

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### Economic Terrorism Apparently Legal

The corporate media recently rehashed the fifth anniversary of the shameful end of Lehman Brothers. If there's one thing we can rely on them for, it's noticing things that can't be ignored.

Given its timing, the nation's explainers were bound to use the collapse of the nation's fourth-largest bank to represent the global catastrophe it heralded.

And why shouldn't they? Naturally the topic is of interest to the public. Most people gawk when they pass an accident on the highway. And in this pile-up, most people aren't just gawkers — they're casualties, too.

Fortunately for the supposed subjects of their reportage — Wall Street banks, shadowy non-banks that do banky sorts of things, regulators that don't regulate, and the politicians who enable them — our more prominent colleagues in the Fourth Estate have perfected the art of filling the requisite space without necessarily making anything clearer.

#### Shocked ... Shocked

Five years ago the nation learned — or was given the opportunity to learn — that when abstract notions like innovation and deregulation are put into practice, there can be concrete consequences in the real economy.

Allegedly serious government officials, corporate officers, and televised news reciters professed to be shocked to discover that, when left unsupervised, sleazy mortgage brokers, greedy bankers, and unscrupulous credit rating agencies would devise complex schemes that — until they were exposed — could convert a set of mutually agreed upon lies into delicious private profits.

Who would'a thunk it?

#### The Weight of Roosting Chickens

It's all fun and games until somebody gets hurt. Somebody like the occupants of the five million homes that were repossessed by the banks, and the somebodies who held the nine million jobs that vanished, and the somebodies who saved up their wages in 401K accounts where \$2.8 trillion just ... evaporated.

At least this was an equal-opportunity calamity. Even the nation's fat cats took a hit. The value of equity holdings dropped by one half. It was terrible. Yacht sales plummeted.

#### Draftees to the Rescue, Again

Month after month the world waited, fearing the other shoe would drop. In the end, the nation's taxpayers were called on by a reluctant Congress to pull out their credit cards and save the economy.

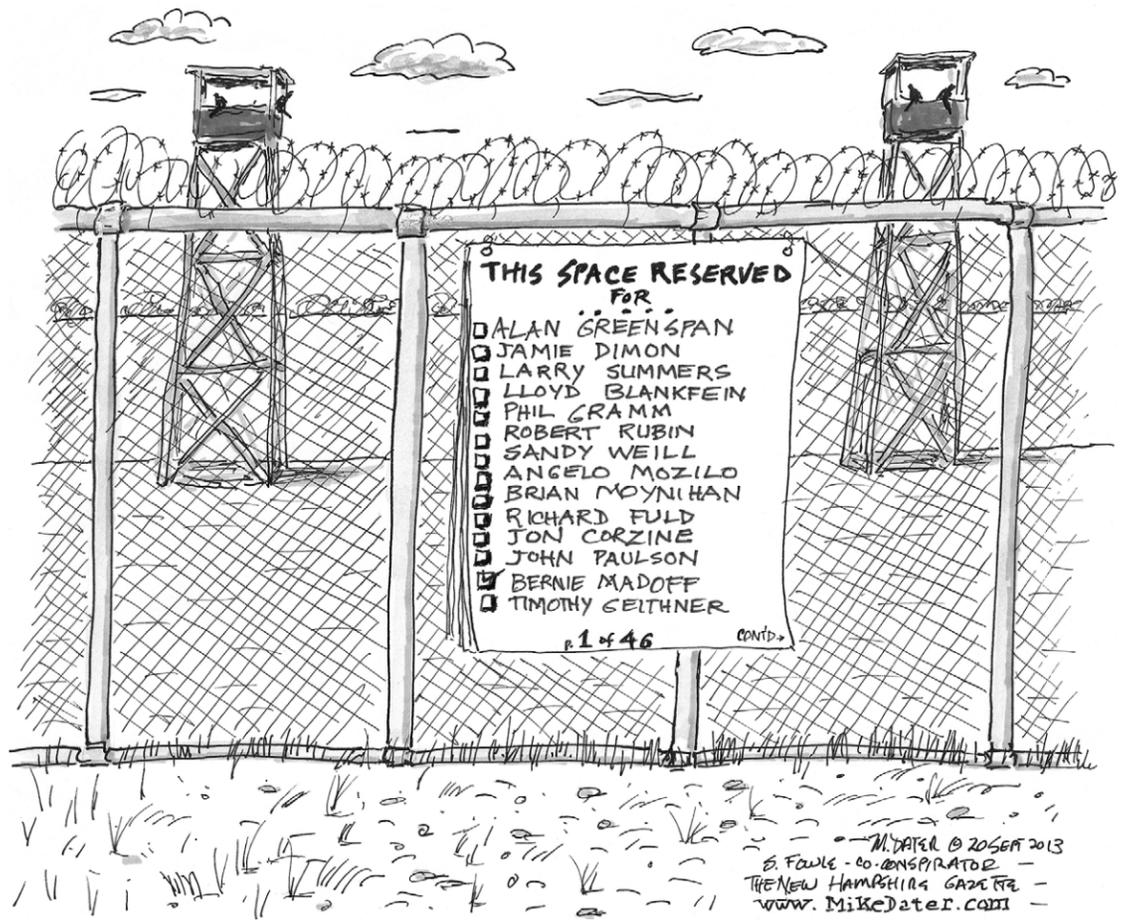
Big banks were bailed out, because how could we live without them? The big mortgage insurers were bailed out because, really, what was the alternative? GM and Chrysler were bailed out because ... what's that shiny object? Excuse us, we'll be right back ...

Right. Where were we? Oh, yes. Homeowners were not bailed out; because they should have Known Better, and The Market cannot function without discipline.

Fortunately, these remedies worked. Eighteen months after it started, the biggest, deepest, longest recession since the Great Depression was over.

#### Thank God That's Over, Right?

The economy has been growing for four years now. The Dow Jones is 1,500 points higher than its peak in 2007. Corporate profits are up by 42 percent compared to 2007, and the financial sector



is doing even better — its profits are up 59 percent for the same period.

#### Follow the Money

Judging from the above, it's "happy days are here again," right? Well, not exactly.

For reasons which we do not recall hearing adequately explained on network television, despite the recovery fifteen percent of Americans now live in poverty.

The Census Bureau just reported that the median U.S. household income is slightly lower now than it was 24 years ago.

Here in New Hampshire, ten percent of us "experienced food insecurity" last year.

So where did the money go?

Astonishingly, much of it went where people took it: Wal-Mart.

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, the only Socialist in that body and one of the few Senators pay-

ing any attention to these things, recently Tweeted that "[f]rom 2009-2012, the richest one percent of Americans captured 95 percent of all new income, while the typical middle class family has seen their income go down by more than \$2,100. The Walton family, the owners of Wal-Mart, are worth more than \$100 billion and own more wealth than the bottom 40 percent of Americans."

#### Fat Cat Wants More Respect

We have it on good authority that in the Tiffany edition of the dictionary, the word "enough" does not appear. But what do you give the man who has already ripped off everything that wasn't nailed down? Let's ask *Forbes* columnist Harry Binswanger.

Binswanger — yes, that's his real name, and yes, let's wear it out — wants more respect.

In a column headlined, "Give Back? Yes, It's Time For The 99 Percent to Give Back to the One Percent," Binswanger sets out to "gore another collectivist sacred cow ... the popular idea that the successful are obliged to 'give back to the community.'"

To the contrary, Binswanger says. "Anyone who earns a million dollars or more should be exempt from all income taxes."

Even that would not be enough to salve Binswanger's hurt feelings, "[s]o to augment the tax-exemption, in an annual public ceremony, the year's top earner should be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor."

We are not making this up. Binswanger wrote that, and *Forbes*, to its eternal but, sadly, only theoretical shame, published it.

Which, we suppose, partly explains how we got here.

## The Alleged News

### Senator Dianne Feinstein, The Arbiter Queen of Journalism

Somehow, through all the 221 years since the First Amendment was adopted, this nation has managed to stumble along without an official definition of the term "journalist." Now, thanks to the Senate Judiciary Committee, we need stumble no longer.

