

The Fortnightly Rant

GOP ... Grotesque Old Perverts?

The re-engineered version of the Grand Old Party's nickname we have employed in the headline above may seem a bit harsh, but considering the Party's recent performance, it may not be entirely inappropriate. Actually, setting out to defend it feels a little like loading a metaphorical machine gun and walking up to a barrel labelled "fish." Responsible parents might want to prevent their children from reading any further — not that there's any offensive language herein, but there is some bad behavior on the part of our subjects.

"Sinnin' Sanford"

We begin — how could we not? — with South Carolina Governor Marshall Clement "Mark" Sanford, Jr., who will go down in history not just as the Palmetto State's 115th Chief Executive, but as the perpetrator of one of the most preposterous peccadillos in American political history.

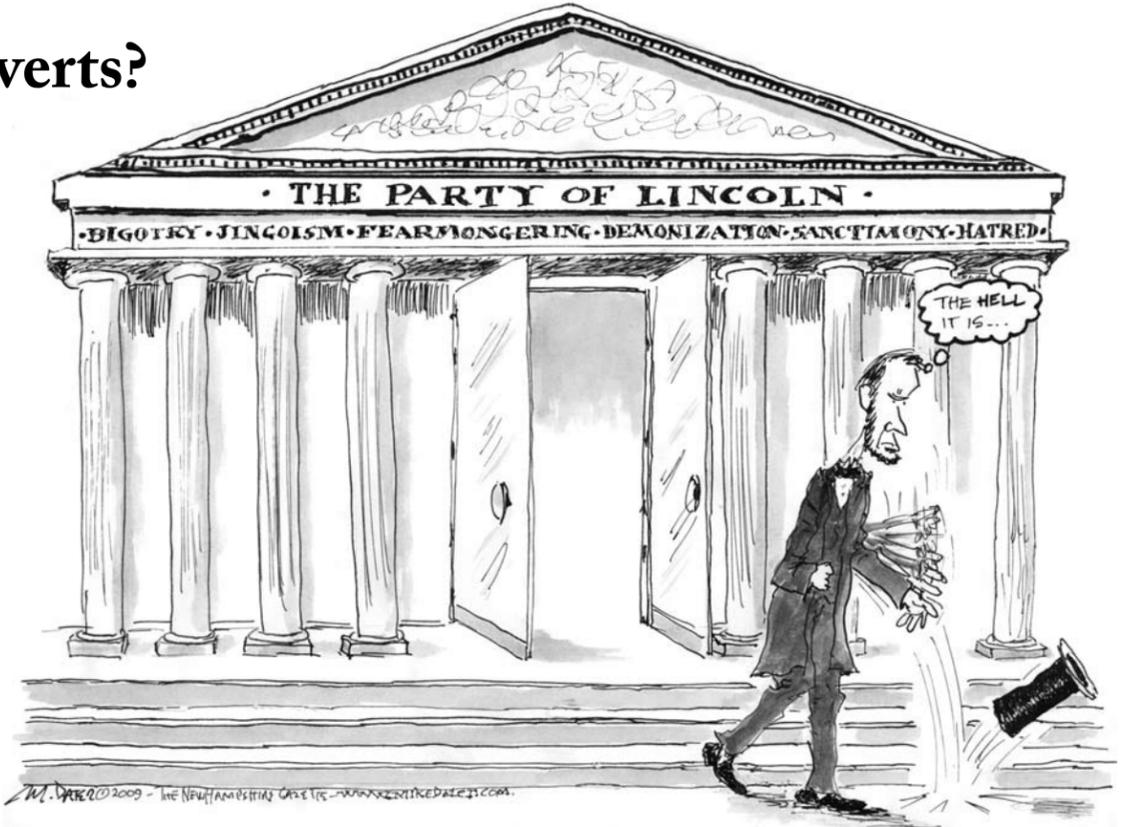
On Father's Day, 2009 Governor Sanford's wife and their four young sons were on their own — as were the State of South Carolina and its four and a half million citizens. The Governor had flown off to Buenos Aires to dance the horizontal tango with his Argentine Firecracker.*

So for four or five days, one of America's fifty governors was flat-out missing. First his wife said rather casually that he had gone somewhere — she didn't know where, other than away from his own darling children — to write "something."

His staff, relying on the Governor's own misleading hints and innuendos, then reported that he was hiking the Appalachian Trail; perhaps he was scribbling a sequel to *Walden* on scraps of birch bark. That story earned an "R" rating when enterprising wiseguys pointed out that Sunday was Naked Hiking Day.

On June 24, Sanford reappeared and did the impossible: he held a rambling, mawkish press conference that lasted a Nixonian 18 and a half minutes, and made the story even weirder. As if he were in a pulpit and not behind a podium, he interpreted God's laws to the heathen press, and asked them not to do their job for a while, so he and his family could find a way to live with the consequences of his randy behavior. This from a former Contract With America Congressman who enthusiastically used the media to hurl mud at Bill Clinton.

Sanford's later reimbursement



of several thousand dollars worth of tryst-related travel expenses to the Treasury of South Carolina showed his infidelity to Republican fiscal conservatism, as well as to his wife. He went on to confess that he has been a serial strayer. Clearly his words and his deeds are strangers to each other. Sanford is an award-winning hypocrite, but some of his GOP cohorts deserve attention too. Remember Naked Hiking Day? Sadly, the Associated Press doesn't specify whether it was on Saturday or Sunday, but that was the weekend Mark Muschelwhite, the Republican Mayor of Gainesville, Georgia from

2000 to 2006, was arrested and charged with public indecency "after state Department of Natural Resources officers found him sitting nude at his Rabun County campsite."

Closer to home Manchester Mayor Frank Guinta, a Republican who would surely prefer to be getting favorable ink for his run at the First District Congressional seat, has been noticed instead by the *Washington Post* and a number of national political blogs for his presence during a brawl at the East Manchester Fish & Game Club on the night of June 18. In the fight, Thomas English Jr.'s leg was broken so

badly he wasn't released from the hospital until four days later — at which time he gave the police their first notice of the mayhem. English's mother, quoted in the weekly *Manchester Express*, said Guinta "took off like a scalded dog" before an ambulance arrived. Guinta is taking heat for failing to call the cops, and for leaving before an ambulance arrived. According to TheHill.com's Briefing Room, "Sources close to Guinta emphasize that the mayor left only after he was sure English was receiving treatment." But the EMT to whom the sources refer is also alleged to be the leg-breaker.

* Argentina has not loomed this large in American politics for thirty years. On October 9, 1974 Wilbur Mills (D-AR), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, was pulled over by Washington, D.C. police for driving with his lights off. A woman fled from Mills's car and dove into the Tidal Basin, taking Mills's career with her. She was, of course, Annabella Battistella, better known as "Fanne Foxe, the Argentine Firecracker."

News Briefs:

World's Newest Oldest Man

Two weeks ago today, with the passing of Japan's Tomoji Tanabe,* Britain's Henry Allingham became the oldest man on Earth.

Born 113 years ago last June 6, Allingham was lucky to live into his mid-twenties. As a mechanic in the Royal Air Force Harry flew over the Western Front in the rear cockpit of a biplane, armed with a Lewis gun and a bag of small bombs.

"In my unit," he said in a BBC interview, "there were 4,700 casualties; missing, believed killed in action, blown to smithereens. Bits and pieces everywhere. No wonder the rats survived."

Despite his own unit's losses, Allingham said "It was the men in the trenches that suffered, and the men in the trenches in my book won the war." Though he clearly respects those who fought the Great War, he has a low opinion of war.

