

The Fortnightly Rant

Tortuous Proceedings

Early this week most of the the nation's larger and more profitable news media were devoting a great deal of attention to one particular controversy, one which saw high-ranking members of both political parties expressing themselves in unusually harsh language.

Col. Lawrence B. Wilkerson served as Secretary of State Colin Powell's Chief of Staff during George W. Bush's first term. On Wednesday, May 13, he published a post on Steve Clemons's website, thewashingtonnote.com, which included this passage:

"As the administration authorized harsh interrogation in April and May of 2002 — well before the Justice Department had rendered any legal opinion — its principal priority for intelligence was not aimed at pre-empting another terrorist attack on the U.S. but discovering a smoking gun linking Iraq and al Qaeda."

This passage, along with a host of other well-known facts, leads almost inescapably to the conclusion that Vice President Dick "Still Dick" Cheney* and his flock of pet chickenhawks tortured several hundred people, killing at least fifty of them in the process, to "prove" things that weren't true, and strengthen the false argument that America must either invade Iraq, or put its own survival at risk. The success

* Throughout this Rant we will use the typographical "dagger" symbol — † — to denote those named persons who fit the definition of a "chickenhawk." We do this to save space and avoid annoying repetition. A chickenhawk is a person who supports war so long as it is fought by others, but who avoids any such hazardous service himself. We're inspired to indulge in this typographical experiment because we are in the process of rebuilding our long-lost and much lamented Chickenhawk Database, and because so many supporters of torture are known chickenhawks.

of Cheney's scheme led to the deaths of more than four thousand Americans and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, reduced the nation's international reputation to ruins, and hastened us along the road to bankruptcy.

But the awful implications of Wilkerson's charge were not what the howling in Washington was about.

No, the origin of all the outrage was Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) charge that during a classified briefing about interrogation techniques, conducted in September of 2002, which she had attended in her capacity as the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, CIA officials had misled her.

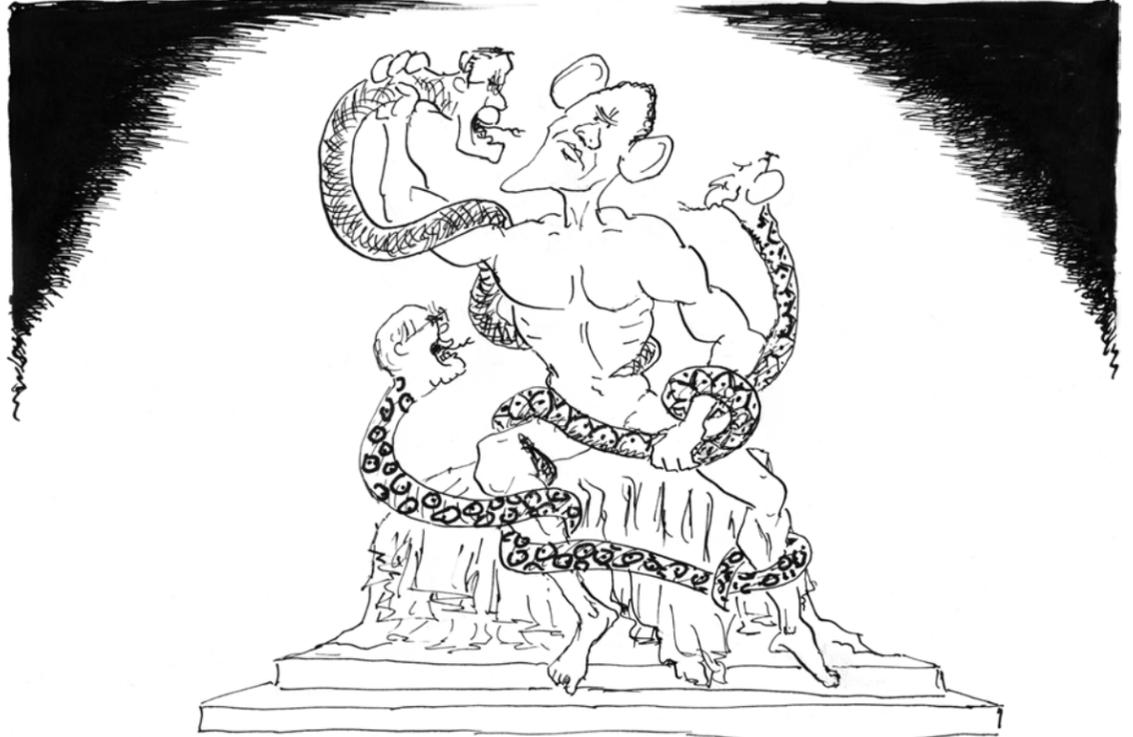
Pelosi's remark instantly sent the needles of Republican Outrage-O-Meters deep into the red.

"[I]f the speaker is accusing the CIA and other intelligence officials of lying or misleading the Congress," said a comparatively calm House Minority Leader John Boehner,† (R-OH) "then she should come forward with evidence and turn that over to the Justice Department so they can be prosecuted."

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich,‡ unconstrained by any Congressional duties since his ignominious resignation in 1998, unleashed a decade's worth of frustration at the woman who now holds the position he held with relish for four years.

"I think she has lied to the House," he said in an ABC radio interview, quoted on the ABC blog "The Note."

"I think that the House has an absolute obligation to open an inquiry, and I hope there will be a



LAOCOÖN, 2009

resolution to investigate her. And I think this is a big deal. I don't think the Speaker of the House can lie to the country on national security matters.

"I think this is the most despicable, dishonest and vicious political effort I've seen in my lifetime.

"She is a trivial politician, viciously using partisanship for the narrowest of purposes, and she dishonors the Congress by her behavior."

This from a man* who once claimed that Bill Clinton's priapic nature was such a threat to our national security that he had to be impeached.

Fox News's Sean Hannity,† interviewing not just one but *two*

* *The Atlantic's* Marc Ambinder reported last October that Gingrich is a potential Presidential candidate in 2012. "He wants it, clearly, and is already planting some seeds in Iowa and New Hampshire." Ambinder's speculation prompted a commenter to reply, "I would love to see the GOP run Gingrich. The sheer volume of slime that would be revealed from his past would pile up so fast you couldn't keep up with it all. Plus he has the personal charm of a pile of rocks."

Republicans in the interest of fairness and balance, asked a pair of leading questions, "are [Pelosi's statements] emboldening our enemies? Are [they] weakening our national security?"

Sen. Kit Bond† (R-MO) told Hannity, "it seems like the liberal Democrats for a while, they were trying to stab the CIA in the back. Now they're calling them liars to their face, and — well, I was not in on the briefing, but I have reviewed the notes that the CIA took contemporaneously ... what they plan to say, what they did say. And it's clear that they briefed her extensively on what had been done and what they were doing and included in those enhanced techniques was waterboarding."

Rep. Pete Hoekstra† (R-MI) said he was concerned about "what we're doing to the morale within the CIA and the intelligence community. We are damaging the morale. We are hurting our national security by this debate going on."

This being the age of the Internet, it was only a matter of time — four days — before enterprising citizens turned up a CNN story, datelined Nov. 20, 2008, headlined "Republican Rep. Hoekstra accuses CIA of cover-up."

It seems that CIA operatives and their Peruvian counterparts accidentally shot down a missionary's plane in 2001, killing a woman and her 7-month old baby. According to a declassified CIA investigation, within hours of the incident, "CIA officers began to characterize the shoot-down as a one-time mistake in an otherwise well-run program. In fact, this was not the case." Hoekstra called for hearings.

Finally, at least for our purposes, no less an authority than Pat Boone,‡ in an open letter to President Obama, has said "my own mama inflicted more actual physical pain on me ... than any of the techniques, including 'waterboarding,' that detainees of the U.S. military have endured."

News Briefs:

Gregg on a Skewer

The annual orgy of privilege and mutual dependency known as the White House Correspondents Dinner was held on May 9. Though this year's event lacked the transcendent surrealism of George W. Bush's make-believe search for Saddam Hussein's missing WMDs, or the lacerating accuracy of comedian Stephen Colbert's portrayal of Bush as a clueless buffoon in a job far too big for his hat size, it did offer one little gem for Granite Staters: President Barack Obama's mockery of our own senior Senator, Judd Gregg.