According to Senator Dianne Feinstein [D-CA] the reporter shield law approved by the committee on September 12th "effectively sets up a test for establishing *bona fide* credentials that make one a legitimate journalist."

Congratulations! If you make the cut, the law will shield you from Justice Department subpoenas demanding that you name your sources. If you don't, tough luck.

But in order to qualify you must be "someone who is an employee, agent, or independent contractor for a media entity." So, "media entities" are now subject to Congressional definition, too.

Don't worry, though — Feinstein said the Committee had been very generous in that regard. "We included a very broad list of media entities that journalists can be affiliated with, including newspapers, news websites, and 'any other news service distributed digitally.'"

Back in the day — by which we mean the mid-18th Century — many newspapers printed a line acknowledging their subservience: "Published by Authority." Maybe it's time to dust that line off.

#### AWLD Purchaser Bankrupt

A fortnight ago we reported that the Award-Winning Local Daily, and the other newspapers in the Dow Jones Local Media Group, were being sold to GateHouse Media, a company "known for skirting bankruptcy, shaving costs and handing out generous bonuses to shareholders."

Apparently GateHouse's skirting days are over. According to multiple news stories, the company declared bankruptcy the same day it bought the AWLD.

This information comes from a story in a GateHouse newspaper, the *Illinois State Journal-Register*, under a GateHouse byline.

As described by the *Illinois Times'* Bruce Rushton — we have

not been able to locate the original — the GateHouse story put "the best face it could on a festering financial disaster of epic proportion, entirely avoiding the word bankruptcy."

How does a bankrupt company crushed by \$1.2 billion in debt manage to shell out \$82 million for a string of twenty-three newspapers?

GateHouse is a subsidiary of Fortress Investment, which is not bankrupt. Fortress used another subsidiary, a real estate investment trust [REIT], named Newcastle Investment Corp, to buy the Dow papers. Newcastle has also been gobbling up shares of GateHouse.

But there's a problem with that.

When REIT's own news media, IRS auditors get itchy calculator fingers. So Fortress is mashing the Dow papers together with GateHouse, forming yet another entity with the clever name, "New Media."

Fortress is offering GateHouse's creditors forty cents on the dollar, or stock in a new publicly traded company, according to Rushton.

So what are the prospects for devotees and employees of the AWLD?

"Cuts will likely be coming to the largely insulated Local Media Group papers," according to John Chesto of the *Boston Business Jour-*

## The Alleged News

to page two

**News Briefs**

*from page one*

nal. "Newcastle says \$10 million in cost reductions have already been identified at the group."

"GateHouse has been an aggressive cost cutter in recent years ... consolidat[ing] most of its page design and layout functions ... in two locations ... it will soon be downsized further, into one location in Austin, Texas."

**It's, Like, a Heat Wave**

Now that Summer is 98 percent over — it officially ends at 4:44 p.m. on Sunday — we are able to look back and try to sum the season up. In a word, we'd call it ominous.

From late May well into July it was one heat wave after another. The weather pattern then shifted dramatically into something far

more comfortable. Once we were lulled into complacency the Big Heat Hammer came down hard, one more time.

Inconveniently for us hack journalists [Note: *Someone check with Dianne Feinstein and make sure we're authorized to use that term.* — *The Ed.*] the National Weather Service and its Boston Forecast Office disagree on the definition of a heat wave.

National defines them as periods of "abnormally and uncomfortably hot and unusually humid weather, typically lasting two or more days," while Boston requires "three or more days of temperatures above 90° F" to qualify.

This year's first heat wave met Boston standards and anticipated the summer solstice by three full weeks. May 30th was plenty hot — 87° — but, like the honey bad-



Typewriters were high tech when Chauncey Hoyt began selling office supplies on Market Street, and ballpoint pens were decades away. Over the past decade, Hoyt's display window has served as a sort of antique typewriter museum with price tags, curated by the inimitable Brian Light. But time has clearly run out for the shop. We haven't been so sad to see a business close up since Peavey's Hardware, just across the street, shut down nine years ago.

ger, Boston doesn't give a #\$\$@ about that. On May 31st, though, the temperature broke 90° and the dewpoint hovered around the 65° "muggy" line, and two more over-90° days followed.

Three weeks later, from June 23rd through the 25th, we missed an official "Boston" heat wave by just two degrees on the first day. The humidity range was several degrees higher, though, so we're calling that the second heat wave of the summer.

After an eight-day respite came the summer's third heat wave. Once again, by strict Boston standards it did not make the cut. But over five successive days the lowest daytime high was 87°. What's worse, from July 3rd until July 8th the dewpoint barely went below an oppressive 70°.

We then got a six day period of relatively temperate weather — just to soften us up for Heat Wave Four — The Big One.

For a solid week, from the 14th through the 20th, it seemed as if

the city had been lowered into Hell. Granted, the first day the temperature was just 87°, and only 85° on the fifth day, but the humidity never quit and the nighttime temperatures gave almost no relief. On Friday evening, July 19th, it was 86 degrees at 11:27 p.m. That is just not right.

Mercifully, the rest of the summer was pretty nice — except for a one-day blip on September 11, when the temperature hit 94° with a 74° dew point. But by our standards, four nasty heat waves is a bit ... excessive.

Fearing that we were losing our already-tenuous grip, we dialed up *WeatherSpark.com* and looked at the data for the preceding three years. In 2012 we found one three-day heat wave starting June 20th, and three near misses with temperatures several degrees below 90°. In 2011 there was one four-day heat wave and a pair of near misses. In 2010 we found two heat waves and a couple of near misses.

So we had as many heat waves this year as we had in the preceding three years. What's more, all of this year's heat waves were significantly more humid than any of those from 2010 through 2012.

Radical hotheads that we are, we naturally assumed that this brutal stretch of merciless weather could probably be attributed to the Republican Party.

We're serious. They've been denying anthropogenic climate change and blocking any attempts to stop it, so we humans have kept pumping greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere without restraint, and that has caused the weather to become more extreme. That logic wouldn't sound weird at all if well-paid friends of the fossil fuel industry had not spewed so many subsidized lies about it over the past several decades.

Now it turns out we're probably right. The American Meteorological Society issued a study early this month titled, "Explaining Extreme Events of 2012 From

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a *Climate Perspective*.”

Twelve extreme weather events, including high temperatures in the U.S., were studied by 18 different research groups.

“Approximately half the analyses found some evidence that anthropogenically caused climate change was a contributing factor to the extreme event examined.”

Time to cue the Koch-funded obfuscators: “Those scientists just want to shut down the U.S. economy so that North Korean Communists can take over the world. Any red-blooded American can see that. All those lab-coat-wearing eggheads did was put out a paper with a lot of unreadable gobbledegook to protect their own government funding. NOAA has been infiltrated by filthy Earth Firsters!”

**Helicopters in the News**

A helicopter pilot from Florida expressed contrition on Monday for an incident in Rhode Island which alarmed local residents. People in the vicinity of Narrow Lane in Charlestown, RI panicked when Dean F. Scalera and eight friends flew low over a gravel pit, shooting up a junked car with semi-automatic pistols and rifles.

According to a police report

quoted by the *Westerly Sun*, local police asked Scalera why “he thought it was a good idea to perform this type of activity with large neighborhoods on both sides of the gravel bank.”

Scalera responded that he believed the helicopter was being flown low enough to be safe and that he knew of ‘pilots in other areas who have done the same thing.’

“In Rhode Island?’ asked [Charlestown Police Sgt. Philip B. Gingerella Sr.].

“No, Texas,’ Scalera said, according to police.

“This is Rhode Island, not Texas,’ Gingerella told the pilot, according to the police report.”

The town’s police chief said the men would not be cited. He’d checked the statutes. Apparently they hadn’t done anything illegal.

**See Some Portsmouth Icons**

Bill Truslow originally set out to become an architect, but photography stole his heart. He surrendered 23 years ago.

