

The Fortnightly Rant

Socialist Conspiracy Exposed!

No matter how desperately one might want to, it is no longer possible to get from breakfast to bedtime without hearing something about health care reform. The ubiquity of the issue is nearly enough to make a person nostalgic for the previous administration, when terrorists lurked behind every Bush.

A report published on September 17th in *The American Journal of Public Health* makes it clear why health care reform has displaced terrorism at the top of our national agenda. Despite our spending a full one-sixth of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on health care — a greater percentage of our GDP than any other member of the United Nations except Tuvalu¹ — the U.S. health care system kills as many Americans every three weeks as al Qaeda did on 9/11.²

That terrifying report came just three days after a *New England Journal of Medicine* survey revealed the shocking news that 72.5 percent of U.S. physicians want either a “public-option,” or a government-owned single-payer health care system — nearly three out of four doctors in this country are Socialists, and we never even knew it!

Friedrich Nietzsche wrote that “that which does not kill us makes us stronger.” In his view, then, perhaps our health care system is for the best. Nietzsche was a 19th century European, though, and we

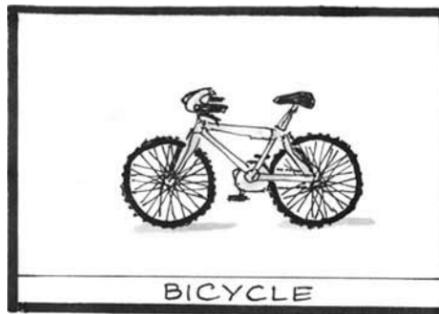
are 21st century Americans — that which does not kill us makes us bankrupt. Steady payments made on a health insurance policy might save you, but then again, they might not. It all depends on the fine print, how good a lawyer you can afford, and whether he's quicker than what ails you.

The U.S. Senate began deliberating health care reform in early May. Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) presided over the first hearings. Lobbyists for the pharmaceutical, insurance, HMO, and hospital industries attended. Eight doctors and patients tried to voice their support for a single-payer system, but were thrown out of the room. A week later, five doctors and nurses were arrested for the same crime.

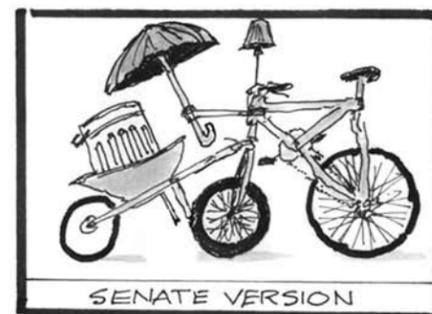
Nine days ago, Sen. Baucus came down from Mount Sinai Capitol Hill to deliver to the people a pair of stone tablets his committee's proposal for reforming the nation's health care system. Baucus's prominence in this process seems counter-intuitive, since he chairs the Senate Finance Committee, and the Senate has a Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP).

Formerly chaired by the late Sen. Edward “Ted” Kennedy (D-MA), HELP has even written a health care bill that includes a public option.

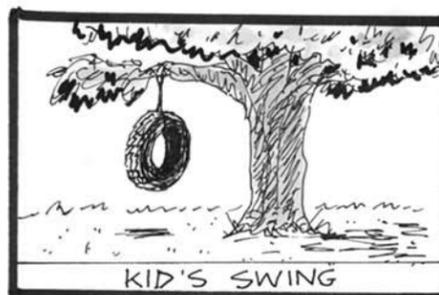
HELP's new chairman, Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), predicted on September 13 that a health care reform bill would pass both houses of Congress by Christmas, and would include “a strong public option.” Maybe it will — as long as Max Baucus doesn't throw him out of the Senate, have him arrested, or both.



BICYCLE



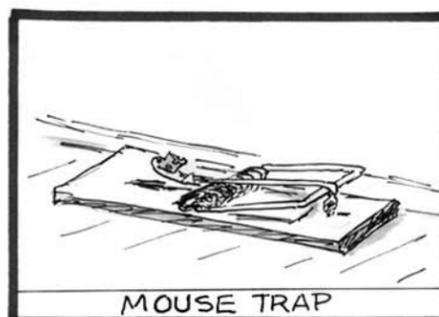
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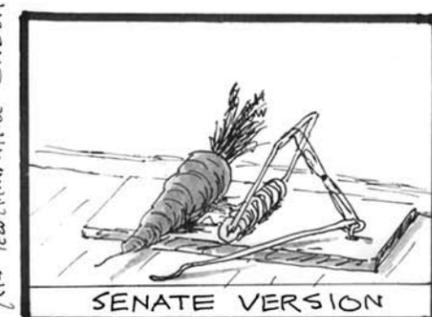
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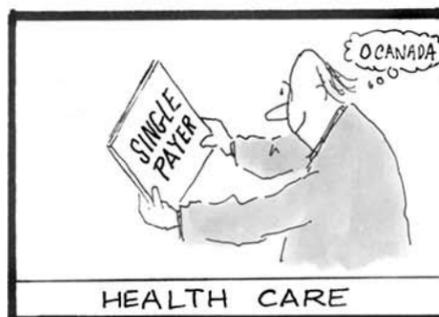
SENATE VERSION



MOUSE TRAP



SENATE VERSION



HEALTH CARE



SENATE VERSION

RUMINATIONS ON THE EFFICACY OF COMMITTEES

1 - An isolated chain of islands in the South Pacific, Tuvalu has a per capita income of \$1,600 and a population slightly larger than Somersworth, NH.

2 - *The American Journal of Public Health* reported last week that 45,000 people die annually in this country due to lack of health insurance. Not lack of health care, lack of health insurance.

News Briefs:

Is Justice Sonia Playing Constitutional "Chicken?"

Citizens United (CU) is a non-profit organization that claims to be “Dedicated to Restoring our Government to Citizen Control.” More specifically, they say they want to “reassert the traditional American values of limited government, freedom of enterprise, strong families, and national sovereignty and security.”

Translating their right-wing rhetoric into plain English, CU is yet another gang of authoritarian blowhards fighting to preserve the extraordinary privileges enjoyed by the plutocrats who provide their funding.

In 2004, CU complained to the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) that Michael Moore's film *Fahrenheit 9/11* violated federal election laws. CU was trying to block distribution of the film, which they saw as a pre-election attack on the re-election candidacy of George W. Bush, which it was, of course.

But the FEC decided it was a legal pre-election attack, so all CU got out of their FEC complaint was an idea — an idea they stole from Moore, fair and square: “Let's make a movie that's

a pre-election attack on Hillary Clinton. We'll call it *Hillary: The Movie*.”

Sadly for CU [insert crocodile tears here] the FEC insisted that if CU was going to run ads for its hatchet-job on TV, it had to reveal who was paying for them. That's apparently a sensitive topic, because CU balked. Infuriated by the novel experience of not getting its way, CU suppressed its ardor for tort reform and took the FEC to court for infringing upon its First Amendment right to free speech.

Now, if CU had a birth certificate, even a Hawaiian birth certificate, that would be one thing — and that thing would be a human being. What it is, though, is a nonprofit corporation registered in Virginia and enjoying tax-exemption under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.¹

Birth certificate or not, CU's funders and lawyers believe

they're smart enough, they're rich enough, and doggone it, they've got just as much right to the full protection of the First Amendment as any oxygen-breather. And they've spent plenty of tax-deductible dollars climbing the greased legal ladder to the Supreme Court to get that established once and for all. Well, OK ... not for all. For them.

The Supreme Court gets to decide, among other things, what cases they will hear and what cases can go pound sand. They decided to hear *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. The smart money seems to think they want to play Bruce Willis to CU's Ving Rhames, and remove the ball gag that has been stifling them so cruelly.

If the court decides *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* in their favor, that will be the crowning victory in a 125-year campaign by a long line of corporate stooges, on and off the

Supreme Court bench: corporate personhood, fully enshrined in Constitutional law.