"War is stupid," he told an

interviewer. "Nobody wins. You might as well talk first, you have to talk last anyway."

When asked the inevitable question — to what did he attribute his longevity — he said, "Cigarettes, whisky and wild, wild women — and a good sense of humor."

Selective Learning

Sports enthusiasts like to insist that participating in organized mayhem such as football builds character. But the case of "Still Dick" Cheney tends to undercut that argument.

It has long been known that during his underclassman days at Natrona County High School in Wyoming, "Dick" was a running back on the football team. Given what we now know about him, it would have been surprising if Cheney had *not* participated in a sport based on violence and aggression.

Recently, while researching an item for page eight, we discovered a curious bit of information regarding our 46th Vice President

which casts yet more doubt on the "character-building" premise.

An obituary published on January 8, 2006 in the *Rocky Mountain News* tells of the life of a man named Lue Laske, who graduated from Natrona County High School in 1958 after a stellar career on the football team. He was so good Dartmouth offered him a full scholarship. While still at Natrona, according to the *News*, Laske taught "Dick" Cheney how to "attack linebackers and other surly adversaries."

Laske took a pass on his Ivy League offer. Instead, he married his high-school sweetheart, and commenced raising a family. Perhaps in that order, perhaps not. By the end of his graduating year, he had a wife and child. Then, in 1961, despite his status as a young father of two, Laske volunteered for the U.S. Army and became an Airborne Ranger.

Anyone familiar with the traditions of the U.S. Army can attest that Airborne Rangers have an unsurpassed reputation for

bravery. But even among that fraternity, Lue Laske achieved a rare distinction. He was one of the few who were trained to use one of the Cold War's most daunting weapons, the Special Atomic Demolition Munition (SADM).



Soldier with SADM

Deploying the SADM involved leaping from a perfectly good airplane with a 150-lb., one kiloton nuclear weapon strapped to your body, dangling in front of your thighs (see photo, above).

The Army probably assigned Lue Laske to this task because he'd already fathered two sons, and they figured any further gamete production would be superfluous.

Cheney may have learned a lot from Lou Laske about being a football player. Despite that opportunity, it seems he learned nothing about being a man.

Freshly Minted Citizens

The United States will gain two hundred new citizens from thirty different countries tomorrow at Strawberry Banke. Leading all those new Americans in their first recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance will be Joseph Francis.

"It means a lot to me because I'm going to be a citizen — I'm going to belong to the U.S.," Joe told us Tuesday. He spoke to us by phone from his home in Manchester.

"I've always had my foot in the door, but I've never taken the big

* Mr. Tanabe was 113 years and 274 days old when he died.

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step. I've taken the big step in a lot of other areas, but ..."

Joe's first big step was moving with his family to Manchester, New Hampshire at the age of 13, in the fall of 1959. He had been born in the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island, into the Lennox Island First Nation community of about 700 Mi'kmaq people.

As a young man in Manchester, Joe got involved in amateur boxing. He did well enough in the ring to start thinking in the summer of 1966 about turning pro.

"My trainer was Willy Lafond — a good trainer, one of the best trainers around in New Hampshire at the time. And him and I talked about it. He said, 'Well, turn pro. If you're gonna get hit, get a few bucks for it.' So I says

OK."

But as a child in Canada, Joe had always enjoyed reading. "I loved history," he said. "I'm a fanatic for it. I used to love World War Two history ... it fascinated me ... the island hopping the Marine Corps were doing in the Pacific." In the summer of 1966, that fascination caught up with him.

"I think it was August 14, I said 'the hell with it, I'm going to join the Marine Corps.'"

"Just before I joined the Marine Corps, I said 'Willy, I'm joining the Marine Corps.'"

"He says, 'What?'"

"As a matter of fact I already enlisted."

"He says, 'You did? What did you want to do that for? You don't have to go in.'"

"I said 'No, I don't. But I want to go in. I have some friends of mine that are over there and I



Chief: Recently patrolling the Connecticut shoreline. Sailboats on Long Island Sound beautiful. Early summer weather perfect. Thought I'd seen everything. Wrong. Ventricular fibrillation instantaneous. Rushed to Yale-New Haven. Doing OK. Should be discharged in a few weeks. (Nurses great. They always are.) — Krupke

feel compelled to do it.' It's just something I wanted to do."

"And he said, 'OK go for it. If it all pans out for you we'll see you when you get back.'"

Joe got to Vietnam in early January of 1967. In short order he was assigned to F Company, 26th Marines. Like many others before and after him, he found it a bit disorienting at first.

"It seemed all so fast. I landed there and then a couple of days later I'm with F Company. They were already out on an operation, Operation Chinook. I picked up a weapon, some gear, and right from there out to the field. A couple of days later I found myself in a firefight. It seemed like I was in the Twilight Zone there for a while." Joe seems to have adapted well enough, though. By August he was leading a fire team through the rugged, jungle-covered terrain.

Walking point on the 10th of that month, at 7:00 a.m. — "I re-

member the time precisely," Joe said — his team came upon an L-shaped ambush.

"I spotted it before we came upon it too much," Joe said. "It was a company sized ambush. I had a pretty good belated Fourth of July, I guess."

"I was the only casualty out of that particular incident. I got my men out of there, cover-fired for them. That took me a few minutes. In the process, I got hit with a grenade that landed right in front of me and blew me all to hell. Couple of second later I was on the ground, on my knees, wondering where I was at."

Though his rifle was "splintered up" a bit by the blast, it still fired. While putting down cover fire so his last man could get out of the ambush zone, Joe took an AK-47 round in the back of the leg. After he got patched up by the corpsman, a CH-34 lifted him up through the jungle canopy with a "horse-collar" dangling

from a cable.

For his next three months in the Corps, Joe enjoyed the rare luxury of clean sheets while his wounds healed. Along with a Purple Heart, the Marines awarded him the Bronze Star with a "V" for valor.

The Corps told Joe he could go back to Manchester, too, if he wanted. But what he wanted was to go back to his unit and serve out the rest of his hitch. "For me, walking out of 'Nam was important. I wanted to walk out. I wanted to leave on my own power. And it felt good to do that."

Into the boxing ring, into the U.S. Marine Corps, into Vietnam, back to Vietnam — they'd all be big steps for most people. But for Joe, the big step comes tomorrow morning.

On July Fourth, at about 11:00 a.m., at Strawberry Banke, Joe Francis will become a citizen of the country he fought for more than forty years ago.

The Fortnightly Quote, from A Reader:
"It is often easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them."
 Adlai Stevenson (1900 - 1965)
 American Politician

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Local Blogger Asks, "WTF?"

"The Department of Energy is giving Ford almost \$6 billion and another \$2 to Nissan and Tesla so they can build more fuel-efficient cars," according to Marketplace's Kai Ryssdal, on New Hampshire Public Radio. News like that causes local blogger Steve Sanger to write headlines like, "Ford Gets Billions, We Get Hosed."

"Why are we paying Ford billions for this?," Sanger writes in a June 24 post at his website, mpgguy.blogspot.com. "[It] doesn't make sense — not when *Business Week* headlines a story 'The 65 mpg Ford the U.S. Can't Have.'"

"*Business Week* reported a year ago that the Ford's Fiesta ECONetic gets an astonishing 65 mpg, but the carmaker can't afford to sell it in the U.S."

Ford America President Mark Fields was quoted last September 4 in *Business Week* saying "there

are business reasons why we can't sell [the ECONetic] in the U.S." — it runs on diesel.

"Earth to Ford," replies Sanger, "diesel is now sold in the USA."

A June 19 post, quoted here in full, sums up mpgguy's *raison d'être*. The headline: "100+ Cars Get 40 mpg & Up."

