

## The Fortnightly Rant

### Tea for Who?

Readers of the Award-Winning Local Daily (AWLD) learned last Friday that the owner of the Portsmouth Tea Company would be donating 70 pounds of tea to an organization sponsoring a national "Tax Day Tea Party," to "protest actions of the Obama administration."

Marshall Malone explained to *Herald* writer Karen Dandurant that he became involved in the protest after "I spent a few minutes in blogosphere and learned about the Tax Day Tea Party." Malone is clearly a "quick study."

Portsmouth residents may be wondering why they've never noticed the Portsmouth Tea Company. That's because it's located fourteen miles away, in Somersworth. In May, 2008, Malone explained to the AWLD's Michael McCord that he named his company after the Port City because "nobody in California can spell Somersworth," but, as McCord put it, "mention of the seaport city conjures up priceless and pleasant historical associations—for example, of 18th- or 19th-century tea salons with pleasant and soothing environments."

Distance is a relative thing, anyway. What's a mere fourteen miles to a guy who grew up 1,200 miles from here?

Malone told the website Foodpreneur, in an interview posted in July, 2008, that he has "an eclectic background." He grew up in Gulf Shores, Alabama, which he calls the "Redneck Riviera," "starting in restaurants at 13, working in my parents' real estate business, moving into sales/marketing as an adult. After 16 years in broadcasting, I wanted to get back into food." He does not explain why he wanted to do it here.

#### Demagogue For a Day

The ostensible origin of the movement which stirred Malone's generous impulse was a televised tirade by CNBC on-air personality Rick Santelli, originally aired on February 19, 2009. Speaking about President Obama's \$300 billion plan to help keep some homeowners out of foreclosure, Santelli charged that "the government is promoting bad behavior."

A revealing clue to Santelli's political perspective lies in a passage in the midst of his rant, which seems to have attracted little notice: "Cuba used to have mansions and a relatively decent economy," he said. "They moved from the individual to a collective; now they're driving '54 Chevys."

So, apparently, a "relatively decent economy" is one in which the majority of the population subsists in poverty, held in check

by a corrupt police state, for the benefit of a few stupendously rich oligarchs who are in league with the Mafia. And Cuba's prolonged reliance on antique American cars is solely a consequence of their Marxist command economy. The 47-year-old trade embargo against Cuba is irrelevant.

During the dramatic climax of his rant, Santelli turned his back to the camera and yelled out directly to the traders on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (who he called "a pretty good statistical cross-section of America"), "how many of you people want to pay for your neighbor's mortgage? It has an extra bathroom, and can't pay their bills. Raise their hand." Ungrammatical though it was, his question earned a vigorous chorus of boos. Then, facing the camera, Santelli yelled, "President Obama, are you listening?"

#### A Tea Party Held on an Astroturf\* Lawn

Coming right after his dramatic challenge to President Obama, Santelli's call for a Tea Party seemed a mere afterthought. But it kept reverberating.

"We're thinking of having a Chicago Tea Party in July," Santelli said. "All you capitalists that want to show up to Lake Michigan, I'm going to start organizing."

Within hours, websites featuring video clips of Santelli's rant began popping up on the internet, promoting tea parties to protest any mortgage bailouts. And over the next few weeks, dozens of such protests were held from Santa Monica, California to Lafayette Park, directly across from the White House in Washington, DC. And more are planned for Tax Day, April 15.

It was almost as if the movie *Network* had come to life, with Rick Santelli in the role of Howard Beale, the crazed news anchor who famously yelled, "I'm as mad as Hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

Almost, but not quite.

In the movie, huge mobs of angry people took to the streets in response to a call from one man on the edge of madness. In real life, the current round of tea parties is sponsored, organized, and coordinated by the usual suspects: pressure groups with patriotic-sounding names, funded by wealthy right-wingers.

So far we have found five dif-

\* Astroturf is defined by *Campaigns & Elections* magazine as any "grassroots program that involves the instant manufacturing of public support for a point of view in which either uninformed activists are recruited or means of deception are used to recruit them."



ferent websites which seem to be scrambling for the glory of organizing Santelli-inspired tea parties: [chicagoteaparty.com](http://chicagoteaparty.com), [www.officialchicagoteaparty.com](http://www.officialchicagoteaparty.com), [www.reteaparty.com](http://www.reteaparty.com), [taxdayteaparty.com](http://taxdayteaparty.com), and [www.freedomworks.org](http://www.freedomworks.org).

#### The Real Fake Deal

It's hardly surprising that tea party-themed protests are so popular. The original Boston Tea Party of December 16, 1773 has always enjoyed a towering stature in our national myth. That has made it an irresistible symbol for disgruntled citizens of every political stripe. Appropriation of it, for one cause or another, has become so common as to make it a cliché. Because it is so familiar, some of the less convenient facts about it are now forgotten or overlooked. Those now using the tea party to protest against higher taxes, for instance, seem to have forgotten that the original event was held to protest the lowering of taxes on imported British tea. Colonial tea smugglers resented the lost profits.

On the other hand, the night Sam Adams and the Sons of Liberty threw all that tea in the harbor, they *did* masquerade as Mohawks. So if some well-connected, pro-business Republicans want to pretend they're just plain folks, there's plenty of precedent.

#### Hidden in Plain (Web)Site

This being the age of Google,™ some skeptical souls immediately began to investigate all this dubious spontaneity. Playboy.com, forever a leader in the political exposé business, published a piece on February 27 by Mark Ames and Yasha Levine, titled "Is Rick Santelli High on Koch?"

Ames and Levine claimed that Santelli's rant was the opening salvo of a coordinated campaign involving a Republican "new media" expert named Eric Odom, an organization calling itself the Sam Adams Alliance, an-

other organization calling itself Freedomworks, and the Koch Family Foundations.

Ames and Levine also publish on [exiledonline.com](http://exiledonline.com), which is now one of the few places their article appears. Playboy.com quickly pulled it, without explanation. Megan McArdle, who blogs at [theatlantic.com](http://theatlantic.com), supposed it was because the "accusation against Santelli is potentially libelous."

The furor over the Ames/Levine piece, brief as it was, may have been the reason Santelli "bailed out" of a scheduled appearance on Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show." Or, perhaps Santelli simply came to realize that in a verbal duel, his bludgeon would be no match for Stewart's rapier.

Whatever the reason, it was a lose-lose situation for CNBC, which certainly lost big time on March 4. Deprived of a live Santelli to pick on, Stewart ran a devastating, relentless, and hilarious series of clips showing CNBC personalities saying upbeat things about a string of now well-known companies on the brink of terminal disaster.

While the Ames/Levine case for a premeditated Santelli/Odom/Koch conspiracy does seem pretty weak, FreedomWorks\* is proudly in the tea party racket right up to the eyeballs. Indeed, it seems eager to take credit. And why not? Any publicity it gets for manufacturing bogus protests is free advertising for its business, which is the installation of astroturf.

FreedomWorks is run by former Republican Majority Leader Dick Armey. And unlike some of Armey's other projects, like the

\* FreedomWorks is not to be confused with billionaire Sheldon Adelson's Freedom's Watch, which we excoriated in our July 25, 2008 issue. It earned our ire by besieging First Congressional District voters with robo-calls lying about Rep. Carol Shear-Porter. It got a follow-up mention in our Dec. 5, 2008 issue, when it was reported that it had gone "pretty much kaput."

Contract With America, it's still going strong.

Tea-donor Marshall Malone plans to give his 70 pounds of tea to one of Armey's competitors, though—[www.taxdayteaparty.com](http://www.taxdayteaparty.com). It is a spin-off of Eric Odom's [dontgomovement.com](http://dontgomovement.com), which proudly announced March 4 that the Portsmouth Tea Company would be "donating one pound for every participating state." Perhaps someone needs a course in remedial math—or a map.

If Malone's intent was to get 70 tea/pounds of free publicity in exchange for his product, the donation was a tactical success. But it may have been a strategic failure.