"You know," Obama said, "it's been a whirlwind of activity these first hundred days. We've enacted a major economic recov-

ery package, we passed a budget, we forged a new path in Iraq, and no President in history has ever named three Commerce Secretaries this quickly. Which reminds me, if Judd Gregg is here, your business cards are ready now."

How to be Useful: The Gregg Method

Speaking of the man who seems to be trapped in a 24/7 impersonation of the Old Man of the Mountain but without the charm, Brian Beutler, who posts at talkingpointsmemo.com, went fishing in *Congressional Quarterly* recently and reeled in a stunning bit of honesty from the Senator.

Normally the Senate has 100 members. A party with 41 mem-

bers can jam the gears of progress with a filibuster. But right now, Minnesota has only one Senator, Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat. The other seat is blocked by former Senator Norm Coleman, a Republican. Coleman lost the election and lost a recount. His chances of being certified the winner are somewhere between slim and none. But by playing the spoiler, he changes the Senatorial math: now it only takes 40 members to jam the gears. For some people, though, jamming the gears is the point.

"Usually you need 41 votes to get anything done around here," Senator Gregg told *CQ*. "But right now, you can do a lot with 40 votes."

D.C./NH Culture Clash

After CBS News's Bob Schieffer got through interviewing Dick "Still Dick" Cheney on May 10, he slid in a last word about the impending retirement of New Hampshire's own Associate Justice David Souter. Calling him "maybe the quietest and most lowkey man ever to serve on the Supreme Court," Schieffer allowed as how Souter was "by all accounts ... a good justice, thoughtful [and] reasonable."

Despite his "lowkey" way, though, Souter seems to have rankled the normally affable Schieffer. "[A]s one who has lived 40 years in Washington," he said, "I'll be honest — I didn't care for his attitude. He made it

no secret that he hated the city, once describing his work as the best job in the world in the worst city in the world."

"I take it he won't miss Washington, but my guess is Washington will hardly miss him."

Perhaps Schieffer would have preferred the company of a second Antonin Scalia.

Steele-y Language

Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele had a comment on Souter's replacement when he filled in as host on Bill Bennett's talk radio program on May 8. The title of Bennett's show, by the way, is a

News Briefs

from page one

marvel of self-regard and hagiography: "Bill Bennett's Morning in America." Perhaps its motto should be, "The Gipper is Dead, Long Live the Gambler." There was no word on why Bennett needed a substitute — perhaps he had a hot streak going at the Sands.

We're really going to miss Chairman Steele after the GOP throws him out on his ear. Sometimes he sounds like a Republican Robin Williams. Here he is commenting on President Obama's pledge to appoint an "empathetic" replacement for New Hampshire's own Associate Justice David Souter: "I'll give you empathy. Empathize right on your behind."

Back to Bill Bennett for a moment, touchy-feely third-grade teachers take note: his bio on the show's website is the very model of modern self-affirmation. It

says Bennett is "one of America's most important, influential and respected voices on cultural, political, and education issues," who "[d]uring the 1980s ... emerged as one of the nation's most prominent political figures."

"Thanks to his writings and speeches," it says, he "has extraordinary influence on America's political and social landscape." That last part is certainly true. But America is a strong and resilient nation; we may yet recover.

"Empa-wha?"

Next to Presidential elections and impeachments, nominations to the Supreme Court are the closest thing politics have to a Super Bowl. One of the top referees of the hearings on Souter's replacement will be Sen. Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III (R-AL), the ranking member (the top Republican) on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sessions is no stranger to the Committee. In 1986, when he was a U.S. Attorney in Mobile



nominated for a federal judgeship, the committee rejected him. His characterizations of the NAACP and the ACLU as "un-American" may have counted against him. He claims his oft-quoted remark that he "used to think the Ku Klux Klan was OK until he learned some members were pot smokers" has been misrepresented.

The *National Journal* recently asked Sessions if he understood President Obama's recent statement that he would "view that quality of empathy, of understanding and identifying with people's hopes and struggles, as an essential ingredient for arriving at just decisions and outcomes."

"I don't know what he means," Sessions told *National Journal*. "And it's dangerous, because I don't know what empathy means.* So I'm one judge and I have empathy for you and not this party, and so I'm going to

* For the record, Senator, the *American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language*, Fourth Edition, says "empathy" means "identification with and understanding of another's situation, feelings, and motives."

rule for the one I have empathy with? So what if the guy doesn't like your haircut, or for some reason doesn't like you, is he now free to rule one way or the other based on likes, predilections, politics, personal values?"

Judging from Sessions' record and that reply, Obama's Supreme Court nominee faces one hard-fought game.

Coming Up: RNCC vs. CS-P

Jeff Sessions is not to be confused with Pete Sessions (R-TX), from whom voters in New Hampshire's First Congressional District will be hearing next year.

Pete Sessions, you see, is the guy in charge of the National Republican Campaign Committee (NRCC). Since the NRCC's *raison d'être* is to increase the number of Republicans in the House of Representatives, that means they'll be going after Carol Shea-Porter, the two-term incumbent Democrat.

If past performance is anything to go by, perhaps we'll get another round of annoying hang-up robo-calls disguised to make the

recipient think they're coming from the Democrats. In the 2008 campaign cycle, the NRCC spent over \$2 million on such calls.

If they plan to pull a repeat, though, Sessions may have to go looking for quarters under the NRCC's sofa cushions. Not only have contributions dried up, the Department of Justice says their former Treasurer, Chris Ward, made over \$500,000 in "unauthorized withdrawals" from their account to make his mortgage payments and renovate his home.

First District voters would do well to prepare themselves for just about any eventuality — Mr. Sessions is a man with a vivid imagination, and there's no telling what he might dream up. The *New York Times* reported on May 10 that he "cited rising unemployment in asserting that the administration intended to 'diminish employment and diminish stock prices' as part of a 'divide and conquer' strategy to consolidate power."

Yup, destroying the economy is a time-tested way to increase your



Local author Dan Brown rented the Music Hall last Saturday to host an intimate little private gathering for 600 of his closest friends and family. Scores of potted trees turned Chestnut Street into a Druidic grove, watched over by a demonic hell-hound. Brown's new film, *Angels & Demons*, was screened as part of the entertainment. According to media reports, the film includes scenes of Cardinals of the Catholic Church being tortured and murdered. But despite these provocations, there were no angry demonstrations by local clergy, nor were any vengeful thunderbolts hurled from above. Could this be a sign that we're entering a new era of forbearance?

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 Restringing

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

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.

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

2000 KIA ExSportage
 good condition, best offer
 (603) 531-0773
 in Portsmouth

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

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

grip on power. Hey, it worked for Herbert Hoover, didn't it?

Post, Toasted

The *Washington Post's* Chris Cillizza posted this condescending analysis of Shea-Porter's 2010 chances on his blog, *The Fix*:

She was "an accidental winner in 2006," but "to her credit, she (eventually) realized her vulnerability in 2008 and brought in a professional team of political advisers," but "won with less than 52 percent in another very good Democratic year."

"Republicans quickly convinced Manchester Mayor Frank Guinta to jump into the 2010 race, and while Guinta has yet to prove himself as a federal candidate, Republicans are very optimistic."

"Shea-Porter won't be able to rely on a presidential year turnout and must show that the strides she made toward professionalism in 2008 will continue in this race."

This fanciful account will make it a lot harder to take Cillizza seriously the next time he ap-

pears on "Hardball." What really happened is, Carol Shea-Porter came out of nowhere, with no resources except a dedicated, hard-working team, and together they inspired voters by the thousands with a message that made sense — she'd work for the "bottom 95 percent" — and kicked a whole lotta Republican butt. Cillizza just couldn't believe that because he's probably never seen it before. Who has?

Bet she does it again, too.

Mitt Romney, New New Hampshire?

The Granite State may soon pick up yet another taxpayer from the People's Republic of Massachusetts. *National Journal* reported May 6 that Mitt Romney, having sold off his superfluous homes in Belmont, Mass, and Utah, may be planning to declare his lakefront mansion in Wolfeboro his official residence — unless he decides on declaring his San Diego home instead. Romney is reported to have already registered his muscularly-named Free & Strong America PAC



The shattered remains of the building it demolished having been hauled away, an excavating machine rests on the tidied-up site that once was home to the Pier II restaurant, and to Jimmy Canty's Fisherman's Pier before that. The developers of the property, having triumphed in a decade-long struggle with public opinion, local boards, and the state's Department of Environmental Services, will now proceed to build luxury condos, aka "affordable housing for millionaires," on the site. The public's access to, and view of the river, will soon be history. We once asked the late Joe Frost what he thought should be done with the site. "Strawberries" was all he said.

in the Granite State. The *Union Leader* quoted Tom Rath, "a senior advisor to Romney," saying the real estate transactions had "nothing to do with 2012." Yeah, right.

