

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Armageddon Averted — For Now

Modern-day Republicans — if we may be allowed the use of an oxymoron — are famously fixated on reducing the size of the Federal Government.

This puts them in a delicate position: they are consciously choosing to constantly deal with something that they abhor. It's like a preacher taking up residence in a brothel — with evangelical intent, of course.

Some critics say Republicans want to do away with government. That's dangerous territory, though. Accusing someone of wanting to destroy his own government is tantamount to calling him a traitor. Accusations of slander might result.

Fortunately Grover Norquist, who is broadly beloved among Republicans, has confessed on the record more than once. "I'm not in favor of abolishing the government," he said. "I just want to shrink it down to the size where we can drown it in the bathtub."

It isn't slander if it's true.

The White (Or Black) House

There is one branch of government the GOP loves dearly — under the Right circumstances. When a Republican gets his hands on the keys to the White House it becomes a bully pulpit indeed. With four years to go until the next election, it's Katy bar the door: sweeping governmental reorganizations, spying on civilians, deranged judicial appointments, pre-emptive warfare — it's all good.

Under a Democratic Administration, though, it's a different story. The White House turns into a pestilential sink of depravity, leaving the country saddled with crippling and intractable problems such as Social Security, Medicare,

and the GI Bill. And since four of the last six Presidential elections have gone to the Democrats, that's all the more reason why our Government should be hobbled, starved, and otherwise beaten like a rented mule.

The Animal House

In the House of Representatives, Speaker John Boehner is just the man to enforce that agenda, never fearing — when it's convenient — to invoke the Hastert Rule: no bill makes it to the floor for a vote unless a majority of the "Republican" majority supports it.

In practical terms, that means even if all the Democrat and 120 Republicans back a particular bill, only 122 opposing Republicans are needed to block it. Under this screwball standard, it takes only twenty-eight percent of the House to make sure nothing gets done. With nearly 50 Republican Members professing allegiance to the anti-government Tea Party, that's a pretty low hurdle.

On Sunday, Boehner told CBS's Bob Schieffer that he was proud to claim the role of dog in the manger for his party. "We should not be judged on how many new laws we create," he said. "We ought to be judged on how many laws we repeal." According to his own standards, then, Boehner might seem a failure; despite 39 attempts to repeal it, Obamacare's still on the books.

The rulebook of Republican logic, though, was written by Voltaire and Lewis Carroll. In the GOP — the best of all possible parties in the best of all possible nations — you begin with the conclusion that whatever you did was Right. Then you work backwards until you arrive at whatever you've declared the facts to be.



Greatest Deliberative Body?

With just 47 Republicans in the Senate, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell would have little power were it not for the filibuster. That curious device allows a minority of 41 to turn "the world's greatest deliberative body" into a corpse on life support.

Having failed to crush hated agencies such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Labor Relations Board through straightforward legislation, Republicans settled for neutering them by filibustering the appointees who would run them.

Majority Leader Harry Reid,

exasperated by Republicans practice of running the filibuster drive at Warp Nine, finally threatened to push his nuclear button and eliminate the filibuster with a simple majority vote. On the 16th a few Republicans relented, and a deal of sorts was finally reached. *Mirabile dictu*, a passel of appointees will actually get voted on.

Can the GOP forego its filibustering habits? Sure — just like a crack addict can avoid the pipe.

Tough Spots

House Speaker Boehner has it easy compared to his counterpart in the Senate. Granted, he does faces an election every other year — on paper. Ohio's 8th District elected its last Democrat in 1936.

When even-numbered Novembers roll around in southwestern Ohio, the Democrats usually just throw another sacrifice on the altar. Last year they didn't even bother to do that. As long as he can hold off attacks on his right flank, he's safe.

McConnell, on the other hand, has people are coming at him from every conceivable angle. Naturally he'll face a Democratic opponent in 2014, but he'll have to make it past Matthew Bevin, a Tea Party challenger, first.

Reelection is the least of their problems, though. By a 52 to 37 margin, Republican voters say their party's leaders are taking them in the wrong direction.

News Briefs

Our Fifty States: Laboratories of Democrazy [sic]

Like deer and other beasts denied the benefits of modern, engineered food products, porcupines subsist on a diet that tends to be deficient in salt. To make up for that deficiency, they will gnaw on just about anything that has salt on or in it: a sweat-soaked canoe paddle or axe handle, an automobile tire, or, worse yet, brake lines. Porcupines also have an unfortunate tendency to girdle good standing timber. That is, they will gnaw their way through the bark of a valuable tree, all the way around the trunk, and in so doing kill it.

So, back in the day when a quarter still bought something, many New Hampshire towns offered a 25 cent per head bounty on dead

porcupines. Particularly enterprising old boys might stow the heads in an old Maxwell House can for a week or two to ripen before turning them in, figuring that the warden would probably prefer to accept the bounty hunter's stated tally rather than conduct a detailed inventory himself.

In **Colorado**, residents of the town of Deer Trail ("Home of the World's First Rodeo," population 546) are considering a more modern version of the bounty. Unmanned aerial vehicles — drones — would take the place of the quill pigs, and standing in for the old codgers' duplicity would be blatant municipal hypocrisy.

According to Denver-based radio station KMGH, Deer Trail

resident Phillip Steel has collected enough signatures to get a proposal on the ballot that, if passed, would institute a \$100 bounty to be paid to any permit-holder who shot down a Federal drone. Would-be hunters would be required to buy a permit and be limited to using a shotgun, 12-gauge or smaller.

It's probably not possible, though, to bring down a drone with a 12-gauge, and Deer Trail's Mayor Frank Fields has admitted that the proposal is nothing but a revenue-generating scam to profit from the sale of drone-hunting licences.

"We don't intend to paying none of that out [sic]," Fields told KMGH. Besides, no drones have

never been seen in Deer Trail.

Meanwhile, in **Missouri**, where the State House's Hall of Famous Missourians includes a bust of Rush Limbaugh, a bill was signed into law last week providing that "each school district and charter school may annually teach the [NRA's] Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program to first grade students."

The AP reported last week that Mitch Daniels, now the President of Purdue University, "requested that historian and anti-war activist Howard Zinn's writings be banned from classrooms" when he was Governor of **Indiana**. Daniels, a Republican, also "asked for a 'cleanup' of college courses and proposed "cutting funding for a program run by a local univer-

sity professor who was one of his sharpest critics." The Board of Directors that hired Daniels to run Purdue was appointed by Daniels, according to the AP report.

During five years of his Governorship, the State of Indiana lost track of \$526 million. As the *Washington Guardian's* Phillip Swarts put it, "computer errors left the funds out of taxpayers' pockets but unavailable for use by the state or county governments."

And, yes, this is the same Mitch Daniels who directed the Office of Management and Budget for two years under George W. Bush.

