

The Fortnightly Rant

The Real McNamara

Robert Strange McNamara died on Monday, July 6, at the age of 93. In honor of his passing, someone should have fired up one of his beloved IBM machines and tallied up the number of people who, on learning of his demise, thought “only the good die young.”

Respectable newspapers, like decent people, adhere to the ancient Latin dictum, *de mortuis, nihil nisi bonum* (literally, of the dead, [say] nothing unless good). For our part, we will forego respectability in favor of the disreputable truth. If Mr. McNamara were somehow to object to this course of action, we would tell him that having spent almost a year and a half at the bottom of his chain of command, we do so in direct response to his own actions.

In the forty-plus years since McNamara left the Pentagon he cultivated, first through silence, then a book, then a movie, an image of himself as a man who prosecuted a war reluctantly, despite his own grave doubts, then did what he could to learn and communicate lessons of great value about war and peace. He could have done the nation a far greater service by just keeping his mouth shut. At the very least, he could have spared us his last few rounds of lies.

When John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, inherited McNamara as his Secretary of Defense along with a small counter-insurgency operation in Vietnam — a country unknown to many Americans. McNamara's last day at the Pentagon was February 29, 1968. On

average during that last month, an American died in Vietnam every eighteen minutes. And the damage was not confined to Vietnam. The war abroad spawned a fight at home which hasn't really ended yet.

“We ... acted according to what we thought were the principles and traditions of this nation,” McNamara wrote in his *mea culpa*, *In Retrospect*, “yet we were wrong, terribly wrong. We owe it to future generations to explain why.”

How we went wrong in Vietnam, and who was responsible, do matter — a lot. But we can't trust McNamara to give us the truth.

The Gulf of Tonkin incident of August 4, 1964 was the starting gun for our war in Vietnam. Two U.S. destroyers reported — erroneously — that they had been attacked by North Vietnamese PT boats. In Errol Morris's *The Fog of War*, McNamara says of that day, “... finally late in the day, Admiral [Grant] Sharp said ‘Yes, we're certain it happened.’ So I reported this to Johnson, and as a result, there were bombing attacks on targets in North Vietnam.” McNamara's depiction of himself functioning as a neutral cog in the war machine meshes nicely with the public's longstanding image of him as a bloodless technocrat — but it clashes violently with the facts.

Three days after McNamara's death, on the website RawStory.com, Gareth Porter* reported the

*Gareth Porter was the Saigon bureau chief for Dispatch News Service International during the war. He based his piece on documents he reviewed while researching his book, *Perils of Dominance: Imbalance of Power and the Road to War in Vietnam*.



truth in a piece headlined, “Robert McNamara Deceived LBJ on Gulf of Tonkin, Documents Show.”

At 1:27 p.m. Washington, D.C. time — hours before McNamara's conversation with Admiral Sharpe — Captain John J. Herrick, the Commander of the U.S. destroyers *Maddox* and *Turner Joy*, had sent a message to Washington saying he “had changed his mind about the alleged North Vietnamese torpedo attack on U.S. warships he had reported earlier that day” and recommended a “complete evaluation before any further action” be taken.

“McNamara later testified that he had read the message after his return to the Pentagon that afternoon,” Porter writes. “But he did not immediately call Johnson to tell him that the whole premise of his decision at lunch to ap-

prove McNamara's recommendation for retaliatory air strikes against North Vietnam was now highly questionable.”

They were “questionable” for a good reason — they didn't happen. As Herrick had feared, a combination of atmospheric conditions and jumpy sonar operators had set off the Gulf of Tonkin incident — not North Vietnamese PT boats.

Among the official documents Porter examined were transcripts of McNamara's conversation with Admiral Sharp. “[N]umerous changes were made on previous drafts in McNamara's own handwriting,” Porter writes, changes that “deliberately suppressed the most damning words.” The final version “failed to mention Sharp's revelation that Herrick considered the ‘whole situation’ to be ‘in doubt.’”

The Vietnam War was fought

by baby boomers. Their life expectancy is currently estimated at about 83 years. The average age of the 58,159 Americans who died in Vietnam was 23, so on average they each lost about sixty years. The total cost, then, was three and a half million years of life — and that's just counting the Americans. But McNamara, who killed them, lived to be 93.

During the year he spent documenting the cost of McNamara's war, this writer seems to have misplaced his ability to believe in benevolent deities. That's a pity, because the thought of pearly, celestial gates welcoming the dead might have been a comfort. The existence of evil, of course, remains irrefutable. So perhaps it's safe to imagine that Robert Strange McNamara's unusual longevity can be chalked up to the extra time it took to perform preparatory excavations in Hell.

News Briefs:

A Smörgåsbord of Surreality

Is it just us, or is it getting weird around here? Seriously, either the volume of strange events is rising along with the sea level, or the means by which we tally and track bizarre behavior are becoming almost too effective. We'll do our best to cover the essentials here, but be forewarned, Dear Reader — we can't guarantee that we got it all. There's no telling what might have fallen to the floor of the *abatoir*.

Bailin' Sarah Palin

This past fortnight kicked off with a serious bang when the Governor of Alaska — her name will come to us in a moment — started celebrating her Fourth of July weekend by quitting her job.

Talk about a garbage dump. It's long been standard practice in the world of politics to release

damaging information quietly, late on a Friday, to minimize the attention it draws from the media and thus the public — but this was ridiculous.

On Friday, July 3, in a drop-of-the-hat press conference attended by close family and friends, a few random mediots, and the now-obligatory fowl in the background — hey, at least this time they weren't being decapitated* — the former Vice Presidential candidate of the Republican Party gave her two-weeks notice.

Needless to say, this took a lot

*We know it's hard to retain all the minutia of the Palin saga, so here's the Cliffs Notes: On November 20, 2008, Palin pulled the old “pardoning a Thanksgiving turkey” gag, then granted a television interview. In the background during the interview a farm worker was going about his business, which just happened to be slaughtering turkeys.

of people by surprise. Almost two weeks later, political junkies are still speculating about her motives. They have the text of her speech, and videos, of course, but in the quest for clarity that's a hindrance, not a help. We tried for a while to decipher it all ourselves but had to give up due to a badly sprained parietal lobe.

We did come to the conclusion that the date was chosen by her numerologist. Calculations showed that if she had made her resignation effective nine days later, she would have served .666 percent of her term. Her base will forgive her for a lot, but that? Never.

Post Toasted

Speaking of the unforgivable, the day before Sarah Palin quit Politico.com reported that

the publisher and CEO of the *Washington Post*, Katharine Weymouth, had committed the journalistic equivalent of the Pope marrying outside the church.

Weymouth, the granddaughter of the legendary *Post* publisher Katharine Graham, was going to host a salon at her home at which, for fees of up to \$250,000, lobbyists would gain access to *Post* reporters and editors, as well as selected Obama administration officials. The misbegotten event imploded shortly after a flier touting it — created by the paper's marketing division, who else? — was given to Politico.com by a disgusted health-care lobbyist.

The *Post*'s newsroom staff suffered the double indignity of discovering that their integrity had

been pimped by their publisher when they read about it on Politico.com.

Weymouth spiked the plan the day after it was exposed, saying Marketing had “completely misrepresented what we were trying to do.” She then went on to say she believed “there is a viable way to expand our expertise into live conferences and events that simply enhances (sic) what we do ... in ways that enhance our reputation and in no way call into question our integrity.”

At least one good thing came out of the whole sordid fracas — we learned it's still possible for a health-care lobbyist to be offended by their own racket.

News Briefs

from page one

She's Baaa ... aaack

Perhaps you thought we were done with Bailin' Palin? Hah! Alaska's media-hating Governor was a bit vague about her future plans when she bailed out of her job on July 3. This past Tuesday, a nationally-prominent newspaper offered a hint of what may lie ahead: an op-ed on energy, allegedly written by Ms. Palin herself.