"A Tip Of the Hat to 40MPG.org, a project of the Civil Society Institute," reads the post. "They track all the fuel efficient cars we don't get in the USA. That number now greatly exceeds 100."

"40MPG.org says, 'Adding insult to injury, nearly two thirds of the highly fuel-efficient car models that are unavailable to American consumers are either made by U.S. auto manufacturers (e.g., Ford and GM) or foreign manufacturers with substantial U.S. sales operations (e.g., Volkswagen, Nissan and Toyota).' And this number is growing!"



Ani Mantha, while shopping with his mother Kavy (off-camera), takes a break for an impromptu bass-playing lesson from Martha Hills, whose partner Don Depoy accompanies them on guitar. Note the shadows in the foreground. They were caused by a rare appearance of the sun on Sunday, June 21.



A wave of amnesia seems to have washed across the town — nobody can actually remember moving to Seattle, but here we are. People are beginning to adapt to the incessant rain, though. Our Wandering Photographer noted this member of the city's parking enforcement team sporting a Nubrella® on Monday, June 22. The device may look a little odd, but note that the user has both hands free.

"Meanwhile we get nothing. According to www.fueleconomy.gov, the U.S. has a whopping two cars that get over 40 mpg, the Toyota Prius and the Honda Civic Hybrid. And it's not just 40 mpg we're missing — it's 50 mpg, 60 mpg, and 70 mpg we don't get.

"No, they are not just tin cans and rollers skates. The BMW 1 Series, sold in Europe but not here, gets an average 42 mpg with a gas engine and about 53 mpg with a clean diesel.

"Obama's plan is to have a US average fuel efficiency of 35.5 mpg by 2016. We could beat that easily. Certify those 100+ fuel efficient cars and put them on a ship."

Mpgguy is less than impressed with the new Cash for Clunkers program, too. That program would reward motorists with a tax break if they swap for a newer vehicle getting just 4 mpg more than their old car.

Steve, whose day job is running Sanger Communications, a marketing firm here in Portsmouth,

sees his own industry as part of the problem.

"We're still putting the marketing priorities in front of the environmental priorities. If creating fuel efficient cars was really the priority, you would never have a bill like Cash for Clunkers, or a company like Ford saying 'we're going to import the Ford Fiesta but instead of giving you one that gets 65 miles per gallon, we're going to give you the one that gets 39 mpg.'"

We asked Steve if the marketing departments of Ford, GM, and Chrysler have more influence over what we drive than Congress or public opinion.

"Absolutely. There's no question about that. That's true of our capitalist economy and the way this economy runs. Market forces dictate." But are market forces truly driving these decisions, we asked, or is it the marketing department's perception of market forces? "I think at this point, it may be a misperception. The automobile companies may still be stuck in their own perception."

Get Ready to Miss Your Water

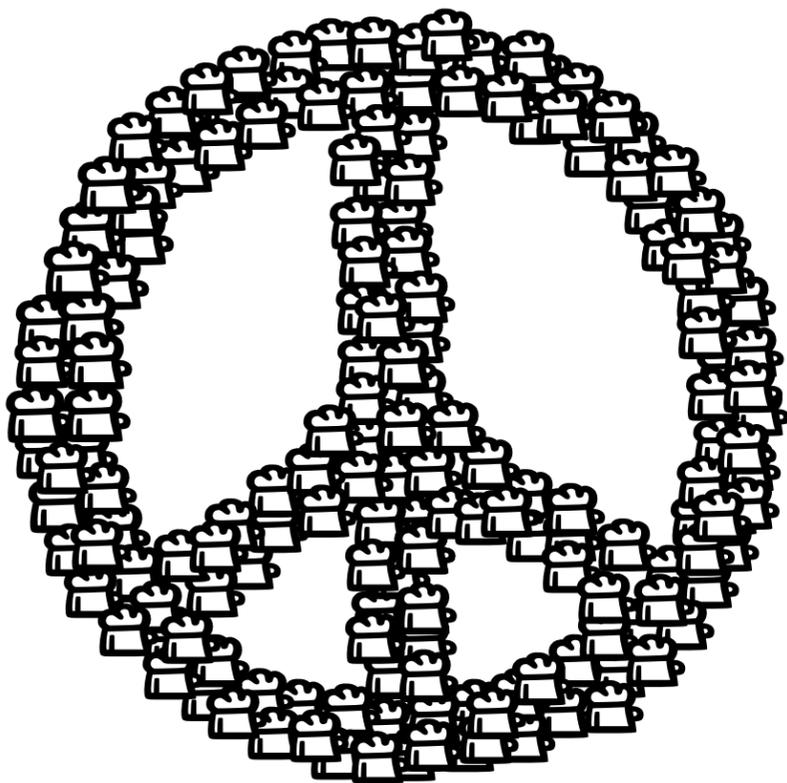
Ever wonder how many federal bureaucrats are riding roughshod over the poor beleaguered heroes of the private bottled water industry, forcing those hardy entrepreneurs to meet all kinds of ridiculous, radical Democrat-sponsored, socialist-inspired standards?

If you guessed "one," you were almost right — it's actually somewhat less than one. She's got a few other things she's responsible for, too.

This unnerving fact comes from *Tapped*, a new film about the bottled water racket, which will have its World Premier — complete with a Hollywood-mocking green carpet and all — at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 12 at (appropriately enough) the Waterville, Maine Opera House. The documentary was produced by Atlas Films, and directed by Stephanie Soechtig, who made *Who Killed the Electric Car*.

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



Moving Pictures

My Sister's Keeper

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Abigail Breslin, Sofia Vassileva, Cameron Diaz, Jason Patric, Alec Baldwin, and Joan Cusak; **Screenplay:** Jeremy Leven and Nick Cassavetes, based on the novel by Jodi Picoult; **Director:** Nick Cassavetes; **Rating:** [PG-13]

In life as in movies, it all comes down to timing. Films that immediately attract this reviewer's attention — Kathryn Bigelow's *The Hurt Locker*, or Michael Mann's *Public Enemies* — either haven't made it into wide release or don't open until mid-week, too late for this space. So like the former Sec-Def, you have to go to the cineplex with the line-up you have, not the one you might want. The choice is among a hundred and fifty minutes of exploding mayhem in Michael Bay's *Transformers: Revenge of the Sequel*, Sandra Bullock playing cute with Ryan Reynolds in *The Proposal*, or the first big screen adaptation of a Jodi Pi-

coult novel, *My Sister's Keeper*. As a current resident of New Hampshire, and someone who can write clear, evocative prose, Ms. Picoult wins, despite her irritating habit of securing the number one slot on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Although, as it turns out, how much she wins depends on how you feel about radical changes to the endings of carefully crafted stories.

Picoult has many, many devout fans of her emotionally charged novels — more than enough to fill every seat in the theatre on a Monday night. Not bad for a movie about a kid with cancer. Granted there's an intriguing twist, in that the protagonist is eleven-year old Anna (Abigail Breslin), who hires an attorney (Alec Baldwin) to sue her parents for the right to make decisions about her own body. It seems that Anna is a test tube baby, created to provide bone marrow donations to her big sister Kate, who suffers from a rare and deadly form of childhood leukemia. The fact that Mom (Cameron Diaz)

used to be an attorney before she became the fulltime caregiver for her ailing daughter means that mother and daughter will eventually meet in court. Very neat and tidy, plot-wise, but plot isn't really the focus of Picoult's character-driven stories, which may be why screenwriter Jeremy Leven felt free to play fast and loose with Picoult's shocker of an ending, and add a very neat twist of his own.

