

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Who Can't Handle the Truth?

Our national news media have always been vulnerable to sudden widespread enthusiasms. In the blink of an eye, Americans are horrified to discover that hundreds of children — perhaps thousands — are being murdered by Satanic cults. People who fail to drink half a gallon of water every day live miserably and die young. Saddam Hussein might deploy weapons of mass destruction any day now, in Peoria, in Dubuque ... wherever we least expect them.

One of these periodically-recurring manias swept through the nation's newsrooms in 1993. This time, though, Americans were inundated with good news for a change.

Case Closed

A brilliant, self-assured young fellow had succeeded where all others before him had failed; the nagging, thirty-year old mystery of the assassination of John F. Kennedy had been laid to rest at last. In his book, *Case Closed*, Gerald Posner had proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald — and Oswald alone — had killed John F. Kennedy.

Glowing reviews appeared in all the big newspapers. Posner was interviewed on every television news show. PBS's "Frontline" even produced a three-hour special. With that nagging uncertainty finally dispatched, Americans could sit back, crack open a Bud Lite, and watch the ball game.

How Time Flies

It's been twenty years now since our profit-making news organizations declared the mystery solved, and a full half-century since Oswald shot the President dead on the streets of Dallas. That's getting to be a long time ago.

To put the matter in temporal

perspective, fifty years before the assassination American women could not yet vote, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was still waxing his moustaches, and Model T Fords were a hot new mode of transportation.

It used to be said that everyone in this country remembered exactly where they were when they heard the news. That's not true any more, though. The median age of Americans is 37.1 years and two-thirds of Americans are too young to remember.

A 24 Hour Gap?

Closer examination of the professed accounts of two prominent political figures undermines the reassuring narrative the nation is supposed to have embraced.

Fifty years old when Kennedy died, Richard M. Nixon's memory of that day should have been flawless — especially since he'd been in Dallas that morning. Yet he gave two different versions of the moment he learned the news.

In a 1964 article in *Readers Digest*, Nixon wrote that he'd just landed in New York City and was in a cab when "a man ran over from the street corner and said that the President had just been shot in Dallas. This is the way that I learned the news."

A 1974 article in *Esquire*, however, quotes Nixon saying "a woman came out of her house screaming and crying. I rolled down the cab window to ask what the matter was and when she saw my face she turned even paler. She told me that John Kennedy had just been shot in Dallas."^{*}

A minor difference? Perhaps.

^{*} These quotes are taken from an article by L. Fletcher Prouty, "People and the Pursuit of the Truth," published in June, 1978, online at prouty.org/nixon.html.



Curiously, a news photo published that day in the *Minneapolis Star* (an evening paper), shows a "shocked" Richard Nixon still seated at Idlewild airport. (Yet another story, which we've not been able to confirm, asserts that a Pepsi executive named Harvey Russell has said he was with Nixon in Dallas later that afternoon, when both men first learned of the assassination.)

These little discrepancies would be less intriguing were it not for the Bay of Pigs. The last of the *Six Crises* described in Nixon's memoir was the difficult task of concealing, during the Presidential debates of 1960, his own intimate knowledge of the pending invasion, which the CIA called Operation Zapata.

Operation Zapata

The landing was a fiasco. While open — even eager — to conducting clandestine warfare, Kennedy

made it clear from the start that he would not risk Armageddon by openly using U.S. planes for air support. CIA officials knew the invasion would fail without it, but assumed that Kennedy would capitulate. They misjudged him. Later Kennedy said he would "splinter the CIA into a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds."

"Mr. Bush of Zapata"

George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush, who was then the ostensible proprietor of an offshore oil drilling company called Zapata, is one of the few Americans who has openly hedged about his whereabouts on November 22nd. That's odd, because according to an FBI memo, Bush called the Houston bureau from Tyler, Texas with a tip that a certain local Young Republican had "been talking of killing the President." The tip turned out to be baseless,

but the call rather memorably established exactly where Bush was — not in Dallas.

This would be less disturbing were it not for another FBI memorandum written a week later by J. Edgar Hoover. It notes that the Bureau had briefed "Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency" regarding the assassination.

Case Open

Posner, a former Wall Street lawyer, was canned from the *Daily Beast* in 2010 for plagiarism. Lately he's been doing PR work, defending Hamid Karzai's brothers against charges of corruption. Clearly, for Posner, no job is too daunting. And even he now has his doubts. He recently reiterated that Oswald was "the only assassin in Dealey Plaza that day," but whether he did it "for someone else [is] a much more difficult question."

The Alleged News

Your Congress At Twerk

Over the past quarter-century each biennial Congress has passed an average of 320 bills. As of November 1st, the 113th Congress, now sitting, had passed 24. That works out to an operational efficiency of 7.5 percent — even lower than Congress's approval rating. But given the nature of one of the bills that just passed in the House, perhaps we should not complain.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, signed into law in 2010, included a provision requiring casinos banks to transfer risky derivatives into sub-entities whose losses would not be covered by government insurance.

The just-passed Swaps Regula-

tory Improvement Act, NR 992, eliminates that fussy requirement because, after all, what could possibly go wrong?

The New York Times reported that "Citigroup's recommendations were reflected in more than 70 lines of the House committee's 85-line bill."

Maplight.org analyzed campaign contributions from Citigroup to House members. Members who co-sponsored the bill were given, on average, 16.8 times as much as those who did not. Co-sponsor Rep. Jim Hines (D-CT) received more than any other member — \$66,450.

Hines was one of seventy Democrats who voted for the bill. Another was Ann McLane

Kuster, of New Hampshire's Second District. Carol Shea-Porter, representing the First District, voted against it.

Our Demonic Budget

Normally, no one finds the end of a fiscal year exciting except members of the National Society of Accountants. This year Congress made it thrilling for everyone by shutting down the government. That dramatic extravaganza obscured the fact that the Federal budget deficit is only about half of what it was four years ago: it's gone from \$1.4 trillion in 2009 to just \$680 billion in 2013.

If the purported reason for shutting down the government was rapidly disappearing even as the Republicans were clamoring

for chaos, why did they do it?

Because their excuse for wreaking havoc was evaporating before their eyes.

Welcome to the Red List

It will be interesting to see where the nation stands ten years from now if the current program of sabotage masquerading as frugality continues. We advise staying out from under old bridges.

In 2009, the Federal government spent about \$310 billion on non-defense infrastructure — an amount fairly typical of the preceding decade. Last year non-defense infrastructure spending was about \$225 billion — a 27 percent reduction.

A leftist rag called *The Financial Times* recently pointed out that

this is fiscally imprudent. We'll have to fix or replace all that infrastructure some day, and when we do, the cost of borrowing will be much higher.

Unpacking Court Packing

The nation's made up of more than just roads and bridges, of course. There are intangibles like justice to consider. So there's another target of opportunity for the the shock troops of our new Gilded Age.

On Tuesday, Senate Republicans raised the number of blocked nominees to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to three.

A curious animal, this Court

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gets all cases involving Federal regulations and administrative orders, so cases tend to be unusually complex and consequential.

Three of the Court's eleven authorized seats are vacant, and according to Senator Charles E. Grassley (R-IA) that's just fine. He's been quoted in the *Washington Post* saying, "The court is currently comprised of four active judges appointed by Republican presidents and four active judges appointed by Democrat [sic] presidents. There is no reason to upset the current makeup of the court, particularly when the reason for doing so appears to be ideologically driven."

There's that familiar Republican "tell" again — projecting their own low motives onto their opposition.

Republicans are not just pas-

sively declining to confirm President Obama's appointees to the empty seats. They're aggressively trying to pass bills that would eliminate the empty seats altogether.