Saving Our Bridges

With a high-visibility rally and the listing of Memorial Bridge as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Places accomplished, local supporters of the rehabilitation of the two lift bridges between Kittery and Portsmouth are now turning their attention to the methodical work necessary to finish that complex job.

An unofficial source tell us that the traffic survey for the Maine-NH Connections Study has begun.

A team of bridge supporters is scheduled to go to Augusta next Friday, May 29, to meet with top state officials.

A bill before the Maine legislature which would have forced any and all federal stimulus money to be spent on an extension of I-95 in Aroostook County has been

News Briefs

to page four



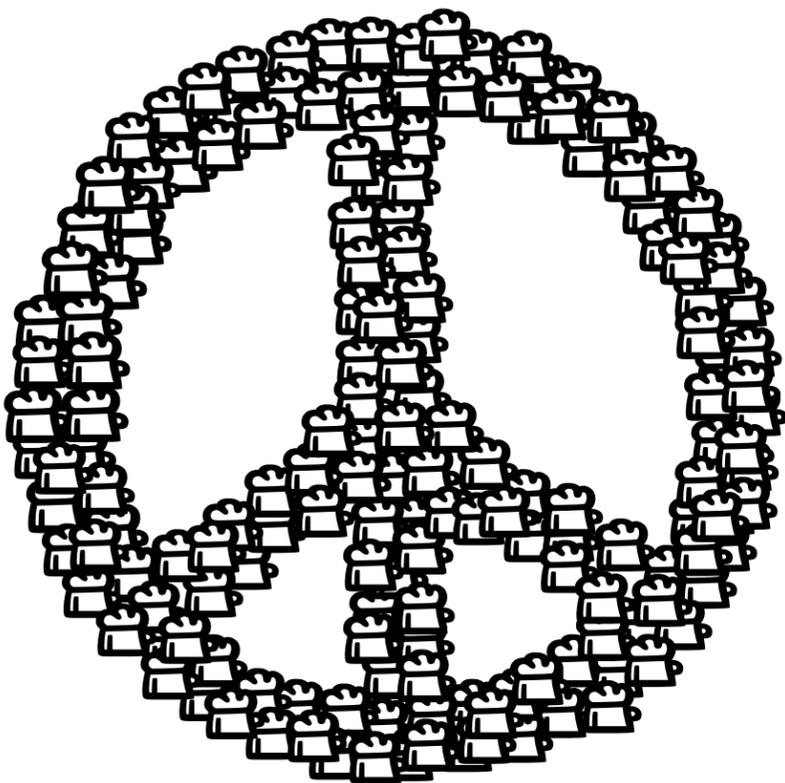
Chief: R&R helpful. Discharged from McLean's. Back on the job. Finally some good news: the offender on Cass Street has mended his errant ways! National standard currently displayed meets all relevant flag etiquette criteria! I love my job. — Officer Krupke.

Krupke: Good — your laurel-resting time is all used-up. As the piece of evidence above demonstrates, there's always another offender around the corner. In this case, parked on Daniel Street opposite Moe's. Maintain vigilance. — Chief.

30
New Hampshire
Where to go for a moose encounter, an ice cream gorge fest, a bounty of arts and crafts, or an afternoon with Matisse and Picasso.
BY MARTY BASCH

34
Vermont
Snorkeling in a pristine lake, the freshest pizza, a museum that reaches for the stars, and a throwback family resort.
BY MICHAEL BLANDING AND ALEXANDRA HALL

The Boston Globe, a subsidiary of the New York Times and the newspaper of record for New England due to its economic dominance, informs us plebians of what we ought to be doing in our theoretical leisure time, but gets slightly confused as to which state is which along the Connecticut River.



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



Northcountry Chronicle

The Sounds of Silence

by William Marvel

At the deliberative portion of our town meeting a member of our budget committee remarked, by way of illustration, that he didn't think there was anyone in the audience without a cell phone. A gadgetmonger like him (or perhaps the word is "techie") might be excused for making that particular generalization, but it was not the only mistaken assumption he uttered during that evening. I've never owned a cell phone, and I hope that I'll never have to.

That hope may not be thoroughly justified, however, for the presumption of universal cell-phone ownership has led to the widespread disappearance of public telephones, especially in environments where a profound sense of entitlement prevails. University campuses, for instance, now host what may be the most entitled generation ever spawned, and that is where pay phones first started van-

ishing, two or three years ago. Blue-lighted emergency phones glow in profusion around college greens, illuminating either the peril of the environment or the paranoia of the inhabitants, but don't try to phone home. When the University of Vermont razed its old bookstore recently the last public phone went with it, and in Ann Arbor the University of Michigan has had no pay phones for quite some time. Most campuses provide only one or two fragile antiques, if any.

The state of Connecticut (speaking of entitled populations) has now eliminated all public telephones at its rest areas and park-and-rides. My favorite public phones in Washington, right in front of the Smithsonian Institution, had been ripped from their cast-iron stanchion when I sought them out last month. There are still several pay phones in the New Hampshire State House, but when I tried to use two of them last March they both took my money with-

out providing the desired service — perhaps reflecting the new, Massachusetts-style philosophy of our state government.

Still, it's nice not to own a device that puts me at the beck and call of anyone who knows my number. It also offers great comfort that I will never be embarrassed by interrupting a meeting, or a performance, or the reflective atmosphere of a library, with the intrusion of a telephone call. Barely a decade ago a play at Ford's Theater, in Washington, was disturbed by the ring of a cell phone, and the rude cow who owned it actually answered the call and yammered away until hooted out of the theater by the audience; she talked all the way up the aisle and out the door. Self-absorbed oblivion may not be the most prominent trait among cell-phone addicts, but it is their most obvious characteristic as they impose their private conversations on fellow

travelers, restaurant patrons, and co-workers.

While riding the Washington Metro recently I was subjected to the interminable repetition of some hip-hop selection as an adolescent baby-momma received dozens of calls from either one obsessive admirer or an endless array of acquaintances. At each ring she would let her beloved musical passage play all the way out before flipping her phone open and then slamming it shut, only to have it go off again a second or two



later. Perhaps she was merely trying to get around the Metro policy against playing music without headphones.

The intrusion works both ways, too. With the exception of one person, it seems a little too intimate to give someone else the power to make my pocket tingle, or jingle, or bellow the French-horn phrase from the 1812 Overture (which would be the

ringtone of my choice). I have a telephone in my house, using the same number that my father was assigned when it was installed in 1955, and I keep it for my convenience alone. If I don't want to be disturbed — and I usually don't — I will either let the answering machine handle it or just take it off the hook.

What so many view as a necessity, or at least as a highly desirable convenience, usually turns out to be a burden, or a distinct disadvantage. Nothing in my generation illustrates that more than television, which has deteriorated into an addictive mechanism for dulling the mind and controlling thought. A similarly unpleasant destiny awaits the Internet, and those who make the most use of it. I long ago ceased to upgrade my computer software, primarily to curb the impulse for wasting time online. If I need something specific I can always go to the library. Why pollute my existence with electronic substitutes for real life?

More News Briefs

from page three

tabled thanks to some alert legislators.

Black Sheep Design Co., on Daniel Street, with help from Harbour Light, has created some eye-catching T-shirts. Ours has an image of Memorial Bridge, with the message, "I Need Some Stimulus." They can be purchased at the Portsmouth Discovery Center, in the former Public Library building.

While at the Discovery Center, make a contribution to the Portsmouth Historical Society (PHS). Its Vice President, Richard Candee, has been in the lead on this issue from the beginning, and PHS has already incurred some expenses on this account. They have agreed to act as fiscal agent in this effort, which makes contributions tax deductible. Checks should be made out to "Portsmouth Historical Society," with "Memorial Bridge" written on the memo line.

Seacoast Local had Save Our Bridges petitions available at their booth at the Portsmouth Sustainability Fair on Saturday May 9, and collected another 100 signatures. Roughly one-third of the folks who stopped by the booth were unaware of the urgency of the bridge issue, or the history of postponement of major repairs.

