he said "we reject as false the choice between our safety and our ideals."

The last time anyone called George W. Bush to account like that, in his own hearing, was on April 29, 2006, when Stephen Colbert eviscerated the Blunder-in-Chief at the White House Correspondents Association Dinner. And Colbert had been shielded—somewhat—by the armor of humor.

Not surprisingly, members of the Bush coterie were a bit miffed. *The New York Times* reported that former advisor Karen Hughes found the address "not as magnanimous as the occasion called for," and former speechwriter Marc A. Thiessen thought



it was "ungracious." Apparently when the nation is going to hell in a handbasket, incoming presidents should refrain from mentioning that fact out of concern for the feelings of the guy who set it rolling in that direction.

Inaugural addresses reliably provide a quadrennial opportunity for former speechwriters to come forth and pass judgment. Dignified newspapers with national standing often assemble a phalanx of these scribes, to provide a balanced series of views. And scurrilous little sheets like ours exist to point out their errors.

On January 20, the *New York Times* offered up instant analysis from a six-pack of ex-speechwriters, including William Safire (Nixon), Mary Kate Cary (George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush), and Clark S. Judge (Reagan).

All three were tripped up by a single passage, in which Obama recalled a time when "in the year of America's birth, in the coldest of months, a small band of patriots huddled by dying campfires on the shores of an icy river. The capital was abandoned. The enemy was advancing. The snow was stained with blood. At the moment when the outcome of our revolution was most in doubt, the father of our nation ordered these words to be read to the people:

"Let it be told to the future world, that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive, that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet [it]."

Safire, who damned the address with faint praise, attrib-

uted the quoted lines to George Washington, and characterized the paragraph as "something defiant from Valley Forge." Wrong author, wrong year, wrong place.

Mary Kate Cary liked the speech better than Safire did, but also wrongly credited the words to Washington at Valley Forge.

Judge, who said it was "a marvelous address," also attributed the line to Washington, but spared himself further embarrassment by ignoring the location.

The consequences of these cumulative errors will not be so terrible as those that resulted from Judith Miller's articles on Iraq's fictional Weapons of Mass Destruction, but still ...

Those were not his own words that the General ordered "to be read to the people." And Washington's tattered Army did not straggle into Valley Forge until December 19, 1777—the year after "America's birth."

Obama was referring to an incident just days before the Battle of Trenton, on December 26, 1776. The situation truly was desperate. The British had occupied New York City. Much of the Continental Army had already deserted, and its remnants were in retreat. Many of those who had stayed planned to leave at the end of the month when their enlistments expired.

Washington knew he needed a victory to hold his Army together. But how could he win with men so demoralized?

In January of that same year Paine's *Common Sense* had begun to sweep the colonies, and helped make the concept of independence a central part of the public debate. Creaking wooden presses in Philadelphia had just

published Thomas Paine's *The Crisis*. At Trenton, Washington used *The Crisis* to steel his men's hearts. It began:***

"These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value."

Washington's men went on to cross the Delaware, capture the Hessians at Trenton, re-enlist, and, eventually, drive out the British entirely.

Words, just words ...

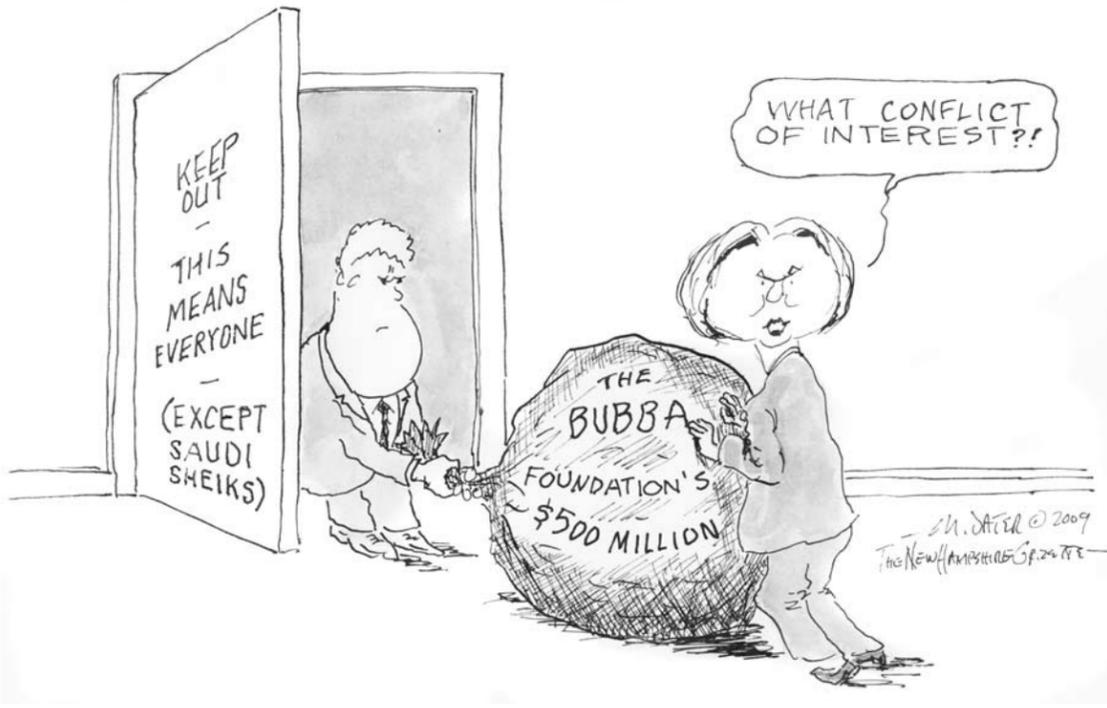
Despite his pivotal role in winning our independence, Paine was always seen as something of an embarrassment in certain quarters. His innate distrust of the powerful and his leanings towards democracy made him unpredictable. Slaveholders, in particular, found his abolitionist views quite troubling.

"From the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire ... to the curvaceous slopes of California," it has been a rare and eventful fortnight. An African-American man stood before a Capitol built by slaves, quoted one of the nation's most radical, and most overlooked Revolutionaries, and vowed to do what his predecessor did not: "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

*** Anyone who thought we would pass up an opportunity to quote this stirring passage does not understand this newspaper.

* Some might argue that by leaving office on schedule, the Bush Administration proved that our oft-stated fear that they might not leave was groundless. Their departure proves only that they *did* leave. If they had thoughts of staying we'll probably never know.

** For those readers wishing to send the Cheneys Christmas cards, their new address is 1126 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia, 22101-2213.



News Briefs:

Just Another Fortnight That Defies Belief, That's All ...

These are a few of our favorite things that showed up in the news this past fortnight and caused our synapses to buzz and spark:

Some guy whose name we can't recall just left a big job in Washington, D.C. with an approval rating of 22 percent—the lowest since Gallup began keeping track 70 years ago. Despite an abysmal rating, this guy and some sidekick of his will get a combined \$2.2 million in taxpayers' money "to facilitate their relocation to private life," according to Politico.com.

The *Washington Post* reported that most of the country's big-

gest companies, including federal contractors, use offshore tax havens to avoid paying taxes, including recipients of the TARP bailout.

The Atlantic published a long, serious piece that seriously considered the possible death of the *New York Times* along about, oh, May.

The *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* went bust, joining the *Chicago Tribune* and the *LA Times*. The latter two are owned by Sam Zell, who "bought" the parent Tribune Co. with borrowed money, then claimed they went bust because of "factors beyond our control."

Thanks to the ever-essential *El*

Paso Times we learned that the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, VA has issued a report saying that Mexico "bear[s] consideration for a rapid and sudden collapse" because its "government, its politicians, police and judicial infrastructure are all under sustained assault and press [sic] by criminal gangs and drug cartels." And to think we were worried about Canada.

The *New York Post* reported that the *New York Times* might get bailed out by a Mexican billionaire named Carlos Slim.

The Pentagon has been cleared—by the Pentagon—of wrongdoing in the case of the "retired military analysts" who said nice things about the Pentagon on television, while being quietly paid by defense contractors, and receiving secret briefings from—the Pentagon.

ParkingGate Update

This just in from George McQuilken on his Facebook cause, ParkingGate:

"We now have more than 100 members. We may yet get the



Under the gimlet-eyed gaze of Manager Bruce Pingree, at left, newly-freed Citizens of the Peoples' Republic of Portsmouth gathered upstairs at the Press Room on Tuesday night, January 20—Inauguration Day—to be serenaded by the Leftist Marching Band at their grand End of an Error Bash, emceed by Chris Elliott. The house was packed to the limit, and a transcendent time was had by all.

[Portsmouth] City Council to reconsider their decision to implement the costly and annoying 'pay and display' meter program.