Their flimsy pretext is that the court's workload isn't heavy enough to require so many seats. They justify their claim by comparing the number of cases that court handles with those of other courts. By that logic, a pet owner with two Irish wolfhounds should buy no more dog food than one who has two chihuahuas.

Former D.C. Circuit Chief Judge Pat Wald explained that the Court "hears the most complex, time-consuming, labyrinthine disputes over regulations with the greatest impact on ordinary Americans' lives: clean air and water regulations, nuclear plant safety, health-care reform issues, insider trading and more. These cases can require thou-



IT'S BA-A-A-CK, COURTESY OF FORMER ATTY. GEN. KELLY AYOTTE



This flag, in front of the Daniel Street Post Office, has been snagged on some twigs since Sunday, November 10th. It was still snagged on November 12th. The Flag Police can only conclude it was in this condition on Veterans Day, too. Furthermore, close inspection reveals that the top edge is badly frayed. There's no telling how long it might take for the General Services Administration to put out a bid and eventually have those branches cut back. On the other hand, one of our civic-minded local tree companies could probably do it during their lunch hour and have it squared away by Thanksgiving.

sands of hours of preparation by the judges, often consuming days of argument, involving hundreds of parties and interveners and necessitating dozens of briefs and thousands of pages of record — all of which culminates in lengthy, technically intricate legal opinions. ... My colleagues and I worked as steadily and intensively as judges on other circuits even if they may have heard more cases. The nature of the D.C. Circuit's caseload is what sets it apart from other courts."

And it's the reason why Republicans so fear a Democratic majority in that court.

How Should We Kill People?

On November 6th, the New Hampshire Supreme Court denied Michael Addison's appeal of his death sentence for the murder of Manchester Police Officer Michael Briggs.

Now the State has to plan how to kill Addison. This could get tricky. Addison, being a criminal,

just shot Briggs in the head while attempting to avoid arrest. The State, though, has its reputation to protect; it will have to kill Addison in an appropriate manner.

It doesn't help that the State is so out of practice. The last time it killed anyone on purpose was in 1939, when it hanged a child molester.

The State has since decided that lethal injection is also a permissible way to kill people, but as a practical matter that's not as easy as it used to be. Drugs like sodium thiopental and pentobarbital, which have been used with great frequency to kill people in states like Florida and Texas, are part of the standard pharmacopoeia and have legitimate non-lethal medical uses. Pharmaceutical suppliers have begun to ask states what they intend to do with the drugs. "Kill people" isn't the answer they want to hear.

Hanging is still on the books, so when the time comes the State

could presumably put a rope around Addison's neck and let gravity do the rest. He probably wouldn't care for that, but it's not as if he has a lot of say in the matter.

Whether they do it with poison or by rope, prison officials wouldn't be able to just kill him in his cell. Image, again. A death chamber of some sort, with or without a gallows, would be required. Considering the role she played in making it necessary, it would only be fair to call it the Former Attorney General Kelly Ayotte Pavillion for the Dispensation of Justice.

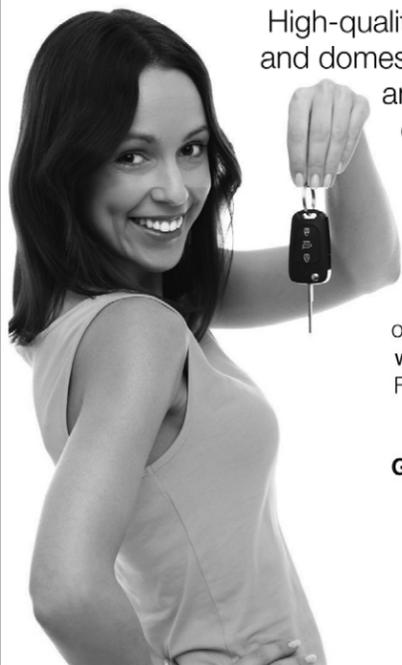
Law Enforcement

Moving from justice to law enforcement, a Copperas Cove, TX man has been arrested for not returning a book to the library on time. But that's nothing — in Haskell, AR, a woman has sued a local cop for demanding that she show him her breasts, and taser-ing her when she refused.

Both those folks were lucky

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compared to David Eckert, a Deming, NM, man who was x-rayed, subjected to two digital anal probes, three enemas, and forced to undergo a colonoscopy, all in a futile search for drugs. He was then billed for the services of the medical personnel involved, and a collection agency has been sicced on him.

A Real Benghazi Scandal

Anyone masochistic enough to listen to Rush Limbaugh or Sean Hannity on a regular basis knows for a fact that President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton callously allowed Muslim terrorists to murder four brave Americans during an attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi.

Last month watchers of CBS's "60 Minutes" saw a fairly damning account of that incident, as well. During the program, CBS interviewed former State Department security contractor Dylan Davies, using the pseudonym "Morgan Jones." Conveniently, Davies/Jones is the author of *The Embassy House: The Explosive Eyewitness Account of the Libyan Em-*

bassy Siege by the Soldier Who Was There.

The hyperventilation party was going swimmingly until an earlier report turned up in which Davies had told the FBI that he'd been nowhere near the Consulate.

"60 Minutes" Lara Logan, producer of the segment, subsequently said "The truth is, we made a mistake." Threshold Editions, Davies's would-be publisher, withdrew his book.

But Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), who's been leading the GOP's Benghazi propaganda barrage, is standing firm. First he declined to make any comment on the Davies revelation. Then, on Sunday, though he admitted that the *60 Minutes* story was bogus, he reiterated his intent to block all of President Obama's State Department nominees until he can interrogate question survivors of the incident.

While he's at it, he might question Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT). Chaffetz admitted last year that the GOP had cut funding for State Department security.

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"Look," he told Soledad O'Brien, "we have to make priorities and choices in this country."

NRA Members for Gun Control

"I have never believed in the general practice of carrying weapons. I do not believe in the general promiscuous toting of guns. I think it should be sharply restricted and only under licenses." — NRA President Karl T. Frederick, a 1920 Olympic gold-medal winner for marksmanship, testifying before House Ways and Means Committee in 1934, in favor of the National Firearms Act.

"There's no reason why on the street today a citizen should be carrying loaded weapons." — California Governor Ronald Reagan, in May, 1967, after two dozen Black Panther Party members walked into the California Statehouse carrying rifles to protest a gun-control bill.

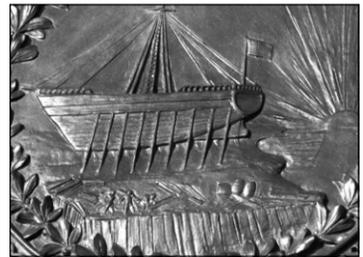
Yo Ho Ho

Now that the bronze plaque, shields, and eagle from the old Memorial Bridge have been mounted on the new one, and the sidewalk barriers have been removed, it's possible once again

to get a good look at those lovely decorative elements — not only possible, but well worth the time.

Our friend Stephan Smith, who has been videotaping every step of the demolition and construction, recently called our attention to one particular detail on the State Seal.

The basic design of the current State Seal was determined when the State's new Constitution was



adopted in 1784. Its central feature is the ship *Raleigh*, shown "on the stocks" — that is, under construction — on Badger's Island: yet more proof that the boundary between New Hampshire and Maine is the far shore of the Piscataqua, but that's a rant for another time.

A law was passed in 1931 making certain revisions, specifically

noting that "no detail is shown anywhere on the water, nor any on the land between the water and the stocks except a granite boulder."

According to the State's official web page regarding the Seal, "Director Otis G. Hammond of the New Hampshire Historical Society sparked this adjustment, by reporting that artists and sketchers had injected surprising details into the seal, as they produced new dies every few years for official state use. They produced rum barrels on the dock, and, on occasion, even human beings beside them."