Since then he’s exposed more than 22,000 rolls of film, traveled 1,374,450 miles, and supplied the photographs for 124 annual reports and 468 corporate brochures, among other projects. His specialty is photographing people



Don't miss the wonderful exhibit Bridging the Piscataqua: Construction + Community, on view at the Discover Portsmouth Center through October 13th. [See story, right.]

in the places where they work.

For the past couple of years he’s been working on a series of portraits of people he calls Portsmouth Icons. Some of them are now on display in the lobby of the Provident Bank on Daniel Street, just across from Moe’s.

Among the icons on display: Bruce Pingree, manager of the Press Room; Penny Brewster, of the Ceres Bakery, Leonard Seagren of Federal Cigar, Yalcin Yazgan of Caffe Kilim, Jack Blalock, of the Old Ferry Landing, and the editor of a certain newspaper. One look at this suite of photos will explain why there’s such a demand for Bill’s work — if he can make that last guy look good ...

**Bridging the Piscataqua**

Anyone who has not seen *Bridging the Piscataqua: Construction + Community* should go to the Discover Portsmouth Center before this exhibit closes October 13th. Through paintings, photographs, artifacts, and videos, it tells the stories of the construction, opera-

tion, and demolition of the many bridges that have crossed one of the East Coast’s gnarliest rivers over the last two centuries — and it is full of delights and surprises.

It’s worth going just to get a good look at John Samuel Blunt’s serene yet stunning circa 1830 painting, *View of Portsmouth from Freeman’s Point*. This huge work — it covers twenty square feet — shows in nearly photographic detail the 1822 pile-supported bridge between Noble’s Island and Kittery. Because the piles never gripped well on the river’s smooth rock bottom, the bridge had a tendency to shift its position rather alarmingly. An 1842 visitor called it “a queerly shaped bridge, which bends & squirms out of all shape or rule.”

Though the pilings migrated as much as six feet horizontally, engineers built the first railroad crossing on the same superstructure, alongside the carriage road. By one account, “terrified teams of horses and screeching steam locomotives crossed the 1,650-

foot wooden Portsmouth Bridge side-by-side.”

The last train to use the bridge was a Boston & Maine local, on September 10, 1939 — but it made it only halfway across. A bridge section damaged during construction of the nearby Sarah Mildred Long bridge failed. A piece of the train’s locomotive is in the exhibit; the rest of it’s still on the river bottom.

And who knew there was once a grand wooden arched bridge, built in 1794, that connected Newington with Dover by way of Goat Island? It included “a hall or bower built directly under the arch of the bridge [where] the crowd of Portsmouth elegants hung, as if in a cage, over the water near the bridge, with the cabriolets running over their heads,” according to the Polish writer Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz, who added, “This is a remarkably cool place.”

It is a remarkably cool exhibit. The Discover Portsmouth Center is at 10 Middle Street; it is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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





**Top Quality Rag**

To the Editor:

I have to say I was amused to read the letter from Keith [Lauder, "Helicopters at Pease," 9/6] who tried to insult you by calling your fine paper a rag. Doesn't he know that rag is the best paper you can buy? I laughed right out loud (LOL) as I was having lunch at the Ceres St. Bakery.

Dave Brewster  
Eliot, ME

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**Stop Northern Pass**

To the Editor:

Please publish this dispatch from the New Hampshire Community Rights Network (NH-CRN).

Representatives from the Northern Pass project will be courting New Hampshire people over the next few weeks to convince us that "the project is a done deal," and that "we'll get used to it." They'll inflate the job story. Talk about tax benefits to the community. Spin the project as renewable energy and claim their vision is in our best interests.

A good salesman can convince consumers to buy stuff — that's his job. Our job is to sit up and pay attention. To spot a good deal when we find it, and a lie when we hear it. The skill of deception can be overcome by an examination of the facts.

The land and the reputation that we've inherited from our ancestors have been built from strong stock. Whether we've lived close to the

land here for generations, or have come "from away" to escape the industrialization of our former homes, we have learned how to adapt to a climate that changes practically every ten minutes. The one thing that will never change is our love for the mountains, rivers, streams, and rural communities that are more than a backdrop picture for our lives.

We've been sending a strong message to Hydro-Quebec, Northern Pass and the corporate partnership built on the promise of more, for over three years. We understand that it takes people seven times before they can hear and internalize new material. We wonder if there is a learning impairment involved that prevents the corporate ownership of one of the most destructive hydroelectric projects on the planet from comprehending the meaning of "no," or the message of, "not now, not ever."

The New Hampshire of our grandparents' time is not the New Hampshire of today. We've accelerated our way of life with technologies that exceed the dreams (and nightmares) of our forerunners. We've inherited a beautiful countryside and a way of life that harkens back to simpler times and holds the potential for better times to come. We have a responsibility to protect that way of life from utter ruin and to answer for it to our grandchildren when they ask us, "What did you do to preserve New Hampshire?"

There are some corporate executives whose vision of New Hampshire is built on the hope that the towers and transmission lines planned in their dreams will appear as real dollars in their bank accounts. The vision of New Hampshire people looks altogether different. It does not include supporting corruption, lies, or the displacement of people from their ancestral homelands to profit corporate shareholders,

wealthy executives and the Province of Quebec. We do not feel obligated out of any sense of fairness to comply with a corporate design built on the personal sacrifices of our neighbors, friends and family members.

If New Hampshire needs more energy, we should create statewide initiatives to support and allow local communities to replace fossil fuel consumption with sustainable energy solutions that reflect our way of life. We never asked for, nor do we require, any foreign or corporate entity to create and impose policies on our people without our consent. In fact, we wonder at the capability of any federal or state policy makers to develop anything beyond a good deal for industry that is a bad deal for us.

We're greater than the sum of all of our parts. It's time to stand up for our communities and our values. To not back down, never apologize and never compromise on rights. Government of right originates in the people and operates by consent. The State operates at the peoples' behest, not the other way around. This is not an argument about electricity, it's an argument about rights.

No permit for the project, no compromise on rights and no Northern Pass.

Not in my backyard, not in anyone's backyard.

Not now, not ever.

Local representatives Gail Darrell, Barnstead; Peter Anderson, Sugar Hill; Pam Martin, Plymouth; Cindy Kudlik, Grafton; Alexis Eynon, Thornton; Emily Eynon, Thornton; Nancy Martland, Sugar Hill; Dorothy MacPhaul, Sugar Hill; Elizabeth Terp, Thornton; and Pete Martin, Plymouth, for

The New Hampshire Community Rights Network (NHCRN) Barnstead, NH

Contact: [gail@celdf.org](mailto:gail@celdf.org), or (603) 269-8542.

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

**Michaud is the Real Deal**

To the Editor:

Ever since he won the Governor's race in 2010 with 38 percent of the vote, Paul LePage has alienated Mainers with his Tea Party politics and general rudeness. When he faces the voters again next year, he will have a formidable opponent, Democrat and current Congressman from the Second District, Mike Michaud.

Mike Michaud comes from humble origins. Born in 1955 in Millinocket, he worked in a paper mill from 1973 to 2002. Seeing the pollution of the Penobscot River, Mike stepped forward and ran for State Representative in 1980 and won. After serving 14 years in the Maine House of Representatives, he ran successfully for State Senate. Elected to several terms in the Senate, he rose to the position of Senate President in 2001.

He was elected to Congress in 2002 and has been re-elected every two years since then. Last month he declared his candidacy for Governor of Maine. Assuming he wins the Democratic primary (a safe bet), he will face LePage in November 2014.

Congressman Michaud will be the keynote speaker at the Portsmouth Democrats Banquet the evening of Friday, October 4. To be held at the Portsmouth Harbor Events and Conference Center, the Banquet starts with a social hour (cash bar) at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and entrees are ribs, chicken or vegetarian. Reservations must be accompanied by a check to "Portsmouth Democrats" (with meal choice and phone number included), mailed to Laurie McCray, 15 Haven Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

Congresswoman Carol Shear Porter will introduce Congressman Michaud. Other Demo-

cratic lawmakers will make brief remarks, including State Senator Martha Fuller Clark. The Master of Ceremonies will be Ray Buckley, Chair of the New Hampshire Democratic Party. Awards will be given to the Seacoast Family Food Pantry, Seacoast Local, Laurie McCray and Peter and Kathy Somssich.