"Even though our membership is great, if you know anyone we can recruit to the cause please invite them. Without a specific invitation new members can also join us (in Facebook) by going to 'Profile,' then to 'Causes,' then to 'Causes Home.' Then, in the 'Search Causes' box, type 'ParkingGate' and join.

"We also have far more than 100 names on our hard copy petition, which is still circulating downtown."

We checked with George, and the petition is still available at Portsmouth Health Food.

Veterans Legal Aid Project

Thanks to Will Thomas at Veterans for Peace, we learn that there's a bill in the hopper in Concord, SB 35, which would establish a committee to study the creation of a veterans' legal aid advocacy project in New Hampshire, as a component of New Hampshire Legal Assistance. Apparently there was a hearing Tuesday, but our e-mail request

for follow-ups hasn't yielded any results.

"The preliminary report shall be submitted on or before December 1, 2009, and a final report shall be submitted on or before August 1, 2010."

The next item is for those who suspect that some veterans might need a hand before the end of next year.

HUD-VASH Update

We reported December 19 on the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing project. To the extent that their funding permits, they help put homeless veterans into apartments. But it takes more than a roof and a door you can lock to make an apartment a home, and the Veterans Administration (VA) can't supply everything. So vets lucky enough to get an apartment may end up sleeping on the floor.

And, for legal reasons, we suppose, the VA can't even solicit donations of used furniture, pots and pans, or anything else. However (praise be) they are permitted to *accept* such things.

So we have taken it upon ourselves to suggest to our readers

Important [To Us, Anyway] Notice

Dear Readers: Paradoxically, now that the worst administration in history is behind us [pause for applause] the task of monitoring civic affairs becomes not simpler, but more complex.

And, while we have not yet suffered badly as a result of the recent economic upheavals, neither have we been operating all these years on the sort of generous margin that has allowed some newspapers to build lavish-but-ugly fortresses in formerly militarized zones. A significant decline in our customary level of advertising revenue would be uncomfortable.

We are taking action to cope with these challenges. Details will be found at the end of the News Briefs section, beginning on page four.—The Ed.

Market Square Jewelers

Peter T. Henry & Joan K. Henry
12 Market Square, Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 430-9587

Estate Jewelers

Buy • Sell • Trade
Loose Gems • Antique Restoration • Repairs
Gold • Silver • Costume • Bead Restraining

Davies
TIRE COMPANY
Call us for a liberal dose of service
93 Islington Street - 433-1328

South Street and Vine
359 Marcy St • 430-2984
Sunday through Thursday: 11 am - 6 pm
Friday and Saturday: 9 am - 6 pm
Wine for the table, not for the cellar.

Eliot Auto
Used Cars - Reasonable
Service & Towing, too
Rt 236 Eliot, Me
(207) 439-0263

New Boston Tool Room
Corner of Rt 125 and New Boston Rd.
Kingston, NH • 642-4054
Antique and Usable Tools for
Collectors and Craftsmen

CAFFÉ KILIM
Fresh Roasted Coffees • Espresso Bar
Rug Gallery & Unique Gifts
163 Islington St ~ 436-7330

GLIDE PAST MEDIEVAL MONASTERIES & CASTLE RUINS ON A RIVERBOAT CRUISE IN EUROPE
WWW.ONLYTHEBESTTRAVEL.COM

blue moon
market • cafe • yoga
8 Clifford Street Exeter, NH 778-6850 store 778-2670 cafe
www.bluemoonmarket.net www.bluemoon-yoga.net

Ceres Bakery
Fine Pastries • Distinctive Breads
51 Penhallow Street • Portsmouth • 436-6518
Monday-Friday 7 am to 5 pm
Saturday 7-4 • Sandwiches 11 am to 3 pm

the Friendly Toast
121 CONGRESS
430-2154
Portsmouth



The Flag Police are uncertain what to make of the flag at the Daniel Street Post Office. The slightly shredded bottom stripe clearly visible in the above exhibit predates the recent regime change. The faded photos of the discredited former regime which once hung inside the lobby have now been committed to the Memory Hole, and their Party is preparing to purge its Chairman. Responsibility for this flag now falls on the other Party. Eternal vigilance is the price of vexillological rectitude.

that, if they want to walk the walk and actually support “the troops,” they might take a look around, decide what they have in the way of useful-but-unneeded household items, and call Tracey Noonan, the VASH Program Manager, at (603) 657-5612, and ask her if they can use them. (The cell phone number we listed in December is apparently on the fritz at the moment.)

Tracey did not ask—the rules would not permit it, we’re sure—but we asked her anyway: can the program accept financial contributions?

The answer: “Yes.” Donors can send checks to this address: Veterans Administration Medical Center, ATTN: “Volunteer Services,” 718 Smyth Rd., Manchester, NH, 03104. Write on the subject line of your check, “VASH.”

This, in a country where a lot of the shareholders of the big de-

fense industries have accountants to spare them of the burden of taxation ...

A Cute Idea

There will be an Opening Reception for the new show, “Cute,” at the elO Gallery, at 110 State Street, on Friday, Feb. 6, to coincide with Art ‘Round Town. “Cute” is intended to provide a sort of psychic counterbalance to their January show, which was entitled, “Death + Destruction.”

The Return of Kate the Great

They say it’s good to be king. Perhaps—but who knows for sure? We can say without hesitation, though, that it’s good to be a beer lover in Portsmouth.

Last year readers of the magazine *The Beer Advocate* named The Portsmouth Brewery’s “Kate the Great” Russian Imperial Stout “The Best Beer in America.” When the Brewery tapped a few kegs last June, people came from as far away as North Carolina to

have some.

This February 9, at 1:14 p.m., the Brewery will be tapping kegs of Kate once again. Local beer lovers can enjoy this dark, rich, complex stout by just strolling down to Market Street and ordering up a pint. The keg supply should last a few days. Those wishing to buy bottles should show up well before 1:14, to stand in line and pick up a number.

The Nation Guide to The Nation

Are we, in fact, known by the company we keep? That’s nice, because this paper just got listed in *The Nation Guide to The Nation*, and we’re certainly in good company there.

Our first reaction to being included was an unbecoming pride, and an avaricious hope that we’d gain hundreds of new subscribers. Thumbing through it we see that it really is a useful and infor-

mative compendium of all kinds of resources for people of a certain non-reactionary bent. Special thanks to our Starving Artist, Mike Dater, without whose nomination we might have gone unnoticed.

Scandals & Civility & The New Yorker

Technically, a publication is incapable of being surprised; spontaneous reactions of that sort are restricted to living entities. Even so, we were quite surprised to find ourselves in the January 26 issue of *The New Yorker*.

In her review of a new book, *Scandal & Civility*, by Marcus Daniel, Jill Lepore compares the imperiled state of newspapers today with “the day the newspaper died”—November 1, 1765, when the Stamp Act went into effect. She quotes these lines, no doubt written by Daniel Fowle:

“I must Die! Before I make my

Exit, I will recount over some of the many good Deeds I have done ...”

“The list of deeds went to three columns,” Lepore notes dryly. “Nothing good in the world had ever happened but that a printer had set it in type.”

