

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### Nothing for Everyone

Last week John Boehner set out to pass a farm bill. To his chagrin, that turned out to be an interesting process.

Passing a farm bill is usually no more difficult than handing out candy on Halloween — for good reason. The two rituals are nearly indistinguishable.

#### The Rural Republican Piñata

Farm bills let Republicans — most of whom have never met a big business they didn't like — hand out generous subsidies to their agribusiness friends.

In the old days the farmers got paid for not growing things. Over the decades, though, that program developed an inexplicable stigma.

Now farmers get subsidized crop insurance, instead — or they would have if the bill had passed. And why shouldn't they? Fair's fair. If banks can be too big to fail, why shouldn't farms?

#### The Democratic Alms Race

Farm bills also let Democrats hand out food stamps, so their base won't starve to death on its way to the polls.

Since both major political parties get something, respectable journalists — the ones who work for profitable corporations — consider the deal even-steven.

#### Can't We All Just Disagree?

Though less demonstrably goofy than plan it replaced, the crop insurance program has its critics, too. A Midwestern newspaper editorialized that it "funnels money to foreign financial companies, invites fraud on a massive scale and encourages degradation of the heartland by eliminating the risks that reward farmers who are good stewards and punish those who aren't." And that's not some leftist alt-weekly talking — it's the *Chicago Tribune*.

#### Can You Cotton To That?

Cotton has long been a problematic crop for U.S. agricultural interests. Its tremendous profitability — artificially enhanced by the use of slave labor — helped lure Southerners into secession in 1861.

More recently, internal demand for U.S.-grown cotton has fallen due to the exportation of textile jobs. Congress, unable to help cotton farming interests through the re-institution of slavery, has done what it could through direct subsidies of about \$3 billion a year.

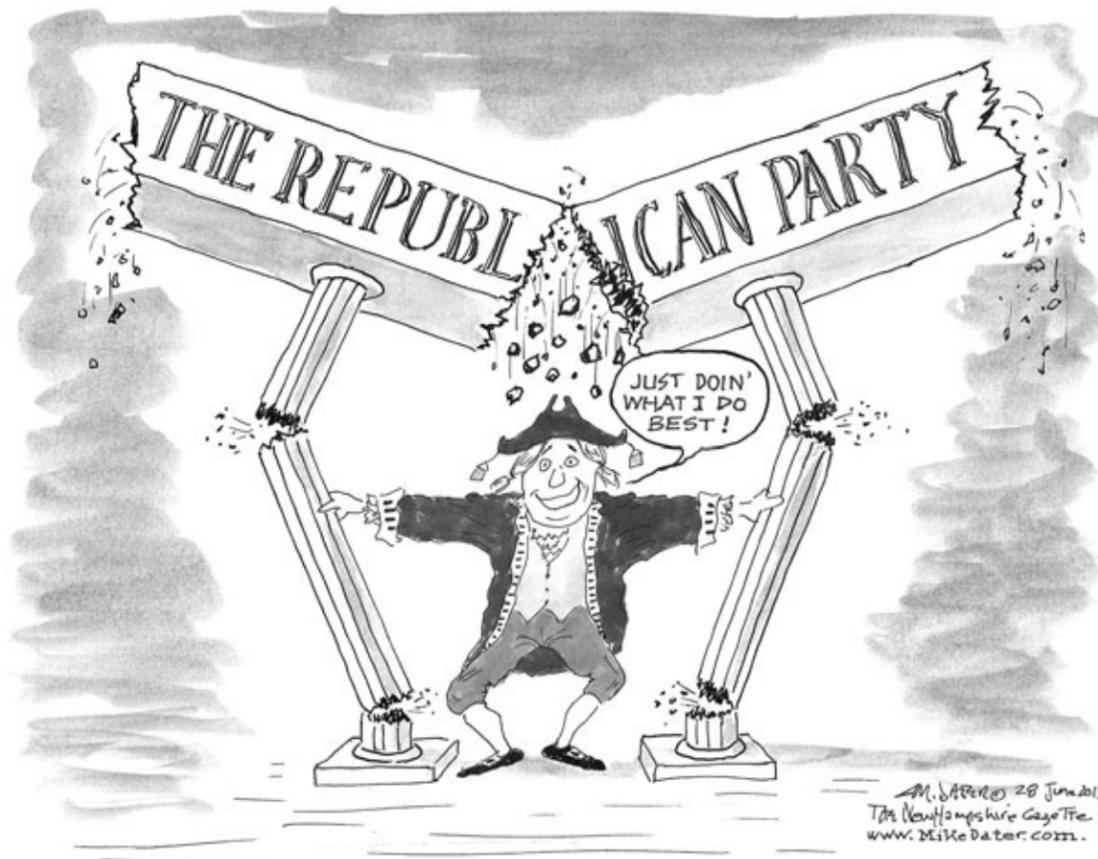
That \$3 billion of the taxpayer's money gets divided up in full compliance with the American Way: 71 percent of the money goes to just 3.6 percent of U.S. cotton farmers. To the surprise of no one, these are not mom & pop operations.

Brazil filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization in 2002 claiming that those subsidies were violating WTO rules. In 2004, the WTO ruled in Brazil's favor. The U.S. appealed, but lost. The process — subsidize farmers, get busted, file an appeal, lose the appeal — was then repeated a couple of times but, inexplicably, the result was always the same.

In lieu of a Bush-style armed invasion, Brazil sought and got WTO permission to retaliate with tariffs on U.S. imports amounting to \$147 million a year.

If the farm bill had passed, U.S. cotton subsidies would have either diminished or gone away, as would our annual \$147 million payment to Brazil.

Instead, in adherence to strict Conservative doctrine, taxpayers will continue shelling out to our own cotton farmers, and those in Brazil, too.



#### Fun With Asparagus

It's not just cotton. The Government has been paying \$15 million a year to U.S. asparagus growers since 2007.

If that sounds like a lot of money, look at it in perspective: since the early 1990's we've been paying four times that much annually to Peruvian asparagus growers. And no, to quote famed economist Dave Barry, we are not making this up.

Our drug warriors theorized that if we bought their asparagus, Peruvians wouldn't grow so much coca. But since coca grows in the highlands, while asparagus grows only at low elevations, U.S. asparagus farmers have argued that the Peruvian subsidy is pointless.\*

If the payments to Peruvians

\*To be fair, the program was defended in a 2004 *New York Times* story. Forty percent of the Andean asparagus workers come from coca-producing regions, according to the Peruvian Asparagus and Other Vegetables Institute.

are pointless, those going to U.S. asparagus farmers may actually be chintzy. Alan Schreiber, executive director of the Washington Asparagus Commission, says their actual losses total a quarter of a billion dollars. The Agriculture Department's numbers seem to bear him out: the market share of imported asparagus in the U.S. shot from 24 percent in 1990 to 84 percent in 2009.

#### Welfare Cadillac John Deere

Fifteen sitting Members of Congress receive subsidies thanks to the farm bill, according to the Environmental Working Group. Two are Democrats, and thirteen are Republicans; therefore, as is so often the case, the two parties are equally guilty.

The most successful farmer in Congress — as judged by the yield he reaps from the taxpayer's wallet — is Congressman Stephen Fincher, a Republican from Frog Jump, Tennessee. He

collected \$70,574 in subsidies in 2012 alone. As with the payments to U.S. asparagus farmers, that sounds like a lot but it's not — it's only about one-third of his 1999-2012 average of \$248,844.