Last but not least, the guidelines for "Grants for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery," aka "TI-

GER Discretionary Grants" — what everyone has been calling "stimulus money" up to now — were issued Monday. The deadline for applications is September 15. People have just begun digesting the 47 pages of federal jargon, but the early word is that the guidelines are a good match with our project

Finally, we understand that any day now, a spiffy new website with the URL SeacoastBridges.com will go online, thanks to Ned Savoie at Harbour Light. In

the meantime, see PortsmouthBridges.com for more information.

Memorial Day, 2009

The annual dialogue between the New Hampshire Chapter of Veterans for Peace (VfP), Iraq Veterans Against the War, and the Manchester Veterans Council is under way. Last year on Veterans Day Will Hopkins, a member of VfP who served in Iraq, was permitted to speak at Veterans Park in Manchester.

The Veterans Council invited

Here's Some Good News:

Brewer & Patriot
SAMUEL ADAMS
Take pride in your beer.
BOSTON LAGER

Poco's
DECK
- OPENS -
APRIL 8

Poco's Bow Street Cantina
37 Bow Street, Portsmouth
(603) 431-5967

Prelude

Great Jewelry
Imported Soaps
& Bath Comforts

65 Market Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 431-0694

Featuring
Skagen Watches &
Dr. Hauschka Skin Care

Portsmouth Candle Co.

"It smells good in here."

Unique gifts
Electric lighting

62 Congress St.
Portsmouth, NH
603-430-0353

CAFFÉ KILIM

Fresh Roasted Coffees • Espresso Bar
Rug Gallery & Unique Gifts

163 Islington St ~ 436-7330

Gracie's Diner

165 Deer Street
(next to Gary's)

(603) 436-9600 • Closed Tuesday
"We got booze."

When "the Army we had" was sent to war, they got plenty of lip service about "support." Well, some of them are back now. And a few of them could use a hand.

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. VASC can accept these items, and distribute them to veterans who need them.

Call or e-mail Tracey Noonan, VASH Program Manager, at (603) 657-5612 or tracey.noonan@va.gov

This ad published as a public service by The New Hampshire Gazette.

RiverRun BOOKSTORE

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

Moving Pictures

Angels & Demons

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor, Ayelet Zurer; **Screenplay:** David Koepp, Akiva Goldsman, based on the book by Dan Brown; **Director:** Ron Howard; **Rating:** PG-13

The Seacoast area has more writers than you can shake a bad check at — they seem to be under every moldy rock and manuscript — but the only homegrown, still-living-among-us talent to conquer the international bestseller lists for years at a time is novelist Dan Brown, of *The Da Vinci Code* fame. Eighty million copies in print and still finding new readers. Those who haven't tried their hand at composing a thriller may think it's merely a matter of filling pages with an intrepid hero, a gorgeous sidekick, and lots of exotic locales. Think again. Of all the genres, thrillers are probably the toughest to carry off, and successful thrillers about intriguing puzzles — Mr. Brown's specialty — are at least as rare as genuine literary classics. His stories may not meet the compositional requirements of the Iowa Writ-

ers Workshop, but with puzzle thrillers it's less about perfecting a prose style than finding a way to shift the narrative into overdrive while somehow not losing focus on the ideas that unfold, generating the plot.

Try juggling grenades while peddling a unicycle on a high wire, without a net. And, oh by the way, don't forget to make it interesting not only to habitual readers, but to those who only pick up one or two books a year. Then challenge them with complexity while still making it fun to follow the story and care about what's going to happen next.

Thrillers about ideas and puzzles that also work on the big screen are the rarest creatures of all. Think *Name of The Rose* and *The Da Vinci Code*. Now you can stop thinking. Okay, this reviewer was of the opinion that *The Da Vinci Code*, with its many characters and locales, would have worked better as a high budget HBO miniseries, over, say, ten episodes. But the rest of the universe disagreed, to the tune of seven hundred million bucks, effectively taking the mini-series option off the table for the next Robert Langdon tale. So Tom

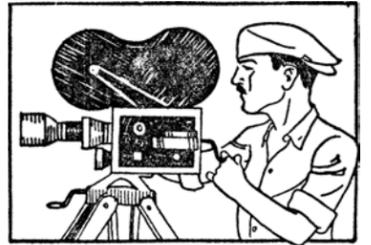
Hanks is back, once again being directed by Ron Howard.

The cognoscenti know that *Angels & Demons* actually came first, introducing Professor Langdon, with his expertise in symbols and their various meanings, but Mr. Howard and his screenwriters (Akiva Goldsman again, with assistance from David Koepp) don't bother getting into the what-came-first thing, and rather cleverly let it play like a sequel without precisely saying so. Langdon is summoned to Rome because a group of conspirators have stolen a vial of antimatter that they've hidden somewhere in the Vatican, threatening to blow it up at midnight. The same villains have kidnapped four cardinals who are candidates to be the next pope, and have vowed to kill them off, one by one, precisely on the hour. With the clock ticking, Langdon, assisted by brainy beauty Vittoria Vetra (Ayelet Zurer) has to burrow deep into the Vatican archives for a clue left by Galileo about his association with the Illuminati, who in this particular story are men of science opposed to the ancient strictures of the Church.

(Okay, okay, the real Illuminati

were a secret society of freethinkers founded in 1776, long after Galileo. Which means that Dan Brown's tale is — gasp — fiction. He made it up, along with a lot of really cool stuff about trapping antimatter in magnetic vials. Don't worry about it. Enjoy. And by the way, no such person as Oliver Twist ever existed. Sorry.)

Langdon is warily allowed into the Vatican by the commander of the Swiss Guard (Stellan Skarsgard), who has little use for pointed-headed professor types, or writers of popular fiction, apparently. (A word or three about Mr. Skarsgard. He's a very fine actor with a very fine opinion of himself, who has made it known that he deigned to take this role despite his low opinion of the author. Apparently as he deigned to appear in such theatrical masterpieces as *Pirates of The Caribbean* and *Exorcist: The Beginning*). Langdon's only willing ally inside the Vatican is the late pope's personal assistant, a young Irish cleric deftly played by Ewan McGregor. It soon becomes apparent that the Illuminati have infiltrated the church, and that if Langdon doesn't solve the mystery, thousands will die in a flash



of light.

Unlike *The Da Vinci Code*, which roved all over Europe, *Angels & Demons* is nicely contained in Rome, and the puzzle of finding the secret Illuminati symbols makes for stunning visuals of the great Roman cathedrals. The Conclave of Cardinals has convened in the Sistine Chapel, and huge crowds throng St. Peter's Square, waiting for the tell-tale puff of white smoke that means a new pope has been selected. Whatever your particular religious belief, these are powerful, evocative images — symbols, if you will — and Ron Howard (who made *Apollo 13*, *A Beautiful Mind*, and *Cinderella Man*) knows how to use them as a constantly intriguing backdrop for a thriller.

As for Hanks, at 53 years of age he still has the chops for big budget extravaganzas. Expect him back at some point as Robert Langdon for *The Lost Symbol*, the novel version of which will be published in September.

VFP to march in the Memorial Day Parade on May 25th. (It kicks off at 2 p.m., on North Elm Street.) VFP expects between 12 and 15 members to participate. One of their banners says "NH Veterans for Peace Honor Our Fallen."

VFP asked if Dr. Leo Sandy, a Professor of Counselor Education and School Psychology at Plymouth State, could speak at the observances following the parade.

Bill Whitmore, the Adjutant of the Manchester Veterans Coun-

cil, replied, "We currently have a full compliment of speakers for that day and will not be adding anyone else to the program. Thank you for your interest."

"It's interesting," Dr. Sandy wrote to other VFP members, "that the parade organizers won't give us a voice and yet these are the same people who complain that college professors aren't providing balance in the classroom."

Von Hammerstein-Equord's Rules for Staff Appointments

While we're on the topic of matters military ...

It's not often we're tempted to quote any general officer, much less one who served in the Wehrmacht. But we ran across this passage recently and can't resist passing it along:

"I divide my officers into four classes; the clever, the lazy, the industrious, and the stupid. Most often two of these qualities come together. The officers who are clever and industrious are fitted for the highest staff appointments. Those who are stupid and lazy make up around 90 percent of every army in the

world, and they can be used for routine work. *The man who is clever and lazy however is for the very highest command*; he has the temperament and nerves to deal with all situations. *But whoever is stupid and industrious is a menace and must be removed immediately!*" [Emphasis added.]