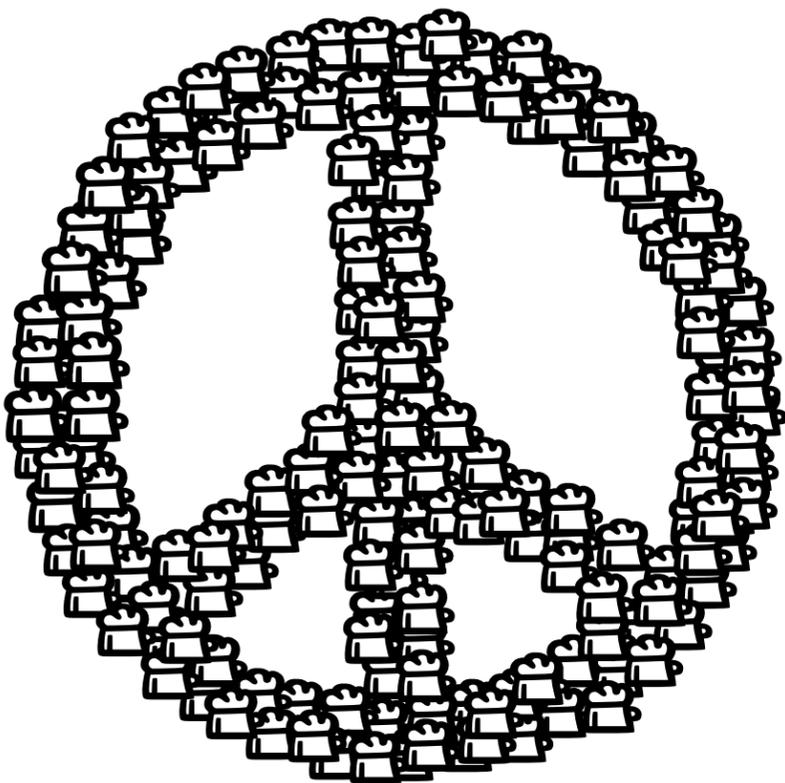
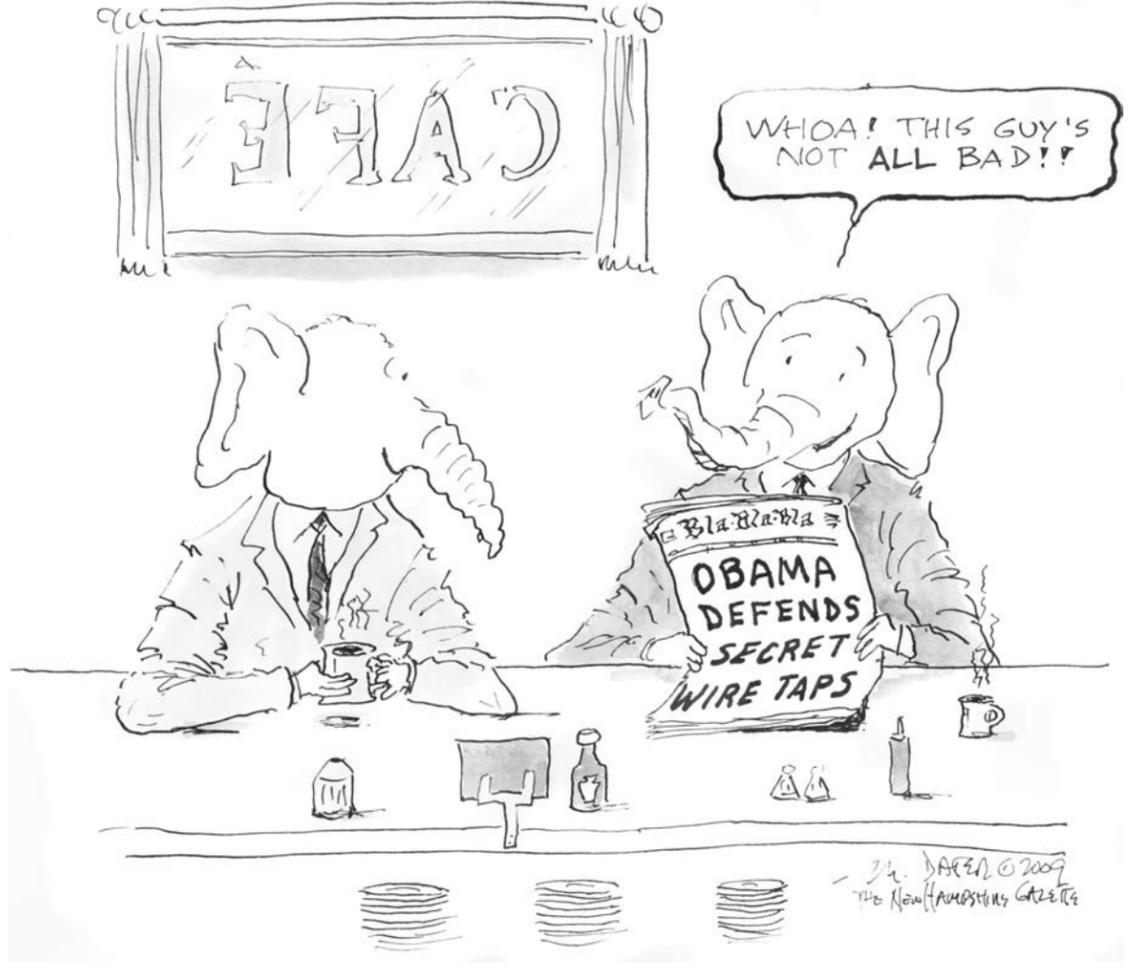
Lepore’s piece, “Back Issues,” is both a terrific general introduction to the papers of the Revolutionary period, and a thoughtful and wise study of the role newspapers play in a democracy.

Naturally we had to call River-Run Bookstore and order a copy of *Scandal & Civility*. The book considers six of the most influential journalists of the 1790’s, and their influence upon the early political life of the nation.

We’re currently reading Jeffrey L. Pasley’s *The Tyranny of Printers*, which deals with the same

News Briefs

to page four



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



Northcountry Chronicle

Plains Speaking

by William Marvel

With the customary logic imposed by a school schedule that is still geared to the agricultural calendar, the hottest part of July found me and my Sunflower señorita prowling the ghost towns and prairies of Kansas in hundred-degree weather. The state abounds with “dead” towns and abandoned farms, many of which were settled by people from right here in New England, like James Brown, of Brownfield, who migrated to White Mound, Kansas, soon after he was discharged from the Union army. The county where he farmed is populated primarily by cattle now, with fewer than four people to the square mile, and the three thousand inhabitants include no Browns.

Part of our trip was devoted to research into another Kansas Brown: John Brown, of Pottawatomie and Harper’s Ferry notoriety. While the victims of his commercial dishonesty and criminal violence viewed him as a scoundrel and murderer, Brown portrayed himself as an avenging

angel of Old Testament proportions. Ultimately he may have come to believe his own masquerade, and a highly acclaimed biography by David Reynolds recently swallowed that deception whole. Three weeks of relatively cursory research last month served to demonstrate the glaring deficiencies of the Reynolds biography, and to suggest that John Brown was a lifelong con-artist of righteous pretensions who found the abolition movement another ripe opportunity for investment fraud.

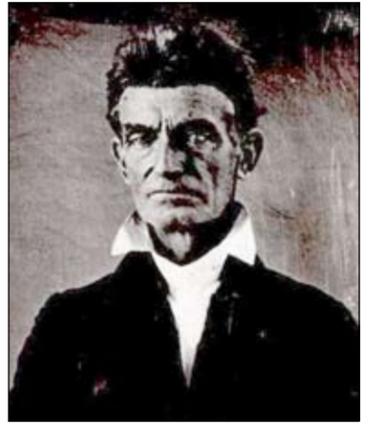
Nor is Kansas yet free of fire-and-brimstone phonies. Brown justified his terrorism on the antediluvian doctrine that blood alone can atone for sin; some Kansans now solicit donations for their campaign to brand the misadventure in Iraq as evidence that God is punishing America for its descent into depravity—and primarily, it would seem, for the failure to add homosexuality to the list of crimes subject to capital punishment. Last month I learned that delegations of these Neanderthals picket the funerals of the war’s victims

across the Midwest, to advertise their obsession, while the economic stagnation and blind conservatism of that area give them a disproportionate opportunity for such graveside demonstrations. I was therefore perversely amused to read that the name of the minister at one Bible Belt church was Timothy J. Fagg. I think that was actually in southern Indiana, but that’s John McCain country, too.

Tornadoes thrive in that country in the heat of May, June, and July, and a couple sprouted alongside our path southwest of Emporia on July 9. One town that we visited had been hit hard by the tornado of June 11. The quaint downtown portion of little Chapman was all but demolished, while the new, ticky-tack housing on the outskirts lay untouched. At least two churches, all three schools, and about half the homes in a sixteen-block area had been completely destroyed, and every building showed signs of heavy damage, with porches collapsed, roofs torn off, and windows blasted. The trees had either been ripped up by the roots or stripped down to the trunks.

In its long swath that same tornado nipped my in-laws’ home in Salina. Two of their three shade trees were lost, and the insurance adjuster totaled their roof, but they escaped relatively easily. One of my sisters-in-law, who makes her living as the wife of one of those gospel-spewing ministers on the Central Plains, remarked that “God was really working” when the tornado passed her parents’ home. She repeated that phrase several times during the one meal we shared, noting that “God was really working” whenever any misfortune had been averted, or any good fortune had befallen one of her own. I wondered what God was doing when the tornado hit Chapman—taking a smoke break in the Paradise privy, I assume—but this woman has spent her entire life cultivating her heavenly delusion, so I didn’t bother tossing that particular barb. It would only have prompted her prepackaged explanation of tragedies that happen when “God” is off duty.

Every culture develops an idiom to obscure unpleasant truths. In the East the favorite method



John Brown

may be euphemism, which seems especially popular for soothing the impact or reducing the clarity of more straightforward speech. In most of the Mississippi basin, the Jesus jargon apparently prevails. Dismal economies and endless natural disasters make it easy to understand the desire for some Great Protector, but out there that comforting illusion often assumes a pernicious flavor. John Brown’s deadly abolition argot of the 1850s, genocidal 1870s rhetoric against the “heathen savage,” and today’s fuming, self-righteous denunciations of nonbelievers differ from jihad only in denomination and degree.

More News Briefs

from page three

era. Daniel and Pasley both argue that early American papers have not yet been mined out.