Corporate personhood is a concept that was born in 1886, the bastard child of the Supreme Court and its Court Reporter, J.C. Bancroft Davis. While recording the case of *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad*, Davis, the former president of the Newburgh and New York Railroad, wrote the following in a “headnote:”

“The court does not wish to hear argument on the question whether the provision in the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which forbids a State to deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws, applies to these corporations. We are all of the opinion that it does.”

Headnotes are not even part of a Supreme Court decision. The Court itself has said they are “simply the work of the Reporter, giving his understanding of the decision.” But corporations didn't let that stop them. They seized upon the opportunity that Davis's headnote had handed them, and have steadily built upon it

ever since.

The grating irony here is that corporate personhood is best defined in this comparison: Slavery is the legal fiction that a person is property. Corporate personhood is the legal fiction that property is a person. The Fourteenth Amendment was written to guarantee the rights of freed slaves. If Citizens United wins, we're all united in slavery to the legal fictions known as corporations.

This is why it was so refreshing earlier this month when Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor said about this case, in her first appearance on the Court, “There could be an argument made that that was the court's error to start with ... [imbu]ing a creature of state law with human characteristics.”

Maybe it's wishful thinking, but this could be the legal equivalent of tossing a nuclear grenade from hand to hand, and asking, “Are you sure you want to play that game, boys?”

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News Briefs

from page one

Irving Kristol, 89

Irving Kristol, a one-time Trotskyite who became “the Godfather of neoconservatism,” died on September 18 at the age of 89. He is survived by his son William, the Fredo of neoconservatism.

Paul Campos, a University of Colorado law professor, wrote an op-ed about the Kristols last January 28 for the late lamented *Rocky Mountain News*, about a month before that paper went belly-up. Campos related an anecdote told by Columbia University Professor Ira Katznelson, describing a conversation he had had with Irving Kristol.

“The talk turned to William Kristol, then Dan Quayle’s chief of staff,” Campos wrote, “and how he got his start in politics.”

“Irving Kristol told Katznelson that he had ‘talked to his friend Harvey Mansfield at Harvard, who secured William a place there as both an undergrad and graduate student; how he talked to Pat Moynihan, then Nixon’s domestic policy adviser, and got William an internship at the White House; how he talked to friends at the RNC [Republican National Committee] and secured a job for William after he got his Harvard Ph.D.; and how he arranged with still more

friends for William to teach at Penn and the Kennedy School of Government.”

Katznelson then asked Irving to give his opinion of affirmative action.

“I oppose it,” Irving replied. ‘It subsets meritocracy.’”

PETA Protests NH Co.’s Frog Flogging*

New Hampshire’s very own Brookstone company has surmounted many a challenge since its founding in Merrimack 44 years ago. Soon we shall see whether it can prevail against a PETA activist in a frog suit.



A Frog-O-Sphere

Through its catalog and in its stores, Brookstone sells pairs of African dwarf frogs, encased in

*We are not accusing Brookstone employees of abusing amphibians with little bitty whips. We are employing the definition given in *Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions*, by Richard A. Spears: “to promote, hype, or support something; to try to sell something aggressively.” (Copyright 2007, McGraw Hill.)

plastic enclosures, along with a lone snail assigned to janitorial duties and a stalk of live bamboo. The ensemble is called a “Frog-O-Sphere Ecosystem,” and sells for \$39.95.

Brookstone seems to be implying that there is some educational value inherent in this “amazing world within our world.” Maybe, but the sex education curriculum is a bit skewed. The frogs are sorted and sold in same-sex pairs, forcing them to choose between celibacy or homosexuality. Not that there’s anything wrong with that. But since the snail, as a hermaphrodite, can carry on with wild abandon, there does seem to be some kind of gastropod vs. amphibian apartheid going on.

PETA does not concern itself with these questions, though. They’re just ripped that the “animals are sometimes slowly poisoned by their own waste.”

“Brookstone employees who see sick and dying frogs,” PETA charges, “are allegedly instructed to put the animals in the back, out of customers’ sight, where they often languish and die without veterinary care.”

Brookstone appeared unrepentant in this note to their customers:

“Frog-O-Sphere has generated an overwhelmingly positive response from our customers,” some corporate scribbler was

forced to write.

“While we respect the right of all groups to express their views, we at Brookstone are happy that Frog-O-Sphere is bringing the joy of pet ownership to families and students across the country, and will continue to offer Frog-O-Sphere.”

Undeterred, on September 15th, according to PETA’s blog, a person in a frog costume, along with support humans, hounded Brookstone district managers and vice presidents as they attended corporate meetings, made store visits, and even as they ate lunch.

Oh, the humanity!

The March of the Numerically-Challenged

The much-ballyhooed Taxpayer March on Washington was held September 12nd on the Mall. Now that it is finally over with, we can begin to forget it. But first, let’s record the attendance.

The closest thing to an official estimate came from an anonymous D.C. fire official who pegged the turnout at “in excess of 75,000.”

The National Taxpayers Union claimed up to 300,000 — four times that number.

Not to be outdone, Matt Kibbe, the President of FreedomWorks,



The streets were filled with whizzing bikes, and the sidewalks crammed with spectators, during the recent Criterium. Our favorite part, aside from the sheer distraction it offers, is the rare scent of hay bales in the city.



The 11th annual Telluride By the Sea Film Festival once again drew film fanciers from far and wide, packing the Music Hall, and Chestnut Street to boot.

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The Fortnightly Quote, from A Reader:

“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.”
Greek proverb



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said ABC News had reported there were up to 1.5 million in attendance — a full twenty times the quasi-official estimate.

ABC responded by reporting that it had reported no such thing and cited the 75,000 figure. FreedomWorks “corrected” itself and gave its own revised estimate — up to 800,000, a more modest ten times the likely number.

To buttress their claims of high attendance, marchers circulated aerial photos of the Mall covered with people. Leftists with hidden agendas pointed out that recent buildings are absent from the photos implying that the photos must have been taken several years earlier.

Between complaints about the government taking over their lives, marchers complained that Washington’s Metro had failed to lay on enough trains to accommodate them.

A Geographical Note

A story in the September 16th *Boston Globe* says that FBI figures show that the South — bastion of Christian values — has 65 percent more violent and prop-

erty crimes than the Godless Northeast.