It's clear that Ms. Picoult's fans adored the movie version, whatever their reservations may be about the big changes, because Leven and director Nick Cassavetes stay more or less true to the characters. There's also no doubt that as the two sisters, Abigail Breslin and Sofia Vassileva are both terrific. The problem for this reviewer — one of the few males in the audience, by the way — is in the adult casting. Put simply, every adult in *My Sister's Keeper* looks like a glamorous movie star. If Cameron Diaz is going to be the fiercely protective mother — fair enough,

why not — does dad really have to be Jason Patric, a firefighter who somehow keeps his family in a multi-million dollar home, sends his troubled son to private school, and has enough left over to drive various late model motor vehicles? Does every doctor who treats the sick child have to look like he or she stepped out of the afternoon soaps (I'm not a doctor, but I play one on TV)? Why does every member of the extended family look like they're ready to hand out glossies? Does the slick but kindly lawyer with a medical secret of his own have to be Alec Baldwin, looking and acting very much like his excellent character on *30 Rock*?

The thinking may have been that the subject matter would make it difficult to find an audience, so cast as many big names as possible and hope that draws them in. It's too bad that director Nick Cassavetes — a very competent craftsman — didn't trust the material enough to cast some unfamiliar faces. The result is that the story, told in beautifully



lit flashbacks, tends to become a series of Kodak (or in this case, scrapbook) movie star moments that try a little too hard for an emotional response that would be forthcoming no matter what, considering that this is a story about a sick child. On the other hand, Cassavetes doesn't shy away from showing the shallow, unthinking cruelty of friends and family members who keep urging Kate to try magical thinking, as if those with the disease are somehow at fault if they can't melt away the tumors with positive thoughts. And although the ending of the movie take a very different turn from the novel, the changes all make perfect sense within the context of the story as told on the screen.

All in all Ms. Picoult should be cautiously pleased.

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The Maine International Film Festival says "starting out in Fryeburg, Maine, where local citizens organize to stop water bottling, *Tapped* examines the role of the bottled water industry and its effects on health, climate change, pollution, and our reliance on oil. This is a galvanizing but fast-paced film with the power to

truly change lives."

Tickets can be had at www.miff.org/tickets.

VASH Update

We hadn't heard from Tracey Noonan at the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (VASH) program for a while, so we called her on Wednesday. VASH is a joint project of two Federal Departments, Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development. Its goal is to put roofs

over the heads of homeless veterans. Headquartered at the Manchester VA hospital, New Hampshire's VASH program provides veterans with vouchers they can give to landlords in lieu of rent.

VASH can't provide enough vouchers to help all the veterans in need — that would have too drastic an impact on some vital tax breaks for important people — but dozens of veterans are

now living indoors who would otherwise be roughing it.

What VASH can't do is provide anything in the way of furniture, pots and pans, cleaning supplies, bedding, or any of the myriad other things that make an apartment a home. We've been running a small ad (a little lower on this page) trying to alert people to the need.

Tracey verified Wednesday that the need still stands, so if

you might have something that could be of use, call Tracey Noonan, VASH Program Manager, at (603) 657-5612 or e-mail her at tracey.noonan@va.gov.

That Time of the Fortnight

Yes, this is that time of the fortnight when we harangue our readers about the cruel fact that we need to cough up genuine money to pay the printer for his paper, his ink, and his kind services.

Do not attempt to read this. The type is too small. You will strain your eyes.

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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. VASH 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

NATURAL GATHERINGS

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Northcountry Chronicle

The Gold-Plated Hero

by William Marvel

Truth seems no more relevant to popularized American history than to the legends of any other culture, however ancient or primitive. Well into our third century of nationhood most of our citizens lack much cohesive, reliable knowledge of our past, and that void has largely been filled by contorted legends. Prominent figures of the early republic have been adopted by different political factions as mythic icons, with their more unflattering traits disguised, denied, or excused.

One of the more prominent names in American hagiography is that of John Brown, the hallowed martyr of the abolition movement. For years after his death the only critical studies of Brown were conducted by men of Southern antecedents, whose dislike of him may have been aggravated by adherence to Lost Cause mythology. To those who espoused emancipation, Brown remained the selfless savior whose sacrificial raid on Harper's Ferry sparked the war that led Abraham Lincoln to free the slaves. How could so altruistic a figure have suffered from any of mankind's less admirable tendencies?

It is true that Brown's at-

tempt to lead a revolt against slavery carried the issue beyond the point of peaceful resolution by inflaming it at a critical juncture, but Lincoln's war failed to end American slavery in anything but name. Effective slavery continued in the South for another century. That forgotten, inconvenient circumstance hobbles the argument that the commencement of civil war was felicitous—which has always been the claim of those who insist that slavery could not have been ended at all without vast bloodshed. American apartheid was really only ended a century later, with relatively little bloodshed but a great deal of nonviolent civil disobedience, activism, and education. All of that raises serious doubt that Brown's 1859 raid achieved any real good, and sharply diminishes his heroic status. Deeper inquiry leaves him looking downright unsavory.

From young manhood he subsisted primarily on a series of business schemes that always involved the infusion of other people's money. All of those ventures failed, and Brown rarely repaid more than a fraction of his investors' funds, if that. Often he took their money for one project and spent it on another, such as forestalling his most pressing per-

sonal creditors. Fraud and worse crimes also marked his activities among the Free State faction in Kansas, where he migrated with abolitionist subsidies. Soon after his arrival there he led an anti-slavery gang in the premeditated, cold-blooded murder of five unarmed settlers. Then he returned east, seeking more donations to further the Kansas cause, only to divert those funds to his murderous Harper's Ferry raid.

Brown's apologists have depicted him as a poor businessman, or as the victim of a cruel capitalist system, but he would probably have prospered in the modern business environment. He showed all the skills that seem most conspicuous among corporate executives today. He was extremely persuasive to all but the most astute, deftly wielding vagueness and subtlety to bend the truth to his purposes. He maintained investor confidence by exuding eternal optimism under the most obvious evidence of failure. He egotistically viewed himself as a director rather than a doer, so he was always recruiting confederates and underlings to whom he could delegate every actual labor. He instinctively magnified any slight success that might attend his enterprises, claiming



Detail from "Tragic Prelude," by John Stuart Curry

it for himself, and he knew how to disguise most of his failures. Most important of all, he owned the valuable talent of credibly blaming others for those failures he could not hide.

Brown seemed almost delighted to hang, for that transformed him into the patron saint of the abolition cause and provided an illusion of accomplishment to his unproductive and pernicious life. He may have harbored antislavery sentiments, but he understood that abolition attracted generous donations without the trouble and worry required by investment fraud, and it offered him a stage for sanctimonious posturing.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of his attack on Harper's Ferry. The sesquicentennial has prompted many new books on John Brown, almost all of which have followed the party line with Brown as antislavery hero, or as a religious zealot whose worst fault was an obsession with the plight of the oppressed. Few have shown much inclination to delve any further into either the man or his legacy, but one exception will be the opera that debuts at Fryeburg Academy's Eastman Center for the Performing Arts on the afternoon of July 5. I recommend it as an inquisitive historian, and not just because I sleep with the composer.

Public Radio makes you listen to their money pitch whenever it's convenient for them. We, at least, have the decency to put our pleadings in print, in this relatively innocuous space, so that you can read them at your con-

venience. (That being said, we must remind our readers that it is absolutely forbidden for anyone to read any other part of this paper without reading this plea for Supporting Subscriptions.)