And although we could be wrong about this, it seems to us that Lepore, Daniel, and Pasley tend to agree that more of the robust political dialogue so characteristic of those days might be a good thing these days.

Coping With Catastrophe

From the Editor:

As we noted on page two, our work is becoming more challenging. As we also noted, while we are not currently in a desperate condition, we have been in the habit of running on a very thin margin. If things get tighter, we might be hard pressed. If we are to have any hopes of improving This Olde Rag, it behooves us to enhance our financial position.

We want to maintain our present level of advertising. We even have space for a few small ads. So if you’re thinking along those lines, just call us at (603) 433-9898.

The main thrust of this as-yet-unlabelled effort will be to increase the percentage of our readers who are Supporting Subscribers.

These are the readers who 1) twenty-six times a year, pick up their *Gazette* at any one of our 160+ distribution points in Portsmouth, or the surrounding towns of Dover, Durham, Exeter, Newmarket, and Rochester, and,

2) once a year, mail us a check for a whopping \$25. It works like National Public Radio, but because we’re on paper, you don’t have to hear us jabbering “Send us money, send us money” a couple of times a year.

We currently distribute more than 4,000 papers every fortnight at some 160 locations.

We now have one Supporting Subscriber for every hundred newspapers we distribute.

We want to make that one Supporting Subscriber for every ten papers—a tenfold increase.

The Subscription Form is right over there in the bottom right

corner of page five.

Since this effort may be crucial to our survival, we plan on providing updates every fortnight on how the campaign is going.

On, to Kittery!

Some time ago we had a volunteer who distributed the *Gazette* to a number of place in Kittery. Sadly, his work took him elsewhere. At present we have one stalwart friend who brings copies every fortnight to the Rice Library, but that’s it. It’s a shame, particularly now that the Memo-

More News Briefs

to next page

TWO CERES STREET

Be a part of what’s going on at TWO CERES STREET
Book your Holiday or Office party now. Call 603-433-2373

now offering short run
digital color printing (& color copies)

436.4402
108 Penhallow
downtown Portsmouth since 1979
info@phineasgraphics.com

PHINEAS
graphic design/printing solutions

Gracie’s Diner

165 Deer Street
(next to Gary’s)
(603) 436-9600 • Closed Tuesday
“We got booze.”

Bill Eslinger

☺ = ☑

Round Guy ... Square Deal

PORTSMOUTH USED CAR CENTER
Route 1, Lafayette Rd, Portsmouth, NH
CELL: (603) 969-3649
beslinger@portford.com

RiverRun BOOKSTORE

READ!

20 Congress St. Portsmouth NH
603-431-2100
www.riverrunbookstore.com

Moving Pictures

Marisa Tomei

by Rodman Philbrick

Lucky fans of *As The World Turns* (you know who you are) first got to know Marisa Tomei when she was still a student at Boston University. That's when the Brooklyn native took a flyer and auditioned for a part on the long-running soap opera. Having nailed the role of Marcy Thompson, she dropped out of college to pursue a full-time acting career and has been at it, one Oscar and two more nominations, ever since. That last nomination, as most of you are no doubt aware, is for Best Supporting Actress opposite Mickey Rourke in *The Wrestler*.

Starring opposite a feisty, narcissistic macho man is what got Ms. Tomei her Academy Award in *My Cousin Vinny*, the 1992 comedy that finally propelled her to widespread fame as Mona Lisa Vito, the yacky, brainy, sexy, brilliant sidekick to Joe Pesci's title role as the newbie Brooklyn lawyer drop-kicked into an Alabama murder trial. With the great Fred Gwynne as the eye-rolling judge, *My Cousin Vinny* would have been just another amusing sitcom but the for in-

candescent performance of Ms. Tomei, who stole not only every scene, but the entire movie—and did it backward, in heels. Well, maybe not backward, but definitely in spike heels.

Oscar in hand, and poised for the usual Hollywood rocket ride, Ms. Tomei apparently had second thoughts about being a superstar, and decided to stick to picking supporting roles that interested her. In *Chaplin*, Richard Attenborough's big picture take on the life of the creator of the iconic "tramp," Tomei plays Mabel Normand, the most successful silent screen comedienne of the era. Chaplin was, of course, played by talented young bad boy Robert Downey, Jr., who got the Oscar nomination for a critically acclaimed, well-made movie that tanked at the box office. Tomei was part of the ensemble and was, as usual, spectacular in her limited role, but it was never the sort of part that might make an up-and-coming star bulletproof, career-wise. That said, *Chaplin* remains a fascinating examination of the seminal filmmaker's very complicated life, and is definitely worth another look, if only to check out what Tomei can do

with pure, physical comedy when the sound is off. Plus you get the added bonus of Kevin Kline as Douglas Fairbanks, and Dan Aykroyd as Mack Sennett.

Next up for Tomei was Ron Howard's thoroughly enjoyable, *The Paper*. An old fashioned "stop the presses" tale of a New York tabloid in crisis, *The Paper* stars Michael Keaton as the manic managing editor whose wife (Marisa Tomei) is about to give birth. Keaton is in top form and Tomei is, well, so hugely, absurdly pregnant that she appear to have swallowed the planet Jupiter. Once again she's fabulous in an absolutely crucial supporting role. Funny enough, big city newspapers seemed to be in almost as much trouble in 1994 as they are in 2009, and the same moral dilemmas still apply: go with the juicy rumors that will surely ruin a man's life, or wait for the facts? Governor Blagojevich probably has this on rewind, in the hope that foul-mouthed braggadocio doesn't necessarily equate to conviction, even if the source is, well, impeachable. Too bad Blago doesn't have Marisa in a sympathetic supporting role—he'd beat 'em like a cheap rug.

Tomei's ensemble urge took precedence in *Slums of Beverly Hills*, in which she once again has a terrific role supporting down-and-out Alan Arkin as he struggles to keep his head above water in a zip code he can't possibly afford. This is an often-overlooked classic, told from the viewpoint of his daughter Vivian (Natasha Lyonne), the teen who takes it upon herself to try and keep her neurotic family together. Moving, hilarious, bittersweet comedy at its best, written and directed by Tamara Jenkins, it didn't exactly kill at the box office. What it did do was provide Ms. Tomei with a great role as the crazy niece whose wild antics disrupt an already fragile situation, forcing her young cousin to grow up. Everyone in the cast is perfect (you'll recognize David Krumholtz from *Numbers* in the kid brother role) but once again the movie wouldn't work without the indispensable Marisa Tomei.

Okay, *In The Bedroom* is a Todd Field bummer about a family tragedy, and it doesn't exactly leave you humming show tunes, but if you're a real fan of great acting and fine writing, stiffen up the old spine and give it a look.



Tom Wilkinson, Sissy Spacek, and Ms. Tomei all got Oscar nominations—Marisa as usual for Best Supporting Role. Based on a short-story by New England's own Andre Debus, who never lived to see the film version released, adding to the sense of tragedy. Not one of Tomei's comedy roles, obviously—she's playing the older woman next door who has an affair with Sissy Spacek's college-age son. Dark, powerful, and moving—the stuff that good drama is made of.

As to the currently nominated *The Wrestler*, as yet unseen by your correspondent, surely Marisa deserves the award just for staying in the frame with a weirdly troubled comeback artist once dubbed "The Human Ashtray"—and not just for his nicotine habit. Smoke 'em if you got 'em, and raise a glass to the brainy Brooklyn bombshell with the big heart.

rial Bridge is suddenly on the "Expendable" list. So, we want to expand—or rebuild—our distribution in Kittery.

We could arbitrarily work up a list of places to put the paper, but we had what we think is a better idea: let our readers in Kittery use the "comment" feature of our website, www.nhgazette.com, (see right) to nominate places for our Kittery Distribution Wish List.

Good candidates would be locations where other free papers are already being distributed.



distributors say it's a lot of fun. The post for this project is at: <http://www.nhgazette.com/2009/01/25/kittery-distribution-wish-list/>.

Begging for Friends

Here's a no-cost way readers can help get this paper better situated for any coming hard(er) times: become our friend on Facebook.com.

If you're on Facebook, you know how easy that is. Just search for "New Hampshire Gazette," and click "Become a fan."

If you're not on Facebook, you

might take a look. It's absurdly simple, free, and it is fun. We're looking at it as a useful communication device, though. We've already using it to stay in touch with our downtown Portsmouth distribution team.

A Mere Coincidence?

While working up the page eight column for February 8, we ran across this:

"[Pierre-Joseph] Proudhon [1809-1865] maintained and even flaunted his independence of party and clique, and took his stand as an independent critic whose aim

was to show the true ends of the revolution and the errors of the revolutionaries. He was supported by a small but devoted group of associates, many of them printing workers like himself, and in this respect Le Representant du peuple set something of a precedent, for the most enduring type of anarchist organization has in fact been the small functional group devoted to a specific task of propaganda, often that of publication."—Anarchism, by George Woodcock, 1986 edition, revised.