The officer in question was Generaloberst Kurt von Hammerstein-Equord (1878 - 1943), who, according to Wikipedia, was relieved of his command by Hitler himself for his "negative attitude towards Nazism." Two

of his sons participated in the failed attempt to assassinate *Der Führer*.

Lest We Forget

We always put off pleading our own case until last ...

Yes! In case you were wondering, the answer is yes — we can use more Supporting Subscribers. Thanks for asking!

In fact, we're probably in semi-desperate need for more Supporting Subscribers. We just don't focus as we should. So don't take a chance on us disappearing — sign up today!

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) _____



Our Congresswoman in Afghanistan

To the Editor:

I recently had the opportunity to talk to Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter at the Londonderry Democratic Committee's Spaghetti Dinner. Shea-Porter had just returned from a fact-finding mission to Afghanistan. This trip is the third Shea-Porter has made to a war zone in the past three years, two to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. During the visit, she met with General McKiernon, NATO troops, U.S. Embassy personnel and the Afghan Defense minister.

Our Congresswoman is greatly concerned about the current situation in Afghanistan, despite the United States' presence there for the past seven years. She said that the terrain is extremely challenging, and offers literally endless places to hide. There are few roads, and the main cash crop is the poppy, which is converted into heroin and opium. Corruption is rampant. Various officials indicated that it would take 12 to 15 years before Afghanistan could function on its own.

Shea-Porter said that greater participation by other NATO countries is the key to success in Afghanistan. The challenges are so enormous and the cost so great that the country cannot be re-built without more help from the Europeans, which, so far, they have been unwilling to provide. Congresswoman Shea-Porter

said that she will bend every effort to help gain greater cooperation from NATO countries.

I was pleased to have spoken with our Congresswoman and to have the opportunity to pass along her thoughts to you.

Lenore Patton
Hampton, NH

Dear Lenore:

Any idiot in a position of power can create a problem. Sometimes it takes geniuses and heroes to solve them. And sometimes they can't be solved. One thing we can count on: if and when we ever get out of Iraq and Afghanistan, there will be people complaining bitterly that it's not being done right. And most of them will be the same ones who were screaming for blood at the start.

The Editor

An Open Letter to the President

Dear President Obama:

We write to you again, this time to say we are saddened to see that you now clearly believe in the tired, inhumane and unworkable assumption that violence will somehow work; that might makes right. But that is not the only thing we need to tell you.

We are not just saddened. We are angry. We are outraged by these actions, this practice of "death from above" you are ordering, causing the killing and wounding of hundreds of innocent people, as exemplified by the recent horrific attacks in Afghanistan.

When will it be enough, Mr. President? What is the number of dead and injured at which you will say "this can't go on;" the number at which you will decide it's time to turn away from violence and find another way? This really is the question upon which everything else will turn — how many bodies are too many? You know it is impossible to kill our way to a resolution, if for no oth-

er reason than every death and injury creates even more people willing to fight and die to remove us from their land.

We've been through this before, Mr. President, and I don't mean that in a rhetorical way. We have indeed been through this all before — unlike most of the people in our country or in your administration. We have seen and heard and smelled and felt what "death from above" actually means, not in a briefing report but right there in our hands and before our eyes. We've seen the look in the eyes of the people we occupied. We felt their anger and their humiliation. We remember these things well, Mr. President, because they will not go away no matter how many years pass.

Veterans For Peace will continue to speak out against such crimes. We will do so along with the growing numbers of people who are telling you that by going down this road you are making a tragic mistake. We no longer face the old question of "guns or butter." Now the question is: will we completely destroy our economy with all that means, or will we step back from the brink and do what our humanity demands of us before the slide into moral and economic ruin is irreversible?

At some point, Mr. President, you will decide to turn away from violence, to end these occupations. As we wrote before, we stand ready to assist you in any effort to find another way. Until then you will find us in the streets.

Most Sincerely,
Mike Ferner
National President
Veterans For Peace

Dear Mike:
Once again, Veterans For Peace boldly takes the moral high ground. [Full disclosure: the editor is a member.] Frankly, we have no earthly idea how, living in the polluted infosphere we inhabit, with a full

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

one-quarter of the country resolutely determined to kill our way, one half not paying much attention, and a significant chunk of Congress doing everything in its power to thwart him, President Obama is going to do as you demand. But that is his problem, isn't it? And it's your task to keep the heat on him until he does the right thing.

Bravo.

The Editor

The King's Rangers (Cont.)

To the Editor:

Thank you for the bit of New Hampshire history. It's little things like this that bring the past to life. Right or wrong these were real people, something we tend too often to forget.

As for the gentleman [Daniel Fowle's nephew, Robert Luist Fowle] being a counterfeiter, it seems it was the thing to do in early New Hampshire. Robert Rogers of French war fame started his military career as one. When caught he was given the choice of jail or the army. As you know, he went on to be one of the heroes of [the French and Indian War, 1754 - 1763].

Sadly, the Revolutionary War was a different story. [Rogers] was commissioned to raise the King's Rangers. But over time he had money problems, was heavily into drink, and the French pox [may have] cost him his mind.

Keep up the good work with the *New Hampshire Gazette*. I not only read it when I find it in Exeter, but have two reproduction copies, 1778 or 1779, which although very anti-Loyalist make great reading.

A note on your story about Mr. Adams' gundalow — I was the last person to set foot on the last one he built, when he was in his nineties, just before it was burned out on Adams Point many years

ago.

Keep up the good work, I only wish more people had the chance to see your Tea Party story.

We will have a small section of Rangers up at Exeter to help [The American Independence Museum] celebrate the Fourth of July, which they do on the 18th of July being the day the Declaration got to them. Of course the real date should be July 2, that being the day the resolution was past.

Well, I've once again taken way too much of your time therefore I remain Yr. servt.

Neil Sorenson
King's Rangers
Neil:

Allow us to quote Bertrand Russell, another man who has been vilified in certain quarters: "The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time." Write to us any time. We may have to visit Exeter on the 18th to find out more about the King's Rangers.

The Editor

Chickenhawks and Torture

To the Editor:

It is well known that bullies are afraid of being beaten up. That's why they beat up on younger, smaller kids. Dick Cheney and Rush Limbaugh exhibit the same kind of braggadocio as they advocate torturing people under U.S. custody who are bound, gagged and hooded.

We've heard from experienced CIA agents that torture doesn't provide actionable intelligence; it only elicits what the torturer wants to hear. We've heard from political scientists that torture helps terrorists recruit new terrorists. We've heard from clergy and, listening to our own hearts, that torture blemishes our country's moral character, rendering us undistinguishable from the

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, Marcia Jebb, and Joyce Fitzpatrick • 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, Jon Wyckoff • Subscription Fulfillment: Sally Strazdins, Gail Drobynyk, Rose Eppard, Jane Hoffman, Joan Jacobs, Steph Holdridge
Postal Hauler: Sally Strazdins

SEACOAST GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Farmers' Markets

NOW OPEN
Saturdays, 8am—1 pm
Portsmouth, City Hall lot, Junkins Ave.

OPENING May 21
Thursdays, 2:15—6:00 pm
Exeter, Swasey Parkway

OPENING 1st WEEK OF JUNE
Mondays, 2:15—5:30 pm
Durham, Pettee Brook Lane, downtown loop
Tuesdays, 2:15—5:30 pm
Kingston, Main Street / Route 111
Tuesdays, 3:00—6:00 pm
Hampton, Sacred Heart School lot, Rt. 1
Wednesdays, 2:15—6:00 pm
Dover, 835 Central Ave., Herbal Path lot

www.seacoastgrowers.org

JACKSON'S HARDWARE

56 Route One Bypass
Kittery, Maine
207.439.1133

100 YEARS STRONG

An Original

MOE'S
Italian Sandwiches

Since 1959

www.MoesItalianSandwiches.com

VIEW POLAR BEARS IN CHURCHILL

WWW.ONLYTHEBESTTRAVEL.COM

In-depth psychotherapy

Informed by mindfulness practice

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

Water Monkey.com

Cool & Unusual Arrivals Daily

Choice New T-shirts and Hoodies

100's of Tapestries • Posters • Satori Movement

Bajas • Hats • Shades

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

bad guys.