Fincher is hardly profligate, though. He voted to cut \$20 billion from the farm bill — in food stamps.

#### Our Heroic Paupers

That vote could lead one to wonder, though: why does Rep. Fincher hate the troops? After all, despite a defense budget big enough to dwarf the GDP of most nations, enough military families are living in poverty to qualify for and use about \$100 million in food stamps annually.

Tea Partiers demanded a huge cut in food stamps or they wouldn't vote for the farm bill. They got the cut, then voted against it anyway.

But John Boehner knew where the problem lay — with the Democrats, of course.

## News Briefs

### "Dear Taxpayer: Relax" — Sincerely, The FBI

A terrifying plot, worthy of a Hollywood science-fiction movie, was foiled by the FBI this past fortnight. Two Ku Klux Klansmen were apparently planning to target "enemies of Israel," including Muslims, a political party, and "a political figure," with a mobile, remote-control death-ray.

The *New York Daily News* identified the political figure in question as New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. The nefarious scheme was disrupted on June 19th with the arrests of upstate New York residents Glendon Scott Crawford, 49, and Eric J. Feight, 54. Feight's codename was "Yoda," Crawford was employed as an industrial mechanic at the General Electric plant in Schenectady.

The plot was exposed in April of last year after the men offered the as-yet-unbuilt device to a synagogue. Rather than accepting a free death-ray, the synagogue called the police.

The police called the FBI, whose agents then fleshed out the plot, which at that point apparently consisted of a printout of Wikipedia's entry on Acute Radiation Sickness. The federal agents supplied the X-ray tubes, their technical specifications, and \$1,000.

This just in from the radio-sensitive filling in the alleged editor's maxillary molar: FBI agents did not invent this plot — they plagiarized it from a long-lost Kurt Vonnegut manuscript.

#### The Bad News Bees

Readers may recall that in all three of our May papers we discussed at some length a), the importance of bees to our food supply, b), the dangers posed to bees and birds by neonicotinoid pesticides, and c), the lackadaisical way the EPA's so-called regulators approved those pesticides, despite dire warnings from knowledgeable scientists regarding their dire effects. Just more predictions of doom and gloom from disgruntled pessimists, right? Uh ... no.

On June 17th, approximately 25,000 bumblebees were found dead in a Target® parking lot in Wilsonville, Oregon, about 20 miles south of Portland. Oregon Public Broadcasting quoted a Xerces Society biologist saying the bees "were literally falling out of the trees." (The Xerces [sic] Society, named in honor of an extinct California butterfly, the Xerces Blue, is an environmental organization focusing on invertebrates essential to biological diversity.) The biologist said the bees represented a loss of more than 150 colonies. Dead honeybees, lady bird beetles, and other insects were also noted.

The trees in question were an imported species, European lindens, and were blooming at the time.

Oregon's Department of Agriculture investigated and found that a landscaping company had applied the pesticide Safari® to

the trees two days earlier. Its main ingredient is dinotefuran, and yes, it is a neonicotinoid.

Summing up, our food supply is being sacrificed in the name of profit through the wholesale application of government-approved poison to trees that don't belong here so that stores can lure in more customers to spend money they probably don't have to buy more imported junk they probably don't need.

In the 1944 Howard Hawks film, "To Have and Have Not," Walter Brennan's character repeatedly asked others, "Was you ever bit by a dead bee?" At the rate

**News Briefs**

*from page one*

we're going, soon we'll all be able to answer, "yes." Our thanks to retired UNH professor Don Green for having gotten us up to speed on this issue before this particular calamity struck.

**The New Memorial Bridge**

In a photo caption in our paper of May 30th we wrote that the lift span of the Memorial Bridge would be put in place between June 10th and June 15th. A malfunctioning crane made a liar out of us — that phase of the project was delayed by one week while it was repaired.

But shortly after midnight on June 17th — which seemed to us to be several hours before the Coast Guard-approved river closing — the long-awaited float-in

of the New Memorial Bridge's central span finally took place.

Only about three dozen hardcore bridge watchers were on hand at that hour. Two-thirds were in the cheap seats, on the stairs and the open dock at Harbor Place. The rest were inside the gated section. All were nearly silent as the the brightly-lit structure moved downriver from the State Pier. Steady thrumming from the tugboats' diesels was punctuated with short toots as the tugs signaled each other.

The scene could hardly have been less like the raucous removal of the old center span sixteen months earlier. That had been all cheers and shouting and blaring vuvuzelas. One shirtless and dripping young man, though, could be heard telling friends that the water was warmer than you'd think.



The first lift of the New Memorial Bridge began at about 8 p.m. on Friday, June 21st. It proceeded slowly, in increments, with just a handful of spectators. Every ten minutes or so, an amplified voice would call out a countdown, "3, 2, 1, lift!" Then the center plan would move up another five or ten feet. By 9 p.m., the lift span had reached the top of the towers.



A cop in Market Square asked later about "a guy who went in swimming."

The barge, bridge, and tugs had moved at a stately enough pace that soon gave way to even more incremental movement. By 2:30 a.m., anyone who could actually see anything happening had to be working on the bridge. And so things stayed for the better part of that week. Rubbernecks eagerly anticipated the bridge's first lift, but it didn't seem to be moving.

Finally, as the expiration of the Coast Guard's river-closing window loomed, the lift span went up — slowly. [See photo and caption, left.]

On Tuesday a rumor reached us purporting to explain the apparent delay: the counterweights had been filled with low-density concrete meant to pave the span, while high-density concrete meant for the counterweights



**True Fact**

The Flag Police hereby cite Archer-Western for flying the tattered old banner shown above over the New Memorial Bridge.

had gone into the span instead. The bridge was too heavy for the motors to lift without some help from the cranes.

An ancient headline used to read, "Important If True." This rumor called for a variation: "Catastrophic If True."

We asked Carol Morris, contractor Archer-Western's Public

Outreach person, and asked her if there was a problem with the ....

"No," she said rather promptly. "This is one of the reasons why Archer-Western is very hesitant to commit to specific time frames and moments in time when things are gong to take place. Like any construction process, whether it's a bridge, or a house, or anything, things change depending on what happens. They are in the process now of looking at how they make the weight of the counterweights and the span match."

"All of these adjustments are part of the standard process when you are getting the lift span to be balanced and work properly. The lift span needs to be the same weight as the counterweights. What they'll be doing is they'll be taking concrete off of the span in order to lighten it, so that it matches the counterweights. This is something they expected to

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have to do.”

How, we asked, will the additional weight be removed from the lift span?

“They grind it down. When they construct the span they put extra concrete on it because that’s an easy way to make the adjustment. I really don’t know how long that process is going to take. I know that they have certainly estimated how long it will take to adjust the sheaves because that will correspond with the change in bridge opening schedules that the Coat Guard just put out.”

The sheaves — the massive cable-handling wheels atop the towers — have not yet been bolted into position. Final adjustments to their positions must be made, Morris said, before permanent holes can be drilled and the sheaves bolted down.

“I don’t know when that’s going to start, she said. “That’s part of the process. They do modeling, in order to get as close as they can with all of these tolerances — whether

it’s the weight, or the position of the sheaves, they get as close as they can — and now what they’re doing is adjusting everything so that it will work smoothly.”