Sound at all familiar?

Portsmouth Community Radio
WSCA-LP 106.1 FM

JUMPIN' JAY'S FISH CAFE
150 Congress Street
Portsmouth, NH
603-766-FISH

Made In USA Forever.com
Hundreds of products all made in the USA!
Clothing • Toys • Furniture
Tools • Automotive • Flags
Todd Lipscomb founded Made in USA Forever.com to provide an easy, fun way to buy products made in the USA. Stand with us to protect America's ability to produce, create jobs, and remain a world leader. You can call Todd at 888-861-0365 (toll-free) or write to him at todd@madeinusaforever.com.

WHERE MEMORABLE MEALS COME NATURALLY.
NO MATTER WHAT DAY OF THE WEEK.
PHILBRICK'S
Fresh Market
EAT WELL. LIVE WELL. EVERY DAY.
Lafayette Plaza, Route 1, Portsmouth, 422-6758 • Mon - Sat 8am - 8pm, Sun 10am - 6pm

Silver Moon
Crêperie
20 Third Street • Dover • 603-742-6150
<http://www.silvermooncreperie.com>

NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE SUBSCRIPTIONS
26 FORTNIGHTLY ISSUES, NOW MAILED FIRST CLASS

Mail this form with your check for \$25 to:
New Hampshire Gazette, PO Box 756, Portsmouth, NH 03802.
Please print clearly. Offer good in U.S. only.

Supporting Subscribers Only: Please Check Box at Right:
(Supporting Subscribers pay the standard \$25/yr, but make their money go twice as far for us by picking up their own papers at one of our many convenient locations.)

Supporting
 Subscriber

FIRST NAME: _____

LAST NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

TOWN, CITY, OR BURG: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ + 4: _____

GIFT OF: (WHERE APPLICABLE) _____



Lessons of the Bush Years

To the Editor:

We owe Ex-President George W. Bush a vote of thanks. He and his puppet master Dick ["Dick"] Cheney showed us how easy it is to take over and plunder our nation with the help of a Congress that was as inept and corrupt as they were. They also demonstrated how easy it was to dupe our Congress into giving them permission to invade Iraq. A Congress that was more concerned about appearing soft on terrorism than about the death and wounding of our troops, the crippling cost of the war to our citizens and the death of innocent Iraqis and the destruction of their cities.

When the war went sour our wimpy Congress members cried "He lied to us." What did they expect? George has shown us all his adult life how to lie, cheat and steal to get what you want if your name is Bush.

Bush showed us how to steal an election with programmable voting machines, and sneaky tricks that denied tens of thousand of citizens the right to vote.

We learned that investing our Social Security funds in the stock market would have been another one of George's blunders.

Bush has made it painfully evident, in the catastrophe of today's economy, that the avarice of our corporate-controlled government makes it our nation's worst enemy.

George's eight-year trail of

failed policies has been a costly lesson to our educators and our churches, that had to support the poor with half the money he promised. Africa learned the hard way that the Religious Right's clout made Bush deny help to any family planning organization.

One thing we have known for years, but Bush's conniving has reminded us, is that if we take the time to vote, and work to get others to vote, we can over ride the "fixed" voting machines and all the gimmicks Karl Rove ever invented.

The financial wreckage that is strewn from Wall Street to Main Street has all the earmarks of the Bush/Cheney regime. They did nothing to stop the deregulators who left the market wide open for the bankers to make the same 1920s mistakes. When the State Attorney Generals saw the danger they got together to stop the prime lending scam, but Bush's court order ended their plan and looting went on.

As we look at the past eight years of the Bush/Cheney regime we see a greater loss of and resistance to union influence. We see the failure of Free Trade's promises. We see the collapse of the middle class in the race to the bottom for cheap, slave wage labor, with no work place safety laws or pollution controls.

We see a deepening depression, rising eight percent—and possible nine to ten percent—unemployment, as we lose jobs by the thousands, a depression that could last ten or more years if we are unwilling to put aside our non-partisan greed. A continued "business as usual" approach will send us into a downward spiral for decades. The Thirties depression lasted until the Forties' wartime economy increased employment and wages.

Once again we are cruelly reminded that a nation or a government that does not equally

provide for the well being of all its citizens eventually will not provide for the well being of any citizen.

If in our anger we hate Bush, Cheney and their unholy crew, we give them control of a place in our mind that is better used for progressive thinking. Remember that old restructured saying that, "Time wounds all heels."

Wilbur N. Rhodes
Kittery, ME

Wilbur:
Would it be OK to just despise them?

The Editor

.....

The Computer Ate My Tax Return

To the Editor:

Many of my friends find it remarkable that our Senator Gregg was one of the several Senate Republicans who believed that Mr. Timothy Geithner should still be Secretary of the Treasury despite the fact that he is recorded as a tax cheat of the worst sort. He even had the audacity to blame the TurboTax for his "mistake" of not paying enough taxes. I hope the electorate doesn't have a short memory.

Dick Marple
Hooksett, NH

Dick:
"The worst sort?" Give us a break, please.

The Editor

.....

Republican Grandstanding and Self-Righteous Whining

To the Editor:

Members of the Republican House and Senate ... hypocrisy at its worst:

Where were they when Ronald Reagan and the Republican cabal made this nation the largest debtor nation since its founding?

Where were they when corporations like IBM, that made excessive profits off government contracts, instead of paying their fare share of taxes bought tax credits from other companies,

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

and later on sold their Federal Systems Division to a company that wound up selling security-linked technology to China?

Their hypocrisy about this nation's future generation reeks to high heaven. Their option is to either get off of the dime, or simply go home. They are doing this nation, as well as their constituencies, a disservice.

Bobby Buck
Roanoke, VA

Bobby:
Isn't it astonishing how Obama, upon taking office, immediately becomes responsible for the massive debts laid on us by such "conservative" presidents as Reagan and Bush.

The Editor

.....

House Supporters of the F-22

To the Editor:

Why pay up to \$350 Million a copy for a 5th Generation Cold War plane? Why not invest in a 6th Generation unmanned fighter instead?

Fourth generation fighters (F-15s, F-16s, F-18s) could be kept flying until the 6th generation fighters came online. No other country has a 5th Generation fighter. In fact, the F-22 was initially designed to not have guns and was going to rely on "over the horizon" Phoenix missiles, but guns have been added to enable it to "dogfight" in training and exercises such as "Red Flag," which has been increased from 2 weeks to 3. "Dogfighting" of course is something that our fighters have not done in "real life" since Vietnam.

As I understand it, the F-22 went on the drawing board in 1987 to defend/fight against the Super MiG of the day. Turns out that after the USSR fell we found out that the CIA had greatly exaggerated the Super MiGs ca-

pabilities. But the project went on for years, insuring project officer promotions, jobs, pork, and politician's re-elections, board seats for retired officers, money drained away from "socialist" projects.

Chris Lane Gray
Monticello, AR

.....

Our Unclaimed Inheritance

Attention, I will like to start with reminding you that your unclaimed inheritance is still lurking around, up till now I am amazed at the way you have ignored all the notice I have sent out to you. This message will be the last notice that I will be sending out to you.

Upon the receipt of this mail I will want you to reconfirm to me your details and also tell me the reason why you have kept quiet all the while; I do believe you should have a logical answer to that. I also will like for you to know that I have some new developments on ground which I believe will be good news to you.

I will advice that you do not abandon this message and respond as a matter of urgency so that we can get done with your claim.

Best regards
Michael Graham
Associate Solicitor.
Tel: +447031997793

Michael:
We have readers—what would we want with your millions?

The Editor

.....

He's Dismayed

To the Editor: It's pretty dismaying to see lie after lie about Israel published unrepudiated in your otherwise intelligent and progressive pages. Steven Diamond writes: "Under international law, Israel's military occupation of the Palestinian Territories has been ruled illegal.