In **Pennsylvania**, GOP Chair-

The Alleged News

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News Briefs

from page one

man Rob Gleason, interviewed by Pennsylvania Cable Network, refreshingly admitted that Voter ID helped hold back Democratic voters in last year's Presidential Election. "Think about this," he said to the interviewer, "We cut Obama by five percent, which was big. A lot of people lost sight of that. He won, he beat McCain by ten percent. He only beat Romney by five percent. I think that voter ID helped a bit in that."

The big winner in this fortnight's Kontest of Crazy, though, has to be the Commonwealth of **Virginia**. Long nicknamed the "Old Dominion," we now begin to understand why.

Republicans in the Old Dominion, which still advertises itself to tourists with the catchphrase, "Virginia is for Lovers," want to establish rather strict rules about how those lovers may go about their ... whatever. Even the married ones.

Ken Cuccinelli, the Attorney General who is running for Governor, is stumping for the reinstatement of a law — already thrown out by the courts — prohibiting oral or anal sex. Presumably because he thinks that's somehow his business.

Meanwhile Bob McDonnell, the man Cuccinelli is hoping to replace, has finally, begrudgingly, begun to backpedal from his position that there has been absolutely nothing wrong with the many gifts and other favors which he and his wife have received over the years from his good buddy Jonnie R. Williams, Sr.

Williams gave \$70,000 to a corporation owned by McDonnell and his sister, and a check for \$50,000 to his wife. He also gave \$25,000 towards the cost of McDonnell's daughter's wedding.

Coincidentally, Maureen McDonnell, the Governor's wife, has helped promote Anatabloc, a product of Williams's company, Star Scientific. And the product made its formal debut at the Vir-



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Exotic and alluring vehicles are almost common on our streets in summertime — but how often do you see one that is un-Googleable? Our Wandering Photographer had that thrill on Sunday, July 21st. He guessed that this gorgeous beast was a Deussen. No, said the smiling driver, it's a 1980 Johnston, of which only 90 were made. And we'll have to take his word for it — our Google-Fu failed to turn up a thing!

ginia Governor's mansion.

On Monday, McDonnell announced that he'd repaid \$145,000 to Williams. But he still maintained that he "broke no laws."

Sadly, McDonnell's Presidential prospects appear to be fading fast. That would have been fun.

Better luck next time, **New Hampshire**. This time around, the Granite State gets only an Honorable Mention, thanks to a disclaimer the Federal Marshal Service will be adding to the paperwork when they auction off Ed and Elaine Brown's property in Plainfield later this year. While the Marshals think they've cleared the property of booby traps and land mines, they can't be entirely sure. So bidders will have to indemnify the Federal Government in case they get blown up.

We have to wonder: if, as Louis Brandeis once stated, the states are the "laboratories of Democracy," doesn't that make us all lab rats?

Good Luck, Vietnam

The capitalist fast-food behemoth McDonald's announced last week that it will open an alleged restaurant next year in Ho Chi Minh City.

Apparently Vietnamese officials have forgiven certain Capitalist running dogs: the franchisee is one Henry Nguyen, a Vietnamese-American whose father was a civil engineer who worked for the Americans until shortly before the Communist takeover.

It's probably just a coincidence that Henry Nguyen's father-in-law is Nguyen Tan Dung, Vietnam's Prime Minister.

And we thought the Viet Cong were a tenacious foe ...

Good Luck, America

Meanwhile, out of the goodness of their Capitalistic hearts, McDonald's and VISA have teamed up to generously provide a free online resource to help its workers figure out how to live on their average wage of \$8.25 an hour.

In the soft-focus world of children's books Heather has two mommies. McDonald's, on its budgeting website, assumes its workers have two jobs.

The site optimistically allots just \$600 a month for rent and \$150 a month for a car, but nothing for either heat or gas. That's OK, though — nothing warms a person up like pushing a car from one job to the other. That aerobic exercise will also keep them fit, which, with a lousy \$20 a month to cover health insurance, will be vitally important.

The Feisty First District

James Pindell, *WMUR.com's* political director, reported on Monday that Dan Innis, described as "a Republican gay married male," is "in the 'very early' stages of deciding whether or not to challenge incumbent Democrat U.S. Rep. Carol Shea-Porter for Congress next year."

Now, that's an interesting trial balloon.

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Let's begin with "Republican gay married male." Not that there's anything wrong with that, but ... why? Or, more to the point, how? How does a person maintain allegiance to a political party that considers his personal behavior deviant and works to criminalize it? It is a puzzlement; one we cannot solve right now.

Then there's the question, what are the odds? Granted, Seacoast Republicans hate Carol Shear-Porter with the intensity of a thousand suns — but do they hate her enough to vote for a gay married man? Our crystal ball shows a lot of exploding heads.

On the other hand, who would Innis's opponent be in the GOP primary? Frank Guinta, probably, who needed only a single term to get on a "Most Corrupt Members of Congress" list. We're all still waiting for a satisfactory explanation of the source of that mysterious \$350,000 that got him elected in 2010.

If Guinta represents the quality of the competition Innis might face, maybe he's got a shot. So who is this guy?

Innis, according to the *Portsmouth Herald*, lives in Portsmouth and co-owns with his husband the Ale House on Bow Street (which briefly advertised in this newspaper).

Professionally, he is the Dean of what WMUR's Pindell refers to as "the University of New Hampshire business school."

Let's back up for a minute. "The University of New Hampshire business school" was known for fifty years as the Whittemore School of Business and Economics. Innis became Dean of it in 2007. In 2013, the name of the school was changed to the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics.

Since the name change comes five or six years into Innis' tenure as Dean, it seems fair to assume he had a say in it.

Coincidental to that change, and giving it the faint aroma of a transaction, was a 2008 gift from Mr. Paul to the University of \$25 million.

We know where Paul got his education — at UNH. But where did he get enough money to throw



The New Memorial Bridge, as it appeared on July 15th, with Archer-Western workers climbing around on it and performing inscrutable tasks. Hard as it may be to believe, local residents might actually be strolling across this modern engineering marvel on the day this paper hits the streets. Then again, they may not. As we go to press it is impossible to say.

off a gift that big?

Here's what UNH said in 2008 at the time of his big gift:

"Peter T. Paul is president of Paul Financial, LLC, a mortgage banking company he founded in 2003. [He's also into wine growing and biofuels.] He is also chairman of the board of The Headlands Foundation, a nonprofit organization he founded in 1995.

"Prior to the formation of Paul Financial, Paul was president of Headlands Mortgage Company ... based in Larkspur, California, and founded by Paul in 1986. It became one of the premier wholesale lending institutions in the country, specializing in originating, selling, securitizing and servicing residential mortgage loan products."

Janeen McGuire, writing in 2001, put it this way: "[i]n 1996, Paul worked closely with Wall Street firm Bear Stearns to bundle some of the first Alt-A loans into securities so they could be sold to investors in bulk. This partnership

with Wall Street was the propellant behind a market that built itself into a \$722 billion house of cards." McGuire's non-fiction piece, called "The Keys Are in the Mail: A Foreclosure Story," appeared in the *Montréal Review*.