It promises to be a great evening, please consider attending.

Larry Drake

Chair, Portsmouth Democratic Committee  
Portsmouth, NH

Larry:

*We sometimes fall into the trap of thinking of Mr. LePage as comic relief, and not all that relevant to the Granite State. Then we remember — Maine's in charge of building the replacement for the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge.*

The Editor

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**Tired of That Whole Region**

To the Editor:

In the context of the latest self-induced tempest in a teapot over Syria, I find myself yet again weary and sick of hearing all the self-serving bellicose chest-thumping and whining from that perpetually smoldering or flaring region of the world. If it's not the Egyptian brass hats urging us to spread democracy — while removing their own presidents and shooting their own countrymen in the streets (with our weapons), it's the Netanyahu-brand Israelis railing against Iran's potential and Syrian possession of WMD — while sitting snug in their own silos of undeclared nukes. Are we going to launch some "unbelievably small" assault on them too? Or it's the assorted Arab princelings or Erdogan-Turks prodding us to do what they'd like to — but with our people, on our time and for our dime.

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# And Other Correspondence

Why? All these nations have their own military organizations (largely thanks to U.S. taxpayers), many have assorted mutual Mid-East clubs & regional associations that they belong to (which do what, exactly?) and virtually all of them have sounder economic situations than we do (take a look at Riyadh, or Tel Aviv, and compare them to say, Detroit or even DC).

So why all the constant drone and whine about what we're supposed to do for them in their own sunny back yards? Let them use their own people and resources for cleaning up their own neighborhoods.

Time to grow up, guys — because "Daddy Sam" is sick and tired of your endless squabbles, and needs to do some fixing and cleaning in and around his own house and yard awhile.

Meanwhile, y'all have a nice life out there in the Middle East. Don't bother calling. Just remember — keep pumping that oil.

Igor Bobrowsky  
Cedar Grove, NJ

§

## The Voter Fraud Fraud

To the Editor:

Since in person voter fraud has been shown to be practically non-existent in the U.S., one might ask why is it the Republicans and their Tea Party allies keep bringing it up? Now we have an answer, straight from the horse's mouth, none other than Bill O'Brien, former Republican speaker of the New Hampshire House. He stated that students registering to vote "are basically doing what I did when I was a kid and foolish, voting liberal." That's it: we need to keep people from voting liberal! Thanks Bill!

Now we can understand why, in state after state, where Republicans and their Tea Party allies have control, they have pushed

laws to suppress the vote. They have shortened hours polling places are open, eliminated early voting, shortened the number of days citizens can register to vote, passed draconian voter ID laws, eliminated same day registration, eliminated Sunday voting, cut down on the number of polling places and voting machines in Democratic neighborhoods and on and on. Every one of these measures is designed to suppress the vote of groups that traditionally vote Democratic: blacks, Hispanics, the elderly, college students, the poor.

More than 180 voter suppression bills were introduced by Republicans in 41 states between January 2011 and the September 2012 (*Mother Jones*, Sept. 17, 2012). These efforts are designed to make it impossible or more difficult for as many as 5 million legitimate voters to cast their ballots.

New Hampshire is not immune to this plague. One example: In 2012, New Hampshire's Republican-dominated legislature, in a nakedly partisan move, passed a law requiring student voters to jump through a series of hoops before they could vote. The U.S. Supreme Court's position on this issue is clear: a 1979 ruling found that all students have the right to vote where they attend college. (*Symm vs. the United States*, 1979).

New Hampshire's Supreme Court was rightly skeptical of a dubious law targeted at a specific voter bloc and allowed students to vote under the same rules the state has always followed.

So, Republican and Tea Party letter writers and editorialists, spare me the pious crocodile tears about voter ID fraud which has repeatedly been shown to be almost non-existent. Perhaps you

should concentrate instead on furthering democracy by opposing your party's efforts to subvert elections through good old voter suppression.

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, NH

Michael:

*Bill O'Brien is the horse's mouth? No wonder we flunked animal anatomy. We had it all backwards!*

The Editor

§

## Ewing Now a Pacifist?

To the Editor:

President Obama wants to "punish" Syrian President Assad for allegedly gassing his own people. But, will Obama's stated actions, which don't include regime change, really punish Assad, or will they more likely harm innocent people including foreigners, diplomats, or even Americans?

Has "punishment" that doesn't actually harm a nation's leaders ever resulted in policy changes? Not that I know about. If Assad falls and radical Islamists take over his gas stockpiles, the U.S. and the world are in greater danger than now.

President Obama and news sources allied with the rebels say Assad released the poison gas although they haven't explained his motive for this militarily unnecessary action. Assad, independent media, and a Russian study says the rebels (which include al-Qaeda, the Muslim Brotherhood, and people who butcher captives) released the gas, perhaps hoping to blame Assad and dupe the U.S. into helping them defeat Assad.

If the evidence of Assad's guilt is strong, why can't President Obama easily get a large coalition of nations to join his "punishment" efforts?

The benefits of President Obama's proposed actions against Syria seem miniscule. The possible negatives seem abundant: killing innocent people, damaging property of innocent parties, inciting

military or economic retaliation by Syria or its allies increasing prices of oil and other goods, weakening our currency, and creating more terrorists who attack Americans, maybe with poison gas or other weapons of mass destruction.

While there seems little benefit from rushing to "punish" Assad, there are many benefits from delaying or not acting. We can await a thorough and factual investigation of the poison gas release. We save U.S. resources, avoid killing innocent people or damaging their property, we avoid inciting retaliation, and we avoid taking ineffective actions that make us look weak.

Delay offers the added benefit of allowing two U.S. enemies spend their resources, weaken each other, and become reduced threats to others.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, NH

Don:

*Incredibly, we almost sort of agree with some parts of what you say here. The idea that cruise missiles can function as a behavioral corrective — a sort of Miss Manners guide built by Raytheon — strikes us as fanciful at best.*

*We're intrigued by your sudden burst of pacifism. Refresh our memory — were you this reluctant to kill innocent people when George Bush was attacking Iraq?*

The Editor

§

## Ewing's Double Standard

To the Editor:

This is in response to Don Ewing's letter published August 23rd, "Obama Encourages Terrorists."

Don is obviously on the same page as Senator Ted Cruz [R-TX]. Don must have slept during G.W. Bush's term in office, or he has selective amnesia. Under "W," numerous U.S. Embassies and consulates were attacked, some more than once.

Oddly, GOP Members of Congress were conspicuously mute



and Democratic Members didn't insult the Secretary of State, the President, or call for investigations. Apparently politics ended at the water's edge prior to Obama.

I might add George and his mentor Dick ["Still Dick"] Cheney created more terrorists by their actions than Obama ever encouraged. Other than making politically-connected defense contractors very rich in Iraq is the region any better off? Not now, but the future will tell.

E.A. Murphy  
Priest River, ID

§

## Obama's Credibility Gap

To the Editor:

President Obama is using all his rhetorical skill to start another U.S. war in the Middle East. We have heard similar rhetoric from Presidents before: President Johnson's speech about the nonexistent Tonkin Gulf attack that started major U.S. involvement in the Vietnamese civil war, George W. Bush's speeches about Saddam Hussein's nonexistent "nuclear weapons," and many others over the last five decades. Tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers and hundreds of thousands of foreign civilians have died in the resulting wars because we believed those speeches, because we trusted our Presidents.

Have we learned nothing from the last fifty years? Are we fated

**More Hate Mail, &c.**

to page six

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*Northcountry Chronicle*

# The Reluctant Tourist, Part 2

by William Marvel

Until recently I used to boast that I had been to all 48 continental states. Then I tried to retrace the route of my most northern crosscountry trip on the map, and realized that I must have missed North Dakota. Well, so what? It's not worth going back to bag that state. After all, Rand McNally forgot to include North Dakota in their road atlas about a decade ago, and it was years before anyone noticed.