The New Hampshire Gazette
The Nation's Oldest Newspaper™
Founder: Daniel Fowle (1715—1787)
Published Fortnightly on Alternate Fridays
PO Box 756, Portsmouth, NH 03802
www.nhgazette.com • (603) 433-9898 • editors@nhgazette.com

Subscriptions:
\$25 per year for 26 issues
See Page Five for Subscription Form
Now Mailed First Class

Editor: Steven Fowle • Starving Artiste: Michael Dater
Business (Such as it Is) Manager: Rose Eppard
Columnist: William Marvel • Moving Picture Reviewer: Rodman Philbrick • 100 Proof Department: Rose Eppard, Jane Porter, Pat Day, and Marcia Jebb • Freelance Instigator & Unindicted Co-conspirators: Win Rhoades and Jack Cleary
Distributor: New England Distribution Network • Downtown Distributors: Adam Williams, Megan "Moonbeam" Stelzer, Shawn White, Murph • Subscription Fulfillment: Sally Strazdins, Gail Drobynyk, Rose Eppard, Jane Hoffman, Joan Jacobs, Steph Holdridge • Postal Hauler: Sally Strazdins

Green House
Eco-Friendly Painting Services
Dru Chichester
(603) 438-5837
DRUCHICHESTER@YAHOO.COM

An Original
MOE'S
Italian Sandwiches
Since 1959
www.MoesItalianSandwiches.com

Beadizen
a bead shop
214 State St., Portsmouth, NH
(603) 431-1897

Adelle's
COFFEEHOUSE
Next to City Hall in Downtown Dover, NH
3 Hale Street ☎ (603) 742-1737

A MAN
becomes languid, irritable and despondent, through loss of nerve vigor. Life seems a mockery. The courage, force, vigor and action which characterize full-blooded men, are lacking.

Sexine Pills

have kindled the light of hope in many a man's face. They bring vigor to the weak and ambition to the despondent. They permanently check the weakening drains, feed the nerves, enrich the blood and make men over generally.

\$1.00 per box; 6 boxes \$5.00. With a \$5.00 order we issue a written guarantee to refund the money if no cure be effected. Book free. PEAL MEDICINE Co., Cleveland, Ohio.
Sold by F. B. Coleman.

Thank You!
We appreciate you rockin' the Monkey in 2008 and wish you a fine 2009!

Water Monkey.com
Alternative Clothing & Goods
33 Vaughan Mall • Portsmouth, NH 03801 • 603-431-2243

Active French School
French Classes.
All Levels, All Ages
603.430.2020
www.activefrenchschool.com

And Other Correspondence

Under international law, occupied people have the legal right to resist occupation violently," and more claptrap which space considerations restrict my addressing. Marjorie Gallace talking about "imprisoned people in Gaza" and "Israel, the savage state that's ... bomb(ing) and kill(ing) without mercy", falsely alleging that it is Israel which has imprisoned Gazans and denying the stupendous efforts and uncanny ability of the Israelis to cause an absolute minimum of civilian injury while striking the terrorists who have deliberately ensconced themselves among civilians.

1. There is *no* Israeli military occupation of Gaza. Israel withdrew a few years ago in yet another unrequited, optimistic effort at peacemaking, despite decades of on-going attacks against her population. Israel was forced to protect her citizens by controlling her border with Gaza because Hamas would not stop using suicide bombers and terror rockets. Nor would such an occupation be illegal under international law if it were repeated, since it would be a legitimate response to armed attack ...

2. All states have an affirmative duty under international law and UN resolutions [cited] to suppress terror. In fact, it could easily be argued that Israel is in violation of this resolution because she does not act firmly enough against terrorists. Deliberately targeting civilians ... is terror, not freedom fighting, and a ... violation of international law. Hiding among civilians and attacking other civilians ... are two distinct violations of international law. Killing terrorists is completely authorized by international law. In fact a strong and effective response against terrorists is required by international law.

3. Since there is no military

occupation of Gaza, there is not even specious justification for rocketing Israel, yet Gaza has been doing just that, killing and injuring dozens of Israeli citizens. This violence doesn't fit the prejudices of the West, so Israeli victims get scant attention from the press. And when Hamas terrorists kill their own citizens, the media blazes front-page stories about how Israel killed Gaza civilians, then days later, when the truth emerges, there is a middle-of-the-paper, two sentence correction. Perception is truth, and the truth in this venue is a pack of lies.

4. "The savage state that's imprisoned people in Gaza without food and medicine..."? That would be *Gaza* who did this, not Israel. Or perhaps Egypt, with whom Gazans also share a border. But let's not forget that when Egypt (and Israel, and the West Bank) recently offered Gazans medical care, Hamas refused to allow most victims to seek such aid, because the terrorists could get more PR mileage out of the notion that there was no food or medicine available. Hamas then displays suffering victims and the press laps it up. ... This is another calculated, cold-blooded lie crafted by terrorists who seduce well-meaning people around the world and take advantage of their sincerity and gullibility to amplify the terrorists' hostile fabrications and thus further attack Israel. Hamas is the primary source of the food and medicine shortage. Few publications reported the hijacking this week by Hamas of a UN convoy of food and meds. They diverted those resources to their own nefarious ends rather than permitting them to be distributed to the civilians in Gaza. The UN suspended aid convoys because of this. Usually the news can be BBC'd to make Israel ap-

pear at fault. In this case they just couldn't figure out how to do it, so there was little reporting of it.

5. It is a further violation of international law and common decency for Hamas to withhold food and medicine from their own population, reprising Arafat's behavior when he stole much of the foreign aid intended for Palestinian relief and diverted it to his own personal benefit.

Israel and Palestine were created simultaneously by the UN. Palestine was immediately overrun by invading Arab armies. Israel was expected to fall right after. Israel was heavily damaged, her population decimated. In following decades she successfully defended herself against subsequent onslaughts by neighboring Arab countries. This forced the Arab aggressors to change tactics to a system more to their advantage. They now strategically abuse their huge plurality in the UN and invoke the threat of their oil weapon to make most other countries toe their line when voting on Arab-Israeli issues. This "democratic" blockbuster ensures that Israel will never receive a fair hearing at the UN.

The real savage state is Hamas. See Hamas' openly unabashed, murderous Charter for clarity on this point. (And notice their recent formal establishment of a criminal code which imposes punishments such as hand-lopping, head-chopping, and crucifixion.) Indeed, review Fatah's formal record as well. Until 1967, the PLO terrorists accepted that the various territories conquered by neighboring Arab nations were legitimately occupied by them, and their only goal was the reconquest of Israel. This irridentist goal is only slightly altered now, as the repeated attacks against Israel over the decades have resulted in altered borders as the Arabs attacked and then lost ground ...

It's so much simpler to blame

Israel. That doesn't require any analytical effort or even a basic, honest understanding of the history and evolution of this complex issue. Just parrot the fabricated narrative the terrorists and their robot sympathizers offer you. Besides, as Tom Lehrer reminded us with his jaunty melody, "... and everybody hates the Jews."

Richard B. Collier
Portsmouth, NH

Richard:
At the risk of seeming brusque and casual about this, we would make two points. We'd make more, but we had to carve 50 words out of your letter to make room for these:

1) *The ratio of casualties in the recent slaughter: one hundred Gazans to one Israeli. Furthermore, most of the Gazans were women and children, and most of the Israelis were victims of "friendly fire."*

2) *If you have not seen Sunday's 60 Minutes piece on Gaza (at <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4752349n>) you should. It effectively refutes your claims about the benevolence of Israeli towards Gaza.*

The Editor

Don't Call Them Conservatives

To the Editor:

To the great relief of the entire world, and the majority of Americans, January 20, 2009 arrived and the Bush/Cheney, neo-con axis of evil, if they didn't go to jail where they belong, at least vacated the White House leaving only some dead enders in Congress.

My wish now is that these misfits will not continue to be called conservatives. Conservatives believe in a limited foreign policy abroad and an expansion of liberty at home—principles that are contrary to the Wilsonian foreign policy, linked to the wacko concept of the End Times, that produced an illegal invasion of Iraq, along with the disregard for



the Bill of Rights, domestic spying, kidnappings, torture, and the use of The Justice Department to pursue political opponents.

Call them Republicans, call them criminals, call them nut jobs, or all of the above; but please don't call them conservatives.

John Dente
Wilmington, DE

John:
Couldn't agree more. But we reserve the right to use the term for ironic effect.

The Editor

Bombers Away

To the Editor:
We have the B-52, B-1 and B-2, all Cold War planes.

How much could we, and all the others, save if we, and all the others, 'de-nuked' rather than building more bombers—and nukes ...

If the American people understood that our bombers are not used to "protect" the "homeland" but to strike outside it to protect Big Oil &c., and advance a political elite's policies—oil fields and an outlet in Kuwait, oil pipeline across Afghanistan, oil fields in Iraq—"spreading democracy" (and Christianity) ...

While we have used bombers to retaliate after Pearl Harbor and 9/11, they did not protect us from those attacks. And new bombers will not protect us from asymmetrical attacks in the future.

Chris Lane Gray
Monticello, AR

427-2919
Savariet
PIZZA & CALZONE
"We're worth the trip."

Custom shirt designs that help you stand out from the crowd.

black sheep design company
screenprinting embroidery graphic design
85 Daniel St. Portsmouth (603) 431-6801

black sheep
design company
screenprinting embroidery graphic design
85 Daniel St. Portsmouth (603) 431-6801

NATURAL GATHERINGS

GARDENS WEDDINGS WREATHS
SARAH PELLERIN
603 659 8770

WANTED
in the
GAZETTE
SUBSCRIBERS
SEE FORM ON PAGE FIVE

Prelude
Great Jewelry
Imported Soaps
& Bath Comforts
65 Market Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 431-0694
Featuring
Skagen Watches &
Dr. Hauschka Skin Care

In-depth psychotherapy
Informed by mindfulness practice

Robert J. COX, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist
603-433-7337 978-621-8860

Portsmouth Candle Co.
"It smells good in here."