Let's go back now to to UNH's glowing bio:

"After leading Headlands through a successful IPO (NASDAQ ~ HDLD) in February of 1998, Paul subsequently negotiated the merger with GreenPoint Financial the following year."

A PRNewswire story at the time noted that Headlands was "the leading specialist in Alternative A [low-documentation] mortgage lending," while Greenpoint specialized in "no documentation" mortgages.

So Paul was neck-deep in creative mortgage finance during the boom years, and smart enough to get out before it went bust. UNH must have taught him well.

The now-forgotten Mr. Whittemore, who "never formally at-

tended college," according to a UNH press release from 13 years ago, was "born in Pembroke, worked his way to the top of the Boston & Maine Railroad, the Federal Reserve Bank, and the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. He also served as president and chairman of the board of the Brown Company."

Dean Dexter and David Goselin note, at *NHCommentary.com*, that UNH honored Whittemore "because of something infinitely more important than [a financial contribution]. It came about because of the time and personal effort he put into the University of New Hampshire over a long period of years."

Speaking of Education ...

Arizona appropriates \$124 per capita to higher education. If that sounds cheap, it's because Arizona comes in 49th among the 50 states. Care to guess who's last? We are. The *Nashua Telegraph* reported last August that New Hampshire appropriated just \$63.19.



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





When Your Ideas Won't Do!

To the Editor:

Republican legislators have a major problem. When your ideas won't do, what do you do? This is even more problematic when you don't want to moderate your political philosophy.

Unable to sell their ideas, they have reverted to a series of political and parliamentary maneuvers rather than continuing to attempt to win the people's vote or use the legislative process to achieve their goals.

The strategy seems to be to initially distort or outright lie about proposed legislation they do not support — remember "Death Panels"?

If dishonesty doesn't work Speaker Boehner will refuse to bring the bill to the floor or Senator McConnell, the self-proclaimed guardian of gridlock, threatens filibuster. He has already set a record of 420.

Republican controlled state legislatures are gerrymandering districts to protect extreme conservatives and trying to enact needless new election laws to suppress the progressive vote.

If you are afraid to present your principles to the complete electorate for approval and you refuse to make any adjustments I sup-

pose you try to change the rules and the face of the electorate. This may work for primaries but has not and will not for national elections.

The question is why the Republican party has given up on governing and trying to shape legislation through compromise — an underlying concept in the design of our form of democracy — in favor of political shenanigans and a purely recalcitrant attitude toward their elected responsibilities.

We don't expect our political parties to attempt to pervert the political process rather than present a reasonable alternative vision for the future.

Dave Potter
N. Hampton, NH

Dave:

For some reason your assertion that Senator McConnell had "set a record of 420 filibusters" during his tenure really jumped out at us. "That can't be right," we thought.

And, as usual, we were correct. It's not right. We checked.

Now, don't get us wrong — your assertion is entirely accurate — McConnell has forced the Democrats to file 420 motions for cloture since the current Senatorial stalemate was established in 2007.

But just because they did it doesn't make it right.

The question is, how the hell do the Republicans get away with this blatantly obstructionist behavior?

We believe there are two factors at work here.

First, the Republicans appear incapable of feeling self-doubt or shame. In the limited confines of their own minds, they are right — excuse us, they are Right — and therefore, nothing they do can be wrong. Since they can do no wrong, there is noth-

ing to be ashamed of.

And, second, as always, we blame the news media. Cowed by Right Wing bullies, they've retreated into the fetid bunker of their vaunted objectivity and won't come out.

Republicans have parked their limos and Hummers across the intersection of Debate and Compromise, and, according to the media, both parties are guilty of creating gridlock.

The Editor

§

A Law-Abiding Society?

To the Editor:

We live in a rational, law-abiding society, yes? Yet Stand-Your-Ground laws, strongly agitated for by the National Rifle Association, are the decree in 22 states including Florida, allowing the likes of a George Zimmerman to interpret the law in his own image.

In the President's unscribed, disarmingly personal reflections about the event he called for white folks to try to understand the context of the Black experience. Before his Presidency he said he experienced people crossing the street, locking car doors at his approach, and being followed in stores. What a life.

Certain Right Wing pundits responded crudely and disrespectfully, especially when the President uttered the truism that he could have been Trayvon Martin 35 years ago.

Did Mr. Zimmerman have any regrets or second thoughts? He answered "No" with assurance. This took my breath away. It speaks of a man who is emotionally a vegetable and out of touch. Mr. Zimmerman is a tool whose world view is that danger lurks everywhere — the same as the

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

gun lobby's, which wants more George Zimmermans to boost sales.

Sadly, out of necessity, Black families universally instruct their growing children what to do if stopped by the police.

What a shameful commentary when a child can be lawfully tracked down and shot in the heart based on his demeanor only.

Yes, prejudice is deeply rooted, with its distortions and misperceptions abounding, often beneath our consciousness.

Michael Kulla
Pleasant Valley, NY

§

Misdiagnosis

To the Editor:

According to a national study by Express Scripts, one of the largest pharmacy benefit management organizations (as reported by the *Manchester Union Leader* and picked up by *USA Today*), New Hampshire's children rank among the most likely to be diagnosed with ADD or ADHD.

That must mean New Hampshire has expanded Medicaid, thus raising the cost of that program, because there is a direct correlation between children diagnosed with Attention-Deficit Disorders and Medicaid.

I'll try to make a long story short. As a boy growing up in Massachusetts and New Hampshire in the 1940's and 50's, I'm sure I displayed many of the symptoms of boyhood which have now become known as manifestations of a dreaded childhood "disease." I was often on the go, I talked a lot, fidgeted and squirmed, didn't always listen to adults, preferred

playing baseball to doing homework and was easily distracted. For all intents and purposes, I was pretty normal.

My mom, dad, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and teachers (my village) did a good job of reining me in until I outgrew my foibles and went on to live a fairly normal life. There was no one in those days to tell my parents I was sick and needed drugs to succeed. The village was more than adequate.

Here's the thing, folks. You can believe in the existence of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder if you so choose. However, as a child and family therapist for many years I found that ADHD is more realistically described as Adult Dysfunction Handed Down. Extreme symptoms of boyhood (which can handicap a child) are more closely associated with a lack of guidance (parenting) than a disease to be treated.

I'm well aware that parenting in today's demanding society is challenging and not for the faint of heart. For many reasons government womb-to-tomb programs are alluring, granted. But they are not only financially unsustainable, they are also, by and large, unhelpful.

In fact, I will go so far as to say, good parenting skills are an anathema to the gargantuan and ever expanding mental health, pharmaceutical and social service industries. Therefore dear parents ... Good Luck.

David L. Snell
Dillsboro, NC

PS: To John Meinhold of Portsmouth — I have been a Cleveland

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And Other Correspondence

Indians fan for 65 years, since the year they won their last World Series (1948) by beating the old Boston Braves. In all these years I never for a second considered their emblem was anything more than an exaggerated caricature and clearly never intended to be racist or offensive.