“In order to actually do that process, they have to have the bridge down because they have to take the weight off the sheaves. And so that’s why this extra change to the schedule. It’s because of how that’s going to work.”

Morris could not say whether the lift span had to be in the lowered position to conduct the concrete grinding.

“They don’t know how long [the sheave adjustment] will take, which is why, despite a great deal of pressure and curiosity, there has been no announcement of when the actual opening to traffic date will be. Because they don’t know how long this will take. So for observers to conclude that there’s a problem because something didn’t happen when it might have happened, I think is just, frankly, jumping to conclusions.”



Rising tides are often said to lift all boats, but the moon and its accompanying hydrological cycles have no apparent effect on bicycles. June 17th saw this gentleman riding downtown with his dog in a trailer sporting an upside-down American flag. Since his signage said he was “broke, hungry, and hopeless,” the Flag Police chalked the incident up as a legitimate protest, rather than a violation.



In closing, Morris reiterated that the rumor about anything being wrong with the concrete on the bridge was “patently untrue.”

One more question about the bridge, remained: what are those boxy-looking things, added some time between May 10th and 27th, that are attached to the upstream side of the towers? And are they permanent? Because, being galvanized rather than zinc-coated, and looking more pasted-on than integral, they don’t add much elegance to the project ....

Jennifer Zorn, spokesperson for New Hampshire’s Department of Transportation, has informed us that those things are called Droop Cable Chase Boxes, and they house all of the electrical wires and communications cables necessary to operate the bridge. And yes, they are permanent. The boxes have always been part of the design, and appear on the engineering plans, though they were not shown on the computer renderings that were posted on the bridge’s website.

**The End Times Weather Dept.**

On Monday, June 17th, at 4:00 p.m., the temperature was about 80° F and winds were moderate, but a line of dark clouds was approaching Portsmouth from the northwest.

Ten minutes later rain was falling heavily and the wind was blowing hard amid the crashing and flashing of thunder and lightning.

Then the real storm began. Between 4:20 and 4:30, it seemed as if Pat Robertson might be right: God was fed up, at least with Portsmouth, and He wanted us to know it.

Hail rattled off car roofs, falling tree limbs took down power lines, and rain fell so hard that visibility was down to about a block and low-lying streets were instantly flooded.

By 5 p.m. it was over. The winds were gone and the temperature had dropped about twenty degrees. The ground was covered with leaves and twigs, and 6,000 people were without electricity.

And that was just the microburst. On this past Tuesday, NOAA scientists introduced weather-watchers to a hitherto-obscure and somewhat alarming new term: meteotsunami.

It seems that tidal gauges registered a six-foot wave all along the East Coast on June 13th. At Barnegat Inlet in New Jersey, two people were injured by it. Having reviewed the data, meteorologists now say it may have been caused by the massive storm, stretching from Toronto to Virginia, which moved across the Ohio Valley that day at a speed of nearly 50 miles per hour.

Readers may recall that the month began with a brutal four-day heat wave.

Here, we are tempted to write that this week began with the month’s second heat wave — but that would be wrong. On Sunday, the temperature was a mere 88°, leaving us two degrees shy of the requisite 90° for three days straight.

Enjoy the summer!



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





**Don't Expand Medicaid**

To the Editor:

Every adult should realize that few things are as expensive as "free" Federal Government programs. Nevertheless special interest groups and politicians with an agenda are claiming that the Medicaid Expansion program is "free" because the Feds pay 100 percent for three years, then 90 percent until 2020. After that, of course, New Hampshire taxpayers will have to come up with at least \$50 million annually.

Something isn't free when the Federal Government pays for it; the money still comes from taxpayers. Even if you don't pay taxes, government causes price inflation, which hurts everyone, and low returns for people depending on bond income.

If the people of New Hampshire wanted something like the Medicaid expansion, why haven't they demanded it from their New Hampshire legislators? (We could deliver it more inexpensively, tailored for New Hampshire, and without Federal Government overhead and requirements.) But not even the Democrats, who now want this more expensive Medicaid expansion, passed such a program when they controlled the New Hampshire Legislature

and the Governorship. The Medicaid expansion program is just a way to bribe states into enacting expensive programs wanted by Washington and special interest groups but not by the citizens.

Every government program is particularly expensive for New Hampshire citizens as our state receives back from the Federal Government a smaller percent of our tax dollars than 46 other states. This means that New Hampshire taxpayers subsidize the taxpayers of 46 other states for each such program. (Thus New Hampshire Senators and Congressmen should oppose every program that states or citizens could do for themselves or is not essential.)

Medicaid provides insurance and higher costs, but not better medical outcomes. The Oregon Medicaid study shows that Medicaid increases costs and health care usage, but patient health care results overall are no better than mixed compared to no insurance. A Virginia Medicaid study shows cancer patients without insurance survive at a greater rate than those with Medicaid. Many doctors won't accept Medicaid patients; some would rather treat them for free!

Thankfully, Republicans in the New Hampshire Senate didn't approve the Medicaid Expansion requested by Governor Hassan, the Democrat controlled New Hampshire House, and special interest groups. New Hampshire doesn't need to implement a costly Federal version of a program that we could have implemented for ourselves had our legislators felt the need. And, New Hampshire certainly doesn't need to implement an expensive program that doesn't improve its citizens' medi-

cal results.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, NH

Don:

*Don't look now, but polls show most Republicans back Medicaid expansion. It's your party's reptilian overlords that are against it.*

The Editor

§

**Expand Medicaid**

To the Editor:

All 13 New Hampshire Republican State Senators rejected Medicaid Expansion effectively blocking health care for tens of thousands of New Hampshire working poor. Plus, \$2.5 billion dollars of New Hampshire tax money goes to another state; New Hampshire would lose \$422M in this biennium budget; 5,000 new jobs over 7 years would not be created.

In Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, one of ObamaCare's harshest critics, forced her legislature to accept Medicaid Expansion by threatening to veto any legislation until they voted "YES!". After 5 vetoes the Legislature finally acquiesced. Here in moderate New Hampshire 13 State Senators are holding the working poor hostage. What is it that Governor Brewer understands that our 13 Republican Senators don't?

At a meeting in Milford 2 weeks ago, Senator Peter Bragdon, New Hampshire State Senate President, stated that he would be favorably disposed to encourage passage of this bill if he were assured that New Hampshire could opt out if the Federal Government reneged. Sen Bragdon stated that the Republican Caucus's opposition to Expansion was not based on ideology. They just wanted written assurances that

*Mash Notes,* **HATE MAIL,**

the Federal Government would deliver on their commitment.

Well now they have it. On June 13 the Federal Government sent a letter to New Hampshire with the assurances that Senator Bragdon had requested including the US Supreme Court language in its ruling on the voluntary nature of Medicaid Expansion. We strongly urge

Senator Bragdon to follow through on his statements of two weeks ago and use his leadership in the Republican Caucus. It only takes two Republican Senators to switch their vote and health care for New Hampshire's working poor becomes a reality.

Rick Katzenberg  
Steve Morgan  
Amherst, NH

Rick and Steve:

*Talk some sense into Don Ewing, won't you?*

The Editor

§

**Weapons To The Syrian Rebels**

To the Editor:

As a military veteran I was disgusted to hear that Obama has decided to provide weapons to the Syrian rebels. This sounds like Afghanistan II.