For those who may have been

wondering, this recent spate of pleas seems to be having some effect. Depending on how you look at it, that could be bad news, or that could be good news. It's bad to the extent that it means we'll probably keep pleading. On

the other hand it's good news, in that it means that if it succeeds over the long haul, we'll probably be able to continue publishing the rest of the paper along with these harangues. We've noticed another curious effect, too: some

people have begun renewing their subscriptions four, five and even six months before their subscriptions expire. So don't think we haven't noticed — or that we don't appreciate it. The form is just below.

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Lake Halite

To the Editor:

Portsmouth has the potential for becoming an exciting new regional birding hot spot. The briny waters of Lake Halite, a recently-formed crater lake, could lure in several species of aviary and aquatic life not currently present in New England.

Like the Great Salt Lake of Utah or the Bahamian salt pans, Lake Halite (see photo above right) is a highly specialized environment. With its shallow, salty water the lake could soon support a complete ecosystem that would be totally new to New Hampshire. With any luck brine shrimp will soon inhabit the lake, and with this rich food source Portsmouth could have flamingos making summer visits. On top of this, the lake could greatly enhance the wildlife value of an already rich and diverse migratory bird route that currently depend on the mud flats and salt marsh near by. One can only hope the owners of the lake won't take advantage of the opportunity and begin to sell brine shrimp to local aquarist, but leave the site in its current unattended state and allow nature to take its course.

Steve Miller
Portsmouth, NH



Viewed here from a vantage point at the northern end of the North Cemetery, the placid, salty waters of Lake Halite can be seen framed by the leaves of a sumac. Further into the distance, past some steel I-beams and blocks of concrete, lies the North Mill Pond. See letter at left.

Steve:

Thank you for alerting us to the latest developments in the natural evolution of our local ecosystem. We have found it inspiring. If only Union Products of Leominster, Massachusetts had not ceased production a few years ago; a relatively small investment in their line of inexpensive flamingo decoys might have provided a great stimulus to our local economy.

The Editor

Is Shea-Porter Really Working For Us?

To the Editor:

I sometimes wonder if the stimulus package is helping New Hampshire? Our Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter supported this package, otherwise known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Did she make a mistake? A steady stream of announcements from Shea-Porter's office reassures me. It provides clear evidence of the type of help New Hampshire is receiving and its effectiveness.

The Ottati-Goss site in Kingston will obtain up to \$5 million to help clean-up hazardous waste. The North Conway Water Precinct will get \$8,100,000 to upgrade its water and wastewater

systems. The City of Laconia will receive \$100,000 and Ossipee Concerned Citizens \$27,500 for essential community facilities and emergency responder projects. The Portsmouth National Passport Center will be awarded \$2,570,000 for facility renovations. UNH will receive \$1,776,000 to improve its transportation shuttle service.

The State of New Hampshire will acquire \$39,163,900 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program. According to Shea-Porter's office, "This program provides low-interest loans for water quality protection projects, for wastewater treatment, non-point source pollution control, and watershed and estuary management."

The State will also receive \$10,467,073 in unemployment insurance modernization incentive funds. Shea-Porter noted, "With the recent news that unemployment in New Hampshire jumped to 6.5 percent, these funds are critical."

Finally, the State will get \$320,332 for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. I think that Shea-Porter made the right choice when she voted for the American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act. The Act's final effect may take some time to be felt, but clearly help is on the way.

Leslie Koether
Wolfeboro, NH

Stuck in a Mileage Morass

To the Editor:

The United States produces 5,064,000 (five million and sixty-four thousand) barrels of oil per day.

The United States consumes 20,680,000 (twenty million and six hundred and eighty thousand) barrels of oil per day.

One barrel of oil can yield between 12 and 19.6 gallons of gasoline.

One barrel of oil can also yield between 12 and 19.6 gallons of diesel fuel. It depends on the refinery method.

Each day in the United States 400,000,000 gallons of gasoline are consumed. That's equivalent to 20,408,163 barrels of oil. Almost all of the oil we import goes into our cars.

Today's average miles-per-gallon for all American cars is 17 mpg.

Average miles-per-gallon for diesel cars is 51 mpg. Average diesel/hybrid mileage is 72 mpg. Average diesel/biodiesel/hybrid mileage is 120 mpg or greater.

When American automakers produce cars with diesel/hybrid engines in them we will be driving around in cars getting 120 miles per gallon.

Our consumption of oil would drop to 3,333,333.33 barrels of oil per day.

The United States would be a net exporter of oil. It's as simple as that. But ...

The auto companies are forbidden to sell these cars in the United States even though they make and sell them around the

world.

Now American auto companies are being destroyed and our soldiers occupying Iraq and Afghanistan.

American manufacturers seem more interested in banking than making.

Are we are a strong nation? Do we like to work? Why aren't we being given these simple opportunities to turn our lives around?

Sincerely,
Alfred Brock
Wayne MI
Alfred:

Well, let's see ...

Our best guess off the top of our bald editorial head: vested interests. The oil companies are reluctant to cut demand for their product when they're rolling in money like Scrooge McDuck; the car companies don't believe in anything they didn't think of; Congress is hog-tied by the GOP's ideological intransigence; the media are too scared of breaking their rice bowl and annoying their advertisers, and the public's too baffled by the obfuscation generated by right-wing think tanks and passed along as gospel by the media.

Be sure to look at "Local Blogger Asks WTF?" on page three.

The Editor

Time to Subscribe

To the Editor:

After seeing Dick Bush's message ["You guys really do suck ... no really ... your Liberal rants are everything that's wrong with this country ...," April 24], I knew that it was time to subscribe. I mean, really, anything that leaves the conservatives barfing in such rage is worth the bucks.

Anthony Lockwood
Hancock, NH

Anthony:
Hey — everybody's got to be good at something.

The Editor

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The New Hampshire Gazette



And Other Correspondence

Our Health Care Fix

To the Editor:

Believe me, Costa Rica is not where you want to have your heart attack. I have a great deal of respect for your newspaper — the rare independent publication now that corporate media is the norm — but the opening paragraph of your June 19 rant is a distortion of fact. It is always wise when citing conclusions to understand on what information those conclusions are based.

Popular Ranking Unfairly Misrepresents the U.S. Health Care System

www.healthandsharing.com/21/articleDetail

John Denton
Wilmington, DE

John:

"It is always wise ... to understand on what information those conclusions are based."

Well, exactly. Which is why we looked up the source of healthandsharing.com's assertion that "if you remove the homicide rate and accidental death rate from MVA's from this statistic, citizens of the US have a longer life expectancy than any other country on earth." The source turns out to be the Pacific Research Institute.

Sourcewatch.org — which we know to be a reliable source — notes that the Pacific Research Institute is funded by corporations including Altria (formerly Phillip Morris), Chevron Texaco, Exxon Mobil, Pfizer, PhRMA (the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America), the White House Writers Group (founded in 1993 by "five former White House speechwriters," many from the George H.W. Bush Administration).

They also get funding from a whole string of conservative think tanks funded by icons of the wingnut right such as Scaifes, Kochs, Waltons and Simons.

We don't want to have a heart attack anywhere. But neither do we want to live in a country where (1) health care eats up more of the GDP than anywhere else in the industrialized world, (2) one out of seven people have no health care, (3) the vast majority of the people want a public option, and (4) they stand a good chance of not getting it because self-serving billionaires use the excess wealth they enjoy thanks to tax breaks for the rich to turn the public debate on its head with lies.

Thanks for those kind words. It's been good having you for a subscriber these many years — a situation we hope might continue even after this response.

The Editor

Medical Marijuana

[Note: The following letter was sent by a subscriber on April 15. — The Ed.]