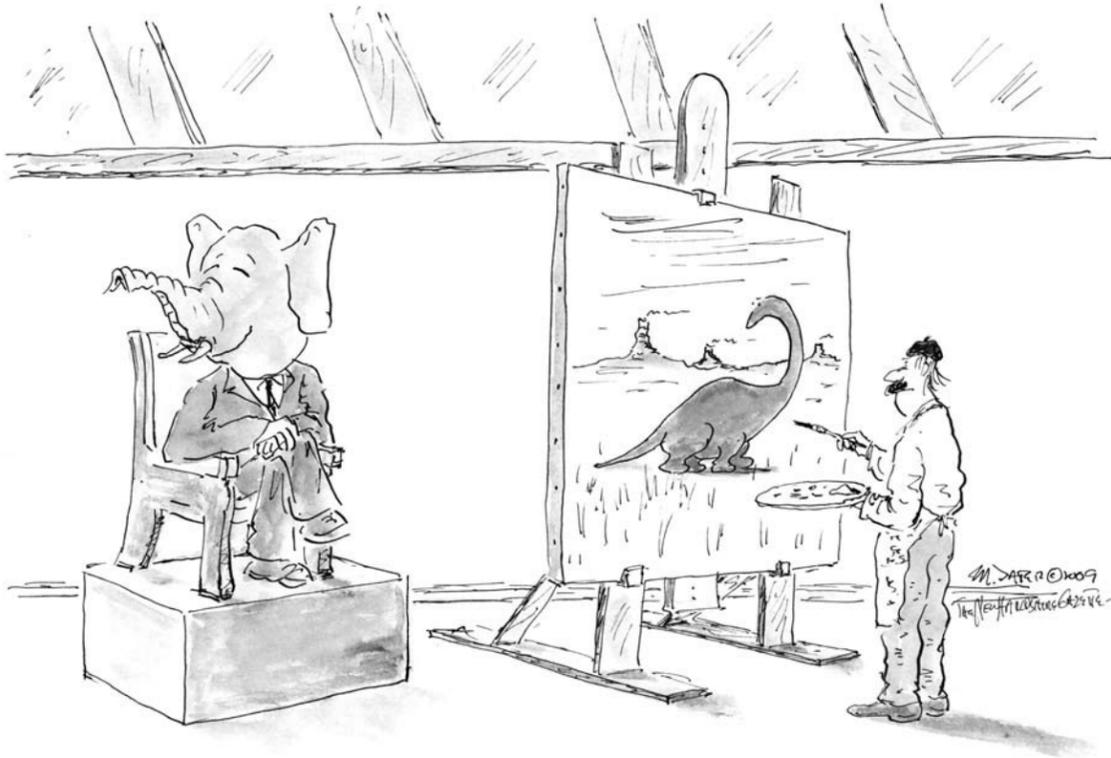
Some say all publicity is good publicity, but the scuttlebutt on Facebook suggests otherwise. Monday morning, local computer guru Adam Hegi posted a link to the *Herald* article on Facebook, with the comment, "WTF—Portsmouth Tea Company backs anti-Obama movement?"

Jonathan Blakeslee, a co-founder of the competing Portsmouth-based White Heron Tea Company, commented, "I thought that was weird as well. White Heron Tea is definitely NOT contributing any tea or effort towards that cause!" Hegi replied, "Boycott Portsmouth Tea Company!!!"

Karina Quintans piped in saying, "Glad to say I never bought their tea and definitely never will now! Crazy!"

Jonas Zev Amberger followed up: "The Portsmouth Tea Company is obviously confused and shouldn't they be the Somersworth Tea Company anyway. Identity complex?"

Asked in his interview with Foodpreneur what he doesn't like about "the biz," Marshall Malone replied, "I don't like it when my mistakes put the company's future in jeopardy..."



We were informed by a representative of the GSA on January 14 that photos of the new President and Vice President would be ready for posting "in approximately one month," which would have been February 14. This shot of President Obama appeared at the Post Office on Friday, March 6. No Joe Biden just yet. But perhaps we shouldn't complain. That raggedy flag on the pole outside has been retired—properly, one hopes—and replaced with a brand spankin' new one.

**News Briefs:**

**Just When You Thought It Couldn't Get Any Weirder ...**

For nearly thirty years, Senator Judd Gregg's career in the U.S. Congress was the very model of plodding predictability. He was Republican. He talked the talk of fiscal responsibility. And kept his mouth shut as Reagan and Bush II burned Federal Reserve Notes by the bale. With his humorless demeanor, aura of Calvinistic rectitude, and apparently innate caution, Gregg might have kept Daniel Webster's old seat in the Senate warm for another decade or two.

Then came February of 2009, and, for a month, he was the center of a whirlwind of weirdness.

First, on the second day of the month, he's in the Cabinet, or on his way to it. A big kerfuffle then ensues over the naming of a replacement. Another one rises over who will run the Census. Suddenly a bombshell bursts: Gregg bails out! Heads are scratched from Coos to the sea.

Then, finally, on the 27th, the Associated Press (AP) delivers the kicker: Gregg "steered taxpayer money to his home state's redevelopment of a former Air Force base even as he and his brother engaged in real estate deals there."

According to the AP, Gregg

"helped arrange at least \$66 million" in taxpayers' money for Pease Tradeport. Gregg also "personally ... invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in [his brother] Cyrus Gregg's office projects there." In return, he "collected at least \$240,017 to \$651,801 from his investments there."

The AP story was careful to note that "[u]nder new Senate ethics rules, Gregg had to certify that federal aid he directed to specific projects was not intended *solely* to enrich him or immediate family, including siblings. Senators are also *supposed* to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest, *though the Senate Ethics Committee seldom investigates or disciplines senators when questions are raised about their activities.*"

That disclaimer didn't do much to quench Gregg's ire. The next

day the Manchester Union Leader wrote that he "strongly denied a media report suggesting that he helped bring \$66 million in federal funding to the Pease International Tradeport and New Hampshire Air National Guard operation there *in order to enhance his personal investments in real estate at the facility.*" [Emphasis added.] Furthermore, he said that "any suggestion that his investment led to his withdrawal is 'a false, scurrilous statement.'"

"The scandal is not that people do things that are illegal. The scandal is that the things people are doing are legal."—Michael Kinsley

**Sound Investment Advice\***

With the average Individual Retirement Account losing half its value over the past sixteen months, it's no wonder people

everywhere are asking, "where can I find an investment vehicle that won't go to hell on me?" They're not asking us, mind you. But here's our best advice anyway: Toys-'R'-Us.™ Not the company's stock, but the stock on their shelves.

The Boston Globe reported on March 5 that mint-condition vintage 1959 Barbie dolls are now worth \$27,450.

Assuming that's true, anyone who coughed up \$111 for 37 Barbie dolls in 1959 could sell them today for a cool \$1,015,650. Money-Zine.com's ROI calculator says that's a return on investment of 914,900 percent. Even Bernie Maddoff didn't dare promise that.