Here we go again, arming and aiding so called "freedom fighters" such as we did in Afghanistan with the mujahideen, and now we are fighting them as the Taliban. What is really going on in Syria is an ancient war that dates back some 1,400 years to the beginning of Islam. This is the continuous bloody Muslim conflict between Sunni and Shia. There are numerous reports that radical Sunni Salafists from around

the world have joined in the fight in Syria. These are not "freedom fighters," this is al-Qaeda or groups connected to al-Qaeda. Obama is arming our enemy and it is despicable. We helped similar so called "freedom fighters" in Libya and what happened? They attacked our embassy consulate in Benghazi and killed our ambassador and several others.

The weapons Obama is giving to the Syrian rebels may one day be used against Israel or even our own troops. When is our government going to wake up and stay out of these endless Muslim wars?

John Meinhold  
Portsmouth, NH

§

**Climate Action Desperately Needed**

To the Editor:

It's raining, it's pouring, the preoccupied government is snoring .... Will it be the same-same but different scenario this time around?! A harsh ominous reminder of last year's fiasco: Prolonged tropical monsoons, freak storms, torrential rains and massive floods devastated a vast wasteland of Southeast Asia, resulting in a tragic loss of lives and livelihoods, killing 745 people — a quarter of them children — in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Up to a million hapless ill-fated victims remained under threat of traumatic emotional stress, in urgent need of emergency aid relief and compassionate humanitarian support assistance.

At least 342 flood-related deaths were reported in Thailand, mostly from drowning, and about

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# And Other Correspondence

one-third of the rural countryside remained heavily submerged, cutting off roads; destroying homes, businesses, crops, livestock; endangering the vital infrastructure; and leaving entire isolated villages underwater. The contaminated overflow caused untold damage to treasured ancient heritage site ruins, inundating industrial zone factories built in low-lying areas, negatively impacting upon vital tourism revenue and cutting Thailand's GNP (Gross National Product) projections by as much as two percent.

Generous cash donations and corporate bank-deposited contributions from Thais-helping-Thais were supplemented by 40,000 military troops, provincial hospices and educational institutions serving as relocation centers, thousands of kind-hearted volunteers and enabling neighborhood support groups. Unified emergency response efforts joined forces with U.N. bodies, the Red Cross, Royal foundations and NGOs to buy and deliver flat bottom boats, drinking water, essential foodstuff and floating latrines, but these stopgap measures failed to foresee glaring difficult-to-solve problems lying ahead.

Given climate change, sinking land mass, deforestation, unregulated urban sprawl and decades of short-sighted negligent human indifference, the logical conclusion is that we cannot escape the wrath of nature avenging longstanding abusive treatment. Modern excessive lifestyles and the obsession with progress at any cost must learn to accommodate, adjust and adapt to rapidly-changing times in our ever-shrinking interconnected and mutually-dependent hi-tech IT world. The future forecast analysis raises fears that the current surging opened-floodgates deluge most probably

represents a prelude to even more severe unnatural catastrophes. The worst is yet to come.

We must, therefore, face harsh true facts with resolute common sense determination by developing contingency workable Action Plans featuring a regional framework utilizing innovative state-of-the-art approaches and streamlined procedures to deal with water management and water conservation. All members of our global family must join together in a unified willingness to resolve Have versus Have Not inequities with pragmatic optimism and resilient can do, will do positive energy attitudes to make our endangered planet a safer and saner place to pass on to our beloved offspring.

Charles Frederickson  
Bangkok, Thailand

### Department of Corrections

Whoa, Mr. Editor:  
Harold Ickes was Secretary of Interior in 1939 [In the News Briefs section of our June 14th paper, we mistakenly wrote that Ickes was then Secretary of State. — The Ed.]. Cordell Hull was Secretary of State. Ickes was never Secretary of State.

PS — Phenix City, Alabama has no "o".

John Gregg  
York, ME

John:

Having spent some 35 years in this racket, with time off for good behavior, we've long forgotten exactly when we ceded the field of infallibility to more appropriate candidates.

Even so, we did look through our sources for that piece, in the forlorn hope that we might be able to shift the blame. But we failed — it was us.

Responsibility for the misspelling of Phenix City, however, rests entirely upon the volunteers of our

100 Proof Department. We'll take corrective action as soon as we figure out how to dock the pay of unpaid workers.

Seriously, though, we do welcome and are grateful for the correction of our errors.

What's more, we know there are more of them than are being reported to us. So all you lackadaisical readers — you're on notice.

The Editor

§

### On the Origin of Man

To the Editor:

Nova (from the Public Broadcasting Service) did a 3-part series, and John Noble Wilford wrote a piece in the *New York Times* (7/17/12), on recent discoveries regarding the origin of man. Neanderthals do not make good ancestors of modern man as once thought. Remarkably, it's believed that were all from the same family. Here was independent data, from our DNA, inherited through females, suggesting we originated, all of us, all over the world, from a single ancestral population that lived in Africa some 200,000 years ago.

These implications are huge. Different tribes/groups interbred and migrated over centuries along with pervasive fears, rivalries and hatreds based on perceived differences. But, as suggested, the Arab is the Jew, the Englishman the Irishman, and the Caucasian the Afro-American — at least according to this new genetic paradigm.

Modern humans came out of Africa some 60,000 years ago. They went into Europe and into Asia and some stayed behind.

This is one of the most important and fascinating discovery of our lifetime, surely, which few people are aware of. This constantly evolving revolutionary finding from paleoanthropologists, archaeologists and geneticists, aided and abetted by DNA, should be massively disseminated. Were this



to happen, it could make mankind kinder, more tolerant and savvy.

We can only fear our future if we don't know our past,  
Michael Kulla  
Pleasant Valley, NY

§

### Obama Offers a False Choice

To the Editor:

This administration puts forward a false choice between the liberties we cherish and the security we provide. We can provide our intelligence and law enforcement agencies the tools they need to track and take out the terrorists without undermining our Constitution and our freedom.

That means no more wiretapping of American citizens. No more national security letters to spy on citizens who are not suspected of a crime. No more tracking of citizens who do no more than protest a misguided and corrupt government. No more ignoring the law when it is inconvenient. That is not who we are. It is not what is necessary to defeat the terrorists.

The Constitution works. The separation of powers works. We must set an example for the world that the law is not subject to the whims of stubborn rulers, and that justice is not arbitrary.

This administration acts like violating civil liberties is the way to enhance our security; it is NOT! There are no short cuts to protecting America.

Marc Perkel  
Gilroy, CA

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— James Clapper (1941- )  
U.S. Director of National Intelligence, on why he lied to Congress about NSA spying

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# Rebuilding America: Become An Existentialist

by Sam Smith

The history of existentialism is murky and confusing, for those lumped in the category have agreed on neither religion nor politics. But for the purposes of getting a life rather than tenure, Jean Paul Sartre's definition works pretty well. Sartre believed that existence precedes essence. We are what we do. This is the obverse of predestination and original sin with their presumption of an innate essence. Said Sartre, "Values rise from our actions as partridges do from the grass beneath our feet."

In fact, some existentialists argue that we are not fully us until we die because until that moment we are still making decisions and taking actions that define ourselves. Even the condemned person, one said, has a choice of how to approach the gallows.