For all the miles I've driven around this country, though, there remain certain locations that I've always yearned to tramp, but never had the chance. Most of them involve my specific and enduring historical obsession, of course.

With my in-laws planning another visit from Kansas, I've been involuntarily ruminating on some of those locations. I did amble the Shiloh battlefield once, briefly, early in 1969, but the few hours I had that day only piqued

my interest in the spot where so many westering Americans first learned the consequences of their conflicting ambitions. Although I've written about Vicksburg and the more remote Port Hudson, I've never visited them. Only in the darkness have I seen Chickamauga and Chattanooga, reading monuments by flashlight and lamenting the endless expanse of lights now visible from Lookout Mountain.

Once upon a time, I loved to travel. As a child, riding in a homemade jump seat between my parents, I grew inordinately excited whenever we would encounter a new town or city on Route 1. I still recall snippets of our last drive up that road from Key West, when I was five. A dairy bar shaped like a milk bottle. "Only three more miles to the next Stuckeys."

That was the end of long trips for me until I finished high school. After graduation, I spent most of the summer hitchhiking up and down the East Coast. Stopping

first at Gettysburg, I worked my way down the I-95 corridor in Virginia, visiting every Civil War battlefield within easy reach. One night in early September I spread my sleeping bag in the bottom of the drainage swale for the exit ramp to the Petersburg battlefield: that ramp and its swale were still there last time I looked, having become part of Petersburg's internal road system, while a massive new I-95 swings wide around the city.

Between bouts of historical indulgence I saw my first Amish families haying with horses. Hardscrabble farmers still dwelt in rustic cabins in the Carolina piedmont, and in Southside Virginia I chatted with an old black man hilling his broad field of potatoes by hand. I spotted county prison gangs at work on roadside maintenance, under the eye of shotgun-toting guards, and I grew apprehensive whenever a cop would slow down and look me over.

As autumn began I came home to look for work, but my wanderlust was not diminished by the meals I had missed or the sleep I had lost. There was at that time more to see, just in this country, than any one person could take in during a lifetime, and it was all different. At highway speed, the whole world changed every couple of hours — accents, geography, architecture, fashions, and attitudes.

Somewhere along the way, while I was busy earning a living in northern New Hampshire, all that changed. The more ethnically variegated the United States became, the more culturally monotonous it seemed. The more people there were, the more they seemed to resemble each other, ideologically — nay, idiotically.

The most obvious, obnoxious, and permanent change has been in the land. Highway construction and development have spared few acres of ground from the bulldozer blade, leveling the

natural geography and burying the historical landscape. McMansions and condominiums now fill the sprawling fields of yesteryear. Those independent cabin-dwellers have been consigned to concrete silos in benevolent residential projects. Crackerbox tract housing perforates every forest. Strip malls surround every community of any size, and gloomy convenience stores mark every crossroads. The plains have been subdivided; the water bodies have been cordoned off and privatized; the hinterlands have been conquered and gentrified. Homogenous, insipid suburbia has swallowed the spectacular diversity that was once our greatest treasure.

Any new excursion seems doomed to disappointment. My principal travel pleasure today comes in the planning, as I naively anticipate seeing more of those fascinating places I missed in my youth. When at last I venture forth, I only find myself in search of an America that has vanished.

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

to go on joining in every small nation's civil war, every time a President wants a distraction from his domestic economic problems?

Obama has told us how he wants to start the war: a bombardment with cruise missiles from long range, guaranteed to kill many Syrians ... but not Assad. No, the President doesn't want to kill the dictator. He says that we will "deter" the dictator by killing other people. Assad has been killing Syrians his whole life ... why will he care if we kill a few more? All our random cruise-missile serial killing will do is draw hatred away from Assad and onto the

United States.

What Obama didn't say in his speech is how the war will end; apparently that's not his concern. If we're not removing the dictator (whose dynasty has received hundreds of millions in U.S. foreign aid), and we're not ending our support for the Al-Qaeda rebels, then the war will go on indefinitely. Apparently that is the Nobel Peace Prize President's foreign policy objective: perpetual war, with U.S. foreign aid on both sides.

I don't want any more Middle Eastern blood on U.S. hands. I don't want my taxes paying for

U.S. forces to fight in other nations' civil wars. That's why I protested this unnecessary war in Manchester last Sunday. I would urge anyone who feels the same way to look up Antiwar New England on Facebook, and join our protests: facebook.com/groups/antiwarNewEngland.

Patricia Lee  
Plainfield, NH

### Time Will Tell

To the Editor:

We will find out shortly whether President Obama is more foxy than we think. I notice he has not said what the military would shoot

at in Syria. He may have hinted to Bashar that he knows where critical items are hidden, such as the poison gas, or ammo dumps, or Bashar himself. He has just made a lot of noise about doing so. Now Bashar is willing to talk about handing over the gas. Was that the idea in the first place, and was this a jawbone job?

Some of your readers seem to think the best place to see the sights from an aircraft is directly overhead. I'm an experienced member of a search and rescue organization, and that's no good, particularly for those in the back seat. You can see more off to the

side, looking down at an angle. There is little reason to fly directly over a town. Varying which side of town you fly cuts the noise to any spot in half.

The instructor that explained the FAA rules wasn't kidding. The FAA doesn't want students practicing over an inhabited area. Noise can be limited by having a route to the practice area over a sparsely settled area, also by using more than one route if available.

We will see whether Seacoast Helicopter LLC keep their word about noise reduction.

Joel S. Look  
Portsmouth, NH

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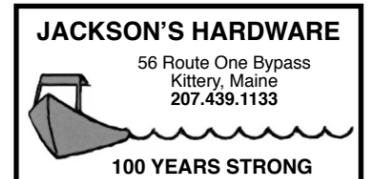
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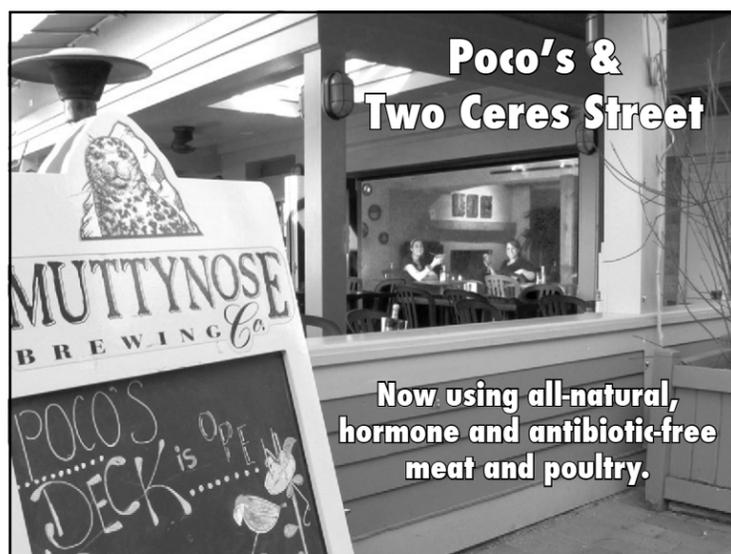
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# Steve King's Perverse Twist On Agribusiness Cruelty

by Jim Hightower

**B**aby chicks, goats and other farm animals can be awfully cute and cuddly!

Today's industrial agribusiness operations, however, see these animals as nothing but profit machines to be locked in tiny cages for life, fed pellets and antibiotics, allowed no connection to their natural world, and then slaughtered (often brutally).

Seeing such ugliness has prompted Rep. Steve King of Iowa to step forward. Passionate about agricultural cruelty, he got his GOP colleagues in the House to pass his amendment to stop it. Sadly, though, King's passion has a perverse twist to it: The cruelty that stirs him to action are state laws that he claims are "slowly suffocating production agriculture out of existence." Yes, he wants the federal government to stop states

and cities from passing laws that restrict animal cruelty by corporate agbiz!