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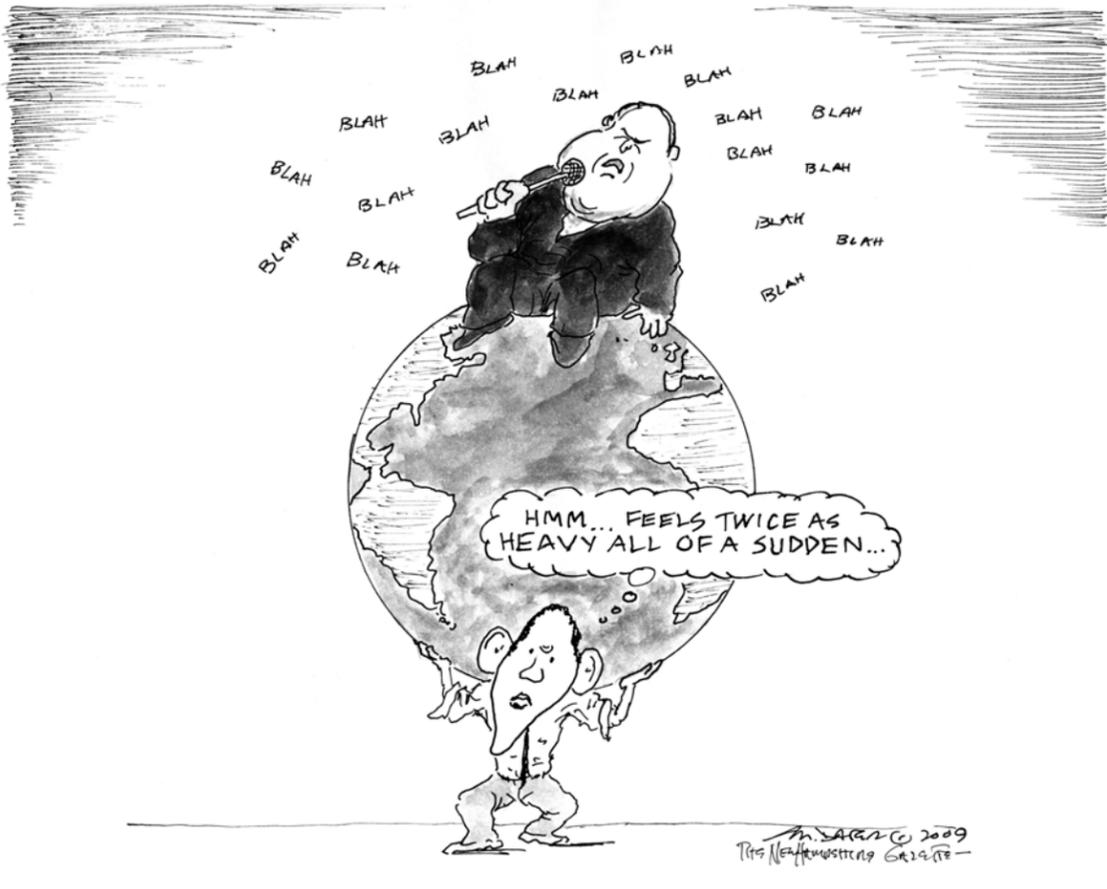
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Just when people were beginning to wonder whether winter would ever give up its grip on our collective throats, we got a weekend nice enough to semi-bask in the overcast mildness of an early-spring day.



**Gundalow's A-Comin'!**

In the spring an old newspaper's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of a flat-bottomed, stoutly-built, shallow-drafted, sail- and oar-powered, lateen-rigged cargo vessel peculiar to the Piscataqua River basin, generally known as a gundalow. Specifically, the *Captain Edward H. Adams*, the only gundalow on earth.

Edward H. Adams (1860 - 1950) was the last man to build and operate a working gundalow. In 1978, the non-profit Piscataqua Gundalow Project was organized to build a new gundalow, which was named in his honor. Its mission was to draw attention to the myriad threats to the environment in which it would travel: Great Bay and the Piscataqua River estuary. On June 13, 1982, it was launched. From 1996 through 2001, Strawberry Banke Museum administered the gundalow.

Since then, the *Captain Adams*

has been in the care of The Gundalow Company, which has been adjusting its course to adapt to present conditions. We recently spoke with Executive Director Molly Bolster to learn where the *Captain Adams* is headed.

The last time we spoke, the Company had taken care of some important maintenance items and was working on a plan to build a second gundalow, one better able to meet Coast Guard requirements.

In these rough economic times, a contemplated capital-raising campaign has been put on hold. Emphasis will be placed instead on re-connecting with the public in general, and with the vessel's original mission: threats to the estuary. In these days when there's so much green talk, not many realize that the health of the Great Bay estuary is declining.

"We want people to see the boat and think about eel grass,"

Molly said. "When we hold events in different places, we want people to come away caring more about those places and to have a list of things they can do to help protect them."

The next chance to see the *Captain Adams* right here in River City will be Saturday, June 6. The gundalow will tie up at the *Heritage* dock, across Market Street from the Moffat-Ladd House. For more details, watch this paper.

**A Different Kind of History**

Not all history is as uplifting as that of the gundalow. Take the local Ku Klux Klan, for instance.

The Old Berwick Historical Society is hosting a free presentation 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, at the South Berwick Town Hall Auditorium describing how national and regional events led to a 1924 summer rally and cross burning in Sanford, ME. Speakers Joe Doiron and Paul Auger have spent 20

years gathering information from print and eye-witness accounts of KKK activities there. For more information call the Old Berwick Historical Society at (207) 384-0000.

If you're thinking, "Well, that's Maine..." think again. Portsmouth had a KKK then, too.

**Bill Loeb's Doing 360 RPM**

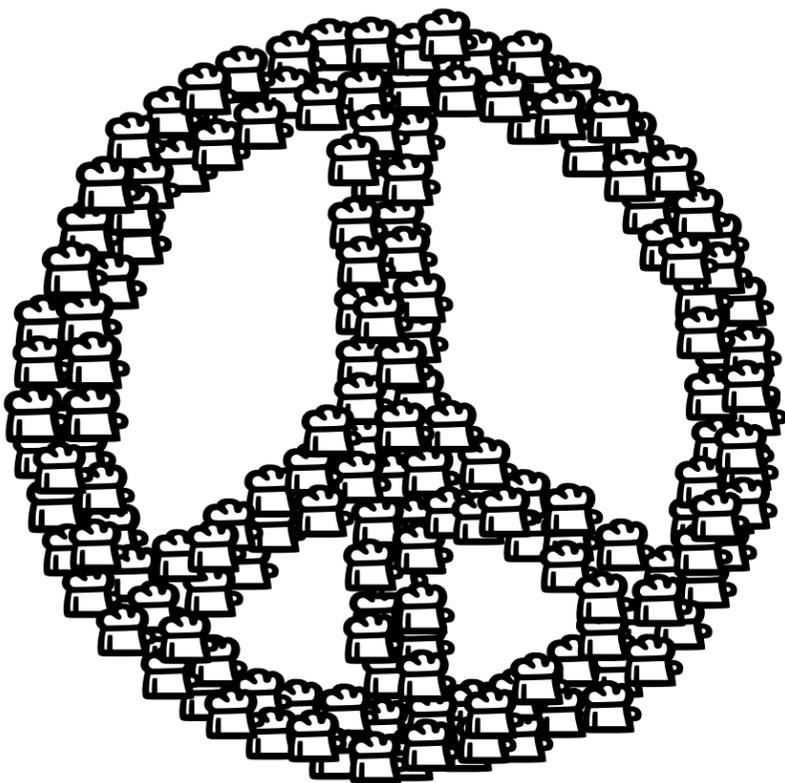
"Voters in ten New Hampshire towns passed a warrant article on Tuesday instructing state lawmakers to end 'the Pledge' and look for alternatives to ever-in-

creasing property taxes. The non-binding 'Fair Tax Resolution' received 74% of the vote and will result in a letter being sent to the Governor and state legislators, representing Allenstown, Claremont, Farmington, Kingston, Lebanon, Littleton, New Hampton, North Hampton, Pelham, Rye, and Swanzey."

Thanks to Alexander Lee for the above item.

**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*

# The Saccharine Sacrament

by William Marvel

For those who have ever spent a few weeks making maple syrup, the rare balmy days in February turn the mind toward sap buckets and spiles—or, for the more modern and efficient, to the big rolls of blue plastic tubing. Warm, sunny days bring the sap surging up from the roots of the maple trees and flooding toward the branches and their incipient buds, while cold nights persuade it back the other way, yielding the sweetest elixir to any who intrude upon that flow.

Just as the sea provided Ishmael with a satisfactory substitute for pistol and ball, the sugaring season has always offered equivalent succor to the New England farmer who, by the first of March, has begun to wonder whether he will ever see the end of winter. Even before global warming, February was when the worst storms usually struck, with heavy, wet snow that broke the back, strained the heart, and throttled the spirit. With house-

bound months behind and weeks of snow and cold still to come, only the tapping of trees and the hanging of buckets foretold the inevitable but inconceivable advent of spring.

There is good sugar and bad sugar. The variety derived from cane carries an unenviable association with slavery, including its role in the expansion of human bondage in European colonies of the Caribbean, and as a supplement to the bland diets and caloric cravings of the Industrial Revolution's myriad wage slaves. Ultimately cane sugar rotted the teeth and bloated the body as it gradually enslaved the taste buds of succeeding generations, until no toddler would eat a bowl of oatmeal or cereal without either a lavish veneer of granular sweetener or a vigorous spanking. The children of this household smothered their breakfasts in it until foiled by a biweekly ration of one cup apiece, and on "sugar Sunday" mornings two surlier versions of *Oliver Twist* would materialize with their empty

bowls.