Yet Cheney, Limbaugh, and their followers continue to advocate torture, claiming the security of the county depends on it. If torture worked, the terrorist Zarkawi wouldn't have been water-boarded 185 times. In fact, he gave information during normal interrogations before waterboarding, and then clammed up when the torture began.

Why do Cheney and Limbaugh continue calling for torture? Is it because they themselves are cowards, so afraid of torture they would start blabbing immediately, who figure that terrorists are equally afraid? Yet, we know that many of our sons and daughters under arms, and frankly, some terrorists as well, have the courage and conviction to resist the torturer's coercion. They'd rather die than betray their country to bullying sadists who reveal themselves as moral degenerates.

There's a reason Cheney and Limbaugh are called "Chicken-hawks."

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA

Dear Bruce:

You have, of course, nailed the problem. Or, part of the problem. Yes, Cheney and Limbaugh are cowards trying to assuage their fears while appearing strong and courageous. The larger question is how do such damaged people end up with so much influence? We're convinced it's the internal business structure of our corporate news media that allows them to get away with their masquerade. The big news channels can afford all kinds of fancy sets, flashy graphics, and big offices and salaries for the big-wigs — but they can't afford to tell the simple truth. Our whacked-out little experiment has demonstrated to us that the public can not only

handle the truth, they're desperately hungry for it. Now if only we could get organized enough to multiply our distribution by a factor of 100 or so ...

The Editor

Yes, Ma'am!

To the Editor:

It seems that most of your rag consists of news articles denouncing Republican shenanigans and heated letters bloviating about Republican outrages, to the point where it makes me wonder if the alleged editor is the secret identity of Keith Olbermann. (Faster than a speeding rumor! Able to leap tall tales at a single bound!) I have only one more thing to say to you, SIR! Please renew my subscription. Regards,

Cynthia Yabut
Albuquerque, NM

Dear Cynthia:

No, no Olbermann in disguise here. Just a cranky old ex-PFC who forgot to forget about it. Which reminds us of a line from the bad old days, typically heard when a new recruit would mistakenly address a lifer non-commissioned officer as "Sir." "Don't call me 'sir,' Private — my parents were married!" Always a pleasure to see your renewal in the mail, Cynthia. Stay out of the hot sun.

The Editor

Restoring Family Medical Leave

To the Editor:

One of the signature accomplishments of the Clinton Administration was the passage of the Family Medical Leave Act (1993), which provided workers unpaid time off to deal with personal or family medical crises. Last year, former President Bush's Department of Labor placed restrictions on this act, making it more difficult for employees to

benefit from it.

Fortunately, our Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter recently introduced legislation, the Family and Medical Leave Restoration Act, to revoke these restrictions and restore the unpaid leave act to its original scope. Among other things, Shea-Porter's proposal protects employee privacy by reversing regulations that would allow an employer to contact a worker's medical provider. In addition, it restores protections prohibiting the waiving of an employee's family medical leave rights without review and approval by the Department of Labor or the courts. This bill also prohibits employers from placing limitations on the use of accrued paid leave while a worker is taking family medical leave.

As Shea-Porter recently noted, "The Family and Medical Leave Act helps ensure that workers do not have to choose between keeping their jobs and caring for loved ones or themselves." The burden imposed by a personal medical crisis or one involving a family member is bad enough without also having to worry about losing a job.

Nancy Winterbottom,
Durham, NH

Nancy:

Funny how the "family values" crowd never made a big deal of the way they were screwing families over, isn't it?

The Editor

Back to the 60's?

To the Editor:

I picked up your paper recently for the first time. I thought, "wow, what a good takeoff on *The Onion*." My wife corrected me, "No, they're serious." "Can't be," I replied. "It's too crazy even for the new crop of crazies. 9/11 was Condi's fault? Khalid Sheik Mohammed was waterboarded to get info about Hussein, not about the plot to blow up LA?,



etc." Free speech is a wonderful thing. Except, of course, when it becomes a hate crime to have unpopular thoughts.

Jerry Cohn
Haverhill, MA

Dear Jerry:

Any relation to Roy?

The Editor

Royal Barges Survive Thai Turmoil

To the Editor:

Thanx for your note. The royal barges and the revered king's image are still lovingly maintained and respected. Pax vobiscum.

Dr. Charles Frederickson
Bangkok, Thailand

Dear Charles:

And peace be upon you.

The Editor

Where Does the Truth Lie?

To the Editor:

[From page eight] May 8, 2009:

"Monday, May 11, 1960—In Buenos Aires, Mossad agents snatch Adolf Eichmann."

"Sunday, May 23, 1963—Mossad agents kidnap Adolph Eichmann in Argentina."

What am I to believe?

David Severn
Portsmouth, NH

Dear David:

Eichmann was grabbed on May 11, 1960. Into every newspaper, some errors must creep. Thanks for helping us dispose of that one. We have expunged it from our files.

The Editor

SummerFilm

The Music Hall

sunshine cleaning

MAY 30 @ 7:30

A hit at Sundance, starring Amy Adams, Steve Zahn and Alan Arkin, from the producers of Little Miss Sunshine. A spirited comedy-drama featuring crime-scene cleanup, family bonds and unexpected curves in life's road. (R, 91mins, US, 2008)

GOODBYE SOLO

MAY 31 @ 4 & 7:30 - JUNE 1 7:30

Solo (Souleymane Sy Savane) is a Senegalese taxi driver whose latest fare, a despondent old Southerner named William (Red West), mysteriously offers big money to be driven to a mountain peak. (NR, 91 mins, US, 2008)

Show and Tell Follows JUNE 1 Screening

Tue 6/2 Live Event

Intimately Yours: Chris Botti

KING KONG

SCOPE! MUST be seen on the BIG screen

JUNE 3 @ 7:30

The original, starring Fay Wray, Robert Armstrong, Bruce Cabot and Frank Reicher. With breakthrough special effects for 1933, King Kong is one of the all-time great films to explore the soul of a monster. (NR, 100 mins, US, 1933)

DUPLICITY

JUNE 4 & 5 @ 7:30

Julia Roberts is ex-CIA, Clive Owen is former MI6, Paul Giamatti and Tom Wilkinson are rival CEOs in this slick, comic caper film of corporate espionage and "who's conning whom?" Tony Gilroy directs. (PG13, 125 mins, US, 2009)

Fri 6/6 Live Event

National Multiple Sclerosis Society: Move it. Laugh it! Love it!

HUNGER

JUNE 7, 8 & 9 @ 7:30

Renowned English video artist Steve McQueen's feature film debut brings a visceral intensity to his retelling of the hunger strike instigated by Bobby Sands and several other detained Irish Republican Army members in the early 1980s. (NR, 96 mins, UK, 2009)

themusicall.org 28 Chestnut Street, Portsmouth
Film Hotline: 603.436.9900

OPIUM

and Liquor Habit cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. Dr. J. L. Stephens, Dept. M, Lebanon, Ohio.

The Fortnightly Quote, from A Reader:

"Governments last as long as the under-taxed can defend themselves against the over-taxed."

Bernard Berenson (1865-1959)
Italian Renaissance art expert, author

427-2919

Savario's 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



Where the grass is always greener.

Natural/organic fertilizing programs

ALL SEASON LAWN CARE
PO Box 645
Cape Neddick, ME 03902
(207) 361-1500



Between love shouts
the whisper of the Piscataqua
against the piers

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.