Perhaps Palin the media critic turning into Palin the journalist does make a little sense. She has recently signed a lucrative book deal, albeit with Rupert Murdoch's Harper Collins. The best part, though, is the paper her piece appeared in: that staunch upholder of traditional journalistic integrity, the *Washington Post*.

Virginia is for Fascists

In July of 2008, four members of the Gloucester County, Virginia Board of Supervisors were indicted by a Grand Jury on fourteen misdemeanor charges of malfeasance, misfeasance, and misuse of office. The four miscreants had held secret meetings and unjustly fired the county administrator.

Forty outraged citizens of the county responded by gathering more than 6,000 signatures on a petition to remove the indicted Supervisors from office.

The Supervisors soon lawyered up. Then fate did them a favor that money couldn't buy. An attorney for the petitioners discovered some technical errors in the petition, which was subsequently withdrawn. Then a special prosecutor dropped the charges for lack of evidence — a decision



Sons of Whatever — On July 4, responding to a tip from our faithful distribution volunteer Adam Williams, we caught up with Dave Rynne, who had stationed himself in front of the North Church to do his best to alert the rest of us to the threat posed to the nation by the current occupant of the White House. Two tipoffs: Obama was not born in the U.S.A., and he left his middle name — Hussein — off of his official Inaugural photograph. Rynne did what he could to remedy that flaw by pasting small red horns onto Obama's photo. Dave expressed a skeptical view of the press, saying he preferred to get his news and information from Sean Hannity, Rush Limbaugh, and Michael Savage. His sign was signed in the lower right, "Brothers of Liberty." We asked Dave if that name referred to any specific organization. He said yes, it goes back to before 1776. We asked if he meant the "Sons of Liberty." He said no, he had never heard of the Sons of Liberty.

with which the regular County Prosecutor disagreed.

Last December Circuit Court Judge Westbrook J. Parker ruled that the forty citizens who circulated the petitions must pay fines of \$2,000 each towards the legal fees of the Supervisors' lawyers.

The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression has awarded the judge a Jefferson Muzzle Award for his resolute trampling of the First Amendment right to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Say what you will about Gloucester County — at least they honor their traditions. In 1686, the locale was characterized by Durand de Dauphine in his book *A Huguenot Exile in Virginia*, as "one of the most beautiful in all Virginia, but ... not the most healthful or inhabited by the most honest people. There are indeed no persons of quality ... I could not talk with anyone because I did not know the language, & even if I had understood them, I would hardly

have been better off for in this section there were only peasants, who were the worst scoundrels in Virginia."

Sotomayor: "Equality Through Castration"

The Executive Director of the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) posted some slightly alarming quotes on her Twitter feed Tuesday, which were attributed to Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor.

The first Tweet read, "The time has come to end white male oppression by castrating every white male until they are no longer dominant in Western culture."

A follow-up Tweet left no doubt as to Sotomayor's meaning: "That means forcible removal of their testicles. I realize the brutality of my comment, and I don't know how to say it more clearly."

CPAC's Lisa De Pasquale soon posted a third Tweet, asking readers to disregard the first two. "I was fooled!" she wrote. The quotes had come from a satirical website called Carbolic-

Smoke.com, whose dual mottos are, "News Unencumbered by the Facts," and "Proud Publishers of Fake News Since 2005."

An alert Mike Madden caught the short-lived phenomenon for Salon's blog, "War Room."

Teaching Texans

Rick Perry, the Republican Governor of Texas, recently nominated Gail Lowe, a self-styled creationist, to be Chair of the Texas Board of Education.

Back in April, Governor Perry hinted that the state might secede "if Washington continues to thumb their nose at the American people." More than a few Americans wouldn't mind if it did.

Citizens in Austin, though, who tend to be somewhat rational, might object and could conceivably secede from the secession. But one difficulty would arise: the Capitol of Texas lies within Austin's city limits.

Being relatively neighborly sorts, perhaps Austinites might permit the Capitol district to secede from Austin.

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The Fortnightly Quote, from A Reader:
"We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it."
 William Faulkner
 (1897-1962) writer, novelist

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The Flag Police

Good Lord — not her again!
With an insouciance that can come only from an utter disregard for the dignity of our national standard, life-long membership in the Republican Party,



or both, Sarah Palin, the Governor of Alaska, parks her elbow — her left elbow, at that — on a U.S. flag while being photographed for *Runner's World*.
And so, she is busted.

The Hell Street Journal

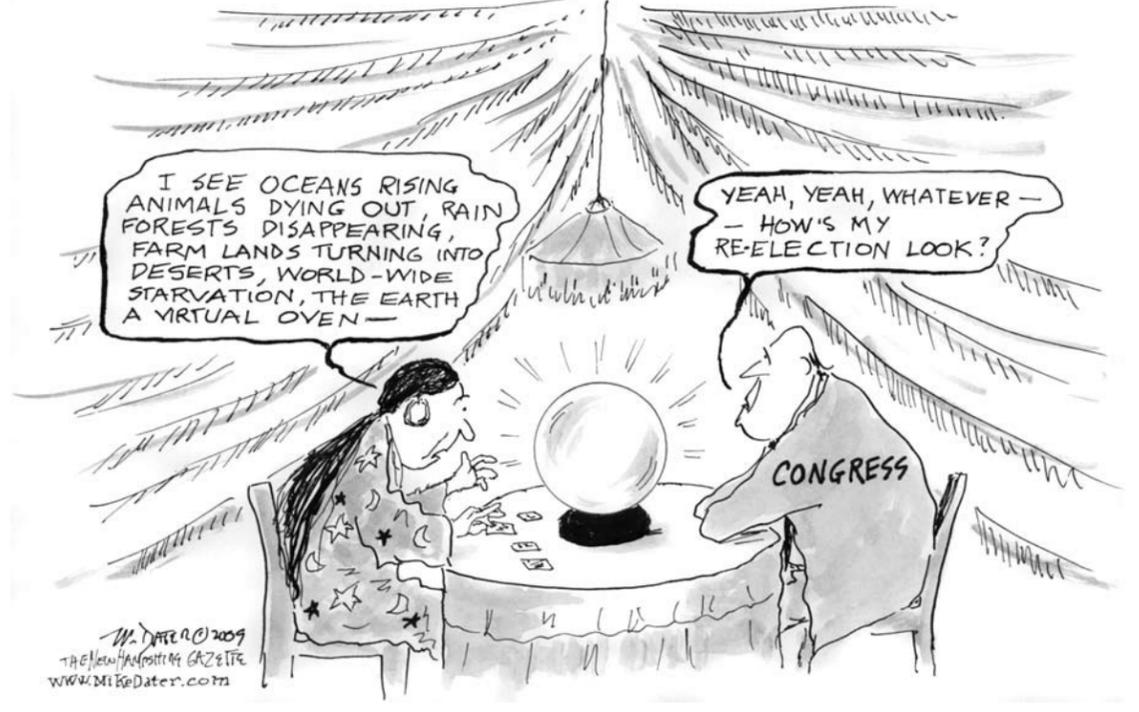
Earlier this month we noticed what seemed to be an ever-increasing amount of spam coming from Rupert Murdoch's *Wall Street Journal*. We finally got fed up enough to click the link and ask them to buzz off. Noticing the warning that it might take a while, we began putting the spam in a folder instead of deleting it. Nine days later it finally tapered off. We counted the contents of the folder and learned we'd been spammed 60 times in nine days. That works out to an average of 6.66 spams a day.

Here's Progress:

Cadaver-Devouring Robots

Speaking of Murdoch, owner of the Award-Winning Local Daily as well as the *Hell Street Journal*, his Fox News website carried this slightly alarming headline on Wednesday: "Upcoming Military Robot Could Feed on Dead Bodies."

"A Maryland company under contract to the Pentagon is



working on a steam-powered robot that would fuel itself by gobbling up whatever organic material it can find — grass, wood, old furniture, even dead bodies," says the lede paragraph.