Maple sugar, while equally delicious, bears no social opprobrium. Instead it conjures images of melting snow, a soaring sun, and convivial gatherings at the sugarhouse.

Eastman Johnson, a native of Lovell, Maine, spent the late 1820s and early 1830s in nearby Fryeburg. For that renowned oil painter, sugar season represented a welcome palliative for life's drudgery, adversity, and terrors. While other artists haunted the army camps and the battlefields during the Civil War, looking for stirring scenes to suit the popular taste, Johnson retreated to the village of his youth. Several of his canvases from the early 1860s, some of which hang now at the Huntington Library, the Curtis Galleries of Minneapolis, and Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, depict Fryeburg residents gathered gleefully around a boiling cauldron in front of a temporary shelter. There was no war for the young swains flirting with shawled maidens, or for the

scamps sipping hard cider, or for the old men in beaver hats trading yarns over their whittling—nor did anything else deserve worry. The annual ritual of the boiling sap confirmed the infinite reliability of nature.

Edgar Powers could have stepped from one of Johnson's paintings. He started tapping in his father's sugarbush in Hanover, Maine, on March 9, 1864. His diary records that it had been a hard winter, with unusual mortality in the neighborhood, and Hanover had fallen short of its enlistment quota, so it faced an imminent draft. Young Powers was ripe for conscription—so, when the town voted generous bounties in an effort to raise enough volunteers, he thought it might be better to enlist. Late snows and frosty nights kept the sap running furiously that spring, though, and with the help of visitors Powers boiled off 379 pounds of syrup and sugar, devoting 18 of the next 30 days to the sugarhouse. That distracted him long enough that he forgot



about enlistment bounties. In the end he escaped the draft, as well, and spent many more decades tapping those same trees.

Years ago my father and I transformed his ramshackle garage into a sugarhouse, converting an old oil tank into an evaporator and testing the density of our syrup by the same imprecise methods Edgar Powers probably used. A couple of times I participated in more scientific operations, with finishing pans, hydrometers, and costly felt filters, but no expense improved or detracted from the satisfaction of the boil. Mortals might die, towns might burn, and empires might fall, but beneath the steam of the frothing pan lies the only promise of eternity.

**More News Briefs**

*from page three*

**Countdown to Demolition?**

A strange silence seems to surround the Memorial and Sarah Mildred Long Bridges, considering what's at stake.

A study jointly sponsored by the Maine and New Hampshire Departments of Transportation is about to begin which may very well result in the demolition of 1) Memorial Bridge, the only existing link between Portsmouth

and Kittery that is accessible to pedestrians, bicyclists, and automobiles, and 2) the demolition of the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge, the only practical means of removing spent nuclear fuel from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

If both existing bridges are demolished, they could very well be replaced by a second "high-level" span across the Piscataqua River—one which would carry no pedestrians, no bicyclists, and no spent nuclear fuel.

What such a bridge probably

would do is require the "taking"—of eminent domain, anyone?—of very large chunks of downtown Portsmouth to make way for additional entrance and exit ramps.

We have no idea who is being chosen to perform this study. Imported bridge experts from "away," one suspects. What local experts are there, except users?

At this point the only organization attempting to defend Memorial Bridge is the Portsmouth Historical Society. But that may change. There have been some

informal discussions of ways other organizations might join forces towards the same end. As they have not been specifically conducted on the record, we'll be a little vague in describing them here.

As we noted here last fortnight, an unofficial, but probably sound study revealed that bridge users on both Kittery and Portsmouth consider the Memorial Bridge in particular to be a vital transportation link.

One person who's been closer

to the relevant officials than we have suggested that they are more interested in limiting public input than they are collecting it. Another such person agreed and noted that when the official process of the study commences, it will be conducted "at break-neck speed."

Assuming they are both right, it will be a challenge, when the time comes, for the community to mobilize itself quickly enough to make its opinions on the bridge known.

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The Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (VASH) program provides permanent housing and ongoing case management treatment services for homeless veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management.

VASH cannot provide furniture, household appliances, pots and pans, or other household goods. VASH can accept these items, and distribute them to veterans who need them.

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## Moving Pictures New DVDs

by Rodman Philbrick

Here's a new conspiracy for all you theorists. What if Hollywood somehow engineered the Great Recession, knowing that a financial calamity would put buttocks in the seats of their ailing theaters? Think about it. During the last great financial calamity the average person went to the movies at least once a week, not only for a communal escape from the grim reality, but because movie houses were warm and the popcorn was cheap. But the per-person, per-year average theater attendance has been on the decline since the advent of television, vastly accelerated by DVDs and home theaters. Why traipse all the way to the local cineplex when you can see Brad and Angelina on your very own big screen, eating your very own popcorn, in the cocoon-like privacy of your own home?

Unless, of course, your home happens to be in foreclosure. Or maybe it's just cheaper to send the kids to the movies instead of flying them to Disneyworld. For whatever reason, and mostly probably for many reasons, theater attendance is up in 2008, and trending higher into 2009, and from this ranter's perspec-

tive, it ain't because the movies have gotten better. To the contrary, 2008 was a bit of a bust, quality-wise. But when families are spending more weekends at home and looking for a trade-off, local theaters become a destination.

On the other hand, if your heart doesn't flutter at the prospect of seeing the Jonas Brothers in all three dimensions, you may want to spend the weekend at home, while you still own it. Here are a few of the DVDs that either have been or soon will be released in the merry month of March, in the Year of Our Lord 2009.

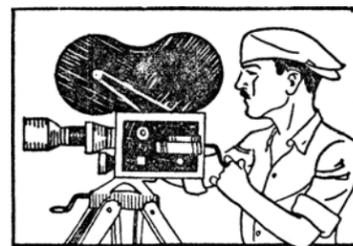
You want escape? You want to be dazzled by actions, squealing tires, and the resolute jaw of Jason Stratham? *Transporter 3* will not disappoint. For those of you not familiar with the franchise, the *Transporter* series was created by writer/producer/director Luc Besson, the French version of action-master Joel Silver. Which turns out to be slick and pleasing for those of us who love the sound of a big gasoline engine at high rev, but who are bored to tears by the nitwit clichés and bad acting of, say, *The Fast And The Furious*. The *Transporters* are chase movies for

adults, with plenty of intriguing plot twists and some really cool cinematography. Stratham is the highly-skilled driver—the transporter—a man of moral ambiguity who is willing to break the law if he can get away with it, but who always seems to discover his conscience at the most inconvenient moments. In this latest installment, Stratham's character is back in Eurotrash Land, palling around with his old nemesis, a police inspector played by Francois Berleand. Think Bogart and Claude Rains *Casablanca*, it's that sort of beautiful friendship. Before you can say "Tout alors!" Stratham is behind the wheel, forced to take the job of transporting the kidnapped daughter of a Ukrainian government official. You will not be surprised to discover that Russian actress Natalya Rudakova is a handful, and that Stratham will have to outwit numerous thugs along the way. Plus, how can you resist a movie whose director, Olivier Megaton, adopted his surname because his birthday happens to be the anniversary of Hiroshima?

While we're in the French mode, director Bertrand Tavernier was an interesting choice for *In The Electric Mist*, the James Lee Burke story set in New Orleans.

For those of you not familiar with Mr. Burke, he's the poet/novelist who created Dave Robicheaux, a character famous for struggling with his inner demons while solving crimes. Casting Tommy Lee Jones as Robicheaux was an inspired piece of producing, and Jones, as you might expect, delivers an interesting performance as a police detective attempting to solve the murder of a local prostitute. Okay, *In The Electric Mist* gets all weird about racism and the Civil War—Robicheaux has ghostly visions that include Levon Helm as General John Bell Hood—but if you'll stick with it the story will stick with you, in an interesting way.

*Miracle At Santa Anna* didn't exactly kill at the box-office, but that doesn't mean that this Spike Lee joint isn't worth an evening's perusal. Based on the fine novel by James McBride (who also wrote the screenplay), *Miracle At Santa Anna* was inspired by a real event perpetrated by the Nazi's in the darkest days of WWII. Four soldiers from the Negro 92nd Division—this was, of course, before the military was integrated—are trapped behind the lines in a small Tuscan village during the Allied invasion of Italy. What happens there, and how



it will have repercussions fifty years later, makes for a less-than-perfect film that is nevertheless worth watching. Perfection being hard to come by, as you may have noticed lately.