David:

What could be more American than the pathologization of ordinary behavior?

If there's anything we love to do, it's identify a "problem" and come up with a "solution."

The Editor

§

The Dew Point Skinny

To the Editor:

Dew point is a moisture level, expressed in temperature, and is what it is. Humidity is always relative to heat. The hotter the day the lower the humidity, while the dew point can go up, down, or remain the same.

I'm tapped into a weather tower and before every bike ride I check the dew point. When it's hot and the dew point is over 70°, breathing's much harder and I do something else. Today's a perfect example. The relative humidity here this morning was 99 percent and the temperature was 73°F. The dew point was 71°F. Now the temperature is 81°F, the relative humidity is 76 percent, and the dew point is still 71°. This morning it was almost misting and when the air temperature and the dew temperature are that close, the moisture in the air becomes dew, hence its moniker.

Succinctly stated, the old saw "it ain't the heat, it's the humidity" is dead wrong. It's the dew point.

I mention this only to divert your mind from the endless supply of bull___t fodder you sort through. The way I see it, with every government doing pret-

ty much everything important wrong you have an unfair advantage. Now if you only didn't have to live it.

Finally, bullying is forever: it's the way humans gain an advantage in life. Name calling is one of its key elements. Begs the question, whatever became of "sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me?" That was the mantra growing up in Boston in the early 50's. The kikes, dagos, and micks would burn off energy by shouting slurs at each other, and for those with self-esteem issues that was the response. Parental attitude ... that's nice don't fight. Protestants were 20 shades of vanilla and gave s__t without getting it except for the Episcopalians who didn't have the balls to be Catholic.

Life in Bar Harbor is good. Portsmouth seems hectic.

David Balkin
Bar Harbor, ME

David:

When we first learned there was such a thing as a "dew point," it was a revelation. Knowing that there's a specific way to gauge the relationship between heat and humidity didn't change the objective conditions, but at least it helped to understand the sudden drop in intelligence, energy, and the perceived value of life itself.

Compared to Bar Harbor, we have no doubt that Portsmouth is hectic. But it's a good hectic.

The Editor

§

Patriot or Pariah?

To the Editor:

The United States has for many decades offered political asylum to refugees who suffer severe penalties for criticizing their government, so why the contradictory double standards regarding Edward Snowden, a stateless soul trapped in terminal limbo? The Gimme Shelter asylum seeker

reminds us of perverse mass media coverage of Watergate, Iran-Contra and Iraq WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) false accusations. I personally admire courageous whistleblowers such as Daniel Ellsberg, John Dean, Bradley Manning and Julian Assange, who I'd label Conscientious Objectors. Likewise, Edward Snowden is facing an overly aggressive barrage of fear, jeer and smear tactics, shifting focus away from the government's own wrong-doing, untruths and outright lies. Their purported crimes were challenging the hegemony of Uncle Sam by exposing the operation of the world's most powerful state-sponsored cyber-espionage in a demoncrazy system that supposedly prizes individual freedoms. Would you prefer not to know that your government is infringing on your Constitutional right to privacy and self-expression?

Edward Snowden reportedly stepped forward because he realized the U.S. government is engaged in invasions of Americans' privacy on a vast and unprecedented scale. The NSA is contravening the 4th Amendment guarantees against unreasonable searches and seizure as well as safeguarded Constitutional Freedoms. The abuse of power has allowed for top secret surveillance that includes monitoring domestic phone records and examining personal electronic data. "We the people," citizens in a dysfunctional, divisive nation that has largely lost the moral high ground, must become emotionally disturbed, hot and bothered by unfair, unconscionable practices and policies implemented under a president who hypocritically vowed transparency and openness. What lessons are we teaching our kids?

What is necessary now is a more equitable and honest balance between protecting uncivil



wrongs and ensuring national security protections, leaving such unanswered question as the relative importance of corporate profit power versus personal data privacy conflicts. Decisions should be based on documented fact rather than manipulated gossip and innuendo, in terms of the ethical and moral dimensions related to information technology advances. Brave whistleblowers have forced us to reflect seriously about crack-erjack hackers, illegal wiretapping, and Facebook credit card swindles, along with the global future of the presently unruly cyber-world. Did the leaks serve or harm public interests and natural justice? Only time will tell.

Dr. Charles Frederickson
Bangkok, Thailand

§

A Solution To All Our Woes

To the Editor:

Millions of people out of work, underemployed, or relegated to part-time employment. Thirty percent of Americans getting some type of food assistance from the government. The federal government so far in debt that anyone paying attention has to be worried.

No, I'm not talking about the 1930's. We're in big trouble now. Our national leaders, the House, the Senate, and the White House are so bogged down that they don't seem to see the forest for the

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Northcountry Chronicle

Brown vs. Brown

by William Marvel

I was having breakfast in a diner east of Columbus, Ohio, on April 28, 2012, when I saw my first photographs of George Zimmerman and Trayvon Martin. Having no television, my familiarity with that case had come via NPR, which portrayed it as a racial incident involving a white gunman and a black victim. Like most who listen to NPR, I trusted it more than I do other electronic media, and the name Zimmerman certainly connoted European origins. I was therefore puzzled by newspaper photos of Zimmerman, who looked remarkably like the Chiapas farmhands I interviewed in Shartner's strawberry fields around 1998.

Having to account for the visual image, the newspaper article waffled on Zimmerman's race, using the imaginative new term "white Hispanic" to describe him. In the Crayola-based simplification of anthropology used by most Americans, Hispanics have

usually been classified among the "brown" peoples of the world, even in the 50-50 racial mix that Zimmerman is said to represent. For that matter, Martin's photo seemed to reflect about the same racial balance, if complexion is any indication.

With that additional information, the killing of Martin evolved into an affair between two "people of color." It suddenly became obvious that NPR, along with the newspaper I was reading and probably most television news networks, were actively misrepresenting the killing as an example of violence by the white majority against the black minority. That always plays well in the United States, apparently even in the face of plainly visible contradictory evidence.

Florida had recently passed a stand-your-ground law, which codified a right to self-defense that was once universally recognized. Zimmerman was the first person to shoot someone under a claim of self-defense after the passage of

that law, so his story instinctively infuriated what I guess should be called armaphobes, whose abject horror of firearms drives them to support any and all restrictions on guns. With two hot-button issues to exploit, Zimmerman and Florida's law became the objects of a media feeding frenzy that jaundiced NPR and led to the refusal or removal of two successive judges for a lack of impartiality.

Conveniently forgotten is Zimmerman's April 30th waiver of his right to immunity under the stand-your-ground law. Instead, his lawyer chose to go to trial, and to rely solely on the traditional concept of self-defense under which police are also usually absolved for killing unarmed assailants. That nullified the issue of the new statute, and he was acquitted under the old, weaker law, even after the judge refused to admit evidence of Martin's record for fighting and drug use. Still, don't expect the anti-gun lobby to stop using Zimmerman as its stand-your-ground bogeyman: reason

seldom troubles ideologues, and they have no other candidates.

