

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Now, That's Entertainment

It wasn't that big a deal, really: just a routine bill to temporarily deactivate an arbitrary and pointless legislative artifact of the First World War until some time after the next election.

Even so, in the context of its other accomplishments, the passage last week of a clean bill to raise the debt limit could go down as the 113th Congress's greatest achievement.

Huzzah! The U.S. Government will pay what it owes!

Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah

Mercifully, we've been able to avoid this tedious topic since last October when, following an unnecessary Government shutdown that disrupted lives, damaged the economy, and wasted taxpayers' money, Republicans grudgingly agreed not to ruin gratuitously everyone's holidays with more futile shenanigans and allowed a stop-gap budgetary measure to pass.

As the end of that period of grace approached and the Treasury's coffers again neared depletion, the eyes of some Republicans grew wide: they sensed an opportunity to demand, in return for allowing the Treasury to pay the bills that they'd run up, the right to amputate some bit of the budget they found offensive.

To broad surprise along the political spectrum, President Obama and Congressional Democrats said "Nope."

House Speaker John Boehner was faced with a choice between two evils: he could allow a vote on a clean debt ceiling bill that Democrats would support — and scrape up a handful of Republican votes, to boot — or he could let his Tea Party colleagues force another government shutdown.

After the last go-round, he'd

lost his taste for shutdowns. Besides, it's an election year. Boehner surrendered on February 11th and announced that he'd bring a clean bill up for a vote. Then he walked away, singing "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah" a little wistfully. He had sung the same tune during the debt ceiling fight in the summer of 2011. He had the whip hand then, though, and he'd sounded quite chipper.

Boehner had done his part to avoid a fiscal Armageddon. In retaliation for his base treachery, the Tea Party faction of the GOP immediately began circulating petitions to strip him of his Speakership.

The Senator from Pyromania

The debt ceiling bill then went to the Senate. Majority Leader Harry Reid [D-NV] could have gotten it passed easily without a Republican fingerprint on it — were it not for Sen. Ted Cruz [R-TX], who just wants to watch the world burn.

Cruz said recently that "the single thing that Republican politicians hate and fear the most ... is when they're forced to tell the truth. It makes their heads explode."

Unwilling to let such an opportunity go to waste, Cruz filibustered the bill — if his RINO colleagues were so fearful of Armageddon that they'd allow the debt ceiling to rise, then Cruz would set them up for attacks from the Right when their next primary rolls around.

When Is a Vote Not a Vote?

Minority Leader Mitch McConnell [R-KY] was in a real jam: Cruz to the right of him, and his less-zealous caucus members on the left. He or one of his minions begged Reid for an unprec-



edented favor: let us cast this vote in secret.

Out of pity for McConnell, concern for the economy, or both, Reid granted that apparently unprecedented favor. The clerk's microphone was turned off.

As if the enterprise had not been farcical enough already, an enterprising reporter from *Roll Call* got ahold of the clerk's tally sheet. It not only negated the microphone trick, it revealed yet another layer of flimflammy.

Fifty Shades of FlimFlam

Six Republican Senators had initially voted "nay" on the cloture vote. Only after their leaders, McConnell and Minority Whip Sen. John Cornyn [R-TX], agreed to vote "yea," thus providing some political cover, did the Skittish Six change their votes to "yea."

Altogether, twelve Republican Senators, like infantrymen calling in artillery on their own position, voted to shut down Cruz's filibus-

ter. Had they balked, the country would have descended further into chaos and the GOP rightly would have been blamed.

Whose Party Is It?

The Republican reaction to President Obama's State of the Union speech three weeks ago was manifestly schizophrenic: two male Senators and two female Representatives delivered four competing responses — but at least they were all united in attacking the same black guy in the White House.

Maybe it's just wishful thinking, but it does seem like Cruz's debt ceiling filibuster may have converted some of that unhinged hostility into the intramural variety, turning the factions on each other. About all they can agree on is whom they hate. ABC's Jonathan Karl said "Ted Cruz is so hated among the Republicans ... the Tuesday lunch they have, he's going to need a food taster."

Out Come the Knives

As they had with Boehner, Tea Partiers reacted to McConnell's act of fiscal responsibility with a torrent of vitriol. The Senate Conservatives Fund issued an attack ad characterized by the *Washington Examiner's* Byron York — no RINO, he — as "based in part on supposition, misleading reporting, questionable assertions and a single (erroneously cited) poll."