Speaking of leading with your chin—that was the conversation, wasn't it?—how about famous leading chin Bruce Campbell in *My Name Is Bruce*. Campbell, star of the low budget *Evil Dead* series, plays himself, as an actor kidnapped by a small, inbred community (no, not Hollywood itself) threatened by an evil monster. They think Campbell's zombie-stomping, on-screen persona is real, and that he can actually help save them. Comedy horror at it's worst—that is to say, best, because in the comedy horror genre worst is always better, right? Or is Bruce Campbell part of the great conspiracy to waste money by making intentionally bad movies, thereby raising movie attendance by causing the Great Recession?

To heck with those 3-D glasses. Put on your tinfoil hat.

The unofficial study noted above is informative, and probably represents public opinion fairly accurately. But being unofficial, it can probably be brushed aside through some standard bureaucratic maneuver.

In about two months, the National Trust for Historic Preservation will announce whether Memorial Bridge made it onto their list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list.

Should anyone wonder how our

little old bridge could rate such a distinction, we recommend an article by New Hampshire State Architectural Historian James L. Garvin, titled "Portsmouth's 1923 Memorial Bridge in Danger." It, and the results of the Portsmouth/Kittery Bridge Survey referred to above, are available on the Gazette's website at [www.nhgazette.com/memorial-bridge](http://www.nhgazette.com/memorial-bridge), along with links to more than 100 other articles on the bridges, going back to 1999.

### Progress in Kittery!

In our January 29 paper, we announced our campaign to rebuild our distribution network in Kittery. Our motivation was twofold. First, we ought to be there anyway, given that town's delightful propinquity to this one, and their mutual interdependence. Then there's the question of the bridges, and what's to become of them.

We're tickled to announce that during the same period when

Judd Gregg's public image fell all to bits, our Kittery distribution system snapped together like a bunch of Legos.

First we asked readers, thorough our website, to suggest places where we ought to be distributing. Gradually, we built up a list. Then, out of the blue, Jackson's Hardware wanted to know if they could have some papers. Funny you should ask. We crossed the Mildred Long, dropped some off at their well-stocked store, and

visited most of the other places on our list, with great results.

We're now available in Kittery at Beach Pea Baking Co., Carl's Meat Market, D. Pratt Framers, Golden Harvest, Jackson's Hardware, Papers, Ink., and the 7-Eleven.

As if that were not good fortune enough, Jon Wyckoff dropped by and casually volunteered to help out if we needed a hand. He's now in charge of deliveries in Kittery.

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**It's President Obama Now — Get Over It**

To the Editor:

Some people still cannot get over the fact that President Obama now governs our country. They would rather see their fellow Americans lose their jobs, lose their retirement and lose hope, than to allow President Obama to succeed. Why do such people hate their fellow Americans or President Obama so? Some of these Americans claim they are patriotic, scared of what President Obama may do, and only are trying to offer constructive suggestions. While many of us were often scared by government policies of the past eight years, these people seemed not concerned. It seems to me, however, that many of these people are in fact racists, bigots or just political fanatics (our American Taliban).

Our country currently faces huge challenges in the areas of our economy, our health care system, energy dependence, our environment and our international reputation. Most of these challenges were ignored or made worse during the past eight years by President Bush and the Republicans in Washington. Most of their ideas, such as investing Social Security in the stock market, deregulating businesses, selling our nation's resources to friendly businesses and waging 100 or more years of war have now been rejected by the voters. Now the same Republican Party is asking us to listen to their ad-

vice. The same people who ran our economy into the ground, launched an unjustified war, violated our constitutional rights and caused Americans to be hated around the world, want to give us advice. There is no reason to listen to them until they have come to their senses. Until they take responsibility for their actions, including the huge deficit that President Obama inherited, their calls to work together are just plain dishonest.

President Obama and the Democrats are trying hard to restore our economy and our good reputation. It will not be an easy task. They deserve to have the support of all Americans in this effort. If they succeed, it will not only help Democratic Americans but all Americans. In fact, if they succeed it will also help those American business that have been devastated by eight years of foolish, arrogant and greedy Republican government. If we are fortunate enough to still have a job, we can do our part by strengthening our local institutions and financially supporting our local businesses. Even though I am not a Republican, I still hope that the Republican Party can revitalize itself, so that it can play a constructive role in our country again. Our democracy needs a strong and responsible opposition to function properly. Our country will be stronger and better when that happens.

Peter Somssich  
Executive Committee Member,  
Portsmouth Democrats  
Portsmouth, NH

Peter:

*Many of the "challenges" you refer to were not just "ignored or made worse" by the Bush maladministration, but created from scratch.*

*As for waiting for them to come to their senses, the ongoing train wreck known as the Republican National Committee seems to suggest that we have plenty of time.*

*No one will believe you—or us, either—but we share your belief*

*that a sane, responsible Republican Party would be an asset to the nation.*

*In the meantime, while we wait for them to come to their senses, there's not much else to do but sit back and enjoy the spectacle of their psychotic breakdown.*

The Editor

**Golden Oldie Sought**

To the Editor:

Please renew my subscription. Thank you, and keep up the good work.

PS—Is it possible to get a reprint of the article the gentleman from Washington was raving about—that all City Council members should read? Since I am a Galena City Council member maybe I should share this unknown tidbit of wisdom.

Charles Fach  
Galena, IL

Charles:

*Thanks for your renewal, and your kind words. We rummaged through the archives and found a copy of the paper in question. We'll toss it in the mail.*

The Editor

**Good Riddance to Bush Budget Gimmicks**

To the Editor:

I voted for candidate Obama because I wanted a change in our country's direction. He convinced me he was serious about solving the enormous problems we face. President Obama's proposed budget shows me he's keeping his word and fixing the mess he inherited.

His budget brings long-needed relief to the middle class by making it easier to pay for college and through tax cuts that will reach 95 percent of us. It also eliminates costly and wasteful programs that do not help the people but enrich corporate interests, like Medicare overpayments to the health insurance industry.

We have seen administration after administration "kick the can down the road" on the big problems. Not this one—Obama's budget makes down payments on transforming our health care system, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and developing clean energy to end our dependence on foreign oil. The budget invests in needed infrastructure like high-speed rail and expanded access to broadband internet service

which will benefit workers and small businesses.

This budget lays out the hard truths while mapping a way forward—it has no gimmicky "off budget" items like the ones that George W. Bush used to mask the true cost of waging war. President Obama has presented an honest and comprehensive plan that will improve our lives at the same time it cuts in half the budget deficit by the end of his first term.

I support his budget and will urge my representatives in Congress to work hard for its passage.

Joan Jacobs  
Portsmouth, NH

Joan:

*Sometimes we have to pinch ourselves to be sure we're awake. We actually have a president and a Congresswoman who are on record stating that for the nation to do well, the bottom 95 percent have to do well.*

*It's a shame and a pity—and probably a crime—that it took us eight years of the high-octane insanity of Bush #43, on top of eight years of triangulating Clintonism, four years of Bush #41, and eight years of Reaganism, to get here.*

*As Mr. Somssich noted above, with the global economic system teetering on the brink of utter catastrophe, and a few people in positions of power poised to turn things around, the same batch of crackpots who brought us here are screaming "Jump!"*

*Life: sometimes, it's almost too exciting.*

The Editor

**Comfort in Troubled Times**

To the Editor:

I saw in the paper that Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter helped get a 2009 Recovery Act Homeless Prevention Grant of \$766,545 for the people of her district. This money will be used to provide housing assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, security and utility deposits and payments, moving cost assistance, and case management for residents of the first district.

In addition, she is in large part responsible for getting a \$229,703 Northeast Diesel Collaborative Emissions Grant from

the Environmental Protection Agency for the First District, which will allow the Manchester Transit Authority to install a combination of advanced pollution control and idle reduction technologies on 89 municipal vehicles. This equipment will result in cleaner municipal vehicles and cleaner air for the people of Manchester.