Perhaps Zimmerman should not have left his car to confront Martin, but by the same measure neither should Martin have stopped to challenge someone who was justified in asking him to leave: setting aside the pretensions of gated communities, Martin was trespassing on private property. Medical records reported by CNN also strongly suggest that he was the first to resort to violence, since his only injury came from a bullet while Zimmerman (who was older but smaller) had two black eyes, a broken nose, and at least one open wound in the back of his head. Clearly Zimmerman was taking a beating. In a fight, head injuries can quickly lead to helplessness, allowing the opponent to either walk away or close in for an easy finish, and the bullet wound demonstrates that Martin was not walking away. However the two got there, the argument for self-defense seems convincing, unless one contends

that Zimmerman was obliged to let himself be knocked senseless, or worse.

The Justice Department seems to take that perverted view — as did the demonstrators who protested the acquittal, some of whom turned violent themselves (if NPR can be believed at all). With evident executive approval the Attorney General promises to intervene, subverting the judicial process for which he is supposed to be the foremost advocate, and all to appease the increasingly vocal Obama core constituency. Perhaps he will try to prosecute Zimmerman for violating Martin's civil rights to commit trespass and assault. From the wearing of a flag pin to his stand on gay marriage, this President has never hesitated to trade his pretended principles for the sake of popularity, so he will gladly watch his agent sacrifice some poor schmuck to satisfy the clamoring mob.

More Mash Notes, HATE MAIL, And Other Correspondence, from Page Five

trees. In the meantime, our deterioration accelerates. It's time they drop their nonsense and do what's right for the country.

There is only one completely vetted solution out there, HR25, the FairTax Bill, that both revives our economy for the foreseeable future and reduces politicians' power to grant favors to special interests. The Bill eliminates all taxes on any income and all payroll taxes and replaces them with a consumption tax on new goods and services. A prebate system provides for no taxes to be paid by any American up to a govern-

ment set level. The poor pay less, big spenders pay more and jobs are plentiful. Best of all, the IRS is eliminated.

Anthony Gasbarro

Fairhope, AL

Anthony:

If the persistent interest in the appallingly misnamed Fair Tax proposal explains anything, it's infomercials. We've long thought that both of these phenomena are aimed at, and succeed with, the same audience.

The recent Internet phenomenon of parody infomercials — absurd video clips showing improbably

hapless individuals failing spectacularly to accomplish the simplest of daily household chores — has only reinforced our conviction.

The Editor

§

Re-Defining Conservatism

To the Editor:

It's all a government plot to make conspiracy theory peddlers rich, and gullible people stupider than they already are.

Filibuster reform will be the first thing Republicans will do if they win the Senate, despite the fact that only a fool would believe that Democrats would have the

balls to carry out obstruction of the sort Republicans have against President Obama.

Some interesting study conclusions are even more interesting when considered together. One study found that New Hampshire and Vermont are the least religious states in the country. Another found that New Hampshire and Vermont are the best states in the country in which to raise children. Draw your own conclusions about any correlation.

Republican rebranding is not going well. No surprise there, since how on Earth do you expect

a bunch of folks that walk around acting all superior to everyone else to admit they have a problem of their own making?

The word Conservative will soon need redefining. Substitute the words Kook, Nutty, Jerk, or similar expressions in sentences where the word conservative appears and you will find they are basically synonymous. Think of Rick Perry saying "I am a real conservative." Would him saying I am a Real Jerk mean anything different?

Tom Laperriere
Rochester, NH

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"Vox Populi to cognoscenti: "No thanks to more NAFTAs"

by Jim Hightower

Most of America's corporate, political, and media cognoscenti are street-preaching proselytizers of the holy virtues of NAFTA-style trade deals. "Believe!" they shout, with the fervor of corporatized Elmer Gantries.

But the people (damn them) are not buying the hokum, because ... well, because it's hokum. Most Americans have felt (or at

least seen) the destructive impact of these trade scams — thousands of factories closed and millions of jobs gone south. They now consider NAFTA to be a five-letter profanity. Last year, the Angus Reid polling firm found that only one in four Americans thinks that NAFTA has benefitted workers, and more than half of those polled believe the trade deal is so bad that the U.S. should either "renegotiate" or simply "leave"

NAFTA.

Likewise, just before 2010's volatile congressional elections, an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll showed that 69 percent of voters believed that "free trade agreements cost the U.S. jobs," and even 61 percent of self-identified Tea Party adherents shared that opinion. A whopping 86 percent said corporate outsourcing of our jobs to low-wage countries was the top cause of America's economic

woes. In an especially interesting finding, the link between trade and outsourcing was one issue on which people of different classes, occupations, and political views all agreed.

On the other hand, polls also show that the public now sees the deceit in the cognoscenti's constant claim that Americans believe in "free trade." Well, yes, people can support the theory of free trade, but they've learned

from experience that trade theory is far different than the reality of the deals hung around our necks.

While the cognoscenti insist that the U.S. should "continue to be a member" of NAFTA — that sermon gets an amen from only 15 percent of Americans. No more NAFTAs!

§

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The Collapse of Conscience and Concern

by Sam Smith

Let's review the bidding:

We are still engaged in our longest, and one of our most pointless, wars.

The federal government is electronically spying on whomever it wants and wherever it wants. It accomplishes this with the aid of a totally un-American secret court.

Our current government has repealed or reduced funding for more good programs than at any time in our history.

The Democrats haven't advocated a major, truly progressive policy in several decades.

Our two most recent Democratic presidents have been the most conservative ones in nearly a century.

Liberals have become indifferent to the sort of economic policies that once characterized the Democratic Party. They have redefined themselves as an elite demographic rather than as a political movement, one that has impermeable faith in its own virtue, and holds in contempt those who do not share its values or accept its hegemony. But given their small numbers, even their good policies stand little chance of success.

The Democrats are planning to nominate for president a candidate who was, according to an assistant special prosecutor, almost indicted, who was in business with two friends who went to prison, and was a partner with her husband in a number of sleazy deals.

Neither major party is showing much interest in climate change and other major ecological problems.

Thanks to the Citizens United ruling, among other things, our political campaigns and their results are controlled by corporations and other sources of big money.

For the first time in over two hundred years, a cabal of government, corporate and rightwing forces are engaged in a successful full scale attack on public education, attempting to return it to a state once marked by what were called public "pauper schools."

Add it all up and the American government has never been so corrupt, misguided, incompetent and disloyal to the Constitution and to other principles upon which the country was founded.

It is comfortable and common to lay the major blame on the most reactionary Republican Party in our history and while this argument has merit, it also serves to ig-

nore and excuse factors over which other groups and cultures have control, factors that that create an environment in which political evil flourishes.

For example, the rise of gay marriage and abortion to the status of key issues directly reflects the failure of Democrats to offer anything more politically compelling — such as cures for economic inequity.