In the foreground of the Seal on our new bridge, three small figures can be seen working. To their right, directly under *Raleigh's* stern, sit three rum barrels.

Succinct

With a newspaper as small as ours, we can't help but admire brevity. This guy's got it.



Last year Portsmouth's Central Veterans Council decided not to hold a Veterans Day Parade, though a ceremony was held at Goodwin Park. After getting some feedback, the Council has reversed itself and revived the parade.



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





CNN ... Taps For The News
To the Editor:

Finally I don't have to listen to people ask why I do not listen to Cable News Network (CNN). They have been biased, boring and inaccurate for a long, long time. Now they are being financially forced to make changes. It seems being a political lapdog doesn't pay that well. Mr. Turner will probably just give money directly to his favorite political causes instead of trying to trumpet those views via CNN.

CNN with its ratings and reputation sinking announced Friday that it will be investing in everything except news-gathering. The new focus will be towards a variety of unscripted formats, including other travel shows, and 'immersive' nonfiction programs. CNN says that it will remain in breaking news though it has been hit hardest in that arena. CNN used to come in first when big news broke.

Fox News now not only dominates the everyday ratings but retains that domination during big news events. Worse yet, during big news, CNN now loses to MSNBC. The writing is on the wall. CNN simply will not survive if it attempts to continue on as a cable news network.

After years of bias, and presenting the news the politicians wanted shown, and airing it the way the politicians wanted it presented CNN has lost its "Most Trusted Name In News" status.

A series of factual bumbles during big news events have put the nails in the coffin. The Trayvon Martin story highlighted both of these liabilities.

CNN's desperate move to reinvent itself as something closer to the Discovery Channel is coming at a huge price. CNN has always been able to boast about profits. Despite its low ratings, CNN has always been profitable.

Time Warner CEO Jeff Bewkes said on a call with investors, "We are investing at CNN, part of a strategic decision to broaden it beyond politics and breaking news ... These programming investments will put pressure on its margins, but will bring new advertisers to CNN." Time Warner CFO John Martin, who will take over Turner Broadcasting in January, cautioned investors that as a result of the investments, CNN may not see income growth for years.

Other than "The Lead with Jake Tapper" and programming outside of the news arena, CNN is a dying network loaded with unappealing anchors who are abysmal at delivering in-depth, objective news coverage. But on the upside at least we can let the CNN people know that Glenn Beck is hiring... but he requires that stories be true. Well maybe the Disney Channel is looking for a few good people... or the food network or... they can pitch a tent on Wall Street in protest ...

Vote early, vote often.

Marc Abear
Meredith, NH
Marc:

You'd better call for a medic — you just shot your media critic credentials in the foot. Ted Turner got bounced from the Board of Directors of Time Warner — which owns CNN — in May of 2006.

Now that that point has been cleared up, don't expect us to shed any tears for CNN — it put Glenn Beck on television.

You go on to say that Beck "requires that stories be true." That's a fascinating statement.

Of all the words in the English language, "true," it could be argued, is the most important one. If your statement about Beck is "true," then the meaning of "true" is up for grabs. If that's the case, then so are the meanings of all the other words. Language itself would devolve into babble.

And as for Fox News, it may dominate in the ratings but it's not in the news business. Look up "propaganda."

The Editor

§

Our Red Box In Market Square
To the Editor:

I have just made a \$30.00 donation on line rather than subscribe because your subscription page doesn't allow me to pay and then pick up the paper. Additionally, it always comes up as a gift subscription and this is not a gift subscription. If I have missed the options for subscribing and picking up the paper, my apologies.

As a work-from-home-employee, who might never leave the house, one of my joys is sneaking up to Portsmouth and picking up a copy of *The New Hampshire Gazette* from the box in front of [the Café Formerly Known as Brioche] and reading it over a cup of coffee or pot of tea. Please stop sending it to my house! This robs me of my excuse to get the hell out for an hour or so every two weeks.

I much prefer to pick the paper up from the box on the street than from some pile in a store. There is something secretive about pulling down the door and seeing the papers stacked in the box. I never take the top paper, but lift the stack and neatly take one from several down. Sometimes, if it is in "almost new" condition when I am done, I will put it back, on the top, (which is why I always take from a few down... someone else

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

may have read that top copy).

So, I am happy to "subscribe" and pay for the paper, but I want to get it myself, on the street. Thanks for your understanding.

Bill Chandler
Stratham, NH
Bill

Thank you very much for your donation. As per your instructions, we will stop mailing the paper to your home/sweatshop. We must warn you, though, that next October 31st a little 'X' will show up in our spreadsheet, alerting us to mail you a copy of the paper with a big red "Expiring" notice stamped onto it. It's how we remind Supporting Subscribers that it's time to renew.

You may be glad to hear that we've been considering ways to improve our subscription system. On the other hand, you may be alarmed; we've all seen products that have been 'improved' to the point of uselessness.

*We're glad to hear that you've found our red distribution box in the Square useful. Feel free to pick up extra copies whenever you'd like. Rest assured, if anyone is entitled to read a fresh, unsullied copy of *Ye Olde Rag*, it is yourself.*

The Editor

§

The Cost of "Frugality"

To the Editor:

Like many of my neighbors, I was relieved when the government shutdown ended. Yet the truth is that unless Republicans in Congress stop throwing temper tantrums to get what they want, these fights will not be going away. They aren't cheap: this 15-day shutdown cost our government \$24 billion dollars, and that doesn't include the cost to New Hampshire's economy. Navy Yard contractors and Portsmouth businesses took a huge hit.

It is ridiculous that Senator Ayotte harps on the value of fiscal responsibility but does nothing

to rein in Tea Party excesses. Her Tea Party leaders nearly destroyed America's credit rating while wasting billions of dollars. When she was sworn into office she promised to represent the interests of New Hampshire families, yet under her watch her own party has enacted policies that have cost New Hampshire families jobs and income. She has done nothing to stop them. She is, in fact, doing the opposite by putting forward so-called solutions that will perpetuate the Tea Party's job killing agenda.

Senator Ayotte's priorities are backwards, New Hampshire's families should come before her Washington buddies.

Low Henry
Gilmanton Iron Works, NH
Lew:

A long time ago, Republicans got comfortable with using the rhetoric of frugality to mask their political goals. By now they may even believe themselves.

They claim to want to reduce the budget deficit and national debt, but they're really interest in exploiting them to gain more power. No frugal Party would have started two optional wars without developing some means to pay for them.

The Editor

§

Man on the Moon

To the Editor:

November 22, 2013 will mark the 50th anniversary of a very sad chapter in U.S. history, when the life of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was abruptly silenced by bullets fired from an assassin(s)'s rifle(s) in Dallas, Texas. Although a somber occasion, perhaps we'll allow ourselves to reflect positively on the accomplishments of the JFK Presidency, including JFK's challenge to the nation in May 1961, to "land a man on the Moon and return him safely to

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And Other Correspondence

the Earth," which was fulfilled in July 1969. I can think of no other event in my lifetime that so captured our imagination and deservedly filled our nation with pride.

JFK rallied the nation around his vision, stating, "We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too."

Our country is faced with so many serious issues that can only be resolved through collective problem solving; yet, we can't seem to get past our divisions along useless political and cultural lines. Although I have not been presented in recent times with any real reasons to be optimistic on this front, perhaps a JFK-like visionary (male or female) will emerge in the near future that will inspire and unify the citizenry around his/her own "Man on the Moon" initiative. Weighing all the various issues, I can't help but feel our two equally greatest callings, for so many reasons, are to achieve energy independence and establish a national healthcare system.