The ad accused McConnell of "trying to bully and intimidate conservatives just like the IRS," and trying "to silence conservatives, calling them traitors, who he 'wants to punch in the nose' for criticizing his liberal votes."

Real Non-Equivalence

Americans disgusted with politics — which is to say, Americans — frequently say that both parties are equally to blame for our Government's current state of rancor and dysfunction.

Really?

The Alleged News

Budget Hawks' Protégés "Nearly Broke"

Old white scolds Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles are the front men for an astroturf monster called Fix the Debt. Their schtick is that the sky is falling because the nation can't afford to keep paying out for Social Security and Medicare — which is a load of hooey. A single change in the law — lifting the \$127,000 cap on payroll taxes — would probably square the programs away for the foreseeable future.

About eighteen months ago, perhaps realizing that their own balding visages were not having much of an impact on Millennials, Simpson and Bowles helped set up The Can Kicks Back. The conceit was clear enough: Congress had "kicked the can [i.e., the na-

tional debt] down the road" long enough. Rather than be crushed by inherited debt, these young people would set things right.

Relying on internal documents viewable online (but since removed), *Politico* reported February 12th that The Can Kicks Back is "nearly broke" and "operating at a small loss."

"Without someone/something else covering staff costs and without fundraising ... I don't know how we both sustain [an] organization and do meaningful things," one officer wrote in a November email. Hedge fund manager Stan Druckenmiller gave the group \$250,000 in June of 2013, according to *Politico*, "nearly 40 percent of the group's fundraising haul

last year."

Jake Parent, one of the founders, complained in an internal email that "Fix the Debt is increasingly seen (I think in a lot of ways justifiably) as a mouthpiece for corporate America, and particularly Wall Street.* Without diversity of backing from other sectors, it's becoming difficult for me to justify my role supporting such an effort."

The Granite-Headed State

Evidence continues to pile up supporting not only our Basic Thesis: this world is too goofy to take completely seriously — but

our New Hampshire Corollary to said Thesis: New Hampshire is just like the rest of the world, only more so.

Take, for example, State Representative Kyle Tasker's [R-Nottingham] sponsorship of House Bill 1442. This bill would authorize the creation of "mental health courts," intended to "identify effective sentencing options when an offender has committed a crime that is a result of or related to mental illness," with an eye to "enhancing community safety and quality of life for citizens; reducing recidivism; increasing the

accountability of offenders; [and] restoring offenders to productive, law-abiding, and taxpaying citizens," &c., &c.

Surely these are all laudable goals — but they're not exactly what you'd expect from a guy who last appeared in the news because he accidentally dropped a gun at a committee meeting.

"I just gave blood," he explained in March of 2012, "and I might not have latched it quite properly. All I could think of was, it was bound to happen one of these days, I come here too often for that not to have happened." Besides, he dropped only one of

* It's easy to see how Parent got that impression; *SourceWatch.org* lists 158 corporations that donate to Fix the Debt. Here's a small sample: Aetna, Alcoa, Allstate, AT&T, Bain Capital, Bank of America, Boeing, Caterpillar, Citigroup, Dow Chemical, General Electric, Goldman Sachs, Honeywell, Humana, J.P. Morgan, Merck, Microsoft, Morgan Stanley, Staples, State Farm, Time Warner, Verizon, and Weyerhaeuser.

The Alleged News

from page one

the two .45s he wears in shoulder holsters, so what's the big deal?

The mystery only deepened when Tasker posted a message about HB 1442 on his Facebook page. It said, "Crazy people need to face consequences equal or greater than everyone else. ... The idea that being crazy is a shield against the full force of the justice system is laughable. Texas doesn't have any problem executing the mentally ill."

Well, then — why did he sponsor the bill?

According to another Facebook post, he only sponsored the bill as part of a legislative trade-off: "Damn it this is why you need the full language before you sign off on bills like this ... now my name is attached to this turd."

Competing with Tasker for this fortnight's "Most Bizarre Statement from a Legislator" award is

Rep. George Lambert, of Litchfield. On February 12th he spoke against a suicide-prevention program for public schools.

"Liberty is complicated, because my preference that someone not commit suicide does not mean that we as a society should use the force of Government to lock them up if we disagree with them on their desire to end their own life," he wrote on his Facebook page.