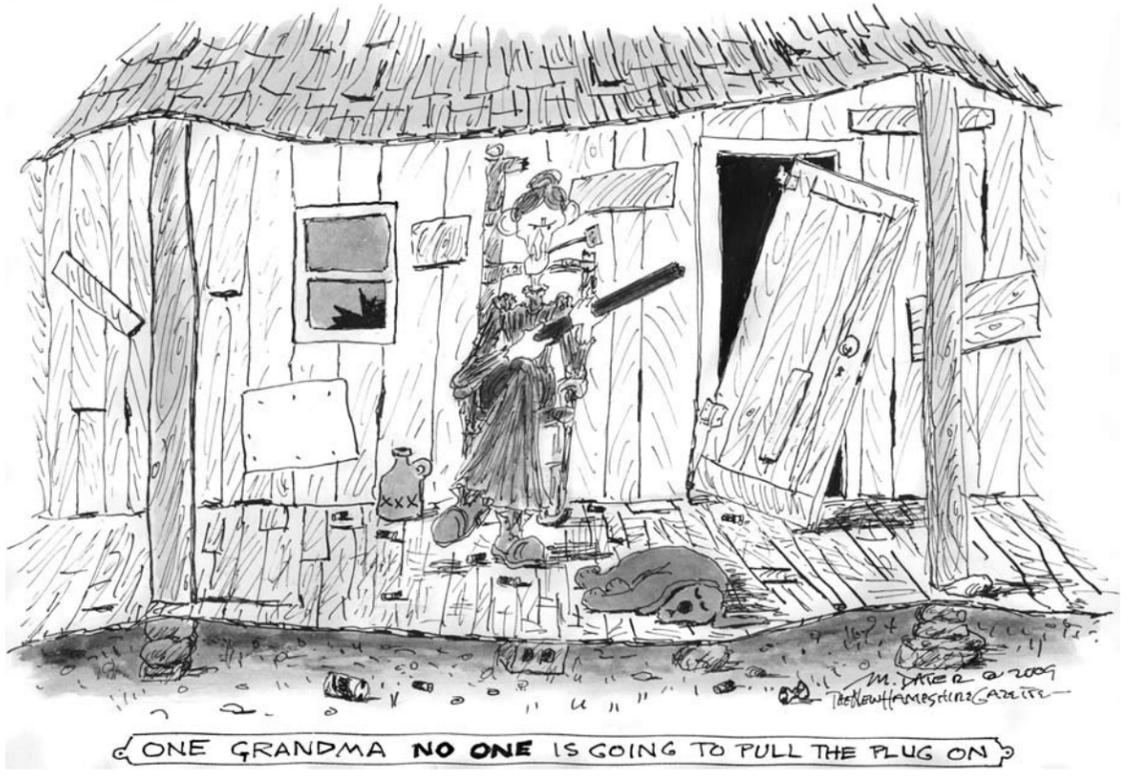
In a Nutshell

“Katie Couric’s annual salary is more than the entire annual budgets of NPR’s *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered* combined ... NPR has seventeen foreign bureaus (which costs it another \$9.4 million a year); CBS has twelve.”

— Michael Massing, in his “Behind the News” column at the *Columbia Journalism Review* (www.cjr.org/behind_the_news).

Bob Foster

Robert H. “Bob” Foster, the publisher of *Foster’s Daily Democrat*, died Thursday evening, September 11. His sixty years as the steward of that newspaper make one wonder why there is no Hall of Fame for newspapermen. Though we cannot claim we knew him well, we did meet him several times. We discussed his great-grandfather, Joshua Lane Foster, the founder of *Foster’s* and a subject of mutual fascination. And, though few newspapers could be more disparate in their perspectives as *Foster’s* and the



Gazette, we found ourselves in full agreement that independent ownership was the ideal state for a newspaper. Whether our informal conversations had anything to do with *Foster’s* commercial print operation soliciting this paper as a customer, we can’t say. The arrangement has been more than satisfactory, though — it has been a pleasure. We suspect that’s because the character of their organization came straight from the top.

Athenæum Book Sale

Somehow we got the notion that the Portsmouth Athenæum’s Annual Book Sale was, if you’ll pardon the expression, history. Rarely have we been so pleased to have been so wrong! The sale will not be held at the South Church, though. The new location is at the Sanderson’s barn at 248 Spinney Road, across the street from the North Church Parish House, where free parking will be available. Hardback books will sell for \$1, and paperbacks for 50¢. As always, the sale will run from 9:00 a.m. until

noon, rain or shine. Those who are handicapped will find the location accessible.

This being the Athenæum, the selection of books is sure to be outstanding.

15th Annual Halloween Parade

The Press Room on Daniel Street will hold two events next weekend in support of the 15th Annual Portsmouth Halloween Parade. Thursday, October 1st there will be an Open House from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., for artists whose work will be on display in the Mask-A-Rade through October. Friday, October 2nd, Bruce Pingree will DJ for a Halloween Costume Dance Party, with proceeds going to the Parade coffers.

On the following Monday, October 5th, the Coat of Arms will again host the (I Got A) Rock Show benefit. In keeping with the spirit of the season, a few local rock legends will rise from the grave to perform. Heavens to Murgatroid and Jupiter 2 will be joined by Die Mensch-Machine — a Kraftwerk cover band, and some new blood, The Asthmatics. The event starts at 7 p.m. and is free, though donations to support the parade will be vigorously requested.



The First Annual Fishtival was yet another crowd-creating event this past weekend, bringing hordes of hungry people to Prescott Park to sample all kinds of finny creatures from our own aquatic front yard. The turnout made it clear that this was an idea whose time had come. Next time, though, they’re going to have to bring a lot more fish! As with the Criterium and Telluride by the Sea, the weather did everything it could to make the event a success.



It’s a Bust

Chief — After all my years on the beat, I would have thought Portsmouth’s twee South End would know better. Squeezing Old Glory behind a storm door is awkward enough, but when it come to the position of the union on a vertical display, the rule book suffers no creative variations — upper left, always. This is a bust. — *Krupke*



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



Northcountry Chronicle

Land of the Safe, Home of the Scrutinized

by William Marvel

Eight years ago 19 religious zealots abruptly and radically changed the entire complexion of life in the United States. Their aim was to paralyze 350 million people by capitalizing on fear, and they succeeded magnificently. They needed only to commit one conspicuous act of violence, leaving the American people to inflict the rest of the program on themselves.

Children who had just entered the first grade that September day are now in high school, and those who were just entering high school have graduated from college. None of them harbors a clear recollection of a time when freedom was regarded as a more important ingredient of our national culture than safety. Because of that collective amnesia, and because they have been bombarded by every electronic medium with images of perpetual attack from "bad guys," few of those young people share the traditional concept that the es-

sential elements of liberty should never be sacrificed for the illusion of security.

It was not so long ago that the "enemy" consisted of totalitarian governments that were typically depicted in American cinema by smartly uniformed, well-armed police detaining unoffending citizens and demanding "Your papers, please." The similarities between such Cold War imagery and everyday scenes in the U.S. today are lost on a generation that never learned to despise Iron Curtain police states. In any case, such a comparison would hardly horrify citizens who have grown to adolescence or adulthood amid the fear and suspicion that today's young people have absorbed from pathologically protective parents and an increasingly intrusive government.

The average young American now views any uniformed official as a heroic collaborator of unlimited authority in the eternal war against nebulous evildoers. Personal privacy and the right of a law-abiding citizen to be left

alone seem quaint, or comical. To question the propriety or legality of anything a police officer might demand strikes those of post-9/11 pubescence as downright unpatriotic, and perhaps criminal. Rummage through my backpack? Why not? Search my car? Why, sure, officer. Ransack my house? Be my guest: after all; maybe I'm unwittingly in possession of some dangerous contraband. Better safe than sorry.

A couple of years ago, as Kennett High School's valedictorian and salutatorian were departing from a newspaper interview, I asked them about random police searches. "If you have nothing to hide," one of them responded, "what is there to be afraid of?" In the minds of even the best and brightest of today's youth, the genesis of a police state is apparently no longer something to be afraid of.

With such willing minds to mold, it should be no surprise that police across the country seem intent on habituating our ever-younger population to fre-

quent, unwarranted, and random intrusions. A compliant society is easier to police, and civil rights have always posed an impediment to those who genuinely view it as their primary duty to protect the individual's person and property.

That desire to inure the public to obtrusive law enforcement agencies may have motivated the Border Patrol's roadblocks deep inside Vermont a few years ago. Motorists on Interstate 91 were inconvenienced, questioned, and sometimes detained on groundless suspicions, but no illegal aliens or terrorists were apprehended.

The growing tolerance for dictatorial police authority allowed officers to peremptorily order citizens out of their homes on the day of Conway's triple murder, simply because the killer might have been in the vicinity. Despite such excessive, unauthorized precautions, their prey walked right through their cordon, only to be taken by a small-town cop who never drew his gun.

In New Hampshire, and especially in Conway, the campaign to promote police authority and theoretical safety is well illustrated by the so-called sobriety checkpoints. The requirement for probable cause notwithstanding, some form of random selection still seems to play a part in these operations, in which a fraction of motorists are pulled out of line on one section of road and examined for any number of violations. In the Doublespeak of official government language, failure actually means success, and even when an extensive dragnet yields no DWI arrests (which they often don't), the practice is said to be "working."

That paradoxical claim may be true, too. Even roadblocks that catch no drunken drivers do accustom submissive citizens to being stopped and shaken down — however politely and efficiently — and to drive away feeling safe and protected, rather than harassed and imposed upon. If that is the ulterior purpose, then they certainly are working.