Unique gifts
Electric lighting
62 Congress St.
Portsmouth, NH
603-430-0353

Still fast
the currents simply mirror
winter's bright darkness
Tom D'Evelyn
haikumuse.com

The Press Room

home of Beat Night
with Larry Simon & Groove Bacteria
third Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

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, February 1	Monday, February 2	Tuesday, February 3	Wednesday, February 4	Thursday, February 5	Friday, February 6	Saturday, February 7
<p>2005—Canada OK's same-sex marriage; world does not end. 2004—Janet Jackson bares a nipple on TV; world nearly ends. 2003—The space shuttle <i>Columbia</i> disintegrates over Texas. 1974—Richard Nixon meets for twenty minutes with The Rev. Sun Myung Moon. 1968—In Saigon, General Nguyen Ngoc Loan executes VC Captain Nguyen Van Lem in front of AP photographer and former Marine Eddie Adams, who snaps the anti-Iwo Jima flag-raising photo of the Vietnam War. 1964—Indiana governor Matthew E. Welsh declares The Kingsmen's song "Louie Louie," which everyone else finds incomprehensible, to be obscene. 1963—Fleetwood Linley, the last living person to have looked upon the face of the dead Abraham Lincoln, dies aged 75. 1960—Civil rights sit-ins begin in Greensboro, North Carolina. 1951—An inevitable confluence: the first telecast of an atomic explosion. 1926—Col. Billy Mitchell, the only American officer who understands the potential of aircraft in warfare, is court-martialed for criticizing his "superiors." 1923—In Japan, most of Tokyo and all of Yokohama are destroyed by an earthquake.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:45 3:07</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:59 9:14</p>	<p>2007—Smelly, oily orange snow falls across Siberia. 2004—George W. Bush reluctantly OK's an investigation of intelligence failures. 1972—In Dublin, Irish Catholics irate over "Bloody Sunday" burn the British Embassy. 1966—Australians burn conscription papers in Sydney. 1956—350 American troops are assigned to "reclaim U.S. military equipment in Vietnam." 1952—Winnie Ruth Judd, the "trunk murderer," escapes from Arizona State Insane Hospital. For the 5th time. 1912—Steeplejack Frederick R. Law successfully parachutes from the Statue of Liberty's torch. 1893—The first close-up in motion picture history is shot at the Edison studio in West Orange, New Jersey, immortalizing a sneeze. 1882—Birth of James Joyce. 1870—The "Cardiff Giant," hyped for months as a petrified, ten-foot-tall human, is revealed to be a tobaccoist's hoax. 1848—The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo legalizes the American seizure of 525,000 square miles of Mexico. 1709—After four years alone on the Juan Fernandez, about 360 nautical miles due west of Santiago, Chile, Alexander Selkirk is rescued by the privateer <i>Duke</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:32 4:02</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:52 10:05</p>	<p>2006—Donald Rumsfeld likens Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez to Adolph Hitler, inspiring Venezuela's VP to compare the U.S. with the Third Reich. 1959—In Iowa, a plane crash kills Buddy Holly, "The Big Bopper," and Richie Valens. 1956—In Memphis, the Sun recording studio somehow simultaneously contains Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash. 1953—J. Fred Muggs, a bad-tempered chimpanzee from Cameroon, becomes the first non-human primate to appear regularly on a television show. 1943—Four U.S. Navy chaplains aboard the U.S. Army transport <i>Dorchester</i> drown after giving their life jackets to others. 1931—The Arkansas state legislature passes a motion to pray for the soul of newspaperman H.L. Mencken after he calls the state "the apex of moronia." 1916—In Zurich, Hugo Ball opens Cafe Voltaire, hotbed of dadaism. 1913—The Federal Income Tax becomes law. 1900—Kentucky Governor William Goebel dies after just four days in office—and five days after being shot. 1690—America's first paper money is issued, to finance a war against Quebec.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:26 5:03</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:51 11:02</p>	<p>1987—RIP Liberace. 1976—Lockheed Aircraft admits paying \$22 million in bribes to sell its product. 1974—William Randolph Hearst's granddaughter Patty, 19, is kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army. 1968—A considerable chunk of Cholon, the Chinese sector of Saigon, is declared a free-fire zone. The South Vietnamese Air Force bombs its own capitol using U.S.-supplied planes. 1968—Neal Cassady, ur-beat, dies alongside railroad tracks in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. 1929—In New York, John Giola dances the Charleston for 22 hours and 30 minutes. 1913—Rosa Parks is born in Tuskegee, Alabama. 1912—Franz Reichelt, an Austrian tailor, tests his experimental parachute/overcoat from the Eiffel Tower. It was fatally flawed. 1899—Philippine revolt against U.S. rule begins. 1894—Adolphe Sax, inventor of the saxophone, dies broke. 1869—Birth of Bill Haywood, legendary Wobbly. 1861—Delegates from six southern states meet in Montgomery, Alabama to form the Confederate States of America. 1822—Emancipated American blacks settle in Liberia.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:27 6:10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:56 12:05</p>	<p>2007—Astronaut Lisa Marie Nowak is arrested for attempting to kidnap the girlfriend of another astronaut, and suspected misappropriation of NASA diapers. 2005—A man in a pub in Wales vows to cut off his own testicles if Wales beats England in a rugby match. They do. He does. 2003—Secretary of State Colin Powell tells the UN that Saddam Hussein's Iraq is bristling with WMDs. 1992—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush encounters a super-market checkout scanner and confesses he is "amazed." 1958—The Navy makes its second attempt to launch a Vanguard rocket. Oops. 1958—A B-47 bomber collides with a jet fighter near Tybee Island off the coast of Georgia, and jettrions an H-bomb. It's still lost. 1937—Roosevelt attempts to "pack" the Supreme Court. 1934—Birth of Hank Aaron. 1918—Stephen W. Thompson becomes the first American pilot to down an enemy aircraft. 1914—William Burroughs is born in St. Louis, Mo. 1897—Marcel Proust meets critic Jean Lorrain for a pistol duel at 3:00 p.m.—the earliest hour decent people are up and about. 1861—Samuel Goodale patents the peep show machine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:32 7:20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:05 1:03</p>	<p>2003—George W. Bush tells the American people that Saddam Hussein's Iraq is full of WMDs. 1994—U.S. Army Golden Knights parachutist Dana Bowman collides with a partner in mid-air and loses both legs. Nine months later he's back on the team. 1978—The northeastern U.S. is clobbered by a huge blizzard; 29 die, 10,000 are homeless. 1976—Leonard Peltier is arrested because ... because ... well, he's just arrested, that's all. 1971—New Hampshire's own Alan Shepherd uses a nine iron to whack a golf ball on the moon. 1968—North Vietnamese forces equipped with 12 Soviet tanks attack and overrun a Special Forces camp at Lang Vei. Of 24 U.S. Green Berets at the camp, 21 are killed, captured, or wounded. 1933—Highest sea wave (nontsunami) on record is recorded: 110 feet, during a Pacific typhoon. 1919—A shipyard strike kicks off a General Strike in Seattle. Workers control city for a week. Crime drops dramatically. Union bureaucrats intervene to end it. 1910—Triangle Shirtwaist strike ends, workers accept arbitration. 1908—Birth of Edward Lansdale, spook. 1756—Aaron Burr, the first Vice President to shoot a man, is born in Newark, NJ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:38 8:25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:11 2:08</p>	<p>1994—British journalist and Conservative member of Parliament Stephen Milligan is found dead of auto-erotic asphyxiation. 1991—The IRA attacks 10 Downing St. with mortars. 1968—"It became necessary to destroy [the Vietnamese village of Ben Tre] in order to save it," U.S.A.F. Major Chester Brown tells reporter Peter Arnett. 1950—U.S. recognizes Emperor Bao Dai's government of Vietnam, putting the itself at odds with the Soviets and Ho Chi Minh. 1950—Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-WI) claims the State Dept. is full of Communies. 1926—First Negro History Week observed. 1891—Great Blizzard of 1891 begins. 1848—Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, the first man to call himself an anarchist, begins <i>Le Représentant du peuple</i>, the first anarchist paper. 1821—John Davis becomes first person known to set foot on Antarctica. 1817—Birth of Frederick Douglass. 1812—The last, and most destructive, of the three big New Madrid, Mo. earthquakes causes the Mississippi to briefly reverse direction. 1497—In Florence, the pious burn "lewd" books and cosmetics in a Bonfire of the Vanities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:41 9:25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:16 3:08</p>
Sunday, February 8	Monday, February 9	Tuesday, February 10	Wednesday, February 11	Thursday, February 12	Friday, February 13	Saturday, February 14