Dear Senator Larsen:

I am writing to respectfully request that you vote in favor of HB 648 which was recently passed by the NH House. To deny seriously ill citizens the chance for improved comfort through the legal use of marijuana is in itself criminal, it seems to me. I have witnessed friends and family members stricken with horrible diseases, and in the aftermath of chemotherapy treatments, whose life betterment could be achieved through the prescribed use of medical marijuana. It is ridiculous that many narcotic drugs far more powerful than marijuana (such as morphine) can be readily prescribed by the medical community, while the much more harmless drug, marijuana, is deemed illegal. New Hampshire must join the growing number of states allowing the use of medical marijuana.

Please vote in favor of allowing the use of marijuana for medical

purposes when the bill is considered by the State Senate. Also, please urge fellow Senators to vote in a like manner.

Sincerely,
Paul Nichols
Loudon, NH

[Mr. Nichols received this reply June 30.]

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thanks for your message. I voted for HB 648 both when it passed the Senate and again when the Committee of Conference recommended an improved and revised version. I appreciated knowing your thoughts on the issue.

Sincerely,
Sylvia B. Larsen
New Hampshire State Senate
Concord, NH

[Note: The following is excerpted from an article headlined "Suffering veterans are caught between science and lack of political courage," published June 19 in the daily Kalamazoo (Michigan) Gazette. It was written by Martin H. Chilcutt, executive director for Veterans for Medical Marijuana Access, Thomas M. Walsh, a psychiatric nurse in the Vietnam War, and Jeffery Chilcutt, a U.S. Army veteran. — The Ed.]

"The citizens of Kalamazoo voted 3 to 1 for the legalization of medical marijuana last November. Most disabled veterans supported this vote because medical marijuana has a very personal effect on our lives, our well being and our health ...

"We veterans are still waiting to hear from our local mayor and city commissioners, waiting for their support ...

"We say enough of the "shock and awe" tactics used by police and sheriffs on disabled veterans and other patients.

"Mind the cost of freedom we veterans have paid. We only want peace — peace of mind and body. When do we get justice, when do we get our human rights?"



Democrats No Longer the Party of the Working Man

To the Editor

Now Democrats in control of the New Hampshire legislature want to tax campgrounds but not ski areas or golf courses.

For anyone who thinks Democrats are still the party of the working man, think again.

Paul Mirski
Enfield Center, NH
Paul:

If you want to get outraged, how about the state's plan to sell off Jeness Beach, Cardigan Mountain, and a host of other sites? How about the array of nickel-and-dime fees that are going to pick your pocket every time you turn around?

We're all for outrage — hell, we commit outrages every fortnight, right on schedule. But you're blaming the wrong people. The Democrats are guilty of several things, lack of courage and a coherent message being the foremost. But it's right-wing plutocrats that have been putting the blocks to this whole state since Bill Loeb bought the Manchester Union Leader back in the Forties. If we had a decently organized income tax, and cut property taxes in half, this constant angst about balancing the state's budget could end.

The Editor

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SummerFilm

The Music Hall

IL DIVO

JULY 5 @ 4&7:30, JULY 6,7 @ 7:30

The highly acclaimed biopic of former Italian Prime Minister, Giulio Andreotti. The narration spans the period from the seventh election of Andreotti as PM until the trial in which he was accused of collusion with the Mafia. Subtitled. (NR, 110 mins, It, 2008)

Show and Tell Follows JULY 7 Screening

Apocalypse Now REDUX

SCOPE! MUST BE SEEN on the BIG screen

JULY 8 @ 6:30

Francis Ford Coppola's Vietnam epic, restored and updated with 49 additional minutes of footage. Martin Sheen, Marlon Brando, Robert Duvall and Dennis Hopper lead the top-notch cast. (R, 202 mins, US, 2001)

AMERICAN VIOLET

JULY 9,10,11 @ 7:30

Shining a spotlight on the racial profiling practices of a corrupt district attorney in a rural Texas town, Director Tim Disney's film features a nuanced performance from Alfre Woodard as well as from newcomer, Nicole Behaire. (PG13, 103 mins, US, 2008)

ADORATION

JULY 12 @ 4&7:30, JULY 13,14 @ 7:30

Adoration speaks to our connections—with each other, with our family history, with technology and with the modern world. A school assignment leads one student deep into the mystery that is his past. (R, 100 mins, Ca, 2008)

2001: a space odyssey

SCOPE! MUST BE SEEN on the BIG screen

JULY 15 @ 7:30

Stanley Kubrick's 1968 sci-fi masterpiece. From the dawn of man to the future of human evolution and artificial intelligence, the film sparkles with indelible images and an overwhelming soundtrack. "I'm sorry, Dave..." (G, 141 mins, UK, 1968)