NATURAL GATHERINGS



GARDENS WEDDINGS WREATHS
SARAH PELLERIN
603 659 8770

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

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, May 24	Monday, May 25	Tuesday, May 26	Wednesday, May 27	Thursday, May 28	Friday, May 29	Saturday, May 30
<p>2001—Senator James Jeffords (R-VT) walks out on the GOP, temporarily shifting the balance of power.</p> <p>2000—Maryland drops wiretap charges against right-wing harridan Linda Tripp because she was ignorant of the law.</p> <p>1989—Stephen McCoy, being killed by employees of the state of Texas, suffers a violent reaction to the drugs. His heaving and thrashing causes a male witness to faint and fall over, knocking over another witness.</p> <p>1982—In South Africa, a 22 lb. baby is born.</p> <p>1980—Hundreds of anti-nuke occupiers are arrested at Seabrook.</p> <p>1963—R.I.P. Elmore James.</p> <p>1962—NASA's Mercury capsule <i>Aurora 7</i> overshoots its intended landing area by 250 miles.</p> <p>1959—First in-house bomb shelter is demonstrated in Pleasant Hills, PA.</p> <p>1958—United Press International is formed.</p> <p>1941—Robert Zimmerman is born in Hibbing, Minnesota.</p> <p>1939—Commander Charles B. Momonson leads an effort that rescues 33 surviving crew members of the <i>U.S.S. Squalus</i>.</p> <p>1935—First major league night game, in Cincinnati.</p> <p>1899—First auto repair shop is opened, in Boston.</p>	<p>2007—Students and faculty at U. Mass. howl and boo as Andrew Card, George W. Bush's ex-Chief of Staff, gets an honorary degree.</p> <p>2005—Quincy resident Stan Standrick, scratching lottery tickets while sitting in a borrowed Rolls Royce off Morrissey Boulevard, bumps the shifter, causing the car to roll into the Atlantic.</p> <p>2003—A Boeing 727 takes off from an Angolan airport without a flight crew, or permission to take off. It is never seen again.</p> <p>1988—Four years after his death, Peter Lawford's ashes are scattered at sea because none of his children will pay for entombment.</p> <p>1986—Seven million people hold "Hands Across America," thereby solving the twin problems of hunger and homelessness.</p> <p>1981—In Chicago, Dan Goodwin, dressed as Spiderman, climbs the Sears Tower.</p> <p>1976—Rep. Wayne Hays (D-OH) admits he's been boinking his secretary, who has already admitted she "can't type ... can't file ... [and] can't even answer the phone."</p> <p>1979—"Capital punishment," says John Spenkelink, sitting in "Old Sparky," "them without the capital get the punishment."</p> <p>1979—After an engine falls off, American Airlines Flight 191 crashes in Chicago, killing 271 on board and 2 on the ground.</p>	<p>2004—<i>The NY Times</i> admits its pre-war Iraq coverage was "not as rigorous as it should have been."</p> <p>1977—In New York, George Willig climbs the exterior of the World Trade Center.</p> <p>1972—Nixon's "Plumbers" fail to gain entry to Democratic National HQ at the Watergate.</p> <p>1970—The destroyer <i>U.S.S. Richard B. Anderson's</i> departure for Vietnam is delayed due to sabotage.</p> <p>1959—Pirates pitcher Harvey Haddix retires 36 consecutive batters in 12 innings, but Milwaukee wins 1-0 in the 13th.</p> <p>1938—House Committee on Un-American Activities begins its un-American activities.</p> <p>1937—Forty Ford thugs beat the living hell out of Walter Reuther and three union colleagues in the "Battle of the Overpass."</p> <p>1916—Louis T. "Moondog" Hardin, composer, street musician, and blind, Viking-helmet-wearing eccentric, is born.</p> <p>1828—The mysterious child called Kaspar Hauser is found wandering the streets of Nuremberg.</p> <p>1647—In Hartford, CT, where the State House now stands, Aise Young becomes the first American hanged for witchcraft.</p> <p>1637—At Mystic, CT, Captains Mason and Underhill start the Pequot War by burning Pequot forts and killing 600 Indians.</p>	<p>1977—New York City fines George Willig one cent per floor for climbing the World Trade Center.</p> <p>1975—Alaska legalizes pot.</p> <p>1972—Nixon's "Plumbers" again fail to gain entry to Democratic National HQ at the Watergate.</p> <p>1959—NBC's <i>Today Show</i> airs a straight-faced report on the Society for Indecency to Naked Animals, which advocates clothes for quadrupeds.</p> <p>1941—The British sink the <i>Bismark</i> to the bottom of the sea.</p> <p>1940—British troops begin leaving Dunkirk under less than ideal conditions.</p> <p>1937—The Golden Gate Bridge is opened to pedestrians.</p> <p>1923—Birth of the arch-fiend Henry Kissinger.</p> <p>1907—A plague outbreak hits San Francisco.</p> <p>1777—Major Samuel Langdon sets out for Cambridge with four teams hauling gunpowder expropriated from the Crown.</p> <p>1722—Samuel Adams is born.</p> <p>1702—"I am about to—or I am going to—die," says French grammarian Dominique Bouhours on his deathbed, "either expression is used."</p> <p>1541—In the Tower of London Margaret Pole, 8th Countess of Salisbury, attempts to run from her executioner. After three or four strokes, he prevails.</p>	<p>2003—The second fiction writer in one month resigns from the <i>NY Times</i>.</p> <p>1998—Pakistan announces it has conducted five successful nuclear weapon tests.</p> <p>1987—Mathias Rust, 19, lands a rented Cessna in Red Square.</p> <p>1972—Nixon's "Plumbers" finally gain entry to Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate Hotel, but they get busted.</p> <p>1971—Audie Murphy, most-decorated soldier of World War Two, dies in a plane crash at 45.</p> <p>1962—Stock market loses \$20 billion in value.</p> <p>1959—Able and Baker, two monkeys, are launched into space by the U.S. Army.</p> <p>1955—"The Ballad of Davy Crockett" is the most popular song in America.</p> <p>1952—During a ceremony in Saigon, observers see a "white-silver disc-shaped object" flying straight and fast overhead for about two minutes.</p> <p>1937—FDR pushes a button in Washington, DC, opening the Golden Gate Bridge to cars.</p> <p>1830—Pres. Andy Jackson decrees all Indians must move west of the Mississippi.</p> <p>1754—French & Indian War begins.</p> <p>1653—Strawbery Banke becomes Portsmouth.</p>	<p>2008—Sen. (and candidate) John McCain says "Mosul is quiet" on a day when 30 die there.</p> <p>2004—Four Islamist terrorists kill 22 foreigners at Khobar in Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>2002—FBI head Robert Mueller admits his outfit might have been able to prevent 9/11.</p> <p>2001—The Bush twins, charged with underage boozing, plead <i>nolo contendere</i>.</p> <p>1992—Grady Stiles Jr., aka Lobster Boy, is murdered in Gibsonton, FL, by a hit man hired by his family.</p> <p>1987—Michael Jackson attempts to buy the Elephant Man's bones.</p> <p>1968—Charles deGaulle flies to Germany to confer with French generals about bringing 20,000 troops back home to restore order.</p> <p>1953—Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary top Everest.</p> <p>1932—World War One "Bonus Marchers" begin arriving in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1922—U.S. Supreme Court rules that baseball is a sport, not a business, and is therefore exempt from anti-trust laws.</p> <p>1916—U.S. forces invade Dominican Republic. They stay until 1926.</p> <p>1912—For dancing the "Turkey Trot" on their lunch break, 15 young women are fired by the Curtis Publishing Company.</p> <p>1842—A patent for lifting boats is granted to Abraham Lincoln.</p>	<p>2007—Dale Rippey, a 62 year-old Florida resident, is attacked by a rabid 25-pound bobcat. Rippey, a Vietnam veteran, strangles the bobcat with his bare hands.</p> <p>1971—About 450 people, most of them Vietnam veterans, are arrested during an anti-war protest on Lexington Green.</p> <p>1937—Police attack striking workers at Republic Steel in Chicago, hospitalizing 55, wounding 30 more, and killing 10.</p> <p>1912—Two companies of Marines are shipped to Nicaragua "to protect American interests."</p> <p>1909—The National Conference on the Negro convenes, leading to the formation of the NAACP.</p> <p>1904—During a doubleheader, Frank Chance gets hit five times by pitches.</p> <p>1883—Six days after the Brooklyn Bridge is opened, a panic leads to 12 people being trampled to death.</p> <p>1806—Future President Andy Jackson kills a man in a duel.</p> <p>1783—America's first daily paper, <i>The Pennsylvania Evening Post</i>, begins publication. It is "a sorry-looking, poverty-stricken sheet," published by a "catchpenny Tory."</p> <p>1778—RIP Voltaire.</p> <p>1741—New York, to uphold slavery, burns 13 black men at the stake, and hangs 17 black men, two white men, and two white women involved in planning a slave revolt.</p>