No more requirements that chicken cages provide enough room for the birds to stand up, he cries. No more laws outlawing the sale of horse and dog meat, the forced feeding of ducks, or the existence of puppy mills. And no more consumer laws requiring that genetically-manipulated foods be labeled.

Oh, by the way, King also thinks dogfighting is a fine "sport" — so fine that even children should be allowed to watch. Cuddly animals are nice enough for kids, but there's more excitement (and money) in watching animals fight to the death. Speaking of killing, King hopes that his amendment, dubbed the Animal Torture Protection Act, will do just that to such busybody groups as the Humane Society and People for the

Ethical Treatment of Animals. His bloodlust aside, isn't it also a bit perverse that a so-called "conservative" Congress critter wants Big Government to overrule local authority? But King has never been one to let consistency interfere with doing corporate favors.

§  
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*Joel:*  
We don't have a lot of helicopter flight time, but back in the day we did do a little aerial photo training in an Army Huey. For certain applications you had to shoot straight down, sitting with your legs dangling out the door, the wind buffeting your eight-pound camera, all the while hoping that the guy holding the hunk of manila rope that's tied around your waist is paying attention.... Fun times!  
For general sightseeing, it's true: you get a better view from an oblique angle. But "little reason to fly directly over a town"? This quaint old burg? We think it would be irresistible.  
As you say, though, time will tell.  
The Editor

§  
**Let The Voter Beware!**  
To the Editor:  
Let the voter beware! The political spin doctors are at it again trying hard to distort the benefits of government oversight. You hear it from the Right all the time, "Leave the private sector alone, it doesn't need government interference!" They perceive actions to protect consumers and workers as interference.  
This "interference" takes the form of laws, rules, regulations, standards and inspections. These initiatives require the private sector to behave in a way they claim

they would without government "interference." If that's the case, why do they complain so loudly?  
Libertarians and the anti-government crowd hold the overly simplistic position, we don't need government oversight, the private sector can and will self-regulate. This is not true.  
We have two reference points to prove this: What were some of the past workplace and product disasters in America, and what are they in much of the rest of the world today, where laissez faire rules?  
Why do we need the federal oversight? Not long ago the industrial workplace was much more dangerous than necessary; cribs killed kids and strollers amputated baby's fingers; drugs, food, air and water regularly made people sick and toxic waste was dumped anywhere. What has changed? Government regulation. Today these calamities, while much less regular, still happen because the government's inspection capability is constantly underfunded or blocked by anti-government advocates.  
The private sector fought tooth and nail to prevent any and all efforts to significantly reduce these risks to workers and consumers. So much for letting business regulate itself.

Even today many of our "good corporate citizens" operate quite differently in foreign countries where governments do not "interfere" with their practices.  
Too many companies have proven, in the U.S. in the past and today in other countries, that without oversight they will cut corners on quality and disregarding basic safety rules. Free markets are a very good thing but a market free-for-all is not.  
Let the voter beware! Small government, (code for weak government), translates into potential harm to your health, wealth and happiness.  
Dave Potter  
N. Hampton, NH  
Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, NH  
§  
**Chemical Arms Wrestling**  
To the Editor:  
Merci to diligent progressive diplomats who mercifully avoided bullyrag rants, raves and rhetoric and depended instead on mature Stop, Look and Listen, seeking rational fair-minded compromises and shared solutions for the benefit of future generations. Pawns who would be checkmate kings betting on Russian-American Roulette failure need to be spanked. Too many elected officials resort to "Follow the Sneaks

& Leaders," or "King of the Hill" silly and shallow petty insult tactics, no longer behaving like role-example adults. Obamama hits out at Putin for having "that kind of slouch, looking like the bored kid in the classroom." Putino calls Kerryo "a liar," Russia's foreign minister tells the U.S. to "behave like grownups."  
Outraged about playing "I Spy" games on virtually everybody in the "sharks and minnows" world, NSA cyber-spying has nothing to do with national security priorities and everything to do with Israel's "spoiled brat" demands and unsettling "leap frog" pet peeves. Childish bickering labels Snowden a "criminal," not a "whistleblower," not a "patriot," but a "traitor," guilty of "Capture the Flag" espionage — but a traitor to whom? His only "red light green light" offense was revealing brazen issues of "Red Rover" citizen privacy.  
People who wonder where the rising Generation XS is headed would be wise to consider where it's come from. We grow old by deserting our ever-curious morally ethical ideals, painful pleasures bogged down by harassed worry, stressful distrust. Adults stop growing at both ends while still growing in the middle. Infantile trash talk closes its ears to ratio-

nal advice, stopping to think but forgetting to restart, playing "cops and robbers" playground bullies. As "blind man's buff" stupor-powers "chemical arms wrestle" while playing at "tug of war and peace" competitions, perhaps the best way to settle disputed stand-offs is "rock-paper-scissors."  
Charles Frederickson  
Bangkok, Thailand  
§  
**Seacoast Beekeepers School!**  
To the Editor:  
The Seacoast New Hampshire Beekeepers Association is offering a Beekeeping School on Wednesdays, September 25th, and October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Jeremiah Smith Grange at 1 Lee Hook Road in Lee.  
Some topics addressed will be honeybee biology, equipment, hive management, pests and diseases. The \$75 cost includes the class text and a one-year membership in the Association, which meets monthly in Lee. Preregistration is required. For more information or to register, contact Carol at ctuveson@msn.com or 603-750-0137.  
Carol Tuveson  
Lee, NH  
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The Editor

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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