In these difficult economic times, it's somforting to know that Congresswoman Shea-Porter is on the job and watching out for the best interests of the people of New Hampshire.

Bill Duncan  
New Castle, NH

Bill:

*We happened to be at the Portsmouth Public Library recently when Ms. Shea-Porter spoke to a room packed with constituents. It was, shall we say, a lively crowd. The session reminded us of the British Prime Minister being questioned by Parliament, but without the accents—and, at times, the civility. We later read in the Herald's police report that a cop was called. To his credit, he kept a low-enough profile that we didn't spot him. We'd be tempted to say the event put us in mind of the old adage that no good deed goes unpublished, but for two things: most of the crowd was quite supportive, and Ms. Shea-Porter, without being overbearing, kept the event well under control and never showed any hint of losing her composure.*

The Editor

**Georgie W: The Rapper**

To the Editor:

Reading on Presidents Day a letter in the Rockland, Maine Free Press from a guy who's always Right, made me reread my Feb. 2006 rap talk for the Bush boy. Unlike the boy Washington who, when asked if he'd cut down a tree, said he could not tell a lie, the Bush boy said:

*"I can tell lie after lie it's easy as pie here's the reason why:  
though my facts are wrong I'm a politician who's always Right  
I talk to God and he talks back I heard him say as clear as day  
Bombs away! Cut them down!  
Show you're The Man, man!"*

*"With my great big ax I cut*

*The Fortnightly Quote, from A Reader:*

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."  
—Mabatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

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# And Other Correspondence

down trees in the nation's forests--whack!

and the Clean Air Act and the water one too--whack! whack!

I give subsidies to coal companies that strip the mountains bare and use rivers as their sewers--it looks just ducky! Right on, Kentucky!

"You honest guys may not realize how we party on the S.O.P. the Same

Old Party that-sops up money from those who get plenty more back

our man Jack Abramoff is doing time but no matter what he tells

we usually can manage to stay outside of cells

"I'll keep on rockin' the boat steering Right for the rocks and the vote my cringing crew in Congress will I guarantee stay on board with me

cutting taxes for the rich cutting programs for the poor who should be

happy with my faithful promise: you'll get pie in the sky when you die

"Some may say I was born heartless but I always do what's Right: fatten the war machine starve the rest is the Right kind of government..."

It's good to know that as Bush's vile record gets even more exposed, it will make sure he gets the infamy he deserves.

Marjorie Gallace  
Camden, ME

## A Party of Dazed and Drunken Fools

To the Editor:

The Republicans are desperately trying to right a course with anyone and everyone it can put at the helm ... from Rush Limbaugh (the on- and off-again Republican) and supposed conservative who's really a neo-fascist gas bag, to Michael Steele, simply one of the window-dressing decoys like Jindal and Palin.

To them I say you have been pigs at the trough in the guise of patriotism, fiscal responsibility, generational concern, and socially tinged, right-wing religiosity, and you all can be defined by one phrase ... hypocritical posers. You have lost not only your cred-

ibility but the trust of the American people. Turn out the lights ... your party is over.

Bobby Buck  
Roanoke, VA

## Pols, Puns & Televangelists

To the Editor:

It seems more obvious now than ever that Republican politicians and conservative pundits are too much like all those fake televangelists. If you only follow them and give to them you will become wealthy and healthy and never have to pay taxes. Or, for that matter, serve in the military for wars you help start, or go to jail for anything you say or do.

But just like those poor souls who've believed they received a "healing" by touching the TV screen and sending in a "love offering," once they stop taking their foul-tasting medicine, they most often get sicker, or die; and so will the country if it heeds the "Telepols" and "Telepuns."

Chris Lane Gray  
Monticello, AR

## Under-Taxed Cry-Babies

To the Editor:

Republican propagandists, following Senator Judd Gregg, have been criticizing non-stop Obama's tax reform plan to make the very rich pay a more fair share of the cost of running this nation. They wail about how taxing people who make more than \$250,000 profit will "hurt small business." Hmmm, where were their voices last year when Bush's administration allocated 700 thousand million dollars to big business, with virtually no strings attached? Did small business get any of those bail-outs? Did Senator Gregg argue against that huge theft—er, transfer—of our national treasure?

Now, Republicans are squealing like stuck pigs at the prospect of paying more taxes on their unearned incomes. All those golden parachutes, bonuses, and bail-outs have been class warfare against working folks. It is due time for war reparations.

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, CA

Bruce:

When national policies drive money towards those who already have it, that is sound, prudent fis-

cal policy.

When people who have been working as hard as they always have, and get dwindling rewards for it, and see the nation crumbling, and complain about it, that's class warfare.

The Editor

## AIG Bailout #4, How Many More?

To the Editor:

Now we see that AIG's financial situation has not stabilized with over \$150 billion of taxpayer money, and they want another \$30 billion because of ongoing loan default payments. I'm wondering what default payments have given AIG a \$61 billion deficit? Are they payments for the Credit Default Swaps (CDS) that were sold as loan default insurance? I understand that lots of CDS's were sold to buyers who were not even carrying the loans being insured. In fact, such phony CDSs account for far more debt than the actual loan debt that is being insured (\$54.6 trillion according to *Fortune* magazine). So payment to CDS holders is actually transferring taxpayer bailout money into the hands of the very speculators who caused our economy to collapse.

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, CA

## Presidential Choppers

To the Editor:

Wow! The front page piece on 2/27 [the Bush/Marine One helicopter deal] is stunning! I think a mass hanging is in order!

I've been wondering about the Italian connection for a long time. That the fact that everybody knew the documents were patently bogus, and our government had been told that by its own ambassador and a Marine Corps general, even before Joseph Wilson got to Niger is one thing, but *now* who conceived the plot?

The results are too tragic to be comprehended—really.

Thank you very much for the piece.

PS—Today, I have an even better idea than mass hanging! We have a *brand new jail* down in Gitmo, hardly used, cost \$38 million, built by Kellogg Brown and Root. We round up all the perps and every flunky of Rumsfeld, suspects or not, *a la* Afghanistan, throw them down there, no

habeas corpus, customary interrogation, rendition some of them to Baghdad. Then we'll find the Italian connection, or my name ain't Gonzales!

Sounds fair to me; after all, they've killed a lot more than the 9/11 hijackers.

Sorry, but your Marine One story got me all het up.

PPS—Mandatory sentences for anyone who said "mushroom cloud!!" No trial—just run the tapes. Sentence; life in KBR-Gitmo, or defenestration from the Washington Monument as a tribute to the father of our country !! [Note: The ALL CAPS in this PPS converted to lower case to spare the reader.]

Lester LeViness  
Nyack, NY

Lester:

Glad someone else responded to that piece in about the same way we did. We must remember, though, that if we resort to our opponents' methods, we lower ourselves to their standard. Besides, if we ever get arrested, we'd have to have endorsed this as a precedent.

The Editor

## What Depression?

To the Editor:

Yeah, right, we're in a recession, the economy is collapsing, it's 1929 all over again, bla-bla-bla. Yawnsville.

Great Depressions are for the little people. How do I know? It's all there in the *New York Times's* gilded pages—pages 2, 3. Decisions, decisions, decisions—whether to plunk down \$3,295 for a Chanel's lady's evening clutch (9/24/08), when you could instead snatch a satin evening clutch from Chanel for \$4,150 (2/4/09). Or, for a Cartier wristwatch, plunk down a mere \$26,600 (1/29/09). For those cheapskates out there there's the Chanel "high-precision, chronograph with diamond indicators" for the laughably low price of only \$7,950 (2/23/09).

So one might presume that



the hard times and subprime-credit-default-swap-collateralized-debt-obligation-derivatives haven't walloped everybody. For all those genius bankers and hotshot Wall Street hedge fund operators who brought the economic collapse upon the rest of us, them guys ain't exactly standing in the bread lines. Thanks to their still intact gazillion dollar bonuses and/or their platinum-and-diamond parachutes, they're comfortably holed up in their gated communities in Palm Beach, Greenwich, Nantucket, Paradise Island (and a lot of private hide-a-ways you've never heard of and never will) where they can browse the *Times's* gilded pages and send their personal shoppers a-scurrying up and down Fifth Avenue, where if she's lucky (duh—a personal shopper is always a she), she might still find a couple of Mikimoto's ring-and-earring sets still going begging, specifically their "Dramatic Black South Sea cultured pearls with diamonds in 18k gold" (1/15/09).