I can only hope that the next JFK will have an open, honest discussion with the American people and not postpone but immediately and simultaneously accept the challenge of both of these issues which are huge matters of national security and are also enormous economic and moral imperatives.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, NH

Wayne:

God help the "next JFK" if he should happen to be black — we've

seen how well that's worked so far. The same goes if "he's" a woman. And if the next JFK happens to be a black woman — stand back.

The Editor

Congressional Sinners

To the Editor:

Supreme Court Justices often recuse themselves and local town council members do the same when there could be a hint of conflict of interest. Not true for members of Congress. Call it a sin of omission.

Then there is the sin of commission where a Representative votes to extend crop subsidies to farmers earning over \$750,000 per year, and cut food stamps for millions earning less than \$750 per month.

Reserved for the ten Republican Representatives who receive farm subsidy dollars and also voted to cut food stamp dollars, is the triple sin of arrogance, callousness and hypocrisy. Unfortunately due to redistricting it will probably not be a mortal sin.

Leading the pack of "political pork eaters" is California Republican Congressman Doug LaMalfa, a rice farmer who has collected \$5.1 million in subsidies since 1995, but happily wants to cut the \$1.33 per meal subsidy for 4 million children, veterans, disabled and poor who need food stamps.

The original purpose of the Farm Bill was to ensure our food supply and stabilize prices for family farmers. But times change and guaranteeing a food supply turned into paying farmers to not grow crops, the family farm has essentially disappeared, and today's price levels make millions for corporate agribusinesses.

What has not changed is the Republicans' commitment to the \$295 billion farm bill safety net

for rich farmers, very profitable agribusinesses, and themselves. At the same time they hardly try to veil their disdain for the needy and the social safety net they love to hate.

Dave Potter
North Hampton, NH

Doing the Math

To the Editor:

Lets see now, the population of U.S. is about 330 million people. If we break down the projected cost of Obamacare, as it is reported in the media, it appears that by dividing the cost, the mathematics reveal it would be far better to distribute the cost to each member of our population, who would receive about two million dollars each. Hmmm, doesn't that sound more equitable and sane? Just give each of us the two million cost and we can pay our own medical bills.

Dick Marple
Hooksett, New Hampshire Republic

Dick:

Two million bucks times 330 million people is \$660 trillion dollars.

Turn off Fox, put down that remote, and take a deep breath.

The Editor.

11/11 — A Day Of Peace

To the Editor:

On 11/11 there will be much talk of "patriotism," "sacrifice," "love of country," and "defending our freedom," but little about "mutual understanding" or "friendly relations."

I'm a military veteran — Army, infantry, Viet Nam — and I find it interesting how the eleventh day of the eleventh month has been transformed from a day of peace to a day of justification of violence. The original Congressional resolution stated that "this date should be commemorated with ... exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding be-

tween nations," and they invited "the people of the United States to observe the day ... with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples."

Instead, on 11/11 we will be subjected to a continuous stream of flag waving and images of strong, brave young people in full combat dress. The message is that violence will keep us safe and violence will keep us free. The reality is that young people are sent to kill other young people, because older people lack the skill and/or the desire to resolve the conflict using non-violent methods. We are taught to do awful things.

Please observe 11/11 as it was originally intended.

Arnold Stieber
Chicago, IL

Arnold:

How strange — your prediction was 100 percent accurate.

The Editor

Virginia: A Return To Maturity

To the Editor:

All eyes in the nation should be focused on the gubernatorial race outcome in Virginia. The Terry McAuliffe win means that the tide is changing rapidly and the Tea Party is on its way to being marginalized. In a swing state, the Tea Party has become transparent; and it is not what it pretended to be when many candidates swept into offices around the nation. It is my notion that most Americans can see the extremism in the Tea Party that is out of sync with the maturity of a nation that once led the world.

Alfred Waddell
West Dennis, MA

Honor the Hero

To the Editor:

Would we be having a national examination of the role of the NSA and other spy agencies in a free society, if Edward Snowden hadn't revealed NSA's secret activities? Accusations of massive



spying would be met with official denials, as they have for years. The lack of oversight and effective protection of our privacy rights remains a threat to us, and future generations. Rather than being honored as a hero, this brave whistleblower is being charged as a traitor. That just ain't right.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA

Multiversity

To the Editor:

Multiversity is America's greatest potential strength, divisive inequality its greatest weakness. With our dysfunctional globe spinning out of control, the chasmal gap between the ultra-wealthy haves and the deprived never have had "have-nots" is widening, with Generation XS greedy "have to haves" demanding the latest and greatest IT innovations. Theoretically, the Internet should blur the biased lines of race, ethnicity, sex, ability and age, yet the digital divide exacerbates the discrepancies between the "in" knows and "out" know-nots who lack access to computers, the Internet and training to improve and apply their newly acquired skills. The revolution of advanced information technology offers myriad opportunities if we have the daring commitment and insightful vision to pursue them.

Each of us is endowed with

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Northcountry Chronicle

Fair Enough

by William Marvel

My first memory of the Fryeburg Fair was one of terror. My father had left me a coin of forgotten denomination to spend on the midway while he went to the pulling ring, and even in the smaller confines of 1956 fair sprawl I managed to get lost. For what seemed like an hour I wandered among crowds of strangers while concessionaires leered at me with gap-toothed smiles, no doubt coveting the cash clamped in my hand. Obesity was not then so common in Conway, and the girth of some of the potato people astounded me. I had visions of being kidnapped by flabby carnies who would force-feed me fresh doughnuts in the back of their gypsy wagon until I looked like them, and then put me on display as the fat boy.

Another year I rode the Ferris wheel. They made me sit with a stranger, and I wasn't halfway

up before a rush of acrophobia convinced me that I had made a horrible mistake. By the top I was grabbing the "safety" bar for dear life, breathing so hard that my seatmate asked what was wrong, and to my horror the wheel didn't stop when we reached the bottom. Instead we went around again, and again, and again. I suppose it would have been a good view, had I opened my eyes.

"...I wandered among crowds of strangers while concessionaires leered at me with gap-toothed smiles..."

Around 1964 I made the mistake of wearing my Kennett jacket to the fair. Even more injudiciously, I responded in kind to the jibes of some Fryeburg Academy rowdies. An indeterminate amount of time later, as I picked myself up out of the mud, I fondly reflected

that they would probably quit school soon afterward, and enjoy a career alternating between the shoe shop and unemployment. I still hope I was right.

The next year my best friend and I climbed the back fence with the goal of getting into the hootchie-kootchie tent, and somehow we learned of a loose flap in the rear of the tent. We slithered under and joined a cluster of grown men noteworthy for green-and-black plaid coats, unfiltered cigarettes, and an assortment of pungent odors. When the women finally came out and started dancing, stark naked, I found that anticipation had been the high point of the show. The men around us evidently still appreciated the performance, but to this day I involuntarily picture those women whenever I run across the word "cellulite" in print.

The year after that, my girlfriend and I broke up at the fair. That proved to be particularly

bad luck, because she became a schoolteacher and is now comfortably retired.

All that put such a curse on the fair that I shunned it until about 1983. That year I was working for an apple farmer whose little girl was showing her sheep at the fair, and her parents were unable to attend because it was a prime pick-your-own weekend, so I went along as honorary family support. For my trouble I found myself talked into what was surely the most dangerous ride on the midway: she was not to be dissuaded, and as chaperone I felt it my duty to die with her if the bolts sheared off our whirling cage and sent us soaring over the grandstand and onto the racetrack. Somehow, they didn't.