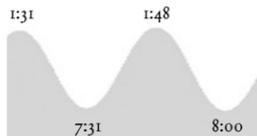
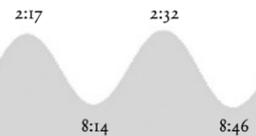
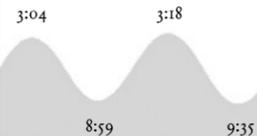
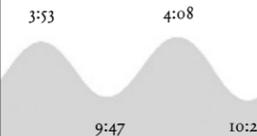
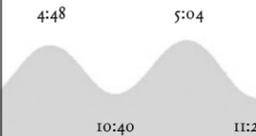
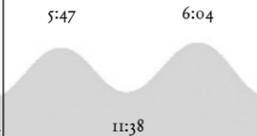
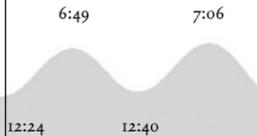
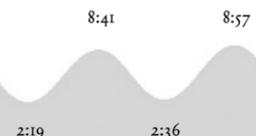
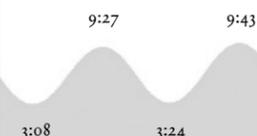
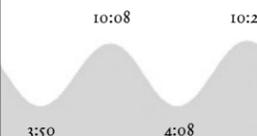
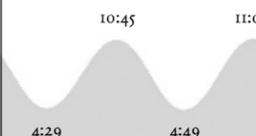
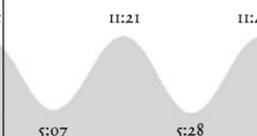
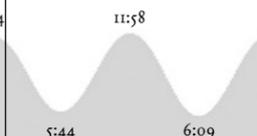
moon drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, September 22	Monday, September 23	Tuesday, September 24	Wednesday, September 25	Thursday, September 26	Friday, September 27	Saturday, September 28
<p><b>2003</b>—"A year from now," says Richard Perle, "I'll be very surprised if there is not some grand square in Baghdad that is named after President Bush."</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Iran-Iraq War begins.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Sarah Jane Moore shoots at President Gerald Ford, but Oliver Sipple, a disabled former Marine and Vietnam vet, deflects the gun.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Henry Kissinger becomes Secretary of State.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—President Nixon requests another 1,000 FBI agents to spy on college campuses.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—After much trouble and expense building it, the USSR blows up its first A-bomb.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—Dempsey loses to Tunney in the famous "Long Count."</p> <p><b>1919</b>—A national steel strike begins in Chicago.</p> <p><b>1905</b>—After a race riot in Atlanta, the final tally is 10 dead blacks and 2 dead whites.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—Jim O'Rourke, 54, gets his last hit in a Giants uniform. In 1876, he had made the first base hit in National League history.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—Italo Marchiony patents the ice cream cone.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—By proclamation, Abraham Lincoln frees the slaves—but only in those states not under his control.</p> <p><b>1823</b>—The Angel Moroni tells Joseph Smith where to find the golden tablets.</p>	<p><b>1999</b>—Instead of orbiting, the \$328 million Mars Climate Orbiter burns up in the Martian atmosphere because Lockheed Martin used Imperial measure, not metric.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Richard Nixon, desperately trying to convince Americans that he's not a crook, makes his famous "Checkers" speech; many are fooled.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—French forces overthrow the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The U.S. acquiesces.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—A time capsule is buried at the New York World's Fair to be opened in 6939.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—Birth of Ray Charles.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Release of Mack Sennett's first "Keystone Comedy."</p> <p><b>1848</b>—John Curtis of Bangor, ME, begins producing "State of Maine Pure Spruce Gum," the first commercial chewing gum.</p> <p><b>1838</b>—Birth of Victoria Chafin Woodhull, a proponent of free love and the first female presidential candidate.</p> <p><b>1806</b>—Lewis, Clark, and almost all the rest of the gang make it back to St. Louis.</p> <p><b>1800</b>—Birth of Wm. H. McGuffey, author of <i>McGuffey's Reader</i>.</p> <p><b>1780</b>—British Major John Andre is arrested for spying near Tarrytown, NY.</p> <p><b>1779</b>—John Paul Jones takes the British ship <i>Serapis</i> as the <i>Bonhomme Richard</i> sinks under him.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—A plane previously used for "rendition" flights carrying alleged terrorists to Guantanamo Bay crashes in the Yucatan carrying 3.3 tons of cocaine.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—<i>The New York Times</i> publishes a leaked intelligence document concluding that the Iraq War has increased the threat of radical Islamic terrorism.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—George W. Bush tells Wolf Blitzer, "When the final history is written on Iraq, it will look just like a comma."</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Human Rights Watch reports that U.S. troops routinely beat and tortured detained Iraqis.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Tony Blair publishes a dossier claiming erroneously that Iraq can launch WMDs in 45 minutes.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—CIA Director William Casey urges that intelligence agencies be exempted from the Freedom of Information Act.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—On his yacht in Chesapeake Bay, right-handed CIA spook John Paisley takes a shotgun blast behind his left ear. It's ruled suicide.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The Show Trial of the "Chicago 8" begins.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Protestors destroy 10,000 draft files in Milwaukee, WI.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—The Dodgers play their last game at Ebbetts Field.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Portsmouth native Ensign Charles Emerson Hovey, 26, is shot and killed by natives on the island of Basilan in the Philippines.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—Somali pirates capture the <i>MV Faina</i>, a 500-foot freighter with a cargo of 33 Soviet tanks.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—Texas kills Michael Richard on schedule because Judge Sharon Keller refused to work overtime.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—An early draft of an interim report from weapons inspectors in Iraq says no WMD have been found.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W. Bush says "You can't distinguish between al Qaeda and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror."</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Sandra Day O'Connor becomes America's first female Supreme Court Justice.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—The smallest crowd in the history of Yankee Stadium—413—watches the White Sox beat the Yankees 4-1.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—While listening to the first Liston/Patterson fight, Vivian Stanshall and Rodey Slater form the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—The U.S. Navy loses a nuclear depth charge, minus its fissile core, in Puget Sound.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Henry Ford announces the 8 hour, 5 day work week.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—At Loos, France, British forces release 150 tons of chlorine gas towards German troops. Then the wind shifts.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Ground is broken for Fenway Park.</p> <p><b>1789</b>—Congress passes the Bill of Rights.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—The Bush administration releases excerpts of a report saying the Iraq War has enraged Muslims and given radicals a dandy recruiting issue. Feel safer now?</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W. Bush claims in a Rose Garden speech that "the Iraqi regime possesses biological and chemical weapons."</p> <p><b>1991</b>—The House bank announces that after covering 8,331 rubber checks written by Congressmen over the past year, it will stop.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Lt. Col. Stanislav Petrov trusts his gut instead of the Red Army's malfunctioning computers, which show five attacking American nuclear missiles. World War III is averted, and Col. Petrov is reprimanded.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—John Kennedy and Richard Nixon hold the first televised presidential debate.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—American OSS officer Lt. Col. A. Peter Dewey is killed in Saigon by Viet Minh guerrillas who have mistaken him for a French officer. Before his death, Dewey filed a report saying the U.S. "ought to clear out of Southeast Asia."</p> <p><b>1911</b>—The Battle of the Meuse-Argonne begins, the last great battle of the War to End All Wars.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—Abraham Lincoln's body is viewed one last time before being covered with two tons of concrete. Among the 23 present is Fleetwood Linley, 13, who lives until 1963.</p>	<p><b>2002</b>—Donald Rumsfeld calls the alleged link between al Qaeda and Iraq "accurate and not debatable."</p> <p><b>1996</b>—In Kabul, the Taliban — former seminarians — torture, castrate, and kill Mohammad Najibullah, President of Afghanistan.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—On the Capitol steps, 350 GOP candidates vow to take out a Contract with America. They must have meant "on."</p> <p><b>1991</b>—For the first time in decades, the U.S. has no nuclear-armed B-52's on alert.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—To show kids there are more constructive things to do than take drugs, Jeffrey Petkovich and Peter DeBernardi climb into a barrel and go over Niagara's Horseshoe Falls.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The first stretch of the Trans-Amazonian Highway opens; bye-bye rain forest, hello global warming.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The Warren Commission reports that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed President John F. Kennedy.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—The United Kingdom tests a nuke on aboriginal lands in Maralinga, South Australia.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—A group of 35 U.S. B-24s, isolated over Germany by a navigational error, are jumped by 100 enemy fighters; four survive.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The U.S. government begins large-scale production of plutonium on land taken from the Yakama Indian Nation.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—Tom DeLay (R-TX) becomes the first House Majority Leader indicted for violating campaign finance laws. Five days later he resigns.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—The Pentagon says it will investigate charges that soldiers posted photos of dead Iraqis online in exchange for free access to porn.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W. Bush claims Iraq has WMDs, al Qaeda terrorists, and a nuke coming soon.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—To avoid further scorn in these pages, Fleet Bank removes its 18-foot tall green, illuminated sign from the middle of Pleasant Street's sidewalk.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The papacy of John Paul I ends with his death under mysterious circumstances.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—UC Berkeley students protest free speech restrictions.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Ted Williams takes the plate at Fenway for his last at bat and hits his 521st home run.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—At Munich, British and French diplomats give Hitler the Sudetenland and the GOP a future talking point.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—166 activists of the International Workers of the World are arrested for interfering with the war effort.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—In New York a woman is arrested for smoking a cigarette.</p> <p><b>1891</b>—In New York a 72 year-old writer named Herman Melville dies in obscurity.</p>