The influence of the Koch brothers on conservative candidates is encouraged by the Democrats' willingness to be funded by similar if less wealthy sources.

And if honesty is to have any chance of survival, it is not aided by a Democratic president who repeatedly lies about such things as electronic spying on citizens. By a president so deep into the false agenda of government intelligence that he doesn't even bother to make believable arguments to defend himself.

What has gone unnoted in the current miserable failings of our land is the absence of voices with both power and integrity, status and wisdom, influence and decency. With few such respected individuals and institutions offering alternatives, it is small wonder that amongst the people as a whole,

concern and conscience have collapsed, giving way to the most primitive forms of survival.

While America's liberal, intellectual and media establishment may not be anywhere near as corrupt as the right, it has basically surrendered to that right by failing to speak effectively in even measured tones against it.

We live in a state of value disintegration worse than during the depression, the civil rights era or the Vietnam war.

To be sure, then as now, real change was instigated and agitated by those the establishment called radicals for having the gall to advocate a more decent normalcy, but their success was ultimately heavily dependent upon a moderately rational elite that helped translate the message to average Americans.

As just one example, the church is now barely visible in the movements of today. Where are the nuns one once saw at peace rallies, the rabbis raising their voices for civil rights, or Episcopalian bishops offering sermons on economic equality?

The same is true of academia and the media. Such once hot spots of cultural intelligence and decency

have become either silent or quiet partners in corrupt disintegration. Our universities are so much on the payroll of the military industrial complex that many have lost most of their honor. Our professors are either too scared or too indifferent to give a hand.

The evils of the right are just major extensions of what has always lurked in their agenda. But the apathy, fear and avoidance of an elite that pretends to be our moral and intellectual leaders is unprecedented.

We will recover little by just attacking John Boehner and the Koch brothers. We must replace the Obama, the Larry Summers, the Bill Gates, the Tom Friedmans and Fared Zakarias with those who, while not progressive, at least have enough human empathy and understanding to form a gateway politics to a better America. We need those who are not cynical opportunists and manipulators but who, while still behind the curve of the future, at least are not — as our elite are today — de facto co-conspirators with the most reactionary forces of our time.

Sam Smith is editor of the Progressive Review, online at prorev.com.