More Hate Mail, &c.

from page seven

rid of them altogether: The fundamental conflict between their goal (increasing profits) and our need (affordable health care for all). A system in which service providers make the most money by providing the least service is bound to fail.

John Irvine
South Berwick, ME

PS: How about putting a few

price options on your subscription sign-up page, e.g. \$25, \$30, \$35? Give new subscribers a chance to toss in a little extra if they can, to keep you keepin' on.

John:
Great idea!
The Editor

Health Care

To the Editor:

I am horrified by the latest ploy of Max Baucus to require that money be extracted from health

care and given to insurance companies. To fine those who haven't bought insurance is extortion, plain and simple. He rejects the most economical and effective system, single payer, proposing instead to force payments to insurance companies, which have proven harmful to the medical process for decades.

We need to get the insurance companies out of health care. They skim off profits from money that should go to caring for

the sick. We elected a Democratic Congress to meet the needs of the people, not to further profits of private corporations. Max Baucus has a conflict of interest and should have no say in the health care debate.

Judith W. Gardner
Durham, NH
Judith

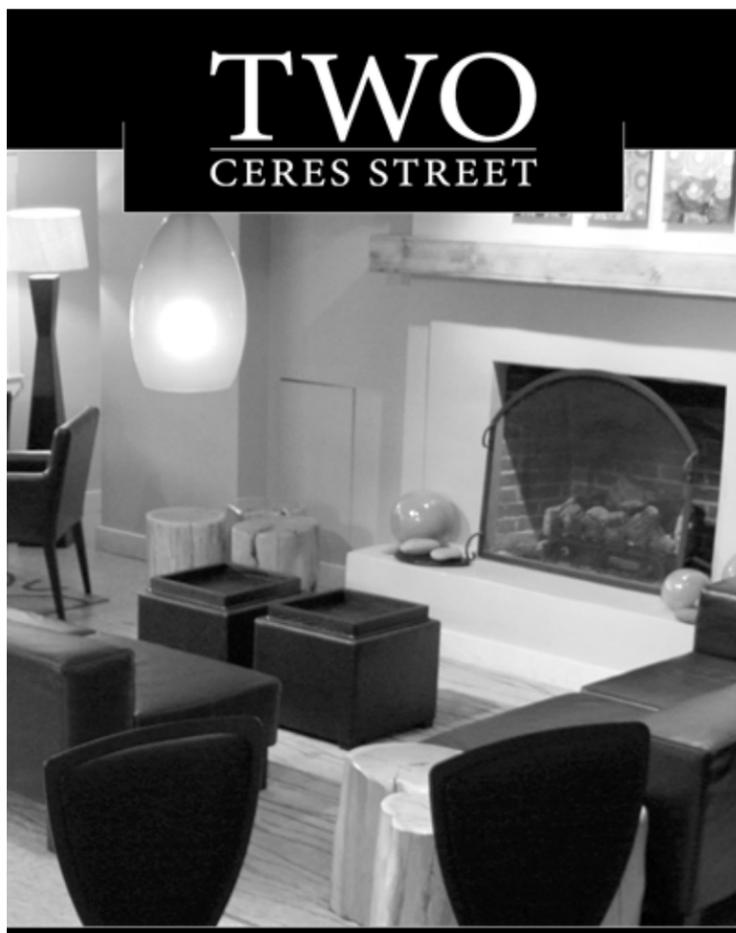
The way the health care system operates in this country today is so weirdly distorted by "free market" ideology, it can really be quite dif-

ficult to see that which ought to be obvious. So thanks for putting this so succinctly.

The current health care debate — if we can dignify this catfight with that term — is a perfectly representative example of the underlying Corporate Republican strategy: resist fiercely any slight incremental change, thus making a change that would work — single payer — seem outlandish. What's outlandish is the way things "work" now.

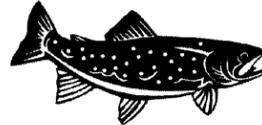
The Editor

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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Moving Pictures

9

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Elijah Wood, John C. Reilly, Christopher Plummer, Jennifer Connelly; **Martin Landau** (voicing animated characters); **Screenwriter:** Pamela Pettler, based on a story by Shane Acker; **Director:** Shane Acker; **Rating:** [PG-13]

It is a curious fact that in a world gone mad for reality programming, and with many feature films opting to look like documentaries, the best creative work is being done in animation. This past weekend money rained down upon the box office as *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs* (based on a beloved children's book) won way more viewers than, say *Jennifer's Body*, which is about a different form of conspicuous consumption.

Earlier this season *Up* was far and away the best of class, and attracted a large enough audience to prove it. Alas, there's no guarantee that a fantastic piece of animation will be a smash hit. Case in point, the stunningly visualized *9*, which takes place in a devastated landscape that is somewhere between the barren

"no man's land" of World War I and Hieronymus Bosch's nightmare paintings of hell. This utterly real, dystopian vision is so crisply defined, so totally there, that you'll be left wondering what all the fuss is about 3-D — and better yet you won't have to don those cross-eyed glasses.

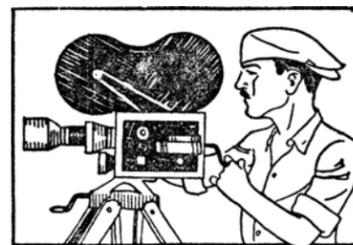
9 opens as the eponymous character, an odd little rag doll hand-sewn of burlap, suddenly comes to life in a ruined laboratory that could have been (and probably was) inspired by something out of H. G. Wells. *9* — the number is inked on his back — begins with no idea who he is, or why he exists, or what this strange and terrible world has in store for him. "Him" not because gender is particularly obvious, but because he's voiced by Elijah Wood. Throwing open the shutters of the ruined lab where he was born, *9* has his first glimpse of what a "total war" leaves in its wake. No living thing has survived a battle waged by machines. Everything has been poisoned, down to the smallest microbe. Even the sky is dead. The killing machines are of human design, of course, and were deployed by soldiers who are Nazi in appear-

ance, if not in symbol. All that survives are a few deadly, spider-like robots programmed to kill anything that moves, and in the case of the rag dolls, to suck out their souls.

9, being young and curious (he's been alive for less than a minute) finds himself in deadly peril from one of the killing machines, and is saved by the self-sacrifice of the brave and elderly #2 (Martin Landau), who is carried away by the monster machine, back to the lair of death. *9* soon enough finds himself in the company of the other surviving rag-doll creatures, lead by their fearful ruler, #1 (voiced by Christopher Plummer). Plummer's character is all about survival, finding the safest place to hide, and he's willing to sacrifice any doll who puts him in danger — even an old and trusted friend like Landau's character. The defiant *9*, determined to find and save Landau's brave little creature, recruits dolls voiced by John C. Reilly and Jennifer Connelly, and sets out on a mission that will eventually reveal the secret of the dolls' existence, and why the killing machines are so obsessed with absorbing their fragile little life forces.

Writer/director Shane Acker, who trained as an architect, layers his amazing visuals with echoes from any number of creation mythologies — which makes for an interesting narrative — but his main inspiration seems to be World War I trench warfare. His brave little creatures look something like infantry soldiers of the so-called "Great War," and some of them suffer from what can only be described as shell-shock. Imbued as they are with all the human traits, the numbered dolls make mistakes, act without thought, seek glory, plot revenge, revel in violence, and wish to be transformed by love. Which is a lot to expect from a hand-sewn burlap bag. Amazingly enough, Acker's animation team gets more subtle facial expressions from burlap than are summoned your average action-actor. Enough so that most viewers will find themselves identifying with the little creatures, much as they did with *Wall-E*, and rooting for some ray of hope to illuminate the ominous skies of *9*.