Three more decades passed before curiosity overcame discretion. So long had I been hoping to see some of Sut Marshall's wagon collection that I drove into Fryeburg early on the last Sunday this

year, parked in town to avoid the worst of the traffic, and walked the last mile or so. The building where my father bought our 1954 International pickup is now gone, consumed by the insatiable fairgrounds, and the side road we once used for sneaking in now leads to a main entrance.

It didn't take long to see the wagons, all the draft horses, and the dual display of dueling moose. Like a loyal library trustee, I looked next for the Conway Public Library display, but no one knew where it was and I couldn't spot it despite tramping every booth and building. After an hour and a half I decided I had seen enough to tide me over for another 30 years, and headed home. I had not gotten lost, nor had I been punched, jilted, or traumatized by the sight of someone's overweight grandmother in the altogether, but somehow I still came away with the sense of another narrow escape.

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

unlimited potential, faced with a unique set of criteria for fulfilling our goal aspirations, including overcoming underclass socio-economic barriers. The idea that some lives matter less is the tangled root soil that is wrong with our unfair and unjust world, which features Wall Street casinos versus Main Street crapshoots. Multi-verse or meta-universe is basically a theoretical rather than practical explanation, idea or thought of a set of possible universes allowing us to exist, including time, space, dimensions, matter and physics. Violence, murders, forcible rape, robbery, burglary and aggravated assault are among the crimes com-

mitted by offenders at the bottom of the socio-economic totem pole, with racial segregation limiting the urban poor from moving into the Middle Class. The more integrated the population is, the less violent crime there is.

According to the Huff Post, the U.S. blows everyone else out of the water by creating a super-rich superiority complex economic class of \$50 million plus uber-wealthy fat-cats. The 400 wealthiest Americans are worth more than the bottom half of the country's earners combined. The ultra high net worth of 2013 leaves the second ranked Chinese entrepreneurs a far distant second.

A Princeton University research study showed no matter how much more than \$75,000 people make, they don't report any greater degree of happiness. The U.S. also tops the charts in child poverty when compared to other industrial countries and petty party infighting has shamefully resulted in \$40 billion being cut from the food stamp program.

Charles Frederickson
Bangkok, Thailand

§

Nader Goes Postal

Open Letter to Sen. Diane Feinstein:

This summer protests broke out over the upcoming closure and

sale of a historic post office in downtown Berkeley, California. This century old post office represents a piece of our collective history. It contains New Deal-era murals, architecture and artwork. Not to mention, it was paid for by the public. Now, against the wishes of many in the Berkeley community, this historic post office is set to be closed and sold off. Unfortunately, post offices across the country, many of which have comparable rich historical value of Berkeley's downtown post office, are on the chopping block to be closed and sold.

That we have resorted to selling off valuable pieces of our country's

heritage is shameful. But even more reprehensible is the process by which these post offices are being sold off, and this is the reason that we are writing you.

C.B. Richard Ellis Group, Inc. (CBRE), the company chaired by your husband, Richard Blum, has an exclusive contract to negotiate the nationwide sales of U.S. Postal Service (USPS) real estate. An investigative journalist, Peter Byrne, brought to light some of the most disconcerting aspects of CBRE's involvement in the sale of post offices throughout the country in an article for the East Bay Express titled "Going Postal" (he has also written an e-book by the same

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The Pope Shows Us How To Deal With The Princes Of Wall Street

by Jim Hightower

Many Congress critters like to rise up on their hind legs and bellow that they're "tough on crime."

But they all seem to suffer from a genetic defect known as "Upper-Class Crime Exceptionitis." One symptom of UCCE is that lawmakers who take a hard line against common bank robbers, suddenly go flaccidly soft when

it's the bankers doing the robbing. We're presently witnessing an epidemic of UCCE in Washington's coddling of Wall Street's fraud-meisters. Hardly a month goes by without one or more of these royal bankers conceding that they've been systematically stealing people's homes, defrauding their own customers, doing illegal trades, laundering drug money, and so forth.

However, not a single one of

them has been prosecuted, much less put in the pokey. More bewildering, none have been sacked — they still rule their Wall Street roosts and live in palatial luxury. Prosecutors say there's little they can do, for lawmakers effectively legalize their crimes.

So, does no one have a cure for this gross injustice? Well, there is one person our legislators might consult: Pope Francis! He's been in office for only six months, but

he's already launched a clean-up of the corrupt Vatican bank and has proclaimed by word and deed that the moral standard for church officials — from bishops to bankers — is to be: Humility, modest living, and service (especially to the poor). To punctuate his seriousness, the Pope moved swiftly in October to depose a vainglorious German bishop who was spending millions of the church's dollars on his lavish lifestyle, including

buying a \$20,000 bathtub. Bishops, Francis said forcefully, should not live "like princes."

Nor should bankers. To stop this thievery, we need a secular "pope" with the fortitude to depose a few of the Princes of Wall Street and set a new ethical tone.

§

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name that goes into more detail on the subject).

The highlights from Mr. Byrne's article indicate that CBRE's actions in the sale of the USPS's real estate portfolio are suspicious at best. According to the article, CBRE was awarded its exclusive contract with the USPS in June 2011. The contract requires CBRE to sell postal service properties at or above fair market value. However, the contract also allows CBRE to conduct its own appraisals of each property. Appraisals are best conducted by parties not involved in the sale of the property. The existing contractual arrangement gives CBRE unusual control over determining the value of a property and creates the potential for conflicts of interest.

To demonstrate the problems that this contractual arrangement creates, one only needs to look at the sale of properties CBRE has executed. Mr. Byrne reported that in the first two years of its contract, CBRE sold 52 postal properties at \$66 million less than their assessed value. Two examples he cites include an office building CBRE sold in 2011 in Seattle for \$8 million that was assessed at \$16 million, and a building in St. Paul, Minnesota that sold for about \$20 million under its 2009

assessed value of nearly \$25 million.

Perhaps of even greater concern is that, according to Mr. Byrne, CBRE has sold 20 percent of the postal service's real estate portfolio that has been sold to date to its own clients or business partners. Byrne reports that it seems as though CBRE likely represented both the seller and buyer in a number of postal property sales, which if true, would reflect a serious conflict of interest. It would also raise serious ethical concerns about CBRE's business practices. Disturbingly, Byrne reports that "CBRE's contract was amended in 2012, at the request of CBRE, to allow it to negotiate on behalf of both the Postal Service and prospective buyers." How can the U.S. Postal Service reasonably expect that CBRE would obtain the highest value possible for postal properties if CBRE represents both sides of the transaction?

In a June 2013 report, the USPS's Office of Inspector General (OIG) echoed many of the same types of concerns that Mr. Byrne has revealed. The OIG tellingly observes that, "Outsourcing real estate management services to one supplier is a fundamental change from how the Postal Service previously managed its real estate portfolio." Notably,

the OIG's report expressed concern about: the potential for a conflict of interest when CBRE is allowed to negotiate on behalf of the seller, the USPS, as well as the buyer; the lack of proper oversight of the CBRE contract; and a failure to establish a maximum contract value, which could lead to cost overruns.

As we have repeatedly said, the U.S. Postal Service is facing a congressionally manufactured financial crisis. Eighty percent of the USPS's losses since 2006 are directly attributable to the unreasonable requirement enacted in the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 that the USPS pre-fund its future retiree health benefits for the next 75 years in just a ten year time &me. No other private corpora-

tion or government agency that we are familiar with is required to bear such a burden. One of your colleagues, Senator Bernie Sanders (VT), echoed this sentiment in May 2012 when he said "Ninety-four percent of the Postal Service's losses this year are a direct result of an onerous payment, unprecedented in either government agencies or private corporations, to pre-fund 75 years of future retiree health benefits in a 10-year period."