Wrote Sartre: "Man is nothing else but that which he makes of himself. That is the first principle of existentialism .... [M]an is condemned to be free .... [F]rom the moment he is thrown into this world he is responsible for everything he does."

To show just how murky existentialism can be, one of the most famous existentialist writers, Albert Camus, even denied he was one.

Perhaps this antipathy stemmed in part from the fact that Camus was a novelist rather than a philosopher like Sartre, and perhaps because they disagreed on politics, but whatever you want to call it, few have spoken as wisely on behalf of the uncertain human spirit. "There is no love of life without despair of life," said Camus. "Accepting the absurdity of everything around us is one step, a necessary experience: it should

not become a dead end. It arouses a revolt that can become fruitful."

These are not the precise and pedagogical words of a philosophy rising, yet, as with art and love, there is no particular reasons why life should be hostage to logical words, among the least fluid of human expressions. Robert Frost, asked to explain a poem, replied that if he could have said it better he would have written it differently. Louis Armstrong, asked for a definition of jazz, replied that if you have to ask, you'll never know. And, said Gertrude Stein, there ain't no answer. There never was an answer, there ain't going to be an answer. That's the answer.

Quakerism also prescribes personal witness as guided by conscience — regardless of the era in which we live or the circumstances in which we find ourselves. They were early existentialists.

There are about as many Quakers today in America as there were in the 18th century, around 100,000. Yet near the center of every great moment of American social and political change one finds members of the Society of Friends. Why? In part because they have been willing to fail year after year between those great moments. Because they have been willing in good times and bad — in the instructions of their early leader George Fox — "to walk cheerfully over the face of the earth answering that of God in every one."

Those who think history has left us helpless should recall the abolitionist of 1830, the feminist of 1870, the labor organizer of 1890, or the gay or lesbian writer of 1910. They, like us, did not get to choose their time in history but they, like us, did get to choose what they did with it.

Would we have been abolition-

ists in 1830?

In 1848, 300 people gathered at Seneca Falls, NY, for a seminal moment in the American women's movement. On November 2, 1920, 91 year-old Charlotte Woodward Pierce became the only signer of the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions who had lived long enough to cast a ballot for president.

Would we have attended that conference in 1848? Would we have bothered?

On the other hand, there was the time in early 1960 when four black college students sat down at a white-only Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, NC. Within two weeks, there were sit-ins in 15 cities in five southern states and within two months they had spread to 54 cities in nine states. By April the leaders of these protests had come together, heard a moving sermon by Martin Luther King Jr. and formed the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. Four students did something and America changed. Even they, however, couldn't know what the result would be.

In a world dominated by dichotomies, debate, definition and deconstruction, existentialism suggests not a result but a way, not a solution but an approach, not goal but a far and misty horizon. It is, says Robert Solomon "a sensibility .... an attitude towards oneself, an attitude towards one's world, an attitude towards one's behavior."

The sense of being individually responsible yet part of a seamless web of others produces neither certainty nor excuses. One can, one must, be responsible without the comfort of being sure. Camus once admitted that he would be unwilling to die for his beliefs.

He was asked why. "What if I'm wrong?" And when he spoke of rebellion he also spoke of moderation:

"There does exist for man, therefore, a way of acting and thinking which is possible on the level of moderation which he belongs. Every undertaking that is more ambitious than this proves to be contradictory .... Finally, it is those who know how to rebel, at the appropriate moment, against history who really advance its interests .... The words that reverberate for us at the confines of this long adventure of rebellion are not formulas of optimism, for which we have no possible use in the extremities of our unhappiness, but words of courage and intelligence which, on the shores of the eternal seas, even have the qualities of virtue."

The existential spirit, its willingness to struggle in the dark to serve truth rather than power, to seek the hat trick of integrity, passion and rebellion, is peculiarly suited to our times. We need no more town meetings, no more expertise, no more public interest activists playing technocratic chess with government bureaucrats, no more changes in paragraph 324B of an ineffectual law, no more talking heads. Instead we need an uprising of the soul, that spirit which Aldous Huxley described as "[i]rrelevant, irreverent, out of key with all that has gone before .... [m]an's greatest strength is his capacity for irrelevance. In the midst of pestilences, wars and famines, he builds cathedrals; and a slave, he can think the irrelevant and unsuitable thought of a free man."

We need to think the unthinkable even when the possible is undoable, the ideal is unimaginable, when power overwhelms truth,

when compulsion replaces choice. We need to lift our eyes from the bottom line unto the hills, from the screen to the sky, from the adjacent to the hazy horizon.

The key to both a better future and our own continuous faith in one is the constant, conscious exercise of choice even in the face of absurdity, uncertainty and daunting odds. We are constantly led, coaxed and ordered away from such a practice. We are taught to respect power rather than conscience, the grand rather than the good, the acquisition rather than the discovery. The green glasses rather than our own unimpeded vision. Oz rather than Kansas.

Any effort on behalf of human or ecological justice and wisdom demands real courage rather than false optimism, and responsibility even in times of utter madness, even in times when decadence outpolls decency, even in times when responsibility itself is ridiculed as the archaic behavior of the weak and naive.

There is far more to this than personal witness. In fact, it is when we learn to share our witness with others — in politics, in music, in rebellion, in conversation, in love — that what starts as singular testimony can end in mass transformation.

Here is an approach of no excuses, no spectators, with plenty of doubt, plenty of questions, plenty of dissatisfaction. But ultimately a philosophy of peace and even joy because we will have thrown every inch and ounce of our being into what we are meant to be doing which is to decide what we are meant to be doing. And then to walk cheerfully over the face of the earth doing it.

Sam Smith is editor of the *Progressive Review*, online at [prorev.com](http://prorev.com).

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Northcountry Chronicle

# The Tribe of Esau

by William Marvel

Only the oldest of us seem to understand how much freedom the American people have lost in the last generation. It's difficult to miss something you never had, and most of those who don cap and gown this spring grew up in a country that prides itself on the expansion of superficial rights while ignoring the erosion of more fundamental liberties. Even aging baby boomers often seem oblivious to that trend, perhaps because they became conditioned to it while living in those overpopulated regions where regulation and regimentation first began to crush individualism.

Through migration and mass communication, that tolerance for intrusion and oppression has carried to the rest of the country. To most people, any ephemeral comfort, economic benefit, or illusory security now seems like a good reason for sacrificing some longstanding liberty.

This sad descent did not start with the attack on the twin towers, although that greatly accelerated the government's stranglehold on its citizens. It had already begun with the endless, creeping regulations of local zoning, which many of us (including me) em-

braced as a means of defending our rural communities from the waves of refugees flooding out of Megalopolis. As such a weapon it proved virtually useless: its primary purpose was to preserve property values, which matters most to those who are only passing through.

The most noticeable effect of zoning was to increase the cost of housing. No longer was it legal to live in a utility-free camp with an outhouse and carried water — as numerous Conway families did in the 1950s, and as some of the rest of us occasionally did in the '60s and '70s. Instead, living quarters had to meet the Code, and the Code kept growing more stringent and expensive, until that pesky underclass was finally driven out of town. No one cared until the lords of retail and restaurants noticed that they couldn't find any help, whereupon the evangelists of affordable housing mobilized, and began vociferously pretending that they cared about something besides the chamber of commerce.