This is Shane Acker's first feature film, based on an eleven-minute short that wowed Sundance in 2005. Screenwriter



Pamela Pettler (whose credits include *Monster House* and *Corpse Bride*) helped expand the scope of the story, and brought a glimmer of executive producer Tim Burton's dark sensibility to some of the images, in particular a snake-like machine monster with a skull for a head. The result is a visually astonishing cautionary tale. Why then hasn't *9* attracted the large audiences that flocked to *Wall-E* and *Up*, at least so far? Perhaps because unlike the others, humor has been left out of the creative equation of this particular work of art. Maybe the director decided that the self-destruction of humanity shouldn't be played for laughs. Whatever, this is serious, gorgeous stuff, and those of you who are at all curious about the future of animation should do yourselves a favor and see *9* on the big screen.

It may not be around for long, not with the box office raining meatballs.

Where Ya Been, You Tea-Baggers?

To the Editor:

Many thanks to you for providing a large dose of political sanity during these totally insane times.

Regarding the irrational extremists who speak out against a health care public option:

Where were you living during the past forty years? Are you in perfect physical health? Because you surely need a checkup in the mental health category.

Why can't we take one month's worth of funding for war, and put it towards health care for the uninsured/underinsured? How did our country's top priorities

become all about destruction and killing? Don't tell me, I know. Corporate greed, and greed in general.

It's a real challenge to maintain a peaceful heart these days.

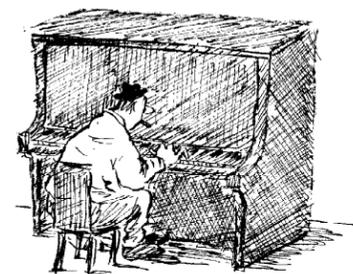
Keep up the great work, please.

Cate Jones
Portsmouth, NH

Cate:

We don't know if great is the right term for what we do here, but we can tell you this: if we didn't get to do it, our hearts would be a whole lot less peaceful! Our sincere thanks to you, and all our subscribers, for giving us your support, and keeping us out of the asylum.

The Editor



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Uncle Walt the Arch-Propagandist?

To the Arch-Editor:

I'm a regular reader and really enjoy the barbed humor of your little journal, so I know taking pot shots at Big Names (especially pompous politicians) is one of the things that is so fun about *The New Hampshire Gazette's* Calendar ... But what's up with tarring Walt Disney (for Pete's Sake!) as an "arch propagandist" in your last edition? You didn't even mark the date of his birth or death, but rather the anniversary of his late-in-life receipt of the highest civilian award in the country: the Presidential Medal of Freedom. What did he do to piss you off? Kick you out of the Mickey Mouse Fan Club when you were a kid?

Like any high-profile studio mogul, Uncle Walt had his enemies and detractors ... but slurring this driven, often-cantankerous innovator in screen animation is surprising. To be sure, there were propagandists, maybe even "arch-propagandists" (Nazi Joseph Goebbels comes



readily to mind) in Disney's lifetime. But Disney's wartime films for the Army and Navy are hardly what he is remembered for. He's remembered, and was honored for, a film genre he practically invented: the animated cartoon, especially the feature-length musical cartoon, and he had a shelf full of Oscars to show for it. Whether in cartoons or live-action features, or in his first-of-its-kind theme park, Walt Disney's view of both America and human nature was invariably positive (not unlike his contemporary Norman Rockwell), and may seem a little cloying to contemporary audiences. On the other hand, his early sponsoring and broadcasting of nature documentaries on television and in film features preceded the modern "green" consciousness by a generation. In that, I'd say, he was years ahead of his time.

It's true that throughout WW II several Disney artists were assigned full-time to fulfill Army and Navy requests for unit emblems (such as the U.S. Navy's "Seabees") and nose art designs, which he dutifully honored on a *pro bono* basis. Frankly, that seems like an honorable contribution to the defeat of the 20th century's real evil empire, to me.

Steve Robison
Stratham, NH
Steve:

The achievements of Disney's career which you mention are laudable, indeed, and no doubt were what inspired Lyndon B. Johnson to wrap that ribbon around his

neck in 1964. Historically, though, they have caused most Americans to overlook the darker side of his nature. Disney was also a rabid anti-communist who helped stoke the Blacklist. He also did his best to disguise dangerous nuclear technology as something cute and fun.

Exhibit A: — An excerpt from testimony Disney gave before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, on 24 October, 1947:

H.A. Smith — Have you ever made any pictures in your studio that contained propaganda and that were propaganda films?

Disney: Well, during the war we did. We made quite a few—working with different government agencies. We did one for the Treasury on taxes and I did four anti-Hitler films. And I did one on my own for air power.

H.A. Smith: From those pictures that you made, have you any opinion as to whether or not the films can be used effectively to disseminate propaganda?

Disney: Yes, I think they proved that.

Disney unquestioning supported the military-industrial complex and did his best to brainwash generations.

Exhibit B: — "Our Friend The Atom (January 23, 1957), the 'Atoms for Peace' cartoon ... was produced by Disney in cooperation with the U.S. Navy and General Dynamics, builders of the nuclear submarine USS Nautilus.

"This was followed by the further cooperation of General Dynamics, the U.S. government, and Disney in the development of a new US

\$2,500,000 ride at Disneyland, composed of eight air-conditioned 'atomic' submarines. The "Tomorrowland" section of Disney's Magic Kingdom now had the largest fleet of 'atomic' submarines in the world. On June 14, 1959, in front of millions of ABC television viewers, Vice-President Richard Nixon and family joined Rear Admiral Charles C. Kirkpatrick of the U.S. Navy and Walt Disney in the maiden voyage of the Disney submarine fleet. A highlight of the ride was a cruise past a graveyard of sunken ships." — Mark Langer, Disney's Atomic Fleet.

We're not suggesting Uncle Walt should have gotten the Mussolini treatment. We just wanted to balance out his image a little bit.

Thanks for the nice cartoon, by the way. And stay tuned for our expose of a certain octogenarian religious figure!

The Editor

Human Problems? Or Political?

To the Editor:

Every hour of every day we are told that the problems in this country are political. The Democrats do this. The Republicans do that. One party has the truth. The other lies.

Corporations pour billions into the political process (aka bribery) to protect their interests.

Nowhere in the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence are political parties or corporations mentioned. What is clearly stated is *we the people*. From these documents, the foundation of this country, it is clear that the intended purpose of our government is to provide the programs and structure to allow *the people* to be the best that we can be. To provide life, liberty and allow the pursuit of happiness.

Health care, education, and a decent standard of living are

rights, not options. The last six words of the Pledge of Allegiance are "with liberty and justice for all." The problems in this country are not political, they are human.

Arnold Stieber
Grass Lake, MI
Arnold:

The authors of our founding documents abhorred the very thought of political parties, and yet they now define our system of "self" government. Ironically, William Poundstone's Gaming the Vote, if we understand it right, seems to be saying that a two-party system is the inevitable result of the winner-take-all electoral system they created. Maybe if we ever finish the book, we'll be able to tell you of his proposals to resolve that problem.

The Editor

Another

Welcome Correction

To the Editor:

While the horror of a Dick Cheney Presidential Inauguration scares me more than the end of the world (i.e. the end of the Mayan calendar on December 21, 2012), the end of the world would actually come first if you buy the whole Mayan calendar thingy.

The front page story states, "In the unlikely — unthinkable — event that "Dick" is inaugurated in 2012 he will be just 10 days shy of his 71st birthday ..." While it is true that his birthday would be 10 days after the inauguration, the inauguration wouldn't be until January 20, 2013.

So, we don't have to worry, the world will end first! Problem solved.

Mark Skarzynski
Portsmouth, NH
Mark:

As you can see, the mere thought of Cheney's fell hand hovering anywhere in the vicinity of the Dooms-

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And Other Correspondence

day Button caused us to come completely "unstuck in time."

The Editor

He's Re-Upping

To the Editor:

Tomorrow I shall, by snail mail, send you \$25 for another enjoyable year. Because of finances this is the only subscription to a periodical I am keeping. So put this feather in your cap.

Ed Peltz

Grayson, KY

Ed:

We shall wear that feather proudly. Thanks you.