 <p>1:31      1:48 7:31      8:00</p>	 <p>2:17      2:32 8:14      8:46</p>	 <p>3:04      3:18 8:59      9:35</p>	 <p>3:53      4:08 9:47      10:27</p>	 <p>4:48      5:04 10:40      11:24</p>	 <p>5:47      6:04 11:38</p>	 <p>6:49      7:06 12:24      12:40</p>
Sunday, September 29	Monday, September 30	Tuesday, October 1	Wednesday, October 2	Thursday, October 3	Friday, October 4	Saturday, October 5
<p><b>2006</b>—Anti-child porn crusader U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (R-FL) resigns after his lurid e-mails to young male pages are revealed.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The White House denies that Karl Rove had revealed the name of CIA agent Valerie Plame.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—The Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua wins a lawsuit preventing the Executive branch from regulating or prohibiting foreign aid that is intended to relieve human suffering.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—<i>The Washington Post</i> publishes Janet Cooke's Pulitzer-winning story about a fictional 8 year-old junkie.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—On Vineyard Sound, a short, bearded man in sneakers fails in his spontaneous attempt to throw former Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara off the ferry <i>M.V. Islander</i>.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. Army drops murder charges against Special Forces Col. Robert Rheault—the CIA won't let its agents testify.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A Soviet nuclear fuel plant at Kyshtym blows up, kills hundreds, and spews more radiation than anything until Chernobyl. The CIA suppresses the news to protect the U.S. nuclear industry.</p> <p><b>1906</b>—To "protect American interests," U.S. troops go to Cuba.</p> <p><b>1902</b>—French writer Emile Zola dies in his sleep, possibly suffocated by a clogged chimney.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—<i>NY Times</i> reporter Judith Miller tells a Grand Jury that Dick "Dick" Cheney leaked Valerie Plame's name to her.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W. Bush vows to find out who leaked CIA agent Valerie Plame's name.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—The GAO reports that Ken Starr had spent \$40 million in a failed effort to nail Bill Clinton.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—House Speaker Newt Gingrich engineers a four-day federal government shutdown.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—"The Howdy Doody Show" airs for the last time.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Rebel James Dean's immortality is assured when his Porsche obeys the laws of physics.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—The first atomic-powered ship is launched, the <i>U.S.S. Nautilus</i>.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—The Berlin Airlift ends after 277,000 flights.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Thanks to the Munich pact, peace is assured.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—German sportsman Fritz von Opel flies a glider powered by 16 solid propellant rockets, achieving a speed of 95 m.p.h.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—Babe Ruth gets his 60th home run of the season off Tom Zachary.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Birth of Truman Capote.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Black Union soldiers capture Confederate entrenchments at battle of New Market Heights.</p> <p><b>1630</b>—In Plymouth, the Pilgrims hang John Billington for murder.</p>	<p><b>2002</b>—The U.S. Northern Command is established to "Defend America's Homeland"—<i>posse comitatus</i> be damned.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W. Bush claims he hasn't "made up his mind we're going to war with Iraq."</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Poet Louis Untermeyer says, "I'm writing my third autobiography—the other two were premature."</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Despite multiple failures to meet minimum requirements, George W. Bush is discharged honorably from the Texas Air National Guard.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—The first issue of <i>Mad Magazine</i> is unleashed on an unsuspecting world.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Arabs led by T.E. Lawrence capture Damascus.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—Fred Van Wormer's autopsy is interrupted because he is still breathing. Taken back to Sing Sing's electric chair, he is found to have died. He is electrocuted again, anyway.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—In San Francisco, Emperor Norton I issues a decree barring Congress from meeting in Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>1788</b>—Former Edinburgh Town Councilor and burglar Deacon William Brodie brags to the crowd that the gallows on which he is about to be hanged—incorporating a new trapdoor of his own design—is the most efficient ever made.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Survey chief David Kay reports that his three-month, \$300 million search for Iraqi WMD has turned up squat.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W. Bush calls Iraq "a threat of unique urgency," because of its WMD.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—The Philippine Senate, disregarding the devastating effect it will have on the Olongapo sex industry, votes to chuck the U.S. Navy out of Subic Bay.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Televangelist Jim Bakker, on the witness stand in his own trial on 24 counts of fraud and conspiracy, blames Jerry Falwell for the financial collapse of his God-racket PTL Ministries.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Congressman Michael Myers (D-PA) is expelled from the House for taking a bribe and engaging in a conspiracy, the first to be so ousted in 120 years. Why he was singled out, we can't say.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—With the Yankees and Red Sox tied for the season, a playoff game is held; it's decided by a three-run homer hit by New York's Bucky F. Dent.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Thurgood Marshall becomes the first black Justice on the Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Woodrow Wilson suffers a massive stroke; America gets its first woman president.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Units of the U.S. 77th Division advance into the Argonne Forest to become the Lost Battalion.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Republicans in Congress try to "roll over" \$20 million set aside for a celebration of victory in Iraq.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—<i>The National Enquirer</i> reports that Rush Limbaugh is being investigated for illegally procuring prescription opioids.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—O.J. Simpson is acquitted of double homicide.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—House Speaker Tom Foley (D-WA) announces that House members have accumulated \$300,000 in unpaid bills at the House restaurant.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—A fire breaks out aboard the Soviet missile sub <i>K-219</i>. The Reds blame an alleged collision with the <i>USS Augusta</i>. The Pentagon blames sloppy Comby work habits.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Moral Majority co-founder and U.S. Rep. Bob Bauman (R-MD) is charged with making sexual solicitations to an under-aged boy.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Donald Segretti testifies before the Senate about dirty tricks he used to get Nixon re-elected.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Gen. Curtis LeMay, former Strategic Air Command chief and American Independent Party Vice Presidential Candidate, advocates use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Jerry Rubin entertains the House Un-American Activities Committee.</p> <p><b>1849</b>—Political hacks ply Edgar Allan Poe with liquor in exchange for voting repeatedly; four days later he's dead.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—"I think it's important to bring somebody from outside the ... judicial system," says George W. Bush, defending Harriet Miers as a Supreme Court nominee, "somebody that hasn't been on the bench and, therefore, there's not a lot of opinions for people to look at."</p> <p><b>2004</b>—<i>SpaceShipOne</i>, Burt Rutan's tourist rocket, makes its second trip above the atmosphere in five days, and wins the Ansari X Prize.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Knight-Ridder reports that "The White House and the Pentagon ... are pressuring intelligence analysts to highlight information that supports Bush's Iraq policy." Only one paper prints the story.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—An El Al cargo plane carrying depleted uranium and precursors for sarin nerve gas crashes in Amsterdam, killing 47.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—CBS News anchor Dan Rather is attacked on the streets of New York by two men yelling, "What's the frequency, Ken?"</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Declaring victory in a race in which he ran unopposed, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu calls his margin "an achievement for democracy."</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Two U.S. military facilities in Saigon are bombed; 13 are wounded—the first announced U.S. casualties in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—The U.S. Navy seizes American oil refineries to break a 20-state strike.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Timothy Treadwell and girlfriend Amie Huguenard discover the hard way that the grizzly bears they've been associating with in Alaska are not vegetarians.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W. Bush tells New Hampshire National Guardsmen — falsely — that Saddam Hussein could inflict "massive and sudden horror" on the U.S.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Robert Stevens, photo editor of the supermarket tabloid <i>The Sun</i>, dies of anthrax. The terrorist who infected him remains at large.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Rush Limbaugh says, "if people are violating the law by doing drugs, they ... ought to be sent up." After his own arrest in 2003 his position becomes more nuanced.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—In a Vice-Presidential debate, Lloyd Bentsen informs Dan Quayle he's "no Jack Kennedy."</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Nicaraguans shoot down a U.S. cargo plane illegally supplying Contra rebels with arms bought with the proceeds of illegal U.S. arms sales to Iran.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Undetected by U.S. radar, a Cuban defector lands his MiG-17 at Homestead AFB, where <i>Air Force One</i> is waiting to take Richard Nixon back to Washington.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—The Fermi nuclear power plant on the shore of Lake Erie almost melts down.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Radar alerts NORAD of a massive Soviet ICBM launch heading for the U.S. It's wrong.</p>
 <p>7:49      8:05 1:24      1:41</p>	 <p>8:41      8:57 2:19      2:36</p>	 <p>9:27      9:43 3:08      3:24</p>	 <p>10:08      10:25 3:50      4:08</p>	 <p>10:45      11:05 4:29      4:49</p>	 <p>11:21      11:44 5:07      5:28</p>	 <p>11:58      6:09 5:44</p>



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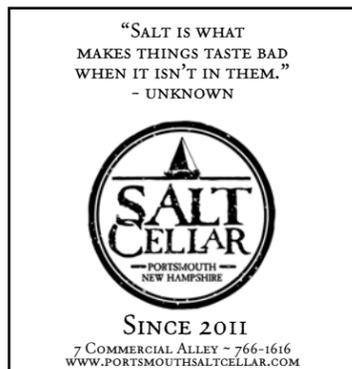
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