And of course, this doesn't even address the fact that the USPS has overpaid between \$50 billion and \$75 billion to federal pension funds for its employees that the federal government has failed to repay. That makes the USPS a creditor of the U.S. government — more than can be said of large

bailed out corporations such as the big banks.

So, in light of those facts, many of these post office sales are not necessary. But is it any wonder that you haven't been particularly outspoken on this issue in light of the fact that you and your husband, Richard Blum, stand to gain generously from his connection to the sale of post offices throughout the country?

To remove all doubt of impropriety, you should: introduce and champion a bill to immediately suspend all sales of postal properties throughout the country; and call for a close examination of the contract between CBRE and the USPS to sell postal properties.

Ralph Nader

Jeff Musto

§

Colonial Maine Indians And Their French Allies To Be Discussed

The Indians whom the Pilgrims befriended in Massachusetts often come to mind at this time of year. But Native Americans living in Northern New England are shrouded in mystery.

At an upcoming lecture sponsored by the Old Berwick Historical Society, Dr. Ellen Cowie will discuss the French in Maine during the 16th through 18th centuries with a particular emphasis on

the Wabanaki village of Norridgewock. The archaeological information from this site has provided rich insight into the history of one Native American community located on the embattled frontier of French, English and Wabanaki colonial America. Dr. Cowie has been the director of the University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Research Center since 1997.

Entitled, "The French and Wabanaki in Maine: The View from Norridgewock," Cowie's talk will be Thursday, November 21, at 7:30 pm at Berwick Academy's Jeppesen Science Center on Academy Street in South Berwick. The public is invited, and refreshments will be served by volunteers.

For more information call the Society at (207) 384-0000.

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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

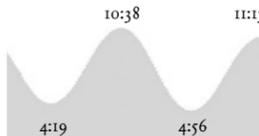
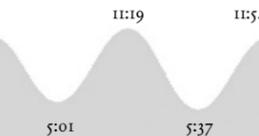
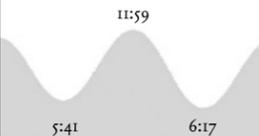
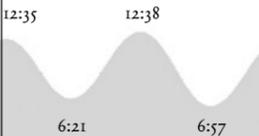
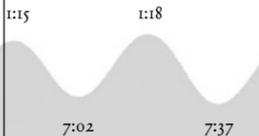
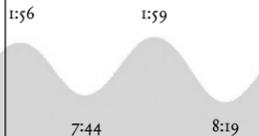
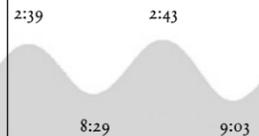
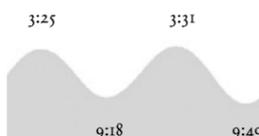
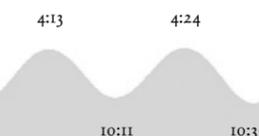
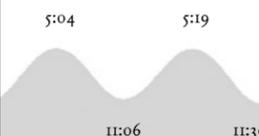
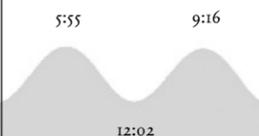
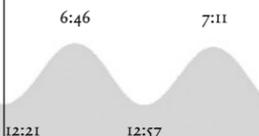
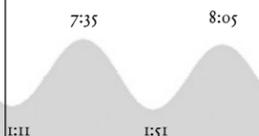
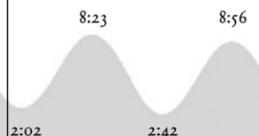
moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