States pitched in to help with this genocide by gentrification, particularly by using the presence of children as an excuse to intrude. State bureaucrats literally forced people out of homes that those well-paid officials considered

substandard, considering it preferable for people to accept government relief and live in a third-floor apartment than enjoy the independence of the unimproved family homestead. State automobile inspections also proved useful in the imposition of enhanced economic standards, and under the guise of public safety it became increasingly difficult to get a rusty car inspected.

During a sojourn in Massachusetts, forty years ago, I became quite familiar with mandatory amenities, the most common of which was automobile insurance. In New Hampshire insurance was not required, and it was fairly cheap, but in Massachusetts the state insisted that drivers buy it, and insurance companies had a captive market. My liability policy cost several times what I had paid in New Hampshire, equaling about a quarter the price of the five-year-old Ford I was insuring. A couple of years later, Massachusetts residents were infamously renting post office boxes across the border in New Hampshire, and using those addresses to reduce the burden of their astronomical auto-insurance premiums.

Now Massachusetts demands that its citizens supply themselves with health insurance, and that model inspired the same impo-

sition on the American public in the form of Obamacare. The health care that liberals originally espoused as a common right was transformed by their hero into an individual obligation without a peep of protest, and inconsistent Obama supporters can still be seen sporting his name alongside pro-choice bumper stickers. There is no choice about buying Obamacare, whether one can afford it or not. Unless the promised subsidies equal the entire cost of coverage, which is not likely, mandatory health insurance will only hurt those whose basic living expenses already exceed their earnings. Thanks to unemployment, stagnant wages, and the induced inflation that this administration steadfastly denies, those people are legion.

Domestic surveillance, state murder, Soviet-style gulags, community lockdowns, and arbitrary, unreasonable searches flourish at least as flagrantly under the messiah of Hope and Change as they did under his inarticulate predecessor. Public sensitivity to governmental excess has been dulled by decades of steady attrition to individual liberty and choice in the name of public welfare. Such evils hardly trouble a society that seems to value no freedom except the freedom from risk.



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[A Reminder: William Marvel will appear at RiverRun Bookstore at 142 Fleet St. on Tuesday, July 2nd at 7 p.m., to mark the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, and discuss "New Hampshire in the Civil War — Reality versus the Romance." Our issue of June 14th, now available online at [www.nhgazette.com/?p=5622](http://www.nhgazette.com/?p=5622), includes a small taste of the subject matter. Marvel is the author of fifteen books and is currently at work on his sixteenth. His many acclaimed books on the Civil War include The Great Task Remaining, Lincoln's Darkest Year, Mr. Lincoln Goes to War, and Andersonville. He has won a Lincoln Prize, the Douglas Southall Freeman Award, and the Georgia Historical Society's Bell Award. He also a recovering journalist. His column runs in the Conway Daily Sun as well as The New Hampshire Gazette. — The Ed.]

§

## Our Nation's Extraordinary Housing Crisis

by Jim Hightower

We have a serious housing shortage in America these days, and the stress it's creating for needy families is approaching heart-attack levels.

Did you know, for example, that the inventory of million-dollar homes in Carmel, California, is down to only four properties? That's a 76 percent drop in only one year. But the tragedy doesn't stop there, for this is a cross-country crisis. Consider the poor peo-

ple in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, where only 10 homesteads in the million-dollar range remain on the market. Yes, my friend, it's not merely the poor and middle-class who can't find suitable housing, but many of our wealthiest citizens are hurting, too.

What's happening here is a surge of multimillionaire hedgefunders, Silicon Valley high-techers, oil and gas frackers, and other super-richers who're in a frenzy to snap-up luxury second, third, and fourth homes. More disturb-

ing is the influx of flashy Russian, Middle Eastern, and Asian tycoons grabbing high-end homes like they're M&Ms, shutting out our home-grown rich.

So, where the hell is Congress? Any immigration reform worthy of the name would set quotas to protect our own. And doesn't this crunch in the ultra-wealthy housing market just cry out for a mansion-construction subsidy? If our national leaders won't help the most privileged among us, who will they help?

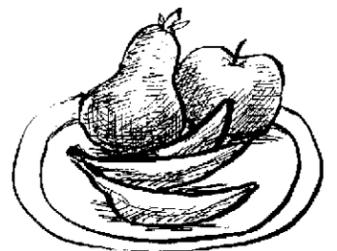
The situation is so dire that many of the moneyed elites are being forced to scrounge around like commoners to find rental properties. Luckily, there are some swell homes still available out in the Hamptons, renting for about a million dollars. For the summer, that is. Yes, that's almost \$10,000 a day — not counting utilities and the pool boy's salary. But in tough times, the rich tend to toughen up, reach for their wallets, and do what has to be done.

And, after all, isn't that what

makes America so exceptional?

§

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## ADMIRAL FOWLE'S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe.

The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the

moon drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream

end of Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork.