The Editor

Thank You, Mayor Guinta.

To the editor:

The evening of October 31, 2009, Manchester Mayor Guinta conducted a Health Care Town Hall Meeting in Exeter, NH in the Old Town Hall. What a marvelous demonstration of decorum and knowledge of the issue he displayed. He was calm and reserved and most importantly he listened to the questions and commentary with great interest. He then proceeded to answer the questions the individuals asked. He could do this because he read HR 3200, all 1,000+ pages, twice. If any questioner asked a question the Mayor could not answer fully, he took his name and promised to get back to them with the answer.

There was no pre-registration, no security guards, no screening and any conscientious American concerned enough could attend. He fielded about 25 questions in the hour and one-half, and suggested those who had more should stay so he could accommodate them.

The mayor has an excellent and open record in public service and it is obvious why. He understands his task is to represent the people who with their votes asked him

to serve and he does exactly that.

John Sanganario

Hampton, NH

John:

May we suggest you send a clipping of this letter to the Mayor? In the unlikely case of his election, it may land you a position on his staff. More probably, it will end up in his scrapbook to give him a warm reminder that someone out there supported him wholeheartedly.

The Editor

The Assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte

To The Editor:

On September 17, 1948 occurred an utterly despicable act — the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte, Swedish noble, humanitarian, and president of his nation's Red Cross; a man who had saved thousands from the Nazi concentration camps.

It happened in West Jerusalem, where he was serving as the United Nations peace mediator. On his way to a meeting when his three-car convoy was blocked. Two gunmen shot out the tires while a third thrust an automatic through the open window. Count Bernadotte was hit with six bullets and died instantly; an aide was also killed.

The Stern Gang (one of whose leaders was Yitzhak Shamir, later to become Prime Minister) was responsible. Israel promised quick arrests. No one was ever brought to trial. Israel's failure to bring justice to Bernadotte's killers brought the first United Nations Security Council criticism of that country.

Israel later admitted the laxity and paid the UN \$54,628 indemnity for Bernadotte's murder.

I think I have found the answer to Israel's inaction. It is on page 71 of *Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel* by Israel Shahak and Norton Mezvinsky. They cite the Gush Emunim leader, Rabbi Is-

rael Ariel, who, relying upon the Code of Maimonides and the Halacha (the entire body of Jewish law), said, "A Jew who killed a non-Jew is exempt from human judgement and has not violated the (religious) prohibition of murder."

The book is most astonishingly illuminating, and I highly recommend it for greater understanding of the problem.

Lester LeViness

Nyack, NY

Lester:

The undeniable presence in this world of continuing anti-Semitism requires any editor to approach this topic as one would an improvised explosive device. I was pleased to find, after a brief bit of research, that the book to which you refer has been endorsed by Noam Chomsky, Gore Vidal, and other knowledgeable and trustworthy writers.

It was you who first pointed out the absence of the Bernadotte assassination from our calendar; we thank you again for pointing out that oversight. As you'll see from the next letter, you are not the only one who remembers.

The Editor

"The Beast of the Mideast"

To the Editor:

Your calendar of events says that on Sept. 17, 1948, United Nations mediator Folke Bernadotte was assassinated in Jerusalem by the Zionist Stern Gang. It reminded me that the biggest headline I've ever seen was in my hometown newspaper: "BERNADOTTE ASSASSINATED". Since I didn't ask, no one told me what it meant; years later reading an encyclopedia told me how Israel's record of assassin nation began.

In 2001 I wrote some Letters to Editors saying that in Israel, its prime minister, military head and spy chief form a trio that decides which people in Palestine are to be assassinated; its hitmen then carry out the targeted killings. That year they used he-

licopters and missiles provided by the United States to kill the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

At the time assassination was illegal under United States law and may still be, but Israel's trio, even if alcoholic, psychotic or fanatic, could order anybody in Palestine to be assassinated. Ever since the foul murder of Folke Bernadotte which it refuses to report any investigation of, Israel has shown why it's known in and beyond Palestine as "The Beast of the Mideast."

Marjorie Gallace

Camden, ME

Health Care Boondoggle

To the Editor:

Everybody should be angry about what's happening with health care reform. The problem with the protesters, though, is they're marching in the wrong direction.

What the insurance industry's friends in Congress are trying to do is repeat the Bush/Paulson bank bailout, in which the people who caused the disaster got a huge windfall and went back to business as usual.

The key this time is the "individual mandate," which means everyone who doesn't have health insurance has to buy some. The industry will offer cheaper, stripped-down plans with big co-pays, high deductibles and big gaps in coverage. People who can't afford even these third-rate plans will be subsidized by the government.

It's a CEO's fantasy: Tens of millions of new customers who have to buy your crappy products whether they want to or not.

Wall Street loves to sing the praises of "free markets" and



competition, but the health insurance industry has worked long and hard — and bought a lot of politicians — to get rid of competition in their market. (How many companies did you choose from when you got your health coverage?)

Now the only thing standing between them and their new bonanza is the threat of real competition from a non-profit "public option." It's a poor substitute for real reform, but it still terrifies the insurance companies, because without their massive overhead and huge executive salaries and profits, even a semi-competent non-profit should be able to offer better health plans at lower prices.

However, nobody expects a public insurance option alone to clean up our health care mess. As a nation, we haven't even begun systematic reform of disease prevention and medical care delivery.

Also, even with a public option, the health insurance field will still be dominated by for-profit insurance companies. There's a reason why every other developed country has strictly regulated such companies or got