Sunday, May 31	Monday, June 1	Tuesday, June 2	Wednesday, June 3	Thursday, June 4	Friday, June 5	Saturday, June 6
<p>2007—Gov. John Lynch signs New Hampshire's "civil unions for gay couples" bill.</p> <p>2005—Ex-FBI official Mark Felt admits he is "Deep Throat."</p> <p>1971—For the first time, the U.S. celebrates Memorial Day on a day other than May 30.</p> <p>1958—Number of U.S. military and economic advisors on duty in Vietnam rises to 1,347.</p> <p>1957—The French quit training Vietnamese troops, U.S. assumes complete advisory role.</p> <p>1943—In downtown LA, white sailors and young Latinos fight: the Zoot Suit Riots begin.</p> <p>1942—The Luftwaffe bombs Coventry, England.</p> <p>1927—The last Model T rolls off the Ford assembly line.</p> <p>1921—A massive "race war" begins in Tulsa, OK.</p> <p>1921—The mistrial of Sacco and Vanzetti begins.</p> <p>1917—The Battle of Jutland begins: history's only major engagement of two fleets of battleships. Results are inconclusive, except for the 8,645 dead.</p> <p>1889—A shoddy dam belonging to Andrew Carnegie, Andrew Mellon, and friends at the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club collapses upstream of Johnstown, Pa. The resulting flood kills 2,200, but the owners are never successfully prosecuted.</p>	<p>2005—Having proven his world-class incompetence at the Pentagon, Paul Wolfowitz takes over the World Bank.</p> <p>2003—The Bush administration announces that it's canning its plans for a large Iraqi assembly in favor of a smaller, easier to manipulate advisory council.</p> <p>2001—Eight members of the Nepalese Royal Family are massacred in their Katmandu palace. Prince Dipendra, the suspected perpetrator, is proclaimed King but dies three days later.</p> <p>1981—In Seattle, two longshoremen are assassinated on orders of the Marcos regime.</p> <p>1980—CNN debuts.</p> <p>1967—Vietnam Veterans Against the War is founded.</p> <p>1963—Quang Duc, 73, immolates himself in Vietnam.</p> <p>1954—The Atomic Energy Commission pulls the security clearance of Manhattan Project boss J. Robert Oppenheimer.</p> <p>1926—Norma Jeane Mortenson, aka Marilyn Monroe, is born in a Los Angeles charity ward.</p> <p>1921—In Tulsa, OK, a "race war" ends with 250 blacks and 50 whites dead.</p> <p>1918—Advised to turn back by a retreating French officer at Belleau Woods, U.S.M.C. Capt. Lloyd Williams replies, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here."</p>	<p>2003—The FCC further eases the rules against media monopoly, just to be fair to huge corporations.</p> <p>2002—The CIA admits to Congress—in a classified document, so citizens wouldn't be unduly alarmed—that it had been tracking one of the 9/11 hijackers months earlier than it had previously admitted.</p> <p>1989—Rolling Stones guitarist Bill Wyman, 52, marries Mandy Smith, 19.</p> <p>1983—As a result of a toilet fire aboard an Air Canada DC-9, 23 people die in Cincinnati, including singer Stan Rogers.</p> <p>1964—The Rolling Stones begin their first U.S. tour with a gig in Lynn, Mass. On the same bill: Bobby Goldsboro & Bobby Vee.</p> <p>1955—On confessing to killing her last four husbands with rat poison, Mrs. Nannie Doss gets life in the slammer.</p> <p>1941—RIP Lou Gehrig.</p> <p>1886—Grover Cleveland, 47, marries Frances Folsom, 21, at the White House.</p> <p>1855—In Portland, Maine, a protest against prohibition by hundreds of people, largely Irish immigrants, devolves into a riot involving thousands.</p> <p>1835—P.T. Barnum and his circus begin their first tour.</p> <p>455—Gaiseric and the Vandals sack Rome.</p>	<p>2002—Hosni Mubarak announces that Egypt warned the U.S., on or about 9/4/01, that al Qaeda was ready to unleash something against the U.S.</p> <p>1980—A failed 46 cent computer chip convinces the Pentagon that a Soviet attack on the U.S. is about to begin.</p> <p>1974—Brown & Williamson Tobacco tests a cigarette blended to smell like pot.</p> <p>1968—Radical lesbian Valerie Solanas plugs Andy Warhol.</p> <p>1961—Henry R. Marshall, an Agriculture Department official, is found dead with five slugs in him from a bolt-action rifle. The death is listed as a suicide.</p> <p>1943—Fifty sailors sneak weapons out of the L.A. armory, escalating the "Zoot Suit Riots."</p> <p>1942—Battle of Midway starts.</p> <p>1851—The New York Knickerbockers introduce the first baseball uniforms: white shirts, long blue trousers, and straw hats.</p> <p>1793—Charles Pierce establishes the <i>Oracle of the Day</i>, later the <i>Portsmouth Journal</i>.</p> <p>1761—Birth of Henry Shrapnel, inventor of the shrapnel shell.</p> <p>1678—In Portsmouth, tything men are appointed "to inspect the neighbor's families."</p> <p>1381—With a casual insult, Sir Simon de Burley kicks off Wat Tyler's Rebellion.</p>	<p>2006—A Ukrainian man enters the lion cage at the Kiev zoo, saying "God will save me, if he exists." A lion kills him.</p> <p>2004—In Granby, CO, Marvin Heemeyer, in his armored bulldozer, destroys the Town Hall, the mayor's home, and 11 other buildings because "God ... asked [him] to do it."</p> <p>2003—To prove they're not soft on corporate crime, federal prosecutors pick on Martha Stewart.</p> <p>2003—George W. Bush says he's "the master of low expectations."</p> <p>1989—The Chinese Army kills thousands at Tiananmen Square.</p> <p>1974—Cleveland forfeits a home game to the Rangers when ten-cent beer night goes awry.</p> <p>1966—James Meredith takes a bullet for voter registration.</p> <p>1962—The first U.S. attempt to test a nuke at high altitude fails when a Thor rocket malfunctions and is blown up minutes after liftoff over the South Pacific.</p> <p>1944—For the first time a submarine—<i>USS O-5</i>—is captured and boarded on the high seas.</p> <p>1940—The last of 338,000 Allied troops are evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk.</p> <p>1939—The <i>St. Louis</i>, carrying 963 Jewish refugees, is turned away from Florida. Most of them later die in Hitler's concentration camps.</p>	<p>2003—Two top <i>New York Times</i> editors resign in disgrace. Oddly, many more do not.</p> <p>1989—A lone Chinese man temporarily stops a line of tanks in Tiananmen Square.</p> <p>1986—A man in Auburn, WA dies after taking a cyanide-laced Excedrin.</p> <p>1976—In Idaho, the federal Teton Dam fails, killing 11 and costing nearly \$1B.</p> <p>1968—Robert Kennedy is fatally shot in Los Angeles. The subsequent investigation by the LA Police Department leaves no doubt about the gullible that Sirhan Sirhan did it.</p> <p>1967—Israel attacks Egypt and Syria, starting the Six Day War.</p> <p>1965—The State Department admits that U.S. troops are engaged in combat in Vietnam.</p> <p>1963—Britain's Sec. of War John Profumo resigns after it's revealed he and a Soviet naval officer had, at different times, shared the favors of the same prostitute.</p> <p>1919—The Palmer Raids begin with the arrests of sixty-seven anarchists.</p> <p>1917—Draft registration begins in the U.S.</p> <p>1885—The Know-Nothing Party holds its first convention.</p> <p>1878—Birth of Doroteo Arango Arámbula, later known as "Pancho Villa."</p>	<p>2002—As India and Pakistan rattle their nukes at each other, an asteroid 30 feet in diameter explodes over the eastern Mediterranean with twice the force of the Hiroshima bomb.</p> <p>1989—California citizens vote to shut down the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant.</p> <p>1989—Greenpeace reports there are 50 nuclear weapons and 9 reactors on the ocean floor.</p> <p>1988—At a food irradiation plant in Decatur, Georgia, "unbreakable" cesium capsules break, irradiating 10 workers.</p> <p>1982—Israel invades Lebanon.</p> <p>1980—Nuke-armed B-52s go on alert for the second time in three days when a computer malfunction falsely signals a Soviet attack on the U.S.</p> <p>1970—Generals gathered at Charleston Air Force Base, to observe the first operational C-5A land, watch as a tire blows out and a wheel falls off.</p> <p>1944—An unusually long day in Normandy.</p> <p>1933—The first drive-in movie theatre opens, in Camden, NJ.</p> <p>1930—William Beebe and Otis Barton go 803 feet below the ocean's surface in a bathysphere.</p> <p>1918—The U.S. Marine Corps suffer more casualties than any previous day in history at Belleau Wood.</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