The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

Sunday, June 30	Monday, July 1	Tuesday, July 2	Wednesday, July 3	Thursday, July 4	Friday, July 5	Saturday, July 6
<p><b>2009</b>—Oil futures prices hit an eight-month high when an unauthorized trader buys 7 million barrels during an epic drunk.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—<i>The Army Times</i> reports that the Bush administration wants to cut combat and family-separation pay for troops in combat zones.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Surgeons find a small, hard, black object in Dick Cheney's chest and attach a pacemaker and defibrillator to it.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Jimmy Carter signs a bill creating a U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corporation, charged with reducing our dependence on foreign oil.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The last man drafted in the U.S. enters the Army.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Richard "I am not a crook" Nixon orders his "Plumbers Unit" to break into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—A DC-7 and a Lockheed Super Constellation collide over the Grand Canyon. Both crash, killing all 128 on board. The accident leads to the creation of the FAA.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—A mysterious 40 megaton explosion flattens a huge area around Tunguska, Siberia.</p> <p><b>1882</b>—Chanting "I am going to the Lordy, I am so glad," Charles Guiteau is hanged for assassinating President Garfield.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—NH-born Treasury Sec. Salmon P. Chase resigns, charging speculators are plotting to prolong the War for monetary gain.</p>	<p><b>2002</b>—Two America West pilots, after consuming nearly three gallons of beer, are thrown out of a Miami bar about 4:45 a.m. Slated to pilot Flight 556 to Phoenix, they are busted instead.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush nominates Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Military conscription ends in the U.S., succeeded by an all-volunteer force.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—South Vietnam officially takes over the Phoenix Program.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—A chartered DC-8 carrying 214 American soldiers to Vietnam goes off course, strays into Soviet airspace, and is forced to land in the USSR.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Elvis Presley appears on the Steve Allen Show and sings "Hound Dog" to a basset hound dressed in formal wear.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—The U.S. Army detonates the world's 4th nuclear explosion at Bikini Atoll. The U.S. Navy orders sailors to board radioactive target ships the following day.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—In Boston, 8,000 march against the war.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 19,240 British soldiers die and 35,493 go missing.</p> <p><b>1884</b>—Allan Pinkerton, founder of the strike-breaking, union-busting detective agency, dies from an infected tongue after biting it accidentally in a fall.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—George W. Bush says, "There are some who feel that the conditions are such that they can attack us [in Iraq]. My answer is, bring 'em on."</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Vietnam vet Larry Walters, 33, ascends to 16,000 feet in a lawn chair buoyed by 45 helium-filled weather balloons.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The Supreme Court rules there's nothing cruel or unusual about the government killing certain selected people.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Word gets out that South Vietnam is torturing prisoners at Con Son Prison.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—One year after predicting that highway speeds of 100 m.p.h. would soon be common, Fred Duesenberg rolls his Duesenberg at high speed. He dies three weeks later.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—A carload of white males conduct a drive-by shooting in black East St. Louis, starting the 20th century's worst race riot.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—Attorney General (railroad director) Richard Olney gets an injunction against striking Pullman workers.</p> <p><b>1881</b>—In Washington, Charles Guiteau, a Republican of the "Stalwart" faction, shoots President Garfield in the back.</p> <p><b>1776</b>—Twelve colonies vote to support the Declaration of Independence at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.</p>	<p><b>1993</b>—In Littleton, NH, punk rocker and native son GG Allin is buried in the St. Rose Cemetery, clad in a leather jacket, dog collar, and jockstrap.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—The U.S.S. <i>Vincennes</i>, confusing an Iranian airliner for an F-14, shoots it down; 290 civilians die.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—George Lincoln Rockwell leads an American Nazi Party rally on the Mall in Washington, D.C. It devolves into a riot.</p> <p><b>1940</b>—To prevent its falling into Nazi hands, the British Navy sinks much of the French fleet at Mers-el-Kébir, off Algeria.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—President G. Cleveland sends federal troops to Cleveland to break up the Pullman Strike, citing the indispensability of mail delivery as his justification.</p> <p><b>1890</b>—The 43rd state is admitted to the Union. Idaho's name, once thought to be Shoshoni, is more likely a hoax concocted by one George M. Willing.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—Portsmouth-born Benjamin F. Falls captures a flag at Gettysburg. He is later decorated with the Medal of Honor.</p> <p><b>1850</b>—Australian newspaper publisher James Harrison dooms New Hampshire's ice-exporting industry by demonstrating the first mechanical refrigeration plant.</p> <p><b>1754</b>—George Washington finds it necessary to surrender Fort Mifflin to the French.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—Joe Frost makes the final sale ever at The Book Guild on State Street.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—During Portsmouth's "Welcome Home Desert Storm Vets" Parade, Nam Vets are applauded 17 years after the Fall of Saigon.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—The Soviet sub <i>K-19</i> lives up to her nickname, "<i>Hiroshima</i>."</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Baltimore's regular fireworks display is preceded by a mock "atomic bomb" explosion complete with two collapsing houses, burst water and gas mains, and evacuation of the "wounded."</p> <p><b>1947</b>—The Boozefighters, a subset of "The Greatest Generation," take over Hollister, CA. Three days of debauchery spawn a movie, <i>The Wild One</i>, and a generation of poseurs, mostly accountants.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—A spark prematurely ignites fireworks carried by daredevil Louis "Speedy" Babbs as he parachutes over Santa Monica. He plunges into the Pacific in a ball of fire but soon resumes his career.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Thousands of Ku Klux Klansmen meet in New Jersey to burn crosses and celebrate the failure of a Democratic Party campaign plank which would have condemned the Klan.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Nashua registers New Hampshire's highest temperature to date, 106 degrees.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—At Hampton Beach, a tornado kills 3 and injures 120.</p>	<p><b>1989</b>—Lt. Col. Ollie North gets his wrist slapped for trampling on the Constitution.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The Marine base at Khe Sanh, defended through a 78-day siege ending three months earlier at a cost of 737 lives, is abandoned.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Private Kenneth Shadrick, 20, of Skin Fork, WV, becomes the first American killed in the Korean War.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—In Paris, Micheline Bernardini appears wearing the world's first bikini.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Residents of Boise City, OK are startled when, at 12:30 a.m., a lost B-17 drops six training bombs in the town square.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—During a dock workers' strike in San Francisco, Joseph Roush, a Federal Laboratories sales rep, fires a long-distance tear gas shell at strikers. Hit in the skull, one later dies. Roush writes to his boss, "as he was a Communist, I had no feeling in the matter and I am sorry that I did not get more."</p> <p><b>1894</b>—A massive fire, probably set, destroys six buildings at the World's Columbian Exposition, including Machinery Hall, where Daniel Fowle's printing press was last seen by the public.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Abraham Lincoln suspends <i>habeas corpus</i>, permitting the arrest of 18,000 subversives and peace activists.</p> <p><b>1810</b>—Happy B'day P.T. Barnum.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Riding a bike in Scotland, George W. Bush takes a hand off the handlebars to wave at police. Bush falls and strikes a policeman, who is hospitalized.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—<i>New York Times</i> op-ed by Joseph Wilson accuses George W. Bush of "twisting" intelligence to justify a war against Iraq.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and exhibitionist Robert Hansen pleads guilty to selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then the Russians.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Troubled by leaks, the Nixon Administration forms the "Plumbers" unit.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—A C-124 with a nuke on-board (minus its fissile core) crashes at Barksdale AFB, LA. Both plane and weapon are destroyed.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—John Lennon and Paul McCartney meet.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—The first All-Star Game is played at Comiskey Park. Babe Ruth hits the first homer.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—The U.S. Army begins using dog tags to improve its method of accounting for dead GIs.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—U.S. troops land in Nicaragua to protect U.S. interests.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—Pinkerton "detectives" and striking miners begin fighting it out in Homestead, PA; 20 die.</p> <p><b>1887</b>—David Kalakaua, King of Hawaii, signs away most of his power as he inks the "Bayonet Constitution" at gunpoint.</p>
<p>5:28      6:03</p> <p>11:35</p>	<p>6:32      7:02</p> <p>12:15      12:33</p>	<p>7:35      8:00</p> <p>1:19      1:31</p>	<p>8:37      8:56</p> <p>2:20      2:28</p>	<p>9:34      9:47</p> <p>3:17      3:22</p>	<p>10:25      10:34</p> <p>4:09      4:11</p>	<p>11:11      11:17</p> <p>4:55      4:56</p>
Sunday, July 7	Monday, July 8	Tuesday, July 9	Wednesday, July 10	Thursday, July 11	Friday, July 12	Saturday, July 13