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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, July 5	Monday, July 6	Tuesday, July 7	Wednesday, July 8	Thursday, July 9	Friday, July 10	Saturday, July 11
<p>1989—Lt. Col. Ollie North gets his wrist slapped for trampling on the Constitution.</p> <p>1968—The Marine base at Khe Sanh, defended through a 78-day siege ending three months earlier at a cost of 737 lives, is abandoned.</p> <p>1950—Private Kenneth Shadrick, 20, of Skin Fork, W. Va., becomes the first American killed in the Korean War.</p> <p>1946—In Paris, Micheline Bernardini appears wearing the world's first bikini.</p> <p>1934—During a dock workers' strike in San Francisco, Joseph Roush, a Federal Laboratories sales rep, fires a long-distance tear gas shell at strikers. Hit in the skull, one later dies. Roush writes to his boss, "as he was a Communist, I had no feeling in the matter and I am sorry that I did not get more."</p> <p>1894—A massive fire, probably set, destroys six buildings at the World's Columbian Exposition, including Machinery Hall, where Daniel Fowle's printing press was last seen in public.</p> <p>1861—Abraham Lincoln suspends <i>habeas corpus</i>, permitting the arrest of 18,000 subversives and peace activists.</p> <p>1810—Happy B'day P.T. Barnum.</p> <p>1775—The Continental Congress passes the Olive Branch Petition, trying to patch things up with King George III.</p>	<p>2006—Riding a bike in Scotland, George W. Bush takes a hand off the handlebars to wave at police.</p> <p>Bush falls and strikes a policeman, who is hospitalized.</p> <p>2003—A <i>New York Times</i> op-ed by Joseph Wilson accuses George W. Bush of "twisting" intelligence to justify a war against Iraq.</p> <p>2001—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and exhibitionist Robert Hanssen pleads guilty to selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then the Russians.</p> <p>1971—Troubled by leaks, the Nixon Administration forms the "Plumbers" unit.</p> <p>1959—A C-124 with a nuke on-board (minus its fissile core) crash-lands at Barksdale AFB in LA. Both plane and weapon are destroyed.</p> <p>1957—John Lennon and Paul McCartney meet.</p> <p>1933—The first All-Star Game is played at Comiskey Park. Babe Ruth hits the first homer.</p> <p>1916—The U.S. Army begins using dog tags to improve its method of accounting for dead GIs.</p> <p>1894—U.S. troops land in Nicaragua to protect U.S. interests.</p> <p>1892—Pinkerton "detectives" and striking miners begin fighting it out in Homestead, Pa.; 20 die.</p> <p>1887—David Kalakaua, King of Hawaii, signs away most of his power as he inks the "Bayonet Constitution" at gunpoint.</p>	<p>2005—Wellington Contreras, 43, walking home in the Bronx, is killed by a falling street sign, dislodged by a car whose driver has just been shot in the head.</p> <p>2003—The White House admits its State of the Union claim about Saddam trying to buy uranium in Niger was "wrong."</p> <p>1967—North Vietnamese General Nguyen Chi Thanh dies of a heart attack after excessively celebrating the Politburo's approval of his plan for a Tet Offensive.</p> <p>1954—As Ngo Dinh Diem arrives in Saigon to serve as premier, U.S. Gen. John W. O'Daniel, says "the war in Vietnam can be won without bringing in one single American soldier to fight."</p> <p>1950—FBI Chief J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover proposes the permanent detention of 12,000 people he deems "potentially dangerous to the internal security of the country."</p> <p>1905—Kentucky hangs Robert Mathley, but he's six feet tall and the rope stretches. Officials with shovels dig until his feet don't touch the earth.</p> <p>1863—The U.S. begins exempting men from the draft, provided they cough up \$100 cash.</p> <p>1846—U.S. annexes California.</p> <p>1844—In Philadelphia, nativist Protestants and Irish Catholics armed with cannon fight it out at the Church of St. Philip Neri.</p>	<p>1976—The State of New York yanks Richard Nixon's license to practice law.</p> <p>1969—The U.S. begins withdrawing troops from Vietnam instead of adding more.</p> <p>1959—Viet Cong forces attack Bien Hoa air base, killing two U.S. advisors as they watch a movie.</p> <p>1947—Radio reports say a UFO has crashed at Roswell, NM.</p> <p>1932—The Dow-Jones average bottoms out at 41.22 points.</p> <p>1911—Nan Jane Aspinwall arrives in New York City having left San Francisco 310 days earlier, having traveled more than 4,500 miles on horseback.</p> <p>1886—In Britain it rains snails.</p> <p>1853—Commodore Matthew Perry convinces the Japanese that it's better to trade with the U.S. than get shelled by them.</p> <p>1835—The Liberty Bell tolls upon the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Legend says it cracked this day, but that's been disputed.</p> <p>1788—In Canterbury, Conn., hail falls to a depth of 34 inches.</p> <p>1776—In Philadelphia, the as yet un-named Liberty Bell summons citizens to hear the Declaration of Independence read for the first time, by Colonel John Nixon.</p> <p>1680—In Cambridge, Mass., the first recorded death by tornado kills a servant.</p>	<p>2004—At the Portsmouth Public Library, Laura Bush tells a reporter that the "Iraqi Interim Governing Council has taken responsibility now" for that country.</p> <p>2004—"I trust God speaks through me," says George W. Bush to an Amish group. "Without that, I couldn't do my job."</p> <p>1993—Garry Hoy, a Toronto lawyer, while demonstrating the strength of the glass of 24th floor windows, plunges to his death.</p> <p>1986—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese publishes a 1,960 page report on pornography meticulously listing 100 pages worth of obscene movie, magazine, and book titles.</p> <p>1958—Fourteen thousand U.S. troops, equipped with nuclear-capable rockets, invade Lebanon.</p> <p>1951—The House Un-American Activities Committee sentences tubercular <i>Maltese Falcon</i> author Dashiell Hammett to six months in prison for reticence.</p> <p>1937—Oliver Law, a battalion commander in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the first African-American to lead white troops, is killed in action in Spain.</p> <p>1932—Donald Rumsfeld slithers from his mother's womb.</p> <p>1918—Two trains collide head-on in Nashville at a combined speed of 110 m.p.h., killing 101 and injuring another 171. It is the deadliest train wreck in U.S. history.</p>	<p>2007—China punishes Zheng Xiaoyu, Director of the State Food and Drug Administration. He took bribes that led to 40 deaths; they killed him.</p> <p>2001—George Tenet tries to warn George W. Bush and Condoleezza Rice about Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, but is unable to get their attention.</p> <p>1989—Fifteen tornadoes rip through the northeast, causing \$100 million in damages.</p> <p>1985—French secret police in the South Pacific blow up Greenpeace's boat, <i>Rainbow Warrior</i>.</p> <p>1981—Hog rustler Ken McElroy is gunned down in Skidmore, MO before 45 eyewitnesses, but none will testify vs. his killer.</p> <p>1972—In the Chandka Forest of India, a herd of stampeding elephants, driven mad by the heat, flattens a village, killing 24.</p> <p>1962—Launch of Telstar, world's first telecommunication satellite.</p> <p>1923—In Germany, to accommodate inflation, a 500,000 mark banknote is introduced.</p> <p>1805—RIP Revolutionary War soldier Col. William Butler, who was court martialled for refusing to cut off his ponytail. "Bore a hole through the bottom of my coffin," he wrote in his will, "[so that] the damned rascal [his ex-commanding officer] will see that, even when dead, I refuse to obey his orders."</p>	<p>2005—Members of the White House press corps ask Scott McClellan more than 60 questions about Karl Rove.</p> <p>2003—CIA head George Tenet takes the rap for the White House's lies about Iraq, Niger, & uranium.</p> <p>1995—Twenty-two years after withdrawing its troops, the U.S. establishes diplomatic relations with Vietnam.</p> <p>1979—After a period of global anxiety, Skylab crashes to earth in the outback of Australia.</p> <p>1966—Poet Delmore Schwartz dies in a New York hotel. No one notices until two days later.</p> <p>1955—Congress makes the appearance of the phrase, "In God We Trust" mandatory on all U.S. coins and paper currency. Which God is not specified.</p> <p>1953—Ike OK's the overthrow of Iran's Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq. What could go wrong?</p> <p>1947—In Georgia, 8 black prisoners are killed for refusing to work without boots in a swamp.</p> <p>1914—The Red Sox debut their new left-hander, George Herman "Babe" Ruth.</p> <p>1888—Snow covers Mt. Washington, almost to the base.</p> <p>1804—At Weehauken, NJ Alexander Hamilton fires into the ground in front of Aaron Burr, who takes aim and shoots Hamilton in the chest, killing him.</p>