She'd better get a-hoppin', though, as there's likely to be a mob trying to be the first to grab them up for the steal they are—the earrings for \$22,000 or the ring for \$21,000, or if I did the math right, the whole caboodle for a mere \$43,000. Hard times, schmard times.

Barnabas Umbrage  
Portsmouth, NH

Barnabas:

Class warfarin' peasant ...

The Editor



Even on Chestnut

black asphalt shows through the snow  
slave burial ground

Tom D'Evelyn

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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, March 15	Monday, March 16	Tuesday, March 17	Wednesday, March 18	Thursday, March 19	Friday, March 20	Saturday, March 21
<p><b>2008</b>—JPMorgan and Federal Reserve auditors inspect Bear Stearns' books and turn pale.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) says the White House hid an audit showing a \$108 million overcharge by Halliburton in Iraq until after the presidential election.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—To flatter veterans without incurring actual additional expenses, the Veterans Administration is elevated to Department status.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—CIA-trained forces in Nicaragua blow up commie bridges.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—A <i>Boston Globe</i> editorial about a speech by Pres. Jimmy Carter appears under the headline, "Mush from the Wimp."</p> <p><b>1962</b>—An airliner carrying 96 U.S. soldiers to Vietnam disappears over the western Pacific.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Col. Tom Parker takes over as Elvis's manager.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Czar Nicholas II abdicates the Russian throne.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—President Woodrow Wilson sends 16,000 soldiers into Mexico to catch Pancho Villa. They fail.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—A French 'protectorate' takes over in Annam (Vietnam).</p> <p><b>1869</b>—The first bill granting women the right to vote is introduced to Congress, where it dies, naturally.</p> <p><b>1820</b>—Maine quits being part of Massachusetts.</p> <p><b>1783</b>—George Washington quells a near-mutiny of Army officers by flourishing his spectacles.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—JPMorgan buys Bear Stearns, but only because the Fed puts up \$30 billion.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—On "Meet the Press," Dick Cheney claims that Saddam Hussein "has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons," and that "we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators." It's a fact.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—A blizzard kills 184 in the Northeast.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—On his deathbed, Lee Harvey Oswald claims to repent; sadly, there are no lie detectors present.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Kurds in Iraq are gassed with ingredients Saddam Hussein bought from U.S. and European companies.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Lava Lamp gets a patent.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—GIs in Vietnam kill hundreds of civilians at My Lai.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Montgomery, AL, police attack civil rights marchers.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Robert Goddard demonstrates a practical liquid-fueled rocket in Auburn, Mass.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—James Joyce is awarded a bronze medal in a Dublin singing competition. He throws it in the river.</p> <p><b>1889</b>—A possible confrontation among warships of the U.S., British, and German navies is averted when all but one are sunk as a hurricane hits Samoa.</p> <p><b>1827</b>—<i>Freedom's Journal</i>, the first black American newspaper, begins publication.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—<i>The Navy Times</i> reports that Fox News guest and U.S.M.C. Corporal Matt Sanchez had an earlier career as a gay porn star.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—"[B]ased on a review of the video footage [Terri Schiavo] certainly seems to respond to visual stimuli," says Sen. [Dr.] Bill Frist on the Senate floor. An autopsy later reveals she was blind.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Local narcs and off-duty cops celebrate St. Patrick's Day by duking it out in the parking lot at Paddy's on the Peace Tradeport.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W. Bush tells Saddam Hussein that Iraq isn't big enough for the both of them, and gives Hussein 48 hours to get out.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Dick Cheney and two other members of George H.W. Bush's cabinet admit they had written rubber checks on the House bank.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Dita Beard, hospitalized by Nixon goons, is forced to recant a statement she'd made linking an ITT campaign contribution with the settlement of an anti-trust suit.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—<i>Alvin</i> the sub finds a missing H-bomb off the coast of Spain.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The National Security Council OKs plans to spy in and bomb North Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—"I am just going outside and may be some time," says Scott expedition explorer Lawrence E.G. Oates to his companions before leaving his tent during an Antarctic blizzard.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—Narcs and off-duty cops resume their fisticuffs at Gilley's in Portsmouth.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The U.S. names its "Coalition of the Willing," which counts among its members Latvia and Estonia.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—"Why should we hear about body bags and death and how many?" Barbara Bush asks Diane Sawyer on "Good Morning America." "It's not relevant...why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?"</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Bizarre Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot says he'll run for President if his supporters get him on the ballot in 50 states.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—A dozen paintings are stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—A Congressional study says the income gap between the richest and the poorest has doubled since 1952.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Country Joe McDonald is convicted and fined \$500 for leading a Massachusetts crowd in the infamous Fish Cheer.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. begins secretly bombing Cambodia.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—The Supreme Court rules that states must provide lawyers for indigent defendants.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—The State Department orders overseas libraries cleansed of books by authors of "suspect" loyalty.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Former Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi says his country is in a civil war.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—<i>USA Today</i> admits that its Pulitzer-contender Jack Kelley ought to have competed in the fiction category.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W. Bush kicks off his new war by sending 40 Tomahawk missiles into a residential neighborhood in Baghdad, killing innocent civilians instead of his nemesis, Saddam Hussein.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Scientists report "alarming" melting of the Larsen Ice Shelf.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—The Pentagon's top Cuba expert admits she spied for Cuba.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Appearing on NBC's "Diff'rent Strokes," Nancy Reagan tells "a true story" about "a boy we'll call Charlie." "Burned out on marijuana" at 14, Charlie "brutally beats" Sis when she won't steal money to feed his weed habit.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—The U.S. government burns books by Wilhelm Reich.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Off Japan, Kamikaze attacks kill 800 sailors on the <i>U.S.S. Franklin</i>.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Birth of Clarence "Frogman" Henry.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—Over 100 are injured in a riot in Harlem. A study later blames police brutality for causing the riot. Fiorello LaGuardia suppresses the report.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Eight U.S. Army biplanes go after Pancho Villa.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—U.S. ground troops invade Iraq to protect 'The Homeland' from Saddam's innumerable weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Religious fanatics release nerve gas in Tokyo subway.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus says Iraq has agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Press Baron William R. Hearst's granddaughter Patricia is convicted of bank robbery.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—"If the [Vietnamese] Communists continue to suffer the losses they have been taking," says French Chief of Staff Gen. Paul Ely, "I don't know how they can stay in the battle."</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Germany opens its first concentration camp at Dachau.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—"Goodbye to all poor peoples everywhere!" says Giuseppe Zangara before his electrocution for killing the mayor of Chicago. "Lousy capitalist ... bunch of crooks."</p> <p><b>1899</b>—Martha Place becomes the first woman to be executed by electrocution, in New York.</p> <p><b>1896</b>—U.S. Marines invade Nicaragua for the first time.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—Treasury official L.E. Chittendon signs 12,500 U.S. bonds in 48 hours to get them aboard a ship before it sails. He suffers years of pain as a result, but the bonds are never used.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Richard Clarke, the senior U.S. counter-intelligence officer since Bush I, says Bush II ignored al Qaeda until 9/11/01.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—At its own stately pace, Mississippi ratifies the 13th amendment outlawing slavery.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Over Edwards AFB, a bear becomes the first living thing ejected from a plane traveling at supersonic speed.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—In South Africa, police kill 89 black protesters in the Sharpville Massacre.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—In Cleveland, disk jockey Alan Freed throws the "Moondog Coronation Ball"—the first rock 'n roll concert.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—New York Police find compulsive hoarder Homer L. Collyer dead in his junk-crammed Harlem townhouse.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—U.S. Marines land in Honduras to "protect American interests."</p> <p><b>1857</b>—An earthquake destroys much of Tokyo; subsequent fires kill more than 100,000.</p> <p><b>1851</b>—Josiah Warren and others form "Modern Times," an anarchist colony, in New York.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—Millerites are again disappointed: the world once more fails to end as their religious leader had predicted.</p> <p><b>1843</b>—Millerites are disappointed: the world fails to end as their religious leader had predicted.</p>