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page four

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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, September 27	Monday, September 28	Tuesday, September 29	Wednesday, September 30	Thursday, October 1	Friday, October 2	Saturday, October 3							
<p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld calls the alleged link between al Qaeda and Iraq “accurate and not debatable.”</p> <p>1996—In Kabul, the Taliban — former seminarians — torture, castrate, and kill Mohammad Najibullah, President of Afghanistan.</p> <p>1994—On the Capitol steps, 350 GOP candidates vow to take out a Contract with America. They must have meant “on.”</p> <p>1991—For the first time in decades, the U.S. has no nuclear-armed B-52s on alert.</p> <p>1989—To show kids there are more constructive things to do than take drugs, Jeffrey Petkovitch and Peter DeBernardi climb into a barrel and go over Niagara's Horseshoe Falls.</p> <p>1972—The first stretch of the Trans-Amazonian Highway opens; bye-bye rain forest, hello global warming.</p> <p>1964—The Warren Commission reports that Lee Harvey Oswald offed the President of the United States all by his lonesome.</p> <p>1957—The United Kingdom tests a nuke on aboriginal lands in Maralinga, South Australia.</p> <p>1944—A group of 35 U.S. B-24s isolated over Germany by a navigational error are jumped by 100 enemy fighters; four survive.</p> <p>1944—The U.S. government begins large-scale production of plutonium on land taken from the Yakama Indian Nation.</p>	<p>2005—A Texas grand jury indicts Rep. Tom DeLay (R-TX) for violating campaign finance laws.</p> <p>2005—The Pentagon says it will investigate charges that soldiers posted photos of dead Iraqis online in exchange for free access to porn.</p> <p>2002—George W. Bush claims Iraq has WMDs, al Qaeda terrorists, and maybe a nuke soon.</p> <p>2001—To avoid further scorn in these pages, Fleet Bank removes its 18-foot tall green, illuminated sign from the middle of Pleasant Street's sidewalk.</p> <p>1978—The papacy of John Paul I ends with his death under mysterious circumstances.</p> <p>1964—UC Berkeley students protest free speech restrictions.</p> <p>1960—Ted Williams takes the plate at Fenway for his last at bat, and hits his 521st home run.</p> <p>1938—At Munich, British and French diplomats give Hitler the Sudetenland and the GOP a future talking point.</p> <p>1917—166 activists of the International Workers of the World are arrested for interfering with the war effort.</p> <p>1904—In New York a woman is arrested for smoking a cigarette.</p> <p>1891—In New York a 72 year-old writer named Herman Melville dies in obscurity.</p> <p>1850—The U.S. Navy abolishes flogging.</p>	<p>2006—Anti-child porn crusader U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (R-FL) resigns after his lurid e-mails to young male pages are revealed.</p> <p>2003—The White House denies that Karl Rove had revealed the name of CIA agent Valerie Plame.</p> <p>1988—The Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua wins a lawsuit preventing the Executive branch from regulating or prohibiting aid to a foreign country if it's intended to relieve suffering.</p> <p>1980—<i>The Washington Post</i> publishes Janet Cook's fictional, Pulitzer-winning story about an 8 year-old junkie.</p> <p>1972—On Vineyard Sound, a short, bearded man in sneakers fails in his spontaneous attempt to throw former Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara off the ferry <i>M.V. Islander</i>.</p> <p>1969—The U.S. Army drops murder charges against Special Forces Col. Robert Rheault—the CIA won't let its agents testify.</p> <p>1957—A Soviet nuclear fuel plant at Kyshtym blows up, kills hundreds, and spews more radiation than anything until Chernobyl. The CIA suppresses the news to protect the U.S. nuclear industry.</p> <p>1906—To “protect American interests,” U.S. troops go to Cuba.</p> <p>1902—French writer Emile Zola dies in his sleep, possibly suffocated by a clogged chimney.</p>	<p>2005—<i>NY Times</i> reporter Judith Miller tells a Grand Jury that Dick “Dick” Cheney leaked Valerie Plame's name to her.</p> <p>2003—George W. Bush vows to find out who leaked CIA agent Valerie Plame's name.</p> <p>1998—The GAO reports that Ken Starr had spent \$40 million in a failed effort to nail Bill Clinton.</p> <p>1985—House Speaker Newt Gingrich engineers a four-day federal government shutdown.</p> <p>1960—“The Howdy Doody Show” airs for the last time.</p> <p>1955—Rebel James Dean's immortality is assured when his Porsche obeys the laws of physics.</p> <p>1954—The first atomic-powered ship is launched, the <i>U.S.S. Nautilus</i>.</p> <p>1949—The Berlin Airlift ends after 277,000 flights.</p> <p>1938—Thanks to the Munich pact, peace is assured.</p> <p>1929—German sportsman Fritz von Opel flies a glider powered by 16 solid propellant rockets, achieving a speed of 95 m.p.h.</p> <p>1927—Babe Ruth gets his 60th home run of the season off Tom Zachary.</p> <p>1924—Birth of Truman Capote.</p> <p>1864—Black Union soldiers capture Confederate entrenchments at battle of New Market Heights.</p> <p>1630—In Plymouth, the Pilgrims hang John Billington for murder.</p>	<p>2002—The U.S. Northern Command is established to “Defend America's Homeland”—<i>posse comitatus</i> be damned.</p> <p>2002—George W. Bush claims he hasn't “made up his mind we're going to war with Iraq.”</p> <p>1975—Poet Louis Untermeyer says, “I'm writing my third autobiography—the other two were premature.”</p> <p>1973—Despite multiple failures to meet minimum requirements, George W. Bush is discharged honorably from the Texas Air National Guard.</p> <p>1952—The first issue of <i>Mad Magazine</i> is unleashed on an unsuspecting world.</p> <p>1917—Arabs led by T.E. Lawrence capture Damascus.</p> <p>1903—Fred Van Wormer's autopsy is interrupted because he is still breathing. Taken back to Sing Sing's electric chair, he is found to have died. He is electrocuted again, anyway.</p> <p>1860—In San Francisco, Emperor Norton I issues a decree barring Congress from meeting in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1788—Former Edinburgh Town Councilor and burglar Deacon William Brodie brags to the crowd that the gallows on which he is about to be hanged—incorporating a new trapdoor of his own design—is the most efficient ever made.</p>	<p>2003—Survey chief David Kay reports that his three-month, \$300 million search for Iraqi WMD has turned up squat.</p> <p>2002—George W. Bush calls Iraq “a threat of unique urgency,” because of its WMD.</p> <p>1991—The Philippine Senate, disregarding the devastating effect it will have on the Olongapo sex industry, votes to chuck the U.S. Navy out of Subic Bay.</p> <p>1989—Televangelist Jim Bakker, on the witness stand in his own trial on 24 counts of fraud and conspiracy, blames Jerry Falwell for the financial collapse of his God-racket PTL Ministries.</p> <p>1980—Congressman Michael Myers (D-PA) is expelled from the House for taking a bribe and engaging in a conspiracy, the first to be so ousted in 120 years. Why he was singled out, we can't say.</p> <p>1978—With the Yankees and Red Sox tied for the season, a play-off game is held; it's decided by a three-run homer hit by New York's Bucky F. Dent.</p> <p>1967—Thurgood Marshall becomes the first black Justice on the Supreme Court.</p> <p>1919—Woodrow Wilson suffers a massive stroke; America gets its first woman president.</p> <p>1918—Units of the U.S. 77th Division advance into the Argonne Forest to become the Lost Battalion.</p>	<p>2006—Congressional Republicans attempt to “roll over” \$20 million set aside for a celebration of victory in Iraq.</p> <p>2003—<i>The National Enquirer</i> reports that Rush Limbaugh is being investigated for illegally procuring prescription opioids.</p> <p>1995—O.J. Simpson is acquitted of double homicide.</p> <p>1991—House Speaker Tom Foley (D-WA) announces that House members have accumulated \$300,000 in unpaid bills at the House restaurant.</p> <p>1986—Northeast of Bermuda, a fire breaks out aboard the Soviet missile sub <i>K-219</i>. The Reds blame an alleged collision with the <i>USS Augusta</i>. The Pentagon blames sloppy Commy work habits.</p> <p>1980—Moral Majority co-founder and U.S. Rep. Bob Bauman (R-MD) is charged with making sexual solicitations to an underage boy.</p> <p>1973—Donald Segretti testifies before the Senate about dirty tricks he used to get Nixon re-elected.</p> <p>1968—American Independent Party Vice Presidential Candidate and former Strategic Air Command chief Curtis LeMay advocates use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam.</p> <p>1968—Jerry Rubin entertains the House Un-American Activities Committee.</p>							
6:48	7:03	7:51	8:05	8:45	8:59	9:32	9:46	10:12	10:27	10:48	11:05	11:21	11:41
12:24	12:35	1:27	1:40	2:24	2:37	3:13	3:27	3:55	4:10	4:33	4:49	5:07	5:26