<p><b>1967</b>—North Vietnamese General Nguyen Chi Thanh dies of a heart attack after excessively celebrating the Politburo's approval of his plan for a Tet Offensive.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—As Ngo Dinh Diem arrives in Saigon to serve as premier, U.S. Gen. John W. O'Daniel, says "the war in Vietnam can be won without bringing in one single American soldier to fight."</p> <p><b>1950</b>—FBI Chief J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover proposes the permanent detention of 12,000 people he deems "potentially dangerous to the internal security of the country."</p> <p><b>1924</b>—President Coolidge's son Calvin Jr. succumbs to blood poisoning resulting from a blister he got playing tennis with his brother on the White House lawn.</p> <p><b>1905</b>—Kentucky hangs Robert Mathley, but he's six feet tall and the rope stretches. Officials with shovels dig until his feet don't touch the earth.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—In Philadelphia, nativist Protestants and Irish Catholics armed with cannon fight it out at the Church of St. Philip Neri.</p> <p><b>1826</b>—In Frankfort, KY, Jereboam O. Beauchamp, Esq. is hurriedly hanged for murder before he can bleed to death from a self-inflicted knife wound. Beauchamp and his wife Anna are then buried, embracing, in the same coffin; her end of the suicide pact succeeded.</p>	<p><b>1976</b>—The State of New York yanks Richard Nixon's license to practice law.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. begins withdrawing troops from Vietnam instead of adding more.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Viet Cong forces attack Bien Hoa air base, killing two U.S. advisors as they watch a movie.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Radio reports say a UFO has crashed at Roswell, NM.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Japanese-speaking Marine Private Guy Gabaldon single-handedly takes custody of 800 prisoners on Saipan.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—The Dow-Jones average bottoms out at 41.22 points.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Nan Jane Aspinwall arrives in New York City having left San Francisco 310 days earlier, traveling more than 4,500 miles on horseback.</p> <p><b>1886</b>—In Britain it rains snails.</p> <p><b>1853</b>—Commodore Matthew Perry convinces the Japanese that it's better to trade with the U.S. than get shelled by them.</p> <p><b>1835</b>—The Liberty Bell tolls upon the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Legend says it cracked this day, but that's been disputed.</p> <p><b>1788</b>—In Canterbury, CT, hail falls to a depth of 34 inches.</p> <p><b>1776</b>—In Philadelphia, the as yet un-named Liberty Bell summons citizens to hear the Declaration of Independence read for the first time, by Colonel John Nixon.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—"I trust God speaks through me," says George W. Bush to an Amish group. "Without that, I couldn't do my job."</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese publishes a 1,960 page report on pornography meticulously listing 100 pages worth of obscene movie, magazine, and book titles.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Unemployed and barefooted Englishman Michael Fagan, 31, climbs a drainpipe, enters Buckingham Palace, and wakes Queen Elizabeth in her bedroom.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Fourteen thousand U.S. troops, equipped with nuclear-capable rockets, invade Lebanon.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A landslide falling into Lituya Bay, AK, causes a megatsunami over 1,700 feet high.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—The House Un-American Activities Committee sentences tubercular <i>Maltese Falcon</i> author Dashiell Hammett to six months in prison for reticence.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Oliver Law, a battalion commander in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the first African-American to lead white troops, is killed in action in Spain.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Two trains collide head-on in Nashville killing 101 and injuring another 171. It is the deadliest train wreck in U.S. history.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—Marines of the U.S.S. <i>Portsmouth</i> row ashore and raise the flag at Yerba Buena (now San Francisco) claiming California for the U.S.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—China punishes Zheng Xiaoyu, Director of the State Food and Drug Administration. He took bribes that led to 40 deaths; they kill him.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—George Tenet tries to warn George Bush and Condi Rice about Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, but can't get their attention.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Fifteen tornadoes rip through the northeast, causing \$100 million in damages.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—French secret police in the South Pacific blow up Greenpeace's boat, <i>Rainbow Warrior</i>.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—In the Chandka Forest of India, a herd of stampeding elephants, driven mad by the heat, flattens a village killing 24.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—At Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey, a bolt of lightning strikes a powder warehouse. Several million pounds of explosives go off over a three-day period, destroying 187 of 200 buildings, killing 19 and injuring 38 more.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—In Germany, to accommodate inflation, a 500,000 mark banknote is introduced.</p> <p><b>1805</b>—RIP Revolutionary War soldier Col. William Butler who was court martialled for refusing to cut off his ponytail. "Bore a hole through the bottom of my coffin," he wrote in his will, "[so that] the damned rascal [his ex-commanding officer] will see that, even when dead, I refuse to obey his orders."</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Condi Rice improbably denies White House knowledge of Joe Wilson's Niger investigation; Ari Fleischer tells reporters Valerie Plame works for the CIA; Karl Rove tells a <i>Time</i> reporter that Wilson's wife sent him to Niger, and his report is suspect; and CIA head George Tenet takes the rap for the White House's lies about Iraq getting uranium from Niger.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—The U.S. establishes diplomatic relations with Vietnam 22 years after pulling out its troops.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—After a period of global anxiety, <i>Skylab</i> crashes to earth in the outback of Australia.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Poet Delmore Schwartz dies in a New York hotel. No one notices until two days later.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Congress puts "In God We Trust" on all U.S. coins and paper currency. Which one isn't specified.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Ike OK's the overthrow of Iran's Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq. What could go wrong?</p> <p><b>1947</b>—In Georgia, 8 black prisoners are killed for refusing to work without boots in a swamp.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—On a parapet at Ft. Stevens, four miles north of the White House, Abraham Lincoln comes under enemy fire.</p> <p><b>1804</b>—At Weehauken, NJ Alexander Hamilton fires into the ground in front of Aaron Burr, who takes aim and shoots Hamilton in the chest, killing him.</p>	<p><b>1982</b>—The Federal Emergency Management Agency pledges that, in the event of a nuclear war, the mail will get through.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—A fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO destroys the only copy of the service records of 16 to 18 million Army and Air Force veterans.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—In Pennsylvania, a garbage dump fire spreads to a coal mine where it will burn for more than twenty years.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Armed vigilantes in Bisbee, AZ round up striking copper miners, herd them into cattle cars, take them east into New Mexico, and abandon them in the desert without food or water.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Lyudmila Pavlichenko is born in the Ukraine. As a Red Army sniper, she kills over 500 Nazis during WWII and becomes the first Soviet citizen welcomed to the White House.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—Birth of Milton Berle, the first American transvestite to have his own television show.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—The Pennsylvania militia wins the battle against striking Homestead steelworkers.</p> <p><b>1836</b>—In Cincinnati, a pro-slavery mob destroys type used by James Burney to print his abolitionist paper, <i>The Philanthropist</i>.</p> <p><b>1834</b>—Botanist David Douglas of the eponymous fir is trampled by wild bulls in a Hawaiian pit trap.</p>	<p><b>1999</b>—Sen. Bob Smith (R-NH) drops out of the Presidential race, and the Republican Party to boot, to run as an Independent.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Warren Rudman tells Ollie North during the Iran-Contra hearings, "The American people have the service records of 16 to 18 million Army and Air Force veterans. The constitutional right to be wrong."</p> <p><b>1977</b>—Lightning strikes and human error black out New York.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—A sodium-cooled nuclear reactor in Simi Valley, CA has a partial meltdown, releasing 300 times more radiation than Three Mile Island, a fact kept secret for 20 years.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—A B-50 Superfortress crashes in Lebanon, OH, killing its crew of 16. The fissile core of the nuclear weapon on board not being installed, the crater made by its high explosives was only 25 feet deep.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Israeli troops drive 70,000 Palestinians from their homes in Lydda and Remleh.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Alexander Schmorell, a student and veteran, and Professor Kurt Huber, co-conspirators in the anti-Nazi pamphleteering group White Rose, are guillotined in Munich.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—A New York mob, enraged by draft laws exempting the rich, egged on by Democrats claiming Republicans would bring freed slaves north to replace lazy white workers, go on a three-day rampage, leveling whole blocks and attacking the offices of Horace Greeley's pro-Union <i>New York Tribune</i>.</p>
<p>11:53      11:56</p> <p>5:37      5:37</p>	<p>12:31</p> <p>6:14      6:15</p>	<p>12:32      1:06</p> <p>6:50      6:51</p>	<p>1:07      1:40</p> <p>7:23      7:28</p>	<p>1:42      2:13</p> <p>7:57      8:06</p>	<p>2:17      2:48</p> <p>8:33      8:46</p>	<p>2:56      3:27</p> <p>9:10      9:30</p>

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