We're indebted to Portsmouth architect William Tucker's *MiscellanyBlue.com* for tracking some of the madness in Concord.

Leave Jane Alone!

We try not to take these things too personally, but we are a bit miffed. A group of 242 historians and political scientists polled by the Siena College Research Institute recently conducted its fourth ranking of First Ladies and concluded that Jane Pierce came in 39th — out of 39.

Labeling Pierce "The Worst



PARIAH OF THE WEEK

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A multitude of locations all around town got spiffed up to celebrate the First Annual Fire & Ice festival last weekend, perfectly timed to coincide with Valentine's Day, President's Day weekend, and the annual onslaught of Seasonal Affective Disorder. Gilley's is festive enough in its natural state.

First Lady Ever" seems harsh and unjust. The rankings were based on ten variables, plugged into a formula: background, integrity, leadership, courage, image, &c., &c. Pierce might have ranked higher if Siena's system included a variable like "challenges to overcome."

In her case, those would include an innate loathing of politics and the Capitol and witnessing the ghastly death of her last surviving child in a railroad accident two months before Franklin's inauguration. Plus she was married to Franklin.

Shades of Lee Atwater

Rep. Carol Shea-Porter has won the dubious distinction of being among 15 or more Democrats targeted in a particularly sleazy Republican campaign.

The National Republican Campaign Committee [NRCC] has set up a series of websites designed to look like they're the candidate's own — but any dona-

tions made through the sites go to the RNCC. A CNN report showed how easy it was for one busy Atlanta lawyer to make just that mistake. After his donation went through, George Bush's picture popped up saying "thanks for helping defeat" the candidate he wanted to help. He eventually got his \$1,000 returned.



CNN interviewed Daniel Scarpinato [left], the NRCC's National Press Secretary, about the sites. He was

brazenly unapologetic.

"We're very proud of this program," he told CNN's Drew Griffin.

"Don't you think that's sleazy?" Griffin asked.

"No," Scarpinato said, "I think they dropped the ball," by not buying up every conceivable URL

based on the candidates' names.

Speaking of Sleaze

We got a phone call last week — from a cyborg. Seriously. We didn't figure it out until later, but that's what it was.

A female-sounding voice asked us if we'd answer a brief survey about what's on television these days. Feeling mischievous as usual, we said yes.

Did we think there was too much sex and violence? As best we recall, our rambling answer may have drifted into some Bilderbergian conspiracy. Did we think there ought to be more family-friendly content on the idiot box? Well, no — depravity on the tube is necessary to prepare kids for life in a cruel and hazardous world. But despite our best efforts to induce the caller to abandon us and our frankly bizarre opinions, the cyborg persisted.

Then it pounced! The voice asked us to press a certain digit to register our answers. Follow-

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ing instinct, we balked; soon after that the cyborg bailed out.

Good thing, too. We've since been told that pushing any button would have effectively given the cyborg permission to disregard the fact that we're listed in the Do Not Call Registry.

Morbidly curious as always, we followed the verbal clues we'd been given during our conversation to see what we could learn. Things got curiously and curiously.

Our semi-human caller was working for Family TV, aka Stepping Stones Entertainment, a Utah company that was charged by the FCC in 2011 for making 16 million calls to numbers on the Do Not Call Registry. Though still pending, the case seems to have earned the company an "F" rating from the Utah Better Business Bureau.

More intriguingly, the company's chief executive, a Utahan named Forest S. Baker III [right] turns out to be the evil genius behind "The Echo System," software which allows a single telemarketer to annoy three households at the same time. As if



the world wasn't annoying enough already.