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, November 17	Monday, November 18	Tuesday, November 19	Wednesday, November 20	Thursday, November 21	Friday, November 22	Saturday, November 23
<p>2006—"We'll succeed [in Iraq] unless we quit," says George W.</p> <p>2005—During a floor speech, Rep. Marion Barry (D-AR) calls Rep. Adam Putnam "a Howdy Doody-looking nimrod."</p> <p>2003—An Austrian muscleman becomes California's governor.</p> <p>1995—A phone call from Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-AL) intrudes upon, but does not halt, a tryst between Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinski.</p> <p>1995—The commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific says the rape of an Okinawan girl was "stupid," and the culprit should have patronized a prostitute, instead.</p> <p>1992—<i>Dateline</i> broadcasts a rigged video of a GM truck exploding.</p> <p>1973—Speaking to a convention of newspaper editors at Disneyland, Richard M. Nixon declares, "I am not a crook." (It's a lie.)</p> <p>1967—Lyndon Johnson tells the nation "we are making great progress" in Vietnam.</p> <p>1953—An Air Force C-119 "Flying Boxcar" kills nine Fort Bragg paratroopers in mid-air; six more servicemen die when the C-119 subsequently crashes.</p> <p>1917—The destroyers <i>Fanning</i> and <i>Nicholson</i> sink the U-58 off Ireland, the first sub sunk by the U.S. Navy.</p> <p>1558—In celebration of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth I, several bags of cats are burned.</p>	<p>2005—Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-OH) apologizes on the floor of the House for implying Vietnam combat veteran Rep. Jack Murtha (D-PA) is a coward.</p> <p>1997—A declassified 1962 document outlines Operation Northwoods, a Pentagon plan to build support for an invasion of Cuba by staging fake terrorist attacks, including shooting innocent people on U.S. streets.</p> <p>1978—Jim Jones and 913 followers drink cyanide-laced Flavor-Aid in Jonestown, Guyana.</p> <p>1964—Snubbing Richard Nixon, J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover calls Martin Luther King Jr. "the most notorious liar in the country."</p> <p>1961—JFK signs National Security Memo 111, authorizing a troop surge in Vietnam.</p> <p>1916—The Battle of the Somme is called off. The Allies have gained 125 square miles at a cost of 1,250,000 British, French, and German casualties—one for every 2.5 square yards. Germans later re-take most of it.</p> <p>1686—Pioneering surgeon Charles Francois Felix operates on King Louis XIV's anal fistula, having practiced on peasants to hone his skills. Unlike some of the peasants, Louis survives.</p> <p>1477—William Caxton's press issues the first dated book printed in England.</p>	<p>1998—Congress begins considering whether to impeach Bill Clinton over his sex life.</p> <p>1969—Congress undercuts opposition to the Vietnam War by introducing a draft lottery.</p> <p>1967—A 500 lb. bomb from a U.S.M.C. F4 Phantom kills 45 paratroopers of the 173d Airborne Brigade and wounds 45 more during the Battle of Dak To.</p> <p>1967—Dick "Was a Dick Then" Cheney is convicted of driving drunk in Cheyenne, WY.</p> <p>1961—Michael Rockefeller disappears in Papua, New Guinea and is presumed eaten by cannibals.</p> <p>1960—At a party in New York, Norman Mailer stabs his second wife, Adele Morales.</p> <p>1929—A Texas mob takes Marshall Ratliff from the Cisco, TX jail to lynch him. The first rope breaks, the second doesn't.</p> <p>1924—Hollywood producer Thomas Ince dies at 42, officially from a heart attack, but more likely from a [William Randolph] Hearst attack—a bullet to the head.</p> <p>1915—A firing squad executes IWW organizer Joe Hill; his last words: "Don't mourn, organize."</p> <p>1874—Tammany Hall Grand Sachem William Marcy "Boss" Tweed is convicted of 204 counts of fraud.</p> <p>1863—The nation's Chief Executive dedicates a new cemetery at Gettysburg, PA.</p>	<p>2008—Sarah Palin gives a TV interview while, in the background, turkeys are being slaughtered.</p> <p>1975—After stalling for an unseemly length of time, Spanish dictator Francisco Franco finally dies. As of today, he is still dead.</p> <p>1962—The Cuban Missile Crisis blows over, rather than up.</p> <p>1955—Defying his host's orders, Bo Diddley sings "Bo Diddley" on the Ed Sullivan Show. An irate Sullivan bans Diddley forevermore.</p> <p>1946—Viet Minh and French forces clash near Haiphong, leading to French occupation.</p> <p>1945—Nuremberg trials begin.</p> <p>1936—Buenaventura Durruti, the Spanish anarchist, dies defending Madrid from fascists.</p> <p>1917—In northeastern France, British forces use tanks in battle for the first time.</p> <p>1894—The U.S. invades Nicaragua.</p> <p>1866—Pierre Lallemond of Paris invents a rotary crank bicycle.</p> <p>1820—A whale attacks the Nantucket whaling ship <i>Essex</i>, inspiring the greatest fish story ever told.</p> <p>1817—Settlers attack Seminoles in Florida.</p> <p>1816—Striking members of the Albany Typographical Union use the term "scab" for the first time.</p> <p>1772—At a Boston town meeting called by Samuel Adams, the first Committee of Correspondence is formed.</p>	<p>1991—An ABC exposé converts televangelist Robert Tilton's "ministry" from an \$80 million/yr. scam into the butt of a video, "Pastor Gas, the Farting Preacher."</p> <p>1986—Ollie North and Fawn Hall start shredding evidence of criminal arms-for-hostages deals.</p> <p>1980—In Louisiana, an oil rig on Lake Peigneur accidentally drills into a salt mine, creating a whirlpool that drains the lake and takes the oil rig with it.</p> <p>1974—On the same day the Texas Air National Guard gives George W. Bush an inexplicably honorable discharge, the Freedom of Information Act passes despite Gerry Ford's veto.</p> <p>1973—Nixon's Chief of Staff Al Haig accurately attributes an 18.5 minute gap on an audio tape to "sinister forces."</p> <p>1970—Looking for POWs, U.S. troops raid Son Tay prison camp, evacuated three weeks earlier.</p> <p>1967—Vietnamese commies are "unable to mount a major offensive," says Gen. Wm. Westmoreland. "We have reached an important point when the end begins to come into view."</p> <p>1927—The first Columbine Massacre: striking miners are machine-gunned by state cops in plain clothes.</p> <p>1894—Japanese troops conduct the Port Arthur Massacre.</p>	<p>2000—In Miami, two dozen well-dressed hooligans, half a dozen of them on the Republican payroll, stage the "Brooks Brothers Riot," intimidating election officials into shutting down a recount.</p> <p>1987—Chicago TV viewers see Dr. Who and a Chicago Bears game interrupted for 90 seconds by a man in a Max Headroom mask</p> <p>1975—U.S.S. <i>John F. Kennedy</i> and U.S.S. <i>Belknap</i> collide in the night near Sicily. A two-hour fire aboard the <i>Belknap</i> stops 30 feet short of the nuclear weapons magazine.</p> <p>1972—The U.S. loses its first B-52 over Vietnam.</p> <p>1967—The UN adopts a resolution calling for Israel to leave the occupied territories.</p> <p>1963—President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, TX; by whom, exactly, is still a matter of much debate.</p> <p>1941—Germany's top fighter pilot, Werner Mölders, dies as a passenger in a plane crash on his way to the funeral of the Luftwaffe's Generaloberst Ernst Udet, a suicide.</p> <p>1930—Prophet Elijah Mohammed founds the Nation of Islam.</p> <p>1909—A New York judge tells strikers from the ILGWU "You are on strike against God."</p> <p>1718—Shot, stabbed, and slashed across the throat by British sailors, pirate Edward "Blackbeard" Teach dies fighting at Ocracoke Inlet.</p>	<p>1984—BC's Doug Flutie throws history's most famous "Hail Mary."</p> <p>1976—Jerry Lee Lewis is arrested outside Graceland for shouting, waving a pistol, and demanding to see Elvis.</p> <p>1970—A Lithuanian radio operator jumps from a Russian trawler onto the deck of the Coast Guard cutter <i>Vigilant</i>. Commander Ralph Eustis allows Soviet sailors to board the cutter and seize the radioman.</p> <p>1958—Ron & Nancy Reagan appear on "GE Theatre" in "A Turkey for the President."</p> <p>1946—French ships shell the harbor at Haiphong killing 6,000.</p> <p>1936—In San Antonio, bluesman Robert Johnson begins a legendary three-day recording session.</p> <p>1903—U.S. troops under Gen. Sherman Bell are sent to Cripple Creek, CO, to put down a rebellion of striking miners.</p> <p>1899—The first jukebox plays in a San Francisco saloon.</p> <p>1876—After a year on the lam in Cuba and Spain, Tammany Hall's "Boss" Tweed is jailed in NYC.</p> <p>1869—<i>Cutty Sark</i>, last of the clipper ships, is launched.</p> <p>1859—Birth of William "Billy the Kid" Bonney.</p> <p>1852—California's Lake Merced drops 30 ft. after an earthquake.</p> <p>1644—John Milton publishes <i>Areopagitica ... For the Liberty of Unlicensed Printing</i>.</p>
 <p>10:38 11:13 4:19 4:56</p>	 <p>11:19 11:54 5:01 5:37</p>	 <p>11:59 5:41 6:17</p>	 <p>12:35 12:38 6:21 6:57</p>	 <p>1:15 1:18 7:02 7:37</p>	 <p>1:56 1:59 7:44 8:19</p>	 <p>2:39 2:43 8:29 9:03</p>
Sunday, November 24	Monday, November 25	Tuesday, November 26	Wednesday, November 27	Thursday, November 28	Friday, November 29	Saturday, November 30