A thorough scan of Robotic Technology, Inc.'s 32 page PDF file about its "Energetically Autonomous Tactical Robot" makes no reference to the use of corpses, human or animal, as fuel.

Rupert Murdoch's Newspaper Racket

The AWLD is part of Mur-

doch's Local Media Group. Its corporate cousin, News Group Newspapers Ltd., in the U.K., publishes two tabloids, *The Sun*, and the *News of the World*. Both papers are quite successful in terms of circulation, though less so in critical acclaim.

The Sun has succeeded at least in part through its tradition of printing nude color photos of young women — some as young as 16 — on page three. A female Member of Parliament, Clare Short, has twice tried to have

the practice banned. Her second effort, in 2004, ended when the paper superimposed her face on the body of the page three girl. *The Sun's* counterpart, *News of the World*, has achieved success by, among other things, calling for tougher laws against the sexual abuse of minors.

The Guardian, another British paper, reported July 8 that News Group Newspapers Ltd. had paid more than \$1.6 million "to settle legal cases that threatened to reveal evidence of [Murdoch's] journalists' repeated involvement in the use of criminal methods to get stories." It appears their reporters have been in the habit of hiring private detectives to hack into mobile phone systems.

Increasing the embarrassment for everyone concerned, Andy Coulson, who was a deputy editor, and then the editor of the *News of the World* at the time hundreds of the violations were committed, is now Director of Communications for David Cameron, the leader of Britain's Conservative Party.

Naughty, naughty, Rupert!

News Briefs

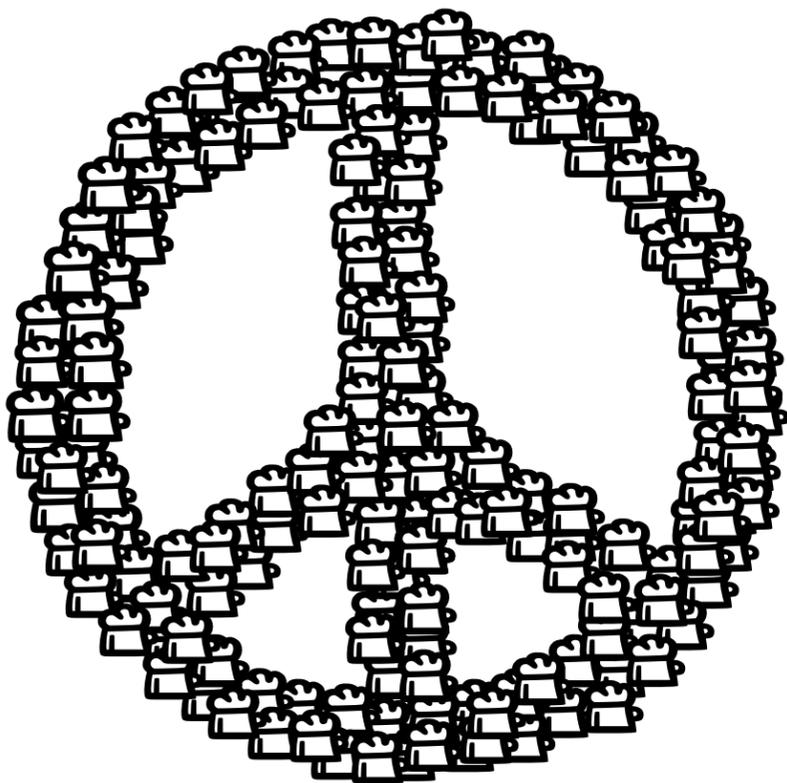
to page four



July 4th came on July 5th instead of July 3rd this year, thanks to a super-abundance of displaced April weather. To get the audience for that evening's fireworks into the right — let's make that proper — frame of mind, the Leftist Marching Band gave a free concert in front of the North Church that Sunday evening. A large crowd gave them an enthusiastic welcome. Our Wandering Cinematographer captured a snappy "You're a Grand Old Flag," followed by a seditiously syncopated "America the Beautiful." Check out the four-minute newsreel in our blog entry of July 6, at www.nhgazette.com. By the way, we tried to correct the sinister out-of-plumbness apparent in this photo, but the LMB's Force was too strong.



During another routine bomb scare at the McIntyre Federal Building last Friday afternoon, guards from MVM, Inc. asked passersby to avoid the area around the bench, at right. The threat appeared to emanate from an abandoned backpack between the bench and the ashtray/trashcan.



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



Northcountry Chronicle

Après Mai, le Déluge

by William Marvel

To paraphrase King Louis XIV, after May comes the deluge — or so the new tradition seems to run, here in New England. That's our portion of global warming, which brings not only rising temperatures but an abundance of weird weather, with more frequent and ferocious storms.

Severe hurricanes now hammer our coasts much more often than they have historically, eating up more of the annual alphabet. In the 1950s the last memorable hurricanes each year bore names like Diana and Dolly, but over the intervening decades we've seen Gloria and Hugo, and more recently Ike and Katrina. The last full-fledged hurricane of 2008 was named Paloma.

Tornadoes are a lot more common now, too. Last year alone separate twisters destroyed two entire towns in Kansas, and damaged several more, including the

one that took the roof off my in-laws' home and leveled their yard trees. The tornado season used to be confined to about two months each spring, with a couple of hundred sighted all year, but over the last decade the season has been gradually extending until, in 2008, it covered the entire year, with more than 2000 reported.

We've also had our own bizarre weather in New Hampshire. Tornadoes touched down right here in Carroll County last year, and for two summers running we've had so much rain that all our tomato plants perished of fungus. July promises to imitate the drenching month of June, and with only two sunny days a month gardens are not likely to produce much. Weeding is pretty difficult in the monsoon, too.

So much for saving grocery money. Cutting back on gasoline consumption is more difficult in constant rain, as well, for only the hardiest will bicycle in a downpour. A couple of girls in this

house take their bikes at every opportunity, braving wind and rain and unseasonable cold to get to work and appointments, but the weather seems to have discouraged most commuters from the two-wheeled solution.

Weather is probably not, however, the worst impediment that bicyclists face, and neither is our precipitous terrain. I would guess that most people who could benefit both physically and financially from bicycling either shun that mode of transportation or give it up after a brief attempt because of the innumerable dangers posed by inattentive motorists on crowded, narrow roads. Cyclists live in constant peril of death or serious injury, and that risk rises sharply in a state that refuses to prohibit drivers from yammering on cell phones. A little legislative attention might improve those conditions, but the greatest safety improvement would be a better network of roads with shoulders wide enough for bike lanes—or,

better yet, dedicated bike paths segregated altogether from hurtling automobile traffic.

That isn't likely to happen in a town like Conway, where selectmen declined to pay for their \$15,000 portion of a subsidized bicycle lane along a dangerous road, even at a time when reconstruction of that road made it all the cheaper and more sensible. Nor does bicycling seem very advisable when a malicious driver's obvious effort to harass and intimidate a cyclist—such as happened to me in Center Conway last October—is treated as a minor incident instead of assault with a deadly weapon or at least driving to endanger. With all the inexperienced, incompetent, distracted, and sometimes malevolent drivers who are allowed to operate automobiles, I feel as though I have a target on my back when I'm on a bike, and I begin to fret whenever the other bicyclists in my family are more than a few minutes late coming home.

The natural effect of those accumulated dangers is to minimize the proportion of people who will even consider using that alternative transportation. That, in turn, only assures ever-increasing volumes of traffic. Rather than keeping our traffic manageable by diverting a share of it to a \$15,000 bicycle lane, we will have to accommodate larger numbers of automobiles on new roads that cost more than a million dollars a mile. Instead of reducing the carbon in our atmosphere we will increase it, and thereby aggravate the effects of global warming.