<p>11:03 11:07</p> <p>4:47 4:45</p>	<p>11:47 11:49</p> <p>5:32 5:29</p>	<p>12:28</p> <p>6:12 6:10</p>	<p>12:28 1:05</p> <p>6:49 6:48</p>	<p>1:04 1:40</p> <p>7:24 7:25</p>	<p>1:39 2:14</p> <p>7:57 8:02</p>	<p>2:15 2:47</p> <p>8:31 8:41</p>
Sunday, July 12	Monday, July 13	Tuesday, July 14	Wednesday, July 15	Thursday, July 16	Friday, July 17	Saturday, July 18
<p>1982—The Federal Emergency Management Agency pledges that, in the event of a nuclear war, the mail will get through.</p> <p>1973—A fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri destroys the only copy of the service records of 16 to 18 million Army and Air Force veterans.</p> <p>1962—In Pennsylvania, a garbage dump fire spreads to a coal mine where it will burn for more than twenty years.</p> <p>1917—Armed vigilantes in Bisbee, Ariz. round up striking copper miners, herd them into cattle cars, take them east into New Mexico, and abandon them in the desert without food or water.</p> <p>1916—Lyudmila Pavlichenko is born in the Ukraine. As a Red Army sniper, she kills over 500 Nazis during WWII, and becomes the first Soviet citizen welcomed to the White House.</p> <p>1908—Birth of Milton Berle, the first American transvestite to have his own television show.</p> <p>1892—The Pennsylvania militia wins the battle against striking Homestead steelworkers.</p> <p>1836—In Cincinnati, a pro-slavery mob destroys type used by James Burney to print his abolitionist paper, <i>The Philanthropist</i>.</p> <p>1834—Botanist David Douglas of the eponymous fir is trampled by wild bulls in a Hawaiian pit trap.</p>	<p>1977—Lightning strikes and human ineptitude plunge New York City into darkness for a day.</p> <p>1960—Democrats nominate a prominent former bootlegger's son for president.</p> <p>1950—A B-50 Superfortress crashes in Lebanon, OH, killing its crew of 16. The fissile core of the nuclear weapon on board not being installed, the crater made by its high explosives was only 25 feet deep.</p> <p>1948—Israeli troops drive 70,000 Palestinians from their homes in Lydda and Remleh.</p> <p>1943—Alexander Schmorell, a student and veteran, and Professor Kurt Huber, co-conspirators in the anti-Nazi pamphleteering group White Rose, are guillotined in Munich.</p> <p>1863—A New York mob enraged by draft laws exempting the rich, egged on by Democrats claiming Republicans would bring freed slaves north to replace lazy white workers, go on a three-day rampage, leveling whole blocks and attacking the offices of Horace Greeley's pro-Union <i>New York Tribune</i>.</p> <p>1805—Oliver Evans takes a steam-powered amphibious dredge for a spin in downtown Philadelphia.</p> <p>1793—Charlotte Corday, a young French aristocrat, stabs scrofulous Revolutionary journalist Jean-Paul Marat to death in his bathtub.</p>	<p>2004—Senate Republicans try to ban gay marriage via Constitutional amendment, but just can't seem to rise to the occasion.</p> <p>2004—During filming of <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>, a rigging error drops a \$540,000 movie camera into a huge vat of chocolate.</p> <p>2003—A syndicated column written by Robert "The Reptile" Novak's reveals the identity of Valerie Plame, a CIA agent.</p> <p>2000—A Florida jury orders five tobacco companies to pay \$145 billion in damages. An appeals court later lets them off the hook.</p> <p>1999—Disgusted by its lack of principle, New Hampshire's senior Senator Bob Smith bails out of the Republican Party.</p> <p>1991—A derailed tanker car full of pesticide spills into the Sacramento River killing 100,000 trout.</p> <p>1989—Alabama tries twice, 19 minutes apart, to electrocute Horace F. Dunkins, a retarded black man. The first try fails because the chair is wired wrong.</p> <p>1987—Oliver North's testimony before Congress ends; perhaps he's out of lies.</p> <p>1970—Bob Haldeman informs Tom Huston that Richard Nixon has approved his despicable Plan.</p> <p>1921—An important show trial ends satisfactorily in Massachusetts: Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are found guilty.</p>	<p>1995—A weather phenomenon called a derecho (a mesoscale convective complex) sends hurricane force winds through New York and New England, toppling thousands of trees and killing three people.</p> <p>1979—Jimmy Carter delivers his "malaise" speech, in which the word "malaise" does not appear.</p> <p>1974—In Florida, on live TV, newsreader Christine Chubbuck pulls a loaded pistol from a shopping bag and shoots herself dead.</p> <p>1971—Nixon says he'll go to China.</p> <p>1964—The Republican Party saddles itself with Barry Goldwater as a presidential candidate.</p> <p>1919—The then-honestly-named War Department calls 337,000 Americans draft dodgers.</p> <p>1865—Beach-goers in Rye, NH observe an optical illusion making the Isles of Shoals appear to be only a mile or two offshore.</p> <p>1779—Troops under General "Mad Anthony" Wayne take Stony Point—and 700 prisoners—with a bayonet charge.</p> <p>1685—The executioner Jack Ketch, after eight blows of the ax, finally succeeds in beheading the Duke of Monmouth.</p> <p>1381—Lollard preacher John Ball, for his part in inspiring the Peasants' Revolt, is hanged, drawn, and quartered as Richard II looks on with approval.</p>	<p>2004—Martha Stewart gets five months in the can for lying about a shady deal to save \$45,000.</p> <p>1994—Fragments of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 begin crashing into Saturn.</p> <p>1980—In Detroit, Ronald Reagan is nominated for President by what was formerly the party of Lincoln.</p> <p>1973—Al Butterfield reveals he's been bugging the Oval office at the behest of The Man himself.</p> <p>1973—Senate begins investigating allegations that the Air Force made 3,500 secret B-52 sorties over Cambodia.</p> <p>1969—<i>Apollo 11</i> blasts off, next stop: the Moon.</p> <p>1951—<i>Catcher in the Rye</i> is published.</p> <p>1945—The Atomic Age begins with a bang at Alamogordo, NM.</p> <p>1877—A railroad strike turns violent in Martinsburg, W. Va. Local militia refuse to fire on strikers, but Federal troops will.</p> <p>1862—David Farragut becomes U.S.'s first Rear Admiral.</p> <p>1858—To help himself resist prostitutes, Thomas P. "Boston" Corbett castrates himself with a pair of scissors. Seven years later he will kill John Wilkes Booth.</p> <p>1860—Emperor Norton I issues a declaration calling for the dissolution of the U.S.A.</p> <p>1439—To protect public health, kissing is banned in England.</p>	<p>2001—The FBI announces that it can't find 449 firearms and 184 laptop computers, including one holding classified data.</p> <p>1996—TWA Flight 800 spontaneously explodes off Long Island. Right.</p> <p>1979—Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza flees Nicaragua to escape the Sandinistas.</p> <p>1965—Art Sylvester, an American official in Saigon, tells Morley Safer "if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you're stupid."</p> <p>1962—Twenty-six minutes after a small atomic bomb is tested in Nevada, a company of men from the Fourth Infantry Division marches through the blast zone.</p> <p>1955—Lighting ignites a huge mine placed near Ypres in 1916. A cow is killed.</p> <p>1944—At Port Chicago, Calif., two munitions ships explode killing 322, 63 percent of them black bomb handlers.</p> <p>1928—At a party for veterans of the Mexican Revolution, President Alvaro Obregon says to a strolling caricaturist, "Make sure you make me look good." "I will," says artist Leon Toral, pulling a gun and shooting him dead.</p> <p>1927—In Nicaragua, a U.S. Marine squadron of seven planes pioneers the art of bombing civilians, killing 300 at Ocatlan.</p>	<p>1985—Presumably still doped up after cancer surgery five days earlier, Ronald Reagan OK's a scheme to send arms to Iran.</p> <p>1984—After telling his wife he's "going to hunt humans," James O. Huberty kills 21 and wounds another 19 in a 77 minute rampage at a San Diego McDonald's before a SWAT team sniper ends it. His widow later sues McDonald's, unsuccessfully, for unhinging his mind with MSG.</p> <p>1981—Norman Mailer's protege Jack Abbott, while on work release from a conviction for bank robbery, stabs a man to death in an East Village restaurant.</p> <p>1969—Senator Ted Kennedy gives Mary Jo Kopechne a ride part of the way home from a party, takes a swim, then a nap.</p> <p>1964—Riot begins in Harlem after police shoot an unarmed 15-year-old black male.</p> <p>1939—Hunter S. Thompson is born, Louisville, KY.</p> <p>1936—The Spanish Civil War begins.</p> <p>1929—Birth of "Screamin' Jay" Hawkins.</p> <p>1925—H.L. Mencken is nearly run out of Dayton, Tenn. on a rail by the pious.</p> <p>1889—Beloved alleged author and certified serial pederast Horatio Alger dies in Natick, Mass.</p> <p>64—Rome burns.</p>
<p>2:57 3:23</p> <p>9:07 9:23</p>	<p>3:32 4:02</p> <p>9:45 10:08</p>	<p>4:17 4:45</p> <p>10:27 10:58</p>	<p>5:07 5:34</p> <p>11:13 11:53</p>	<p>6:02 6:27</p> <p>12:04 12:04</p>	<p>7:03 7:25</p> <p>12:52 1:01</p>	<p>8:06 8:25</p> <p>1:53 2:00</p>

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