Sunday, October 4	Monday, October 5	Tuesday, October 6	Wednesday, October 7	Thursday, October 8	Friday, October 9	Saturday, October 10							
<p>2005—“I think it's important to bring somebody from outside the ... judicial system,” says George W. Bush, defending Harriet Miers as a Supreme Court nominee, “somebody that hasn't been on the bench and, therefore, there's not a lot of opinions for people to look at.”</p> <p>2004—<i>SpaceShipOne</i>, Burt Rutan's tourist rocket, makes its second trip above the atmosphere in five days, and wins the Ansari X Prize.</p> <p>2002—Knight-Ridder reports that “The White House and the Pentagon ... are pressuring intelligence analysts to highlight information that supports Bush's Iraq policy.” Only one paper prints the story.</p> <p>1992—An El Al cargo plane carrying depleted uranium and precursors for sarin nerve gas crashes in Amsterdam, killing 47.</p> <p>1986—CBS News anchor Dan Rather is attacked on the streets of New York by two men yelling, “What's the frequency, Ken?”</p> <p>1971—Declaring victory in a race in which he ran unopposed, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu calls his margin “an achievement for democracy.”</p> <p>1957—Two U.S. military facilities in Saigon are bombed; 13 are wounded—the first announced U.S. casualties in Vietnam.</p> <p>1946—The U.S. Navy seizes American oil refineries to break a 20-state strike.</p>	<p>2003—Timothy Treadwell and girlfriend Amie Huguenard discover the hard way that the grizzly bears they've been associating with in Alaska are not vegetarians.</p> <p>2002—George W. Bush tells New Hampshire National Guardsmen — falsely — that Saddam Hussein could inflict “massive and sudden horror” on the U.S.</p> <p>2001—Robert Stevens, photo editor of the supermarket tabloid <i>The Sun</i>, dies of anthrax. The terrorist who infected him remains at large.</p> <p>1995—Rush Limbaugh says, “if people are violating the law by doing drugs, they ... ought to be sent up.” After his own arrest in 2003 his position becomes more nuanced.</p> <p>1988—In a Vice-Presidential debate, Lloyd Bentsen informs Dan Quayle he's “no Jack Kennedy.”</p> <p>1986—Nicaraguans shoot down a U.S. cargo plane illegally supplying Contra rebels with arms bought with the proceeds of illegal U.S. arms sales to Iran.</p> <p>1969—Undetected by U.S. radar, a Cuban defector lands his MiG-17 at Homestead AFB, where <i>Air Force One</i> is waiting to take Richard Nixon back to Washington.</p> <p>1966—The Fermi nuclear power plant on the shore of Lake Erie almost melts down.</p> <p>1960—Radar alerts NORAD of a massive Soviet ICBM launch heading for the U.S. It's wrong.</p>	<p>2004—The top U.S. arms inspector in Iraq says there is no evidence Saddam Hussein had tried to manufacture any WMD's after 1991.</p> <p>1989—RIP Bette Davis. Years earlier, told she was rumored to have died, she said, “During a newspaper strike? I wouldn't dream of it.”</p> <p>1976—Seventy-three die when Cubana Flight 455 is bombed over Barbados. Prime suspect Luis Posada Carriles is wanted in both Cuba and Venezuela on terrorism charges but the U.S. refuses to extradite him.</p> <p>1973—Egypt and Syria attack Israel on Yom Kippur. This backfires.</p> <p>1961—President Kennedy recommends that, in case of nuclear war, American families get ready to live for a while in holes in the ground.</p> <p>1945—William “Billy” Sianis and his pet goat Murphy are thrown out of Wrigley Field by Cubs owner Phillip K. Wrigley during Game 4 of the World Series against the Tigers. Sianis, Murphy, and Wrigley are all dead; Sianis's curse lives.</p> <p>1917—“In time of war,” says Sen. Robert LaFollette, “the citizen must be more alert to his right to control his government.”</p> <p>1856—Portsmouth celebrates the centennial of the founding of <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i>; the railroad lays on extra trains to accommodate the crush of visitors from around New England.</p>	<p>2003—California voters throw out Governor Gray Davis, and replace him with Arnold Schwarzenegger.</p> <p>2002—President George W. Bush announces that “on any given day,” Iraq could attack the U.S. with chemical or biological weapons, a situation which therefore creates “an urgent duty” to stop him.</p> <p>2001—U.S. forces invade Afghanistan. George W. Bush writes his Poppy, “I feel no sense of the so-called heavy burden of the office.”</p> <p>1996—Fox News begins injecting mass quantities of insidious swill into the public forum.</p> <p>1991—Anita Hill accuses her ex-boss Clarence Thomas of the habitual utterance of lewd remarks.</p> <p>1980—Congressman John Jenrette, Jr. (D-SC) is convicted of conspiracy and bribery.</p> <p>1955—At the Six Gallery on Fillmore Street in San Francisco, Allen Ginsberg reads “Howl” in public for the first time.</p> <p>1917—Relief forces reach the Lost Battalion in the Argonne.</p> <p>1765—The Stamp Act Congress meets in New York.</p> <p>1756—Daniel Fowle and his enslaved pressman Primus begin <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i>.</p> <p>1571—Christians and Muslims duke it out at the Battle of Lopenrod in the final clash of oar-powered galleys. Nearly 40,000 are killed or wounded. Jesus wins.</p>	<p>2004—American warplanes try to kill Abu Musab al Zarqawi but accidentally kill 13 people at a wedding instead.</p> <p>1991—House Speaker Tom Foley (D-WA) announces that the House's sergeant-at-arms will no longer fix traffic tickets for House members.</p> <p>1991—The Senate, instead of voting as scheduled on whether to confirm Clarence Thomas for the Supreme Court, decides to hold hearings on whether he's a sexual harasser.</p> <p>1974—The Franklin National Bank collapses, undermined by Mafioso Michele Sindona, a pal of R. Nixon's Treasury Secretary David Kennedy.</p> <p>1969—A three-day riot begins in Chicago.</p> <p>1968—Washington, DC riots after police shoot a black man.</p> <p>1967—Ernesto “Che” Guevara is captured by Bolivian troops led by the CIA's Felix Rodriguez.</p> <p>1957—Walter O'Malley announces the Dodgers are moving from Brooklyn to Los Angeles.</p> <p>1955—“The nations of the world will have to unite” warns Gen. D. MacArthur, “for the next war will be an interplanetary war.”</p> <p>1918—In the Argonne Forest, former pacifist Cpl. Alvin C. York kills 25 German soldiers and captures 132.</p>	<p>2005—Four die as the Cold River floods Alstead, NH.</p> <p>2004—During a Presidential debate, a bulge in his suit makes it appear that George W. Bush is wearing a wire.</p> <p>2001—Someone still unknown and uncaught mails letters carrying anthrax spores to the offices of two Democratic senators.</p> <p>1992—Hearing a loud bang, Michelle Knapp of Peekskill, NY goes outside and finds a hole punched through the trunk of her 1980 Chevy Malibu and a warm 26-pound meteorite lying on the pavement beneath it.</p> <p>1974—At 2 a.m., D.C. cops stop Rep. Wilbur Mills's car near the Jefferson Memorial for speeding with headlights off. Mills's passenger, Fanne (sic) Foxe, aka “The Argentine Firecracker,” hops out of the car and into the Potomac River Tidal Basin.</p> <p>1970—Alexander Solzhenitsyn snubs the Nobel Prize.</p> <p>1967—Dr. Ernesto “Che” Guevara taunts a hesitant executioner, saying “Just shoot, you coward. You are only killing a man.”</p> <p>1965—Jimmy Dickens's “May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose” begins climbing the pop charts.</p> <p>1940—Happy B'day, J. Lennon.</p> <p>1855—John Stoddard patents the steam calliope.</p>	<p>2003—Rush Limbaugh, the <i>Hindenburg</i> of talk radio, confesses he's an addict headed for rehab.</p> <p>2002—In an unusually craven display, the U.S. Senate votes 77-23 to let George W. Bush have his way with S. Hussein.</p> <p>1989—The Soviet news agency Tass reports nine-foot tall aliens have landed southeast of Moscow.</p> <p>1974—In a speech, U.S. General George Brown deplors Jewish influence on U.S. foreign policy.</p> <p>1973—Vice President Spiro “Ted” Agnew resigns in disgrace; pleading <i>nolo</i> to charges he dodged taxes on bribes & kickbacks.</p> <p>1969—Richard Nixon, putting his “madman theory” into practice, orders a gratuitous global nuclear alert for all U.S. military.</p> <p>1957—A fire in a British nuclear facility causes a radiation leak contaminating milk over a 200 mile radius. The contaminated milk is dumped in the Irish Sea.</p> <p>1933—A Boeing 247 airliner is destroyed by a bomb over Indiana. Seven passengers and three crew die in the first such act in history.</p> <p>1911—Jasper Newton “Jack” Daniel, Tennessee distiller, dies of blood poisoning from an infected toe injured by kicking a safe whose combination he'd forgotten.</p> <p>732—Charles “The Hammer” Martel and his Franks defeat the Moors at Tours.</p>							
11:54	12:17	12:27	12:55	1:03	1:34	1:43	2:18	2:28	3:06	3:19	4:01	4:16	
5:40	6:03	6:15	6:41	6:51	7:21	7:30	8:05	8:14	8:53	9:02	9:46	9:57	10:45

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