Up here in the Northeast that will likely mean still more rain, heavier and more costly snowstorms, and more of those devastating ice storms. The moisture from our melting ice caps has to evaporate, and in our closed environment that evaporation must inevitably come down sometime, somewhere. The sometime is now, and the somewhere is here.

More News Briefs

from page three

Good News, Everyone!*

Actually, there is both bad and good news about the Memorial and Sarah Mildred Long Bridges. The bad news is that as a result of recent inspections, the load limits on both have had to be lowered. The Long Bridge is now limited to 20 tons, the limit

* For maximum reading pleasure, imagine this subhead being read by *Futurama's* Professor Hubert Farnsworth.

which had been in place on the Memorial Bridge. And the Memorial Bridge weight limit has been halved, to 10 tons; fire trucks will now have to go around.

The good news is that Maine's Department of Transportation (DOT) has recommended that the state sign on to New Hampshire's plan to rehabilitate both bridges with federal stimulus money. Gov. Baldacci has yet to do so.

Bob Landry, the New Hampshire DOT's Project Manager for

the bridges, sent an encouraging e-mail to bridge supporters July 10, in which he summarized a recent conversation with representatives from the U.S. DOT. Among the "interesting" comments from on high:

- "port improvements [were] stressed as a positive in the application,"
- "work in the Shipyard can be tied into the application as leveraging outside funds,"
- "[public] "support for the project is key, this gives U.S. DOT

the assurance a project will be built,"

- "Shovel-ready projects produce jobs in the quickest fashion. Both the Memorial Bridge and the Port Authority expansion and rehab are permitted and plan ready,"
- "application[s] supported by two states will be a big plus," and,
- "[the] "focus nationwide [will be on] job creation that will be produced by the project. In particular [U.S. DOT is looking] for

components being completed in a depressed economic area per their map (steel fabrication as an example)."

Looking ahead, Landry wrote that "one of our next action items is to begin obtaining documentation from all groups of interest in seeing the bridges repaired to support the application. We will also be strategizing on how to most advantageously package the project given the guidance above."

All in all, it appears that as

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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

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Moving Pictures

Public Enemies

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Johnny Depp, Christian Bale, Marion Cotillard, and Billy Crudup; **Screenplay:** Ronan Bennett, Michael Mann, and Ann Biederman, based on the book by Bryan Burrough; **Director:** Michael Mann.

As a maker of movies, Michael Mann mostly produces. A superb cinematographer with an amazing eye for detail, he's nevertheless spent much of his long career putting together television series (*Crime Story*, *Miami Vice*, *Robbery Homicide*), and movies for other directors (*The Aviator*, *The Kingdom*, *Hancock*). So when he emerges from behind the producer's desk to actually take charge of his own projects, film buffs tend to pay attention. In the early 1980's, barely known, he directed cult classics like *The Jericho Mile*, *Thief* (still one of James Caan's best roles), and the strange Nazi horror tale, *The Keep*. Then, stepping up in scale and budget, he had a modest success with *Manhunter*, which first introduced the character of Hannibal Lector, albeit played by Brian Cox rather than

Anthony Hopkins. After a six-year stint running the *Miami Vice* series, he reemerged as a big-budget film director with the award-winning *The Last of The Mohicans*, followed a few years later by a return to contemporary crime in *Heat*. Five more years producing for others and then Mann again comes out to direct, in fairly quick succession, *The Insider*, *Ali*, and *Collateral*, the latter being his first feature shot in high-quality video. *Collateral*, a chilling character study of a killer-for-hire and the taxi driver he intends to frame for a series of murders, won an Oscar nomination for Jamie Foxx, but the real star was Los Angeles at night. Mann used the emerging technology of high-quality video to shoot in the kind of low light conditions that can't be captured on film.

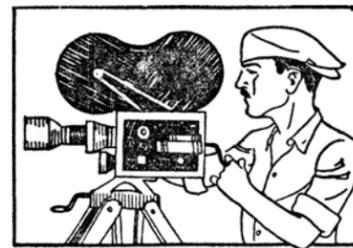
Cut to Indiana in 1933, where a thirty-year-old former schoolyard bully named John Herbert Dillinger, having spent most of his adult life in prison is paroled and immediately goes on a bank-robbing, jail-busting, cop-taunting crime spree that will last ten months and will make him the first Public Enemy Number One

designated by the newly established FBI. In less than a year he will die in a pool of blood in the company of prostitutes, a few yards from the Biograph Theatre in Chicago, where his hero Clark Gable is starring (and dying) in *Manhattan Melodrama*, but his legend lives on. Forget the junk hunt at the Smithsonian (totally bogus), and take a gander at how the media (the tabloid press and ranting radio) transformed a stone killer like Dillinger into a machine-gun-toting folk hero.

The latest version of the legend is in the person of Johnny Depp, whose jazzy, stylish take on the world — "I want everything, right now" is very nearly as seductive as Mann's gorgeous HD video cinematography, which emerges as the real star of *Public Enemies*. Christian Bale is cool and crisp and deadly efficient as Special Agent Melvin Purvis, tasked by J. Edgar Hoover to take down Pretty Boy Floyd and Machine Gun Kelley and other colorfully nicknamed gangsters who had captured the public imagination. When Dillinger makes the mistake of stealing a sheriff's car and taking it across state lines, he, too, becomes a federal fugi-

tive, and his fate is sealed. No more robbing a bank in one state and hiding out in the next. He can fool the fumbling, learning-on-the-job FBI some of the time — and does, for a while — but we all know how this will end.

Mann's screenplay, loaded with 1930's style wisecracks, plays with the chronology but sticks to the basic reality of Dillinger's famous spree. The night scene of the famous shootout at Little Bohemia Lodge, the flash and boom of dueling Tommy guns exploding like small nuclear devices, the dogged pursuit of the fleeing Dillinger through the video-enhanced darkness — this brilliantly executed interval is more than reason enough for any film buff to see *Public Enemies* on the big screen. It is truly spectacular filmmaking — night will never be the same again, not in feature films. Those who are expecting something deeper — a killer they can care about, say — may find Mr. Depp a few degrees too cool. Cooler than the cameo by Diana Krall as a velvet-throated crooner. Cooler, in many scenes, than life itself. The intelligent reticence that has worked so well in many of his serious roles plays against



the idea of a live-for-the-moment, come-and-get-me-copper gangster who knows that any moment could be his last. Depp snarls now and then, and he looks great in 1930's gangster regalia, but he's not nearly as convincing as love interest Marion Cotillard. Ms. Cotillard who won an Oscar as Edith Piaf, manages a pretty good Chicago accent as Billy Frechette, the hat-check girl who did two years for helping Dillinger escape from one of his many shootouts and who knows that her man is doomed.

Oh yeah, and Billy Crudup as J. Edgar Hoover is a wow, deserving of a movie of his own. Two bad that in a total of more than 140 minutes, he's not on screen for more than four or five. And as to the real Melvin Purvis, who quit the FBI and went back to practicing law after Dillinger went down, it is not true, as urban legend would have it, that he eventually shot himself with the same gun that killed Public Enemy Number One.

It was a different gun.

long as Governor Baldacci signs on, the two bridges (and a pier expansion at the Port Authority) have a pretty good shot at being seriously considered for stimulus funding.

The disturbing thing about all this (from our lofty, disinterested, and thoroughly impartial

editorial perspective) is just how close we were — and still are — to losing one or both of these vital transportation links. When Maine balked at higher-than-expected rehabilitation bids last fall, the Memorial Bridge was placed in serious jeopardy. More alarming is the fact that without

strenuous exertions on the part of local citizens — Richard Candee and Ben Porter foremost among them — there is no reason to think that New Hampshire DOT Commissioner George Campbell's proposal to repair both bridges with stimulus funding would have had a chance.

As indicated above, there's considerable follow-up work to be done. See seacoastbridges.com for more.