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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, July 28	Monday, July 29	Tuesday, July 30	Wednesday, July 31	Thursday, August 1	Friday, August 2	Saturday, August 3
<p>2008—A tornado leaves a 40-mile swath of destruction in New Hampshire and kills a woman in Deerfield.</p> <p>2006—A wild storm topples the partially-renovated steeple of the North Church and its surrounding scaffolding onto Pleasant Street.</p> <p>2003—Tom DeLay (R-TX), who once said Americans smoke Cuban cigars "at the cost of our national honor," is photographed in Jerusalem lighting up a \$25 Hoyo de Monterrey double corona.</p> <p>2003—The country's two largest banks are fined \$300 million for helping Enron fleece investors.</p> <p>1965—Lyndon Johnson doubles the draft quota.</p> <p>1957—An Air Force C-24 hauling 3 nukes along the East coast dumps 2 in the ocean after losing power.</p> <p>1945—A B-25 crashes into the Empire State Building. One engine goes right through the building, another severs elevator cables and sends a car plummeting to the basement. Six floors burn; flaming gas streams down the sides of the building. Toll: 13 dead, 26 injured.</p> <p>1932—U.S. Army troops led by Dwight Eisenhower, aided by George S. Patton, and commanded by General Douglas MacArthur drive the "Bonus Expeditionary Force"—20,000 hungry World War I veterans—out of Washington D.C., killing two in the process.</p>	<p>1986—Disgusted by U.S. policies in Latin America, ex-Chaplain Charlie Litekly renounces the Medal of Honor he was awarded for his bravery in Vietnam.</p> <p>1981—Congress passes Ronald Reagan's tax cut for the rich.</p> <p>1974—The House Judiciary Committee adopts a second article to impeach Richard M. Nixon, this time for misuse of power and violating his oath of office.</p> <p>1967—Old bombs cook off after an accidental missile launch, nearly sinking the <i>U.S.S. Forrestal</i> off North Vietnam, killing 134.</p> <p>1966—Bob Dylan crashes his Triumph, breaking his neck.</p> <p>1965—The 101st Airborne lands in South Vietnam.</p> <p>1950—In Korea, the U.S. 7th Cavalry withdraws from No Gun Ri having shot hundreds of civilian refugees, mostly women, children, and old men, under orders from high command.</p> <p>1923—"No more war" demonstrations held in 23 countries.</p> <p>1921—Disgruntled former corporal Adolf Hitler becomes President of the German Nazi Party.</p> <p>1920—Disabled German veterans rally for "No more war."</p> <p>1839—While looting the Tuileries along with the rest of the mob, Alexandre Dumas <i>père</i> finds a copy of one of his novels in the royal apartments and takes it.</p>	<p>1975—Teamsters' boss Jimmy Hoffa makes his last public appearance in Birmingham, MI.</p> <p>1974—The House Judiciary Committee adopts a 3rd article of impeachment of Richard M. Nixon, for ignoring subpoenas.</p> <p>1972—Fifty-three caribou are found dead near an Army chemical and biological warfare lab. The base commander suggests they were hit by lightning.</p> <p>1956—Congress adopts "In God We Trust" as the national motto.</p> <p>1945—After delivering the Hiroshima A-bomb, the <i>U.S.S. Indianapolis</i> is torpedoed and sunk. Due to security measures, the sinking isn't reported for 5 days; sharks and drowning claim 880 out of 1,100 aboard.</p> <p>1938—A Hitler bestows Germany's highest award for non-citizens, the Grand Cross of the Supreme Order of the German Eagle, on his pal Henry Ford.</p> <p>1916—A German saboteur destroys a thousand tons of munitions stored on a barge at Black Tom Island in New York Harbor.</p> <p>1864—Union forces breach Confederate defenses at Petersburg by blowing a huge mine. Sadly, nearly 4,000 Union soldiers are slaughtered in the resulting crater because Brig. Gen. James Ledlie, selected to command by the drawing of straws, is drunk.</p>	<p>1999—Astrogeologist Eugene Shoemaker becomes the first Earthling to have his cremated remains interred on the moon.</p> <p>1996—Ex-Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. [H.] Walker Bush speak for pay before an audience of Moonies.</p> <p>1974—Dick Nixon's former advisor John Erlichman gets five years in a felons' country club.</p> <p>1972—The public is shocked as Thomas Eagleton withdraws his candidacy for Vice President.</p> <p>1971—A \$100,000 "contribution" to the Republican convention persuades the "Justice" Department to let ITT retain its ownership of Hartford Fire Insurance.</p> <p>1971—Dave Scott becomes first person to drive a motor vehicle on the moon.</p> <p>1950—The city of Chicago approves a plan to have its citizens tattooed with their blood type.</p> <p>1944—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry disappears during a flight over southern France.</p> <p>1938—New York Yankee Jake Powell is suspended after saying, on Chicago radio, that he'd "hit every colored person in Chicago over the head with a club."</p> <p>1934—In Scotland, German businessman Gerhard Zucker demonstrates his rocket mail proposal. He is deported after his rocket explodes and incinerates the mail.</p>	<p>1992—A day after winning a "tight jeans" contest at Boise's Rockin' Rodeo Inn, Butch Otter, Idaho's Republican Lieutenant Governor, is arrested for drunk driving.</p> <p>1983—After a fourteen-year suspension, the U.S. resumes the manufacture of chemical weapons.</p> <p>1981—MTV is launched; the remnants of civilization crumble.</p> <p>1977—Former U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, misled by the fuel gauge of his traffic-reporting helicopter, dies after crash landing to avoid children playing.</p> <p>1976—First occupation of the Seabrook nuclear power plant site.</p> <p>1972—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports on a "two-bit burglary" at Democratic National HQ.</p> <p>1972—1st Lieut. George W. Bush is suspended from flying status with the Texas Air Nat'l Guard for failure to take a physical exam (which would have required him to pee in a cup).</p> <p>1969—A Massachusetts Superior Court judge rejects a DA's request for an inquest into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne.</p> <p>1966—Honor student and former Marine Charles Whitman shoots 45 (killing 12) from a tower at the University of Texas.</p> <p>1917—IWW organizer Frank Little is lynched in Butte, MT. The authorities never bother to look for the culprits.</p>	<p>2000—The GOP picks George W. Bush to be president, and Dick "Dick" Cheney to run the country.</p> <p>1993—A short circuit sends a self-destruct command to a Titan IV rocket over the Pacific. It blows up, destroying three spy satellites. Total cost: \$1 billion.</p> <p>1990—Iraq invades Kuwait.</p> <p>1965—CBS reporter Morley Safer suggests that the U.S. might not win in Vietnam.</p> <p>1964—The <i>U.S.S. Maddox</i>, collecting intelligence in support of covert operations in North Vietnam, reports an "unprovoked" attack by North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin.</p> <p>1943—Prisoners at Treblinka revolt. Only forty survive, but the camp is shut down.</p> <p>1943—The nimble American PT boat #109 is rammed and sunk by a ponderous Japanese destroyer.</p> <p>1939—A. Einstein writes to FDR describing the possibility of constructing a nuclear bomb.</p> <p>1931—A. Einstein urges all scientists to refuse military work.</p> <p>1865—After capturing and sinking American whaling vessels all summer, the <i>CSS Shenandoah</i> learns the war's been over since April.</p> <p>1832—Hundreds of starving Sauk and Fox Indians try to surrender at Bad Axe, WI only to be massacred by the Illinois militia. Wisconsin apologizes—in 1990.</p>	<p>1999—A House/Senate committee agrees to cut taxes for the rich by nearly \$800 billion.</p> <p>1981—Federal air traffic controllers go on strike.</p> <p>1971—Derry, NH's Alan Shepard becomes the first man to whack a golf ball on the moon.</p> <p>1966—Lenny Bruce, free on appeal, beats a four-month sentence on an obscenity rap by dying.</p> <p>1962—Tusko the elephant dies in an Oklahoma City zoo two hours after researchers give him LSD.</p> <p>1948—Alger Hiss is accused of spying by ex-Red Whittaker Chambers.</p> <p>1943—Gen. George S. Patton slaps a shell-shocked private in an Army hospital.</p> <p>1939—After catching five baseballs dropped from a blimp 500 feet above the World's Fair, Joe Sprinz tries to catch one dropped 1,000 feet. He loses four teeth.</p> <p>1931—In Chicago, an anti-eviction march by 60,000 turns into a riot; three die.</p> <p>1923—By the light of a kerosene lantern, at 2:47 a.m. in Plymouth, VT, Calvin Coolidge is sworn in as President by his own father.</p> <p>1913—Police shoot up an IWW farmworkers' meeting in Wheatland, CA, killing four. For organizing the meeting, two union leaders are later convicted of murder and sentenced to life.</p>
4:01 4:31 10:07 10:42	4:58 5:27 11:00 11:42	5:59 6:26 11:56	7:03 7:27 12:45 12:56	8:07 8:26 1:49 1:56	9:05 9:20 2:48 2:53	9:58 10:09 3:41 3:45