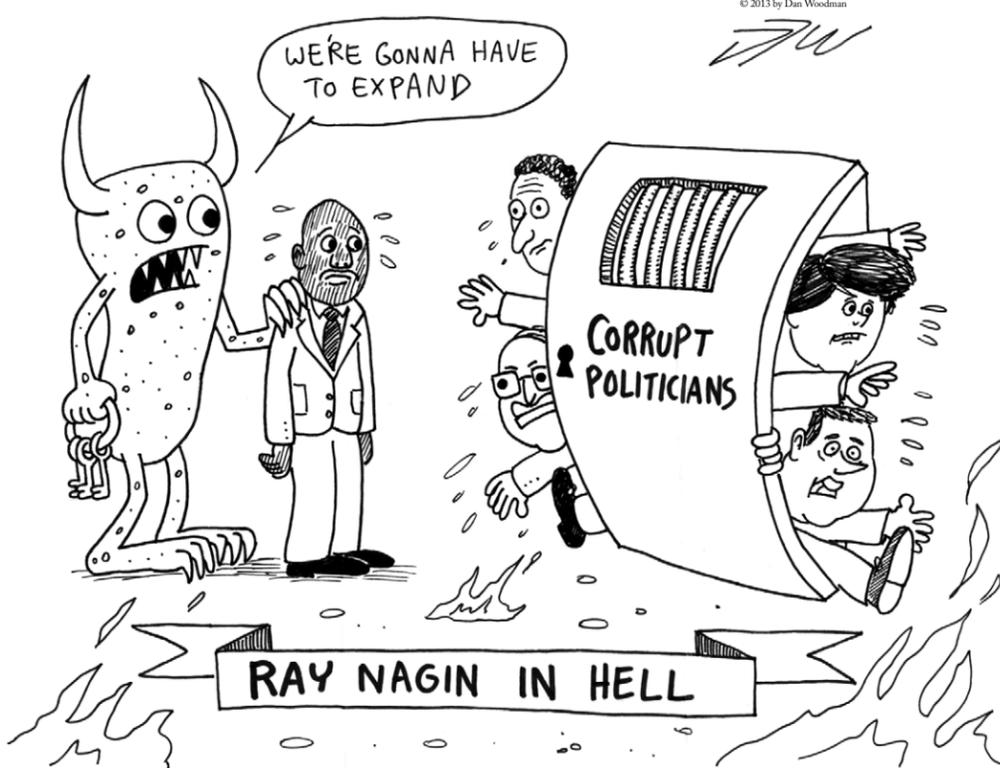
We don't know how his operators manage to do it. Maybe Baker hires only mutants with three ears. At any rate, rather than actually speaking to their victims, the operators just hit buttons that play pre-recorded sentences or phrases as they work their way through their sales scripts.

Baker's telemarketing company, Corporations for Character, uses Echo to sell Stepping Stones' diabetic-coma-inducing movies — which Baker also produces.

Because Baker's own company can't aggravate enough people on its own, he licenses the software to other telemarketers like Associated Community Services, "one of the nation's largest telemarketers, which calls on behalf of about two dozen charities," according to the *Tampa Bay Times*' Kris Hundley.

Hundley cited Cancer Fund of America as a charity using Corporations for Character's services.

"The Knoxville charity agreed to pay Baker's telemarketing firm 95 percent of all initial donations using the Echo system, then 80 percent of all subsequent



Local custom dictates that certain parking spaces in Market Square are for the use of tough guys only.

donations by the same person. In 2012, Cancer Fund netted about \$40,000 of more than \$414,000 raised using the software. The rest went to Baker's company, according to reports filed with North Carolina regulators."

Sleazier Still

It may have been an actual human who called February 12th to solicit a donation for the National Vietnam Veterans Foundation [NVVF]. We couldn't be sure; the conversation didn't go on long enough. Being a presumptive beneficiary as well as a would-be donor, the Editor immediately hit The Google and was instantly equipped to ask questions which the caller didn't feel like answering.

The text on NVVF's website says it exists to aid Vietnam Veterans in many lofty ways, including "educational seminars, workshops, conferences, and training programs," as well as "conduct[ing] research on critical

long and short-term issues impacting on veterans."

If we are to judge from the photographic evidence on its "Charitable Works" page, Foundation President Thomas Burch, Jr. has achieved the presentation of a wide screen TV and a few "personal hygiene kits" to patients and staff at a VA hospital.

Fortunately, since it is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, there's a more objective way to assess the organization's performance. William P. Barrett, blogging at *NewToSeattle*, has broken down NVVF's 990's for the years 2007 through 2012.

Barrett found that out of \$24 million raised in those years, \$21 million was spent on — fundraising.

"NVVF's fundraising efficiency ratio," he wrote, "(the percentage of funds remaining after the cost of raising them) was just 13 percent. Charity watchdog groups like the Better Business Bureau

Wise Giving Alliance say anything below 65 percent is way out of line.