Rattling Our Own Tin Cup

Out of space, and we missed our chance to mock Sen. John Ensign (R-NV), whose own parents coughed up hush money for

his married mistress! That's reason right there to withhold your support. But we do what we can. Perhaps, Dear Reader, you might do what you can. Like becoming a Supporting Subscriber: send us \$25, and continue picking up your paper at one of our many convenient locations. See below.

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Those Noisy Memorial Day Motorcycles

To the Editor:

The ignorance of the caption writer of the inclosed [sic] photo clipped from your paper is incomprehensible to me.

[An enclosed clipping from our June 5 paper showed motorcycles in Portsmouth's Memorial Day parade, with this part of the caption underlined, "For reasons we cannot explain, the parade included at least ten motorcycles, the majority of which were actively violating the city's noise ordinance," and a handwritten note reading, "Due [sic] fireworks have mufflers?" A second clipping, apparently from Foster's Daily Democrat, shows a young girl riding a decorated bicycle in the Milton Mills parade, with a note saying "Maybe you should tell her she had no right to ride in a parade!!"]

I led this group in the parade all the way to the cemetery [sic]. For various safety reason; rough road conditions, unsure footing when we parked, we kept all but one bike out of it, mine.

Nobody from your paper approached me for an explanation of our presence.

Did it not occur to your photographer that the parade organizers might have had a reason to put this unit at the front?

Everyone riding a motorcycle in the formation is a member of the American Legion and a member of an Auxiliary group called "Legion Riders." We participate in parades, military fu-

nerals, ceremonies at Boscawen State Veterans Cemetary [sic] and faviouir fund raises [sic] to benefit veterans families.

There are approximately 35 to 50 members of American Legion Post 7 in Rochester, NH who are "Legion Riders." They consist of men & women living thruout [sic] the Seacoast.

On this day we made our presence @ [sic] both the Rochester & Portsmouth parades.

Have you never heards of "Rolling Thunder" in Washington, D.C.?

Roughly 100,000 bikes make that run to the Vietnam Memorial Wall every year. Some of "us" have done that and then made the 12 hour run back home thru the night in order to participate in the Portsmouth parade. No bragging just fact.

Your writers [sic] comment, or insulting jab, shows where his prejudices like ref. motorcycles. All our bikes are street worthy, have passed state inspections & are built to manufactures [sic] specifications.

Did it occur to him that Market Sq. is a brick canyon that will accentuate any loud noise?

Finally men & women veterans have bled & died so your writer can express his opinion, but I believe he was incompetent [sic], ignorant, & lazy for not doing his due diligence.

Richard Menard
Fmr. Sgt. U.S.A.F '65-'72;
2nd Lt. U.S.A.N.G. '76-'79
Rochester, NH

Richard:

For what it's worth, the writer of the caption that so incensed you got his New Hampshire motorcycle operator's license nearly forty years ago, a few weeks after he got his honorable discharge, and he carries it still. If the motorcycles in the parade had not been in blatant violation of both the City of Portsmouth's noise ordinance and New Hampshire law (RSA 266:59-a, Motorcycle Noise Levels), he would

not have written that caption and your delicate feelings would not have suffered.

Perhaps you think your status as a veteran gives you the right to break the law. It does not.

The Editor

Progress from Shea-Porter

To the Editor:

The House recently passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act. Writing in *Business Week* magazine, senior correspondent John Carey noted, "June 26, 2009, will go down as an historic moment in the world's efforts to tackle climate change. For the first time, a Congressional body passed legislation that would place mandatory limits on the emissions of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming."

In Carey's article, J. Wayne Leonard, CEO of Entergy, a New Orleans-based utility, commented, "We need to get started. The idea of moving this problem to our children just doesn't work for us."

Not unexpectedly, Republicans, the Party of No, opposed this bill. The GOP did what it does best, appealing to the worst in voters, fear and greed, in an unsuccessful attempt to defeat this legislation. Carey writes, "The [Republican] party has decided its best strategy for getting back into power is to deny President Barack Obama, who strongly backed the bill, any victories, no matter what the issue."

Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter enthusiastically supported the Clean Energy bill, and voted for it. Said Shea-Porter, "We cannot continue to deny the impact climate change is having on our environment and must act now to reduce global warming. In doing so, this bill will also create millions of new clean energy jobs, strengthen our national security, and protect our environment."

For nearly 20 years, Congress has resisted mandatory limits

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

on heat-trapping emissions. I am delighted that at long last progress is being made on global warming.

Dick Doyle
Hampton, NH

Flag Police Queried

To the Flag Police:

I recently drove through several southern states and couldn't help but notice the numerous confederate flags on display. While I pondered what message the owners of those flags were trying to convey, I also wondered if the flag police had come across any examples of a Civil War-era Union flag on display. I have seen 13 and 50 stars on flags around town, but nothing in between.

Betsy Ross
Portsmouth, NH

Change? What Change?

To the Editor:

The U.S propaganda machine is alive and well with the fingerprints of The CIA and The Corporate Media all over the current situation in Iran. First they put out polls showing Mousavi is ahead, but they do not say how they obtained accurate polling in a country where the vast majority of people live in rural areas with primitive communications. Then, after creating the expectation that Ahmadinejad would be defeated, we suddenly see, in a country where so many are illiterate in their own language, protest signs written in English and obviously created for Western consumption. All this to foster the impression that the current Iranian government is not legitimate, which makes me fear that in addition to expanding the war into Afganistan and Pakistan, and talking eloquently of, but doing nothing about the Israeli expansion of settlements, Obama who is more danger-

ous than George Bush because of Barack's charisma, his ability to connect with people, and his superior intelligence, will soon be marching into Iran with the self righteous mission of bringing democracy to that country by overturning the results of the current elections. And with the so called anti-war groups revealing themselves to be opportunists who used the war issue only as a strategy to elect a Democrat, and folding right after the election, this popular President will have the path clear for the Obamacons to sacrifice even greater amounts of American blood and treasure in The Middle East. So much for change we can believe in.

John Dente
Wilmington, DE

Poetry / Weather Dept.

To the Editor:

The rain falls
as if from a spout.
One more drop
I think I'll shout.
It makes me wonder,
do those clouds have a pump?
One more drop,
I think I'll jump.
Ken Fowle
Hillsboro, NH

We Let Cheney Off Easy

To the Editor:

In your comments on Richard Cheney, you neglected to mention one of the worst scams he was responsible for, and I do mean the precipitate conversion to digital television.

The true reason for this action was not freeing up radio spectrum space for public safety, but a windfall for the electronic entertainment industry and freeing radio space for business electronic uses. The Bush administration was of course in favor of anything that would make money for busi-

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The New Hampshire Gazette



And Other Correspondence

nessmen at the expense of the rest of us. The conversion could have been let go until the current equipment was superseded, and promoted as an improvement in television viewing, which it does to some extent. Instead it was rammed through Congress, and was about to fail as not gaining a majority of votes. I understand Dick Cheney was rushed to the session by jet aircraft to cast the one vote he could when a bill had a tie vote. In other words, half of Congress was against it and Cheney's one vote passed it. The administration sold part of the spectrum space freed up, which prevented a reversal, but was forced to subsidize the conversion. The electronic entertainment industry got the windfall, but the taxpayers got stuck for a large percentage of it. So we got soaked again.

Joel S. Look
Portsmouth, NH

Joel:

It just goes to show that no matter how low an opinion you have of the man, it's not bad enough. Thanks for helping correct our omission from Cheney's rap sheet.

The Editor

Shea-Porter Energetic

To the Editor,

I want to thank our Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter for helping to pass the American Clean Energy and Security Act in the House. This legislation sets limits on total emissions of greenhouse gases. Utilities and manufacturers are given "pollution permits" which they can trade among one another, as long as the total remains below the limit. This cap is systematically lowered over the years, encouraging industry to find progressively cleaner ways of making energy.

Shea-Porter argued that this act will significantly reduce

dangerous pollution by limiting emissions from electric utilities and oil refineries, and will promote all forms of American clean energy, including wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass.