2:40      3:12	3:26      4:01	4:15      4:56	5:11      5:57	6:13      7:02	7:17      8:05	8:18      8:59
8:56      9:06	9:44      9:53	10:37      10:45	11:35      11:43	12:39	12:47      1:42	1:51      2:39
Sunday, March 22	Monday, March 23	Tuesday, March 24	Wednesday, March 25	Thursday, March 26	Friday, March 27	Saturday, March 28
<p><b>2006</b>—<i>MV Queen of the North</i>, a 410-foot Canadian ferry, four miles off course, hits an island at 17 knots and sinks with a loss of two lives. Union reps maintain the crew were not having sex at the time.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—A U.S. maintenance unit convoy gets lost in Iraq; seven are KIA, five captured, including Pvt. Jessica Ryan.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—A barge filled with 3,168 tons of NYC garbage begins a futile 162-day, 6,000 mile odyssey; it finally returns to the Big Apple for incineration.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—In Florida's electric chair, David Funchess, a black former Marine with a Purple Heart and PTSD, becomes the first Vietnam veteran executed in the U.S.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—A technician looking for air leaks with a lighted candle starts a fire causing \$100 million in damages at the Brown's Ferry nuclear power plant in Alabama.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—National Commission on Marijuana recommends that marijuana be legalized.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—An Undersecretary of Defense warns his boss bombing North Vietnam is useless.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—U.S. Admiral A. Radford announces that the French are going to win in Indo-China.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Truman orders FBI loyalty checks on gov't workers.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—FDR signs a bill legalizing beer &amp; wine.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Adwaita, a giant tortoise alleged to be 250 years old, dies at the Calcutta Zoo.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Before 18 other Congressmen of both parties, in the Dirksen Senate office building, Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) helps place a gold crown on the head of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—A convoy of the 507th Maintenance Co. gets lost, then ambushed near Nasiriyah; eleven soldiers are KIA, five are wounded, and six taken prisoner. Also today: U.S. missile downs a British fighter jet over Iraq.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Acting president Ronald Reagan, flashing back to his "Brass Bancroft" role in 1940's film <i>Murder in the Air</i>, proposes a space-based anti-missile system.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—The Tennessee legislature bans the teaching of evolution.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—Filipino rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo is captured by U.S. troops. The U.S. had earlier backed him in his fight against Spanish colonial powers.</p> <p><b>1842</b>—Congressman Joshua R. Giddings is censured by the House of Representatives. He had the audacity to introduce a resolution opposing slavery.</p> <p><b>1815</b>—Three months after the signing of the Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812, the American sloop <i>Hornet</i> seizes the British sloop <i>Penguin</i>.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—At a black-tie dinner, President Bush cracks up A-list broadcast journalists with gags about "his" failed search for WMDs. Less amused: families of dead GIs; death toll: 691.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Exxon demonstrates its commitment to the environment in Prince William Sound.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—The Baltimore Colts sneak out of town in the wee hours of the morning.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Alex Mitchell, a British bricklayer, dies of laughter while watching BBC's "The Goodies."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports, thanks to stolen FBI documents, that letter carriers, a Swarthmore switchboard operator, and a local police chief have been spying on Philadelphia activists.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Operation Lam Son 719, the ARVN invasion of Laos, ends. Huge U.S., VC, and ARVN casualties, but no winners.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—Robert Allison becomes the first American to buy an American-built automobile. It's a Winton.</p> <p><b>1834</b>—The Bank of Maryland collapses, the victim of "stupendous fraud;" depositors lose between \$2 and \$3 million.</p> <p><b>1832</b>—Mormon prophet Joseph Smith is beaten, tarred, and feathered in Ohio.</p> <p><b>1788</b>—Rhode Island rejects the proposed Constitution, thanks to boycotting Federalists.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—George W. Bush signs an Executive Order giving Dick Cheney unprecedented power to classify—or declassify—information.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The top four generals at the Air Force Academy sacked after a massive rape scandal.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Florida's "Old Sparky" does it again, setting Pedro Medina's head on fire as it kills him.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Three dairy coops get \$600 million in milk price supports for a \$427,000 "contribution" towards Nixon's reelection.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Fifteen WWII and Korean War veterans burn their discharge papers in NYC to protest the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Montgomery, AL, 25,000 civil rights marchers complete a march from Selma.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The U.S. Customs Service seizes Allen Ginsburg's "obscene" "Howl."</p> <p><b>1931</b>—In Alabama, the Scottsboro Boys are arrested.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Ishi, the last living native Californian, dies.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire kills 146 sweatshop workers. Fire doors were locked to enhance productivity.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—"Coxey's Army" sets out for Washington, DC.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—Quintessential Yankee poet Robert Frost is born—in California.</p>	<p><b>1993</b>—Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev returns to Earth after 300 days in orbit, during which time the country that sent him aloft dissolved.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Once and future U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visits Baghdad where he schmoozes with Iraq's Foreign Minister and gives him Ronald Reagan's best wishes.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Ground is broken in Washington, DC for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—RIP John Kennedy Toole.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—A dozen "Wise Men" visit LBJ and tell him it's time to get out of Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Gen. Westmoreland asks for 40,000 more men in Nam.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Carried back up onto the scaffold after the rope breaks, James Johnson tells his executioners in Poplar Bluff, MO, "Hurry up, boys, and get me out of my misery."</p> <p><b>1918</b>—A "Slacker Raid" in Minneapolis rounds up men without draft cards.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Congress bars, among others, paupers and anarchists from immigrating.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—The poet Walt Whitman utters his last words, "Hold me up, I want to s__."</p> <p><b>1827</b>—Ludwig von Beethoven begins decomposing.</p> <p><b>1804</b>—Federal government informs Indians that they must all move west of the Mississippi.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Iraq "can really finance its own reconstruction and relatively soon," U.S. Undersecretary for Defense Paul Wolfowitz tells Congress. "There's a lot of money to pay for this that doesn't have to be U.S. taxpayer money."</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Congress slashes welfare; approves \$100 million for drug gang "The Contras."</p> <p><b>1980</b>—A Norwegian oil platform collapses in the North Sea, killing 123.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—Two Boeing 747's collide on the ground in the Canary Islands, killing 580.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The "Good Friday" earthquake and tsunami destroy a large part of Anchorage, Alaska.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—The U.S. State Department cleanses its overseas libraries of the works of WWI vet Dashiell Hammett.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Sam Phillips establishes Sun Records in Memphis, TN.</p> <p><b>1814</b>—Gen. Andy Jackson leads a massacre at Tohopeka, AL. According to the final tally, accomplished by counting severed noses, the victors killed 557.</p> <p><b>1800</b>—Federalist Senators find Philadelphia <i>Aurora</i> editor William Duane in contempt for publishing the truth about them.</p> <p><b>1513</b>—Searching for the Fountain of Youth, Ponce de Leon sights Florida—now the land of geriatrics.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Two U.S. "Warthog" aircraft mistakenly strafe British tanks in Iraq, killing one soldier.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—"The enemy we're fighting [in Iraq]," General William S. Wallace admits to the <i>Washington Post</i>, "is different from the one we'd war-gamed against."</p> <p><b>1979</b>—A stuck valve causes a nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania to melt.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Radio Caroline, the first pirate radio station, goes on the air.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Rep. Emmanuel Celler of NY introduces anti-payola bills, and blames payola for the popularity of cacophonous rock 'n roll among teenagers.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—The Spanish Civil War ends as Franco takes Madrid.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—On Palm Sunday, 38 tornadoes in 8 states kill 380 people.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Bonnot, the anarchist bandit whose gang was said to be the first to use a getaway car, is caught and killed by police.</p> <p><b>1884</b>—In Cincinnati, townspeople unsatisfied with lenient treatment of a confessed murderer torch the courthouse. As the State Militia restores order, 42 die and 128 are injured.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—In Paris, the Commune takes over.</p> <p><b>193</b>—Didius Julianus becomes Emperor of Rome by outbidding his fellow Praetorians in an auction.</p>
9:11      9:45	9:58      10:25	10:39      11:01	11:17      11:36	11:55	12:10      12:33	12:46      1:13
2:48      3:28	3:37      4:09	4:21      4:47	5:01      5:22	5:40      5:57	6:19      6:33	7:00      7:12

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