<p>2006—"The only way we can win [in Iraq]," says George W. Bush in Greeley, CO, "is to leave before the job is done."</p> <p>1979—The U.S. admits troops in 'Nam were hit by Agent Orange.</p> <p>1971—"D.B. Cooper," carrying \$200,000 in ransom cash, parachutes from a hijacked plane over Washington State, into oblivion and America's heart.</p> <p>1965—<i>The New York Times</i> runs a full-page ad signed by 500 WW II and Korean War vets protesting escalation of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1963—Strip joint proprietor Jack Ruby, seeking to spare Jacqueline Kennedy's feelings from the rigors of a trial, shoots Lee Harvey Oswald under the watchful eye of the Dallas Police Department and the TV cameras.</p> <p>1961—An overheated electric motor in Colorado cuts off all communications between SAC and NORAD.</p> <p>1953—Sen. Joe McCarthy (Lunatic-WI) claims the Truman administration is "crawling with Communists."</p> <p>1947—All but 17 Congressmen vote to cite the Hollywood Ten for contempt after they take the 5th.</p> <p>1922—Erskine Childers, Irish patriot guilty of illegally carrying a revolver, says to his firing squad, "Take a step forward, lads. It will be easier that way."</p>	<p>2002—George W. Bush signs the Homeland Security Act, which coincidentally provides security from lawsuits for Eli Lilly & Co., on whose board his father and Ken Lay had sat.</p> <p>1997—In Plymouth, MA, police serve Native American demonstrators pepper-spray.</p> <p>1986—A reluctant Ronald Reagan fires Lt. Col. Oliver North as Ed Meese announces profits from illegal arms sales to Iran went to Nicaraguan <i>contras</i>.</p> <p>1978—Elaine Esposito dies at 43 after being in a coma for 37 years.</p> <p>1974—Britain outlaws the IRA after two bombs kill 21 and injure over 100 in Birmingham.</p> <p>1970—After tying up their commanders, Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima exhorts military cadets to revolt, but they jeer him instead. He then commits <i>seppuku</i>.</p> <p>1968—Death of Upton Sinclair, writer and media critic.</p> <p>1950—Chinese troops cross the Yalu River in Korea.</p> <p>1947—For refusing to rat out their friends to Congress, the Hollywood Ten are fired by studio bosses.</p> <p>1921—Nathanael West, who falsified his high school transcripts to get into Tufts, flunks out.</p> <p>1910—French anarchist Jules Durand is sentenced to die after a bum trial. He's later exonerated, but 40 days in a strait jacket have driven him mad.</p>	<p>2000—Florida's Secretary of State Katherine Harris declares George W. Bush the winner. She is also the Bush campaign's Florida co-chair.</p> <p>1970—In Basse-Terre, on Guadaloupe, an inch and a half of rain falls in one minute—the heaviest rain-fall ever recorded.</p> <p>1983—Thieves at London's Heathrow airport take 6,800 gold bars worth \$38.7 million. About a third are still missing.</p> <p>1976—The Sex Pistols release "Anarchy in the UK," their first single.</p> <p>1973—Rose Mary Woods takes the fall for the 18 1/2 minute gap.</p> <p>1958—A B-47 with an A-bomb aboard burns in Lake Charles, LA.</p> <p>1942—To cash in on the invasion of North Africa, <i>Casablanca</i> premieres ahead of schedule in New York. <i>The New Yorker's</i> critic says it is "pretty tolerable," but "not quite up to <i>Across the Pacific</i>."</p> <p>1941—A fleet of aircraft carriers leaves Japan for Hawaii.</p> <p>1939—The Soviet Army shells the Soviet village of Mainila, providing a handy excuse to attack Finland.</p> <p>1922—Howard Carter and his employer Lord Carnarvon desecrate the tomb of King Tutankhamun.</p> <p>1921—Charles W. Whittlesey, commander of the "Lost Battalion," drowns himself.</p> <p>1911—Death of Paul Lafargue, Karl Marx's son-in-law, and author of <i>The Right to be Lazy</i>.</p>	<p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld signs off on "Category III" interrogation techniques—namely, torture.</p> <p>2001—As Gen. Tommy Franks tries to concentrate on catching Osama bin Laden, Donald Rumsfeld distracts him with an order to revise plans to attack Iraq.</p> <p>1969—American medics in Pleiku begin a fast to protest the way the war's conducted.</p> <p>1965—In Washington, 25,000 march for peace in Vietnam.</p> <p>1952—For the sixth time, Winnie Ruth Judd, the Trunk Murderess, escapes from the Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p>1912—Sherwood Anderson, a successful 36 year old businessman, leaves his wife, family, and job to become a writer.</p> <p>1900—To get information from the president of a Filipino town, U.S. troops force salt water down his throat and burn his town.</p> <p>1868—General George A. Custer and his troops massacre Black Kettle and 102 other Cheyenne survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre in the Battle of the Washita.</p> <p>1726—Writing to Alexander Pope about the initial reception of <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>, Jonathan Swift notes with delight that an Irish Bishop said it was "full of improbable lies."</p> <p>1095—Pope Urban II launches the Crusades, promising salvation for those who die slaying pagans.</p>	<p>2005—Ex-Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA) pleads guilty to selling votes and dodging taxes.</p> <p>1995—Fun-loving Bill Clinton signs a highway bill ending the 55 mph speed limit.</p> <p>1979—Relying on outdated navigational data during a sightseeing flight over Antarctica, <i>Air New Zealand Flight 901</i> flies into Mount Erebus with 257 souls on board.</p> <p>1969—<i>Time Magazine</i> reports that 20 months earlier, things got out of hand at My Lai.</p> <p>1950—British pub-owner and hangman Albert Pierrepoint slips a noose around the neck of his former customer and drinking buddy James "Tish" Corbett.</p> <p>1942—In Boston, the Coconut Grove nightclub burns; 498 are killed and 172 injured.</p> <p>1922—Ex-RAF pilot Cyril Turner gives the first demonstration of skywriting in NYC. He uses the technique to advertise—skywriting.</p> <p>1895—Six cars compete in the U.S.'s first auto race. The winner averages seven m.p.h.</p> <p>1859—Ailing Washington Irving asks "When will this end?" answers his own question.</p> <p>1795—On George Washington's watch, the U.S. pays \$800,000 to Tunisian pirates, with a promise to pay \$25,000 a year in future.</p> <p>1545—Printer Jacob van Liesveld is beheaded for heresy.</p>	<p>2011—Former Arapahoe County (CO) Sheriff Patrick Sullivan, arrested for exchanging methamphetamine for sex with a male informant, is incarcerated in a jail named after himself.</p> <p>1990—The UN Security Council votes for war in the Persian Gulf.</p> <p>1976—After Jerry Lee Lewis accidentally plugs his bass player in the chest twice with a .357 magnum, he's charged with discharging a firearm within city limits.</p> <p>1967—Robert Strange McNamara resigns as Defense Secretary.</p> <p>1963—President Johnson establishes a commission to rule out the possibility of a conspiracy in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.</p> <p>1929—Admiral Byrd calculates he's at the South Pole. He's not.</p> <p>1877—Thomas A. Edison becomes the world's first cylinder jockey.</p> <p>1864—Led by Major John Chivington (also a Methodist minister) Colorado Militia ignore a truce flag and slaughter 450 Cheyenne men, women, and children, scalping some. A local paper says the soldiers had "covered themselves in glory"—a typo, perhaps.</p> <p>1811—Birth of Wendell Phillips, chronic troublemaker, in Boston.</p> <p>1781—To shift liability for the loss to underwriters, slave ship captain Luke Collingwood of the <i>Zong</i> orders his crew to begin throwing 133 live slaves overboard.</p>	<p>2001—Two days before filing for bankruptcy, Enron executives award themselves big bonuses.</p> <p>1999—A WTO meeting in Seattle is called off due to anarchists.</p> <p>1974—Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-AR) appears onstage at Boston's Pilgrim Theater with stripper Fanne Foxe.</p> <p>1972—Nixon spokesperson Ron Zeigler tells reporters that with a mere 27,000 Americans left risking their lives in Vietnam, the White House is done updating the nation on withdrawals.</p> <p>1969—600 Native Americans occupy Alcatraz.</p> <p>1967—Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-MN) challenges Lyndon Johnson for the Democratic nomination.</p> <p>1961—President Kennedy OKs defoliation in South Vietnam.</p> <p>1954—Liz Hodges, napping on her couch in Sylacauga, AL, is awakened by a 3 lb. meteorite crashing through her roof and bruising her thigh.</p> <p>1951—Trunk Murderess Winnie Ruth Judd is recaptured after her fourth escape from the Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p>1900—Oscar Wilde dies in a Paris hotel, saying of the wallpaper, "one of us has to go."</p> <p>1812—Rather than follow his orders to invade Canada, Gen. Alexander "Apocalypse" Smythe's troops turn their weapons on their commander's tent. He flees.</p>
 <p>3:25 3:31 9:18 9:49</p>	 <p>4:13 4:24 10:11 10:39</p>	 <p>5:04 5:19 11:06 11:30</p>	 <p>5:55 9:16 12:02</p>	 <p>6:46 7:11 12:21 12:57</p>	 <p>7:35 8:05 1:11 1:51</p>	 <p>8:23 8:56 2:02 2:42</p>



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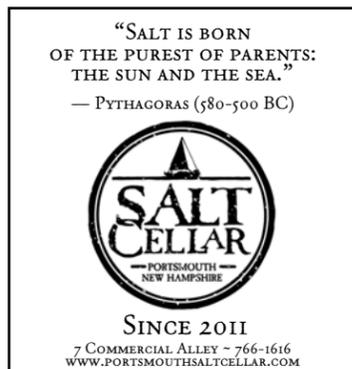
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