Passage of this bill represents the first substantial progress Congress has made on global warming in two decades. Not only is it a step toward clearing the air here at home, this legislation also strengthens the hand of the United States in negotiations over global warming with other nations. Major polluters like China and India regard the United States as the prime contributor to this problem. Those two countries will not limit their greenhouse gases until they see that we are serious about restricting our own. Passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act provides the needed evidence.

Beth Olshansky
Durham, NH

AIPAC on Trial?

To the Editor:

Your June 29 calendar of events said that in 1989 a Washington newspaper reported Reagan and Bush administration officials were being investigated for involvement in a homosexual prostitution ring. You added, "The story quickly and conveniently evaporated."

This year on April 21 newspapers reported the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee spying case would be tried in June. I've also read that Israel's official Uri Arad, who the Federal Bureau of Investigation had denied entry to the U.S. unless he made full disclosure of his dealings with AIPAC, is now here taking part in making Iran policy.

Unless the FBI was told to back down, his being here must

mean the trial will finally show how AIPAC operates as Israel's agent; but as yet I've read no reports of there being one. Because I may have missed them, I hope you and your readers will write to say when the proceedings began to finally let the public find out what AIPAC has contrived to hide since 2005.

Right now it seems to me that the criminal case AIPAC delayed for years has disappeared. If it has, then all parts of the U.S. government have agreed to bury another scandal, so the public will be unconscious of the stranglehold Israel has on it.

Marjorie Gallace
Camden, ME

Stratham for Shea-Porter

To the Editor:

After I was briefly persuaded by a group pressing for "the perfect" energy bill, I realized that I more closely agree with Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter's vote to support the American Clean Energy Act and Security Act of 2009. Critics of the Clean Energy Act say it represents a fundamental change in our nation's energy policy. They are attempting to use fear of the unknown to defeat it, saying this "cap and trade legislation" is untested and would be costly or increase unemployment. Their true concern is the loss of windfall profits currently being made by their special interests.

However, in the Northeast, there is nothing particularly new about cap and trade legislation. Ten Northeastern states have already banded together to form the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that sets goals for the reduction of greenhouse gases. In addition, New Hampshire has mandated that 25% of our energy must come from renewable sources. The American Clean Energy and Security Act requires only 20% be renewable.

We have lived comfortably



with a cap and trade policy in New Hampshire. Now is the time to pass along to the rest of the nation what has worked well for us here. The legislation for clean energy is as much a landmark as the Clean Air Act, Civil Rights and Social Security for this country.

Once again, the Granite State with the help of Shea-Porter has led the way.

Barbara Broderick
Stratham, NH

The Rich, Jobs, & Cutting Costs

To the Editor:

The Conservatives are against taxing the rich because, they say, that would dry up jobs today and not produce any tomorrow. So why during the last eight years of the rich getting tax breaks, and more wealthy than anytime in our history, weren't jobs created and a recession avoided? Why are they now "sitting" on their tax-exempt, tax-avoided, tax-haven money, and not creating jobs while unemployment is rising?

The conservative Republicans have seemingly gotten the American People scared of National Health Care — AGAIN! One of the Fairy Tales they repeat is that Government can't contain costs, only the "Free Market" can.

So why hasn't the "Free Market" put Medicare and Medicaid out of business?

Chris Lane Gray
Monticello, AL

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LAWRENCE OF ARABIA

SCOPE! MUST BE SEEN on the BIG screen
JULY 22 @ 6:30

David Lean's "epic of all epics" stars Peter O'Toole in one of the most electrifying debuts in film history along with Alec Guinness. To say "Seven Oscars" barely scratches the surface of this classic of immeasurable scope. (PG, 216 mins, UK, 1962)

MANAGEMENT

Sat 7/25 @ 2pm
KidsRule!: Earth
JULY 23, 24, 25 @ 7:30

Jennifer Aniston and Steve Zahn make for an adorable would-be couple in this romantic comedy also starring Woody Harrelson. (R, 93 mins, US, 2008)

EVERY LITTLE STEP

JULY 26 @ 4&7:30, JULY 27, 28 @ 7:30

A film about a musical that is itself about the casting of a musical, this documentary takes fans inside the makings of A Chorus Line, focusing on the casting of the musical's Broadway revival and delving into the history of the show as well. (PG13, 96 mins, US, 2008)

Show and Tell Follows JULY 28 Screening

THE HIDDEN FORTRESS

SCOPE! MUST BE SEEN on the BIG screen
JULY 29 @ 7:30

Considered one of Akira Kurosawa's greatest films. George Lucas admits to borrowing much from the classic for Star Wars. Kurosawa's frequent collaborator, Toshiro Mifune, provides a shining performance. Subtitled (NR, 139 mins, JP, 1958)

Thu 7/30 @ 7
Wildcard Movie: Under Our Skin

EASY VIRTUE

JULY 31 and AUGUST 1 @ 7:30

Adapted from Noel Coward, Jessica Biel, Colin Firth and Kristin Scott Thomas star in this lighthearted tale of old world manners versus new world freedom. (PG13, 93 mins, UK, 2009)