Sunday, August 4	Monday, August 5	Tuesday, August 6	Wednesday, August 7	Thursday, August 8	Friday, August 9	Saturday, August 10
<p>1995—Congress votes to de-regulate the media with predictably splendid results.</p> <p>1992—The Republican National Convention re-nominates the Bush/Quayle ticket. Snicker.</p> <p>1987—The FCC jettisons the Fairness Doctrine, declaring it "restricts the journalistic freedom of broadcasters."</p> <p>1973—Toronto police arrest Yankee outfielder Dave Winfield for accidentally killing a seagull with a thrown ball.</p> <p>1964—The <i>U.S.S. Maddox</i> and <i>U.S.S. Turner Joy</i> report a second torpedo attack in Gulf of Tonkin. Curiously, there are no casualties or damage.</p> <p>1961—Barack H. Obama allegedly is born in Hawaii.</p> <p>1948—HUAC chairman J.P. Thomas's pocketing of the payroll from his pals' no-show jobs is exposed in Drew Pearson's column.</p> <p>1945—Red Sox vs. Senators in D.C.: Joe Cleary (last Irish native in the Majors, ERA 189.0), is relieved by one-legged Bert Shepard, the Majors' first amputee. In 5 innings Shepard gives up just 3 hits and 1 run, but the Sox win 15-4.</p> <p>1925—After 13 years, U.S. Marines leave Nicaragua.</p> <p>1916—The U.S. agrees to buy the Virgin Islands from Denmark.</p> <p>1892—In Fall River, MA, somebody gives Lizzie Borden's father and stepmother the axe.</p>	<p>2011—In response to repeated Republican warnings that it might not pay its bills, Standard & Poors downgrades the U.S. Government's credit rating.</p> <p>2004—"Our enemies," confesses George W. Bush, "never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we."</p> <p>1981—Ronald Reagan fires 12,700 air traffic controllers.</p> <p>1977—The NRC admits it's lost 4 tons of enriched uranium.</p> <p>1969—The Army reveals that eight Green Berets have been arrested for "terminating" a suspected South Vietnamese double agent "with extreme prejudice."</p> <p>1964—U.S. begins bombing North Vietnam.</p> <p>1962—South Africa nabs fugitive Nelson Mandela thanks to a tip from the CIA.</p> <p>1950—Eighteen are killed when a B-29 crashes into a trailer park in California, but at least the nuclear weapon on board fails to explode.</p> <p>1912—The Progressive Party is formed "to dissolve the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics."</p> <p>1864—As Admiral Farragut damns the torpedoes and takes Mobile Bay, Portsmouth native Samuel Todd mans the conn of the <i>U.S.S. Brooklyn</i> with such distinction he is later awarded the Medal of Honor.</p>	<p>2001—Given a briefing titled, <i>Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S.</i> George W. Bush, while on vacation, responds, "All right. You've covered your ass now."</p> <p>1991—Tim Berners-Lee introduces the World to the Web.</p> <p>1970—Disneyland is invaded by 300 pot-smoking Yuppies chanting VC slogans & demanding freedom for Mickey Mouse.</p> <p>1945—Sayonara, Hiroshima.</p> <p>1930—New York Supreme Court Justice and Democratic bigwig John Force Crater purges some private files, cashes a large check, and disappears forever.</p> <p>1926—Gertrude Ederle swims the English Channel, two hours faster than any of the five men who had previously accomplished that feat.</p> <p>1895—The socialist paper <i>Appeal to Reason</i> begins. By 1902 its circulation is the 4th highest in the U.S.</p> <p>1890—New York takes 8 minutes to execute William Kemmler, thrashing and smoking, in its new electric chair.</p> <p>1882—Abel Pifre prints newspapers on a steam-powered press fueled by a solar boiler on an overcast day in Paris.</p> <p>1855—A Louisville mob armed with a cannon is dissuaded by the mayor from destroying a Catholic church. They settle for burning down houses in the Irish quarter and killing 20.</p>	<p>1979—A nuclear fuel plant leak near Erwin, TN, contaminates 1,000 people with 5 times a year's normal background radiation.</p> <p>1974—In New York, Philippe Petit takes a stroll on a wire between the World Trade Center towers.</p> <p>1964—Congress falls for Gulf of Tonkin hoax and gives LBJ. unprecedented (and unconstitutional) power. Sen. Wayne Morse (D-OR) votes no, saying "I believe that within the next century, future generations will look with dismay and great disappointment upon a Congress which is now about to make such a historic mistake."</p> <p>1964—<i>Time Magazine</i> says of <i>A Hard Day's Night</i>, "avoid this film at all costs."</p> <p>1942—Marines land on Guadalcanal.</p> <p>1936—Rep. Marion Zioncheck (D-WA), who once had a load of manure delivered to J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover's front lawn, defenestrates from the fifth floor of a Seattle office building.</p> <p>1917—Sqn. Cdr. E.H. Dunning, first man to safely land a plane on a moving ship, dies five days after performing that feat while attempting to repeat it.</p> <p>1915—Despite a failed artillery barrage and coordinated attack, General A. Godley sends the Australian 3rd Light Horse into Turkish machine guns at Gallipoli. Sixty percent are killed or wounded.</p>	<p>1991—After 17 years as the world's tallest structure, the 2,120 ft. Warner Radio Mast collapses.</p> <p>1989—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese's pal E. Robert Wallach is convicted of racketeering for accepting \$425,000 to influence Meese and others to win defense contracts for Wedtech Corp.</p> <p>1988—Mehran Karimi Nasser gets stranded at the airport in Paris, where he spends the next 16 years.</p> <p>1980—While running for reelection, Rep. Jon Hinson (R-MI) admits he has been accused of committing an obscene act in a "gay haunt" in Virginia and once barely escaped a fire in a gay movie theatre. But he denies he's gay.</p> <p>1974—Richard M. Nixon announces he's a quitter after all.</p> <p>1973—Veep Spiro "Ted" Agnew calls true allegations that he accepted kickbacks while Governor of Maryland "damned lies."</p> <p>1968—R. Nixon chooses S. Agnew for a running mate.</p> <p>1925—Thirty thousand members of the Ku Klux Klan march in full regalia down Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1903—Miners strike in Cripple Creek, CO.</p> <p>1892—Three McCoys kill a Hatfield during an election day brawl in Pike County, KY.</p> <p>1879—Birth of Emiliano Zapata, Mexican revolutionary.</p>	<p>1997—New York cop Justin Volpe sodomizes Haitian immigrant Abner Louima with a broomstick.</p> <p>1989—Pres. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush signs the multi-billion dollar Savings and Loan bailout. Among those bailed out at the expense of the taxpayer: his own sons Neil and Jeb.</p> <p>1974—Nixon vacates the White House.</p> <p>1945—Sayonara, Nagasaki.</p> <p>1936—Death of muckraker Lincoln Steffens.</p> <p>1892—Reacting to yesterday's unpleasantness, a group of Hatfields tie three McCoys to a tree and shoot them.</p> <p>1874—Charles Fort, chronicler of the paranormal, materializes in Albany, NY.</p> <p>1872—Fire destroys 547 buildings in Boston, killing 14.</p> <p>1848—The Barnburners and Free Soilers merge into the Scorched Earth party and nominate Martin Van Buren for President.</p> <p>1842—Herman Melville escapes from the Typee Valley in the Marquesas where he has been held captive by cannibals for a month.</p> <p>1842—The Webster-Ashburton Treaty resolves the issues that led to the Aroostook War.</p> <p>1779—General Henry Clinton & 1,500 American troops breach a dam to flood Iroquois towns and fields in upstate New York.</p>	<p>2005—After playing online games fifty hours straight, Lee Seung Seop, 28, drops dead.</p> <p>2000—"I want you to know," George W. Bush tells farmers in Salinas, CA, "that farmers are not going to be secondary thoughts to a Bush administration. They will be in the forefront of our thinking."</p> <p>1973—Rabid Free Marketeer Charles Koch writes rabid Free Marketeer Friedrich von Hayek suggesting he move to the U.S. so he can collect Social[ist] Security.</p> <p>1968—Eight G.I.'s in Vietnam are killed by "friendly fire."</p> <p>1961—The U.S. Army begins using Agent Orange in Vietnam.</p> <p>1950—The first shipload of American military aid to the French in Vietnam arrives.</p> <p>1945—The Japanese announce their intention to surrender.</p> <p>1896—"Small sacrifices must be made," says glider pioneer Otto Lilienthal, as he dies a day after his last crash.</p> <p>1887—A Toledo, Peoria & Western engineer, seeing a burning bridge ahead, uncouples his engine and makes it across; 81 passengers die when it collapses.</p> <p>1856—A ball on Last Island, LA is interrupted by huge wind-driven waves; 400 drown.</p> <p>1835—Citizens of Canaan, NH burn Noyes Academy because it enrolled blacks.</p>
10:44 10:52 4:28 4:31	11:25 11:31 5:10 5:12	12:02 5:47 5:50	12:08 12:35 6:21 6:26	12:42 1:08 6:53 7:02	1:16 1:41 7:27 7:40	1:52 2:16 8:02 8:20



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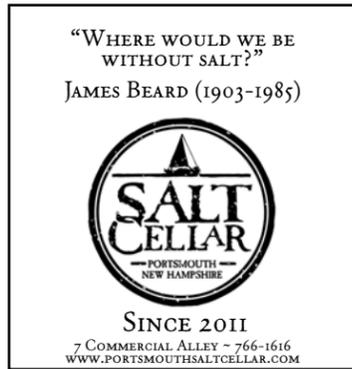
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