<p>1971—Operation Lam Son 719, a U.S.-supported ARVN incursion into Laos, begins. It ends in disaster three weeks later. 1962—The U.S. Military Assistance Command for Vietnam (MACV) is formed in Saigon. 1942—The House Un-American Activities Committee recommends prison camps for Japanese-Americans. 1931—James Dean is born. 1924—Nevada becomes the first state to kill someone in a gas chamber: Gee Jon, a hit man for the Hop Sing Tong. 1906—Birth of Chester F. Carlson, inventor of the Xerox™ process. 1904—The Japanese make a surprise attack on Port Arthur, Manchuria, beginning the Russo-Japanese War. 1855—A 100 mile stretch of strange tracks called "The Devil's Footprints" appear in England. 1820—William Tecumseh Sherman born. 1692—A doctor in Salem, Mass. says three teenage girls are under Satan's influence, setting off witch trials. 1587—For conspiring against Elizabeth I, Mary, Queen of Scots, is executed. It takes the drunken executioner three blows of the ax, after the first of which, Mary is said to have said, "Executioner, achieve your work."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:39 10:19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:16 4:03</p>	<p>2007—A Pentagon report concludes that Douglas Feith's policy office inappropriately manipulated intelligence on Iraq. 2001—The <i>USS Greenville</i>, while giving thrill-rides to a group of local dignitaries, surfaces under a Japanese fishing boat off Hawaii, killing nine crewmembers. 1982—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush denies he ever used the phrase "voodoo economics." Then NBC plays the tape. 1971—Satchel Paige becomes the first Negro League player inducted into the Hall of Fame. 1964—The Beatles appear on Ed Sullivan's show. 1950—"I have here in my hand," says Sen. Joe McCarthy, "the names of 205 men that were known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping the policy of the state department." Years later he admits he held a laundry list. 1920—Birth of Brendan Behan. 1914—Birth of Gypsy Rose Lee. 1909—First federal legislation prohibiting narcotics (opium). 1909—Birth of Carmen Miranda. 1904—Japanese destroyers launch a sneak attack on Russian ships at Port Arthur. 1861—Jefferson Davis is elected President of Confederate States of America.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:33 11:09</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:13 4:54</p>	<p>2007—Senator Barack Hussein Obama announces he's running for President. 2004—<i>The Washington Post</i> reports an apparent six-month gap in George W. Bush's Air National Guard service record. 2003—Federal authorities tout plastic sheeting and duct tape as our first line of defense against the Axis of Evil. 1990—Perrier Water is pulled from shelves due to benzene contamination. 1989—To evade regulation, the World Wrestling Federation admits in court that it's an exhibition, not a sport. 1971—Protests take place across the nation in response to the U.S. invasion of Laos. 1962—Captured U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers is released by the Soviet Union during a spy swap in Berlin. 1910—Five members of the Bloomsbury group, disguised as Abyssinian royalty, trick Royal Navy officers into giving them a tour of <i>HMS Dreadnaught</i>. 1897—<i>The New York Times</i> first proclaims it publishes "All the news that's fit to print." 1355—In Oxford, England, a dispute over beer between local residents and university students ends with 63 students and about 30 locals dead.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:25 11:57</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:06 5:41</p>	<p>2006—Dick "Dick" Cheney becomes the second sitting Vice President to shoot a man when he "peppers" his pal Harry Whittington in the face. 1992—"I'd like to thank my family for loving me and taking care of me," says mentally handicapped Johnny Frank Garrett as Texas prepares to poison him, "and the rest of the world can kiss my ass." 1990—Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years. 1981—Eight workers are contaminated when 100,000 gallons of radioactive coolant leak at the Sequoyah 1 nuclear power plant in Tennessee. 1963—The CIA creates a "Domestic Operations Division." 1963—The third time's a charm for Sylvia Plath. 1937—The Great Flint [Mich.] Sit-Down Strike ends in victory for the workers. 1926—The Mexican government nationalizes all church property. 1919—Emma Goldman is arrested for the crime of telling women about birth control. 1861—The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously resolves not to interfere with slavery. 1812—Massachusetts gets "gerrymandered" by Republican governor Elbridge Gerry. 1790—Quakers petition Congress to emancipate the slaves.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:57 6:27</p>	<p>2004—<i>USA Today</i> reports that former top Texas Air National Guard officers say files were "cleansed" to protect George W. Bush. 2004—In Fallujah, Iraq, a convoy including the U.S. commander Gen. John Abizaid is ambushed. 1999—The Senate fails to convict Bill Clinton. 1955—The U.S. takes over training of the South Vietnamese military. 1947—Sixty protesters burn draft cards in New York City. 1917—A mob of thousands in Bisbee, AZ herds 1,200 members of the IWW into boxcars to be shipped off and dumped in the New Mexico desert. 1839—The boundary dispute between Maine and New Brunswick known as "The Aroostook War" begins. No one is hurt. 1831—A solar eclipse inspires slave Nat Turner's rebellion. 1809—Birth of Abe Lincoln. 1781—<i>The Vermont Gazette or Green Mountain Post-Boy</i> is begun on the Stephen Daye press, brought to America in 1638. 1771—After a meal of lobster, caviar, kippered herring and sauerkraut, followed by 14 <i>semla</i> pastries, Sweden's King Adolf Frederick dies of indigestion. 1554—Queen "Bloody Mary" Tudor has the cousin whom she succeeded, the sixteen-year-old Lady Jane Grey, decapitated.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:43 1:02</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:46 7:11</p>	<p>2008—The Senate passes legislation telling the CIA to lay off the waterboarding. 2007—An Al Qaeda tape calls George W. Bush a drunk gambler. 2002—Former Rumsfeld assistant Ken Adelman predicts the Iraq War will be a "cakewalk." 1991—A U.S. laser-guided bomb kills some 400 Iraqi civilians in a bunker in Baghdad. 1971—After hitting three spectators with his first two shots at the Bob Hope Classic, Veep Spiro "Ted" Agnew throws down his clubs and quits in disgust. 1968—At Ft. Jackson, SC, five Army soldiers are arrested for praying for peace. 1967—The National Student Association reveals it has "secretly and indirectly" received over \$3 million from the CIA over 15 years. 1964—LBJ advisor Walt Rostow says bomb Hanoi. 1950—A B-36 flying over the Pacific near Vancouver Island develops engine trouble. An H-bomb aboard, minus its plutonium core, explodes, killing 5 crewmen and scattering 45kg of uranium in the atmosphere. 1946—The day he's honorably discharged, black vet Isaac Woodard is beaten and blinded by white cops in Aiken, SC. 1865—Confederacy OK's slaves as soldiers if their owners approve.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:28 1:51</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:35 7:55</p>	<p>2008—Pentagon generals announce they'll shoot down a failed U.S. spy satellite. 2004—The White House releases some of George W. Bush's military records, but they fail to show he was present for duty. 1989—The Ayatollah Khomeini puts a fatwa on Salman Rushdie. 1973—The first American POWs released from North Vietnam arrive at Travis AFB, Calif. 1971—Nixon's secret taping system is installed in the White House. 1945—Fire-bombing of Dresden, by British and American warplanes, enters its second day. 1929—Al Capone's gang wipes out "Bugsy" Moran's gang in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Asked by a cop who shot him, Frank "Tight Lips" Gusenberg says "nobody," then dies. 1912—The first U.S. sub with diesel engines is commissioned at Groton, Conn. 1899—Congress OKs voting machines for U.S. elections. 1891—General William Tecumseh "War is Hell" Sherman gets to verify his theory. 1873—Jack Gaffney is hanged for murder in Buffalo, NY by Erie County Sheriff and future president Grover Cleveland. 1849—James Knox Polk becomes the first U.S. president to have his photograph taken.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:15 2:40</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:25 8:41</p>

Colby's
Breakfast & Lunch
Eat In - Take Out
436-3033
105 Daniel St.

Tibetan Buddhist Study
Portsmouth and Barrington NH
Newcomers Welcome
www.nhkagyuu.org
(603) 664-9586
(207) 438-9338

MIDHEAVEN
Therapeutic Massage, Aromatherapy & Bodywork
Jill Vranicar • Kate Leigh • Lucy Bloomfield
16 Market Square, Portsmouth, NH
(603) 436-6006

Everything for the traveler
... except the tickets!

GULLIVER'S
TRAVEL BOOKS, MAPS & ACCESSORIES
7 Commercial Alley
(1/2 block from Market Square)
Historic Downtown Portsmouth
Phone: (603) 431-5556

Soul Oyster
Web Studios
(603) 502-7102
info@souloyster.com
www.souloyster.com
web & design