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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 19	Monday, July 20	Tuesday, July 21	Wednesday, July 22	Thursday, July 23	Friday, July 24	Saturday, July 25
<p>2001—Deputy Chairman of the British Conservative party Lord Jeffrey Archer is convicted of perjury and sentenced to 4 years.</p> <p>1994—Dining with reporters in the Capitol, Sen. Howell Heflin (D-AL) pulls what he thinks is a hankie from his pocket, and wipes his nose with his wife's panties.</p> <p>1991—The South African government admits that it paid Zulus to undermine the African National Congress.</p> <p>1989—Engine failure on a DC-10 cuts its hydraulics, but most of the 296 people aboard survive its fiery crash in Sioux City.</p> <p>1985—Concord teacher Christa McAuliffe is chosen to be first "Teacher in Space."</p> <p>1979—Sandinistas march triumphantly into Managua.</p> <p>1969—John Fairfax completes the first solo cross-Atlantic row.</p> <p>1942—German U-boats quit the U.S. Atlantic coast due to effective counter-measures.</p> <p>1848—The first Women's Rights convention is held at Seneca Falls, NY, where "Bloomers" are first introduced.</p> <p>1814—Birth of Samuel Colt, inventor of the revolver.</p> <p>1692—Sarah Wildes, Elizabeth Howe, Susannah Martin, Sarah Goode, and Rebecca Nurse are hanged in Salem, Mass. for witchcraft.</p>	<p>2006—Rep. Robert Wexler (D-FL) tells Stephen Colbert he enjoys cocaine and prostitutes are fun, but they're more fun together.</p> <p>2002—A review finds that U.S. air strikes in Afghanistan killed as many as 400 civilians.</p> <p>2001—Lori Klausutis, 28, a Congressional aide, is found dead in the Fort Walton Beach office of Rep. Joe Scarborough (R-FL).</p> <p>1989—Pres. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush calls for a manned mission to Mars.</p> <p>1985—Mel Fisher begins hauling \$400,000,000 worth of gold off the ocean floor near Key West, FL, where it had lain for 363 years.</p> <p>1984—Famed runner and fitness guru Jim Fixx, age 52, dies of a heart attack while jogging.</p> <p>1973—Martial artist and fitness fanatic Bruce Lee, age 32, dies in Hong Kong.</p> <p>1969—Neil Armstrong takes a walk on the moon.</p> <p>1956—A scheduled election intended to reunify Vietnam is blocked by the South. The Eisenhower administration concurs.</p> <p>1948—Harry Truman kicks off the U.S.'s first peacetime draft.</p> <p>1944—German generals try but fail to kill Hitler with a bomb.</p> <p>1910—Missouri's Christian Endeavor Society starts a campaign to ban all movies depicting kissing between non-relatives.</p>	<p>2000—Long-time Texas voter Dick "Dick" Cheney registers in Wyoming to evade election laws and screw the nation.</p> <p>2000—A federal commission concludes that the FBI and ATF did nothing wrong in the 1993 Waco, TX siege which left 80 religious fanatics dead.</p> <p>1997—In her 200th year, the U.S.S. Constitution sails for forty minutes off Boston.</p> <p>1971—Faced with huge anti-trust action, AT&T pledges \$400,000 to defray costs of 1972 Republican convention.</p> <p>1954—Geneva Accords free Vietnam from French colonial rule; the U.S. steps in to preserve disorder.</p> <p>1951—A Canadian Pacific DC-10 leaves Vancouver for Anchorage with 37 on board and disappears without a trace.</p> <p>1950—Tuffi, a young elephant, becomes agitated while riding an elevated train, breaks through a window, and falls into a river in Germany. She survives.</p> <p>1919—A burning dirigible crashes through the glass skylight of a Chicago bank, killing 13.</p> <p>1918—The German submarine U-156, while shelling and sinking the tug <i>Perth Amboy</i> off Orleans, MA, lands a few shells on the beach. It is the first time the U.S. mainland has been attacked since the war of 1812.</p>	<p>2003—In Mosul, Iraq, U.S. troops kill the Hussein brothers.</p> <p>1991—Milwaukee police arrest Jeffrey Dahmer, the cannibal.</p> <p>1974—More than 600 young Moonies begin a three-day fast on the steps of the U.S. Capitol and pray for Richard Nixon.</p> <p>1934—In Chicago, FBI agents shoot John Dillinger in the back.</p> <p>1916—An explosion during a Preparedness Day parade in San Francisco, kills ten and wounds forty. Thanks to perjured testimony, two innocent men spend over twenty years in prison.</p> <p>1915—The excursion steamer <i>Eastland</i> nearly tips over at the dock in Chicago, but it's hushed up to prevent loss of business.</p> <p>1910—Twenty blacks are lynched in Palestine, Texas.</p> <p>1905—Henderson's Point vanishes from the Piscataqua, thanks to 60,000 tons of dynamite.</p> <p>1816—Percy Bysshe Shelley registers at a hotel at Mont Blanc, lists his destination as "L'Enfer."</p> <p>1620—A small band of religious fanatics leave Holland for the New World on the <i>Mayflower</i>.</p> <p>1587—On Roanoke Island, 117 people re-establish an earlier colony that disappeared without a trace. They disappear, too.</p> <p>1376—The children of Hamelin, Germany are last seen heading out of town, led by a piper.</p>	<p>2002—Top intelligence officials in Britain warn Tony Blair that the U.S. is "fixing" intelligence to match policy to justify war against Iraq.</p> <p>1982—While filming the movie <i>Twilight Zone</i>, Vic Morrow is decapitated by a helicopter blade.</p> <p>1983—Air Canada Flight 143 runs out of gas halfway from Montreal to Edmonton. The "Gimli Glider" coasts more than 100 miles to a successful landing.</p> <p>1969—James Brown walks out of LA Mayor Sam Yorty's office when the mayor is late to present him with a proclamation.</p> <p>1967—Police raid a blind pig in Detroit, interrupting a welcome home celebration for two Vietnam veterans. A five day riot ensues, and 43 die.</p> <p>1944—International Monetary Fund and World Bank are created in Bretton Woods, NH, whose first tax collector was Daniel Fowle.</p> <p>1904—At the St. Louis Exposition, Charles E. Menches invents the ice cream cone.</p> <p>1903—Henry Ford sells his first Model T.</p> <p>1886—Bookie Steve Brodie stages a dubious dive off the Brooklyn Bridge and turns the resulting notoriety into a career of sorts.</p> <p>1846—Henry David Thoreau is jailed for refusing to pay a \$1 poll tax to support the Mexican War.</p>	<p>2003—Texas oilman and Secretary of the Navy nominee Colin R. McMillan blows his brains out.</p> <p>2003—A congressional report says the FBI and the CIA disregarded warnings of a possible Al Qaeda attack on the U.S.</p> <p>2003—In Iraq, the U.S. displays photos of the corpses of Uday and Qusay Hussein.</p> <p>2002—The Pentagon begins its largest, costliest war game ever, "Millennium Challenge," testing D. Rumsfeld's "Transformation" theories. The "Red Force" quickly "sinks" sixteen ships (see 7/29).</p> <p>2002—For accepting bribes and kickbacks, James Traficant (D-OH) is booted from the U.S. House of Representatives.</p> <p>1974—The Supreme Court votes 8-0 that Richard Nixon must turn over his Oval Office tapes.</p> <p>1961—The first U.S. airliner is hijacked to Cuba.</p> <p>1959—During the "Kitchen Debate" in Moscow, Nikita Khrushchev mockingly asks Richard Nixon if Americans have machines to push food down their throats.</p> <p>1951—Hanscomb AFB personnel report a UFO, "grayish with many black spots," over Portsmouth, NH flying at 800 to 1,000 mph.</p> <p>1950—Cape Canaveral launches its first rocket—a German V-2.</p> <p>1925—John Scopes is found guilty of teaching evolution.</p>	<p>2000—In touching display of <i>naïveté</i>, George W. Bush announces that he has picked Dick "Dick" Cheney as running mate.</p> <p>1990—U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie tells Saddam Hussein that the U.S. won't take sides in an Iraq-Kuwait border dispute.</p> <p>1972—U.S. health officials admit blacks were used as guinea pigs in a 40 year syphilis experiment.</p> <p>1969—Ted Kennedy gets two month suspended sentence for leaving the scene of an accident.</p> <p>1965—Bob Dylan outrages purists at Newport Folk Festival by playing electric guitar.</p> <p>1946—The first bikini is seen at a Paris fashion show. Same day: the first underwater A-Bomb is exploded, at Bikini Atoll.</p> <p>1909—Louis Blériot becomes the first man to fly across the English Channel.</p> <p>1898—The U.S. invades Puerto Rico.</p> <p>1853—Legendary bandit Joaquin Murietta is killed in California. His head is severed, put in a jar of brandy, and displayed until it is finally lost in the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906.</p> <p>1826—"Nothing succeeds with me," says Decembrist revolutionary Mikhail Bestuzhev-Ryumin after the hangman's first rope breaks. "Even here I meet with disappointment."</p>
<p>9:09 9:24</p> <p>2:54 3:00</p>	<p>10:09 10:22</p> <p>3:53 3:59</p>	<p>11:05 11:18</p> <p>4:49 4:56</p>	<p>11:59</p> <p>5:43 5:52</p>	<p>12:12 12:50</p> <p>6:34 6:46</p>	<p>1:04 1:41</p> <p>7:24 7:40</p>	<p>1:57 2:31</p> <p>8:13 8:34</p>
Sunday, July 26	Monday, July 27	Tuesday, July 28	Wednesday, July 29	Thursday, July 30	Friday, July 31	Saturday, August 1
<p>1979—Three and a half feet of rain fall on Alvin, Texas.</p> <p>1968—Nguyen Van Thieu, winner of 1967 Vietnamese presidential election, jails the runner-up. Same day: Mexican troops arrest thousands of students, shoot hundreds, killing dozens.</p> <p>1967—In Detroit, police and National Guardsmen "investigating reports of a sniper" at the Alger Motel set off a riot leaving 40 dead and 2,000 injured.</p> <p>1967—French Pres. deGaulle endorses sovereignty for Quebec.</p> <p>1947—The National Security Act, correcting flaws in the Constitution, turns the War Department into the Defense Department, and creates the CIA and NSA.</p> <p>1890—A tornado rips through Lawrence, Mass., destroying 35 homes and killing eight people.</p> <p>1877—In Chicago, at the Battle of the Viaduct, Federal troops kill 30 striking railroad workers.</p> <p>1680—RIP John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, fond of running naked in Woodstocke Park.</p> <p>1758—The French fortress of Louisbourg, taken by New Englanders in 1744 and given back by Britain three years later, is re-taken by the British.</p> <p>811—Byzantine Emperor Nicephorus I is killed in battle. His skull is made into a drinking vessel by Krum, King of the Bulgars.</p>	<p>1976—Chester Plummer, a cabbie, climbs over the White House fence armed with a three foot pipe. For refusing to back off, he is shot dead.</p> <p>1974—The House Judiciary Committee votes to impeach Richard M. Nixon for hindering investigation of Watergate.</p> <p>1964—South Vietnam gets another 5,000 American "military advisors." Total U.S. forces in Vietnam now number 21,000.</p> <p>1963—Dick "Dick" Cheney is arrested for drunk driving.</p> <p>1957—Alabama farmhand Jimmy Wilson is sentenced to death for stealing \$1.95 from a white woman. Wilson is black.</p> <p>1954—Duly-elected Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz is overthrown by mercenaries at the behest of the CIA. Forty years of genocide follow.</p> <p>1953—Truce ends fighting in Korea; troops are still there.</p> <p>1919—At a Chicago beach, a young black man crosses a "color line" and is drowned by a stone-throwing mob, sparking a race riot that kills 28 and injures 500.</p> <p>1893—William Taylor, reacting to a first jolt, breaks the straps of New York's electric chair. A second jolt fails due to generator trouble. Taylor is kept alive for an hour with morphine and chloroform, and killed on the third try.</p>	<p>2006—A wild storm topples the partially-renovated steeple of the North Church and its surrounding scaffolding onto Pleasant Street.</p> <p>2003—The country's two largest banks are fined \$300 million for helping Enron fleece investors.</p> <p>1965—Lyndon Johnson doubles the draft quota.</p> <p>1958—<i>Billboard</i> magazine reports on an Esso Research Center "study" claiming rock and roll on the car radio causes foot jiggling, thereby wasting fuel.</p> <p>1957—An Air Force C-24 hauling three nukes northwards off the U.S. East Coast dumps two in the ocean after losing power.</p> <p>1945—A B-25 bomber crashes into the Empire State Building. One engine goes right through the building, another severs elevator cables and sends a car plummeting to the basement. Six floors are engulfed in flames; burning gasoline streams down the sides of the building. Thirteen are killed and 26 injured.</p> <p>1932—U.S. Army troops led by Dwight Eisenhower, aided by George S. Patton, and commanded by General Douglas MacArthur, drive the "Bonus Expeditionary Force"—20,000 hungry World War I veterans—out of Washington DC, killing two in the process.</p> <p>1914—Austria-Hungary attacks Serbia, getting WWI underway.</p>	<p>2002—The "Red Force" Commander of the "Millennium Challenge" war games quits in disgust when the Pentagon "refloats" sunken ships (see 7/24).</p> <p>1986—Former Chaplain Charlie Liteky, disgusted by U.S. policies in Latin America, renounces the Medal of Honor he won in Vietnam.</p> <p>1981—Congress passes Ronald Reagan's tax cut for the rich.</p> <p>1974—The House Judiciary Committee adopts a second article to impeach Richard M. Nixon, this time for misuse of power and violating his oath of office.</p> <p>1972—The Supreme Court declares the death penalty unconstitutional.</p> <p>1967—The U.S.S. <i>Forrestal</i> burns off North Vietnam, killing 134.</p> <p>1966—Bob Dylan crashes his Triumph, breaking his neck.</p> <p>1965—The 101st Airborne lands in South Vietnam.</p> <p>1923—"No more war" demonstrations held in 23 countries.</p> <p>1921—Disgruntled ex-corporal Adolf Hitler becomes President of the German Nazi Party.</p> <p>1920—Disabled German veterans rally for "No more war."</p> <p>1839—While looting the Tuileries along with the rest of the mob, Alexandre Dumas <i>père</i> finds a copy of one of his novels in the royal apartments and takes it.</p>	<p>2003—To date, 50 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq since the end of major combat operations.</p> <p>1975—Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa makes his last public appearance in Birmingham, Mich.</p> <p>1974—The House Judiciary Committee adopts a 3rd article of impeachment of Richard M. Nixon, for ignoring subpoenas.</p> <p>1972—Fifty-three caribou are found dead near an Army chemical and biological warfare lab. The base commander suggests they were hit by lighting.</p> <p>1969—"I think that history will record that this may have been one of America's finest hours," says Richard Nixon in Saigon. He's off by 5 years (see 1974).</p> <p>1956—Congress adopts "In God We Trust" as the national motto.</p> <p>1945—After delivering the Hiroshima A-bomb, the U.S.S. <i>Indiana</i> is torpedoed and sunk. Due to security measures, the sinking isn't reported for 5 days; sharks and drowning claim 880 out of 1,100 aboard.</p> <p>1938—A Hitler bestows Germany's highest award for non-citizens, the Grand Cross of the Supreme Order of the German Eagle, on his pal Henry Ford.</p> <p>1916—A German saboteur destroys a thousand tons of munitions stored on a barge at Black Tom Island in New York Harbor.</p>	<p>1999—Eugene Shoemaker becomes the first person to have his cremated remains interred on the moon.</p> <p>1996—Ex-Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. [H.] Walker Bush speak for pay before an audience of Moonies.</p> <p>1974—Dick Nixon's ex-advisor John Ehrlichman gets five years in a felons' country club.</p> <p>1972—The public is shocked as Thomas Eagleton withdraws his candidacy for Vice President.</p> <p>1971—A \$100,000 "contribution" to the Republican convention persuades the "Justice" Department to let ITT retain its ownership of Hartford Fire Insurance.</p> <p>1971—Dave Scott becomes first person to drive a motor vehicle on the moon.</p> <p>1950—The city of Chicago approves a plan to have its citizens tattooed with their blood type.</p> <p>1944—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry disappears during a flight over southern France.</p> <p>1938—New York Yankee Jake Powell is suspended after saying, on Chicago radio, that he'd "hit every colored person in Chicago over the head with a club."</p> <p>1934—In Scotland, German businessman Gerhard Zucker demonstrates his rocket mail proposal. He is deported after his rocket explodes and incinerates the mail.</p>	<p>1992—A day after winning a "tight jeans" contest at Boise's Rockin' Rodeo Inn, Butch Otter, Idaho's Republican Lieutenant Governor, is arrested for drunk driving.</p> <p>1983—After a fourteen-year suspension, the U.S. resumes the manufacture of chemical weapons.</p> <p>1981—MTV is launched; the remnants of civilization crumble.</p> <p>1976—First occupation of the Seabrook nuclear power plant site.</p> <p>1972—The <i>Washington Post</i> publishes its first article about a two-bit burglary at Democratic National HQ.</p> <p>1972—1st Lieut. George W. Bush is suspended from flying status with the Texas Air Nat'l Guard for failure to take a physical exam (which would have required him to pee in a cup).</p> <p>1969—A Mass. Superior Court judge rejects a DA's request for an inquest into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne.</p> <p>1966—Honor student and former Marine Charles Whitman shoots 45 (killing 12) from a tower at the University of Texas.</p> <p>1917—IWW organizer Frank Little is lynched in Butte, Montana. The authorities never bother to look for the culprits.</p> <p>1743—Richard Savage, a man so quarrelsome his "friends" once took up a collection so they could get him out of London, dies in prison.</p>
<p>2:50 3:22</p> <p>9:02 9:29</p>	<p>3:44 4:14</p> <p>9:51 10:26</p>	<p>4:41 5:09</p> <p>10:43 11:26</p>	<p>5:43 6:08</p> <p>11:39</p>	<p>6:48 7:09</p> <p>12:30 12:39</p>	<p>7:54 8:11</p> <p>1:35 1:40</p>	<p>8:56 9:09</p> <p>2:38 2:41</p>

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