"Of the \$24 million, a mere \$240,000 was handed out in direct cash aid to individuals and organizations. That's all of one percent. Another \$2.5 million was spent in what was described as various veteran support programs, including 'awareness' publicity and a hotline. By my calculation, the charitable commitment ratio — percent of total expenses spent in direct furtherance of the charitable mission — was only 11 percent. Again, the charity watchdogs look askance at anything under 65 percent."

A little more Googling revealed that Burch was part of George W. Bush's anti-McCain smear campaign in South Carolina during the 2000 Presidential campaign.

Class act.

NEWS: RICH PEOPLE PAYING RICH PEOPLE TO TELL MIDDLECLASS PEOPLE TO BLAME POOR PEOPLE

6/29/31

Getting a Leg Up on the Competition

A Great Moment in Gender Equality

There are large glasses and there are small glasses but when the local Moose Lodge held an outing, even the largest glass could not keep local contender Mildred Cuddeback from entering the famed beer drinking contest, where (much to the surprise of onlookers) she took home the blue ribbon.

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Texts, Lies and Videotapes

To the Editor:

Politicians should be careful what they say, lots of people are watching, recording and remembering.

You would expect this would lead to more honesty and less hypocrisy in politics. But alas, we have to add stupidity to the description of many of our elected representatives.

Politicians think what they said yesterday is forgotten today! Reversing one's position, without good reason, means that you lied in the first instance or you're lying in the second. Today House Republicans find themselves in a "texts, lies and videotapes" situation when it comes to immigration policy.

Speaker Boehner is on record, a month ago, supporting immigration reform and stating it should not be a partisan issue. A week ago he released a set of principles to guide the House bill. Thursday, the fifth, he said that the House bill will not be able to move forward. He caved to the extreme right again.

Boehner, doesn't seem to realize that when he quickly reverses direction, in the middle of stride, folks notice and don't believe he was just inventing a new dance step.

The new Republican position on immigration is simply ridiculous. This time they have a lame, inaccurate and purely speculative excuse—"We can't trust Obama

to enforce the immigration laws!" Where do these characters get their information and do they think anyone other than the under informed, hardcore base will believe them?

The facts are: deportation of illegal aliens is ten times higher than under Bush, border zone arrests are at an all-time high, spending on border security has increased annually, under Obama, and is at a record high. And finally, immigrant advocates are up in arms over this administration's tough position on the enforcement of immigration laws.

The truth is Boehner and House leadership favored immigration reform and said so on videotape. Next they were bombarded with negative text messages from the far right, who oppose immigration reform. What did Boehner do?

The Speaker tells a lie and blames his flip flop on illogical speculation instead of his party's dysfunction.

When is Boehner going to respond to the overwhelming majority of Americans, 70 percent plus, who support new immigration laws and stop pandering to a minority portion of the Republican party who have consistently behaved badly.

If you need some leverage on these spoiled brats, Mr. Speaker, we have them on videotape, if you have the guts to use it!

Dave Potter
North Hampton, NH

Dave:

Boehner faces a challenging situation. If he were to operate solely on the basis of what's real and true, he'd be putting himself at a terrible disadvantage.

The Editor

§

UNH Decision Making

To the Editor:

Is UNH a sport program with an academic program attached?

Higher education is facing some

of the most significant changes in decades. In many colleges the last decade was wasted on creating a concierge atmosphere sparing no expense in catering to parents and students with fancy dorms, fitness facilities and sports along with other non-academic "bells and whistles" to entice customers. The economic down turn, tuition costs rising three times faster than other goods and services and demographically driven decreases in the number of eighteen-year-olds have made that impossible to continue, but UNH seems bent on trying what has failed elsewhere.

College can no longer be a four-year idyll, but instead must offer outcome-based learning. Students should expect mentorships and hands-on learning with topnotch faculty and academic facilities. We are competing against the rest of the world where tuition and fees are not used to fund play space or sports programs that pay for the physically talented few at the expense of the many.

UNH is the most expensive public institution, and giving greatest value for those dollars in the form of quality faculty and academics should be the goal. Further indebting students through higher fees to pay for a stadium and resort play space that destroys a valued, Roosevelt era CCC-built Outdoor Pool, shouldn't even be on the list.

Students learn when we aren't looking or teaching. I wonder what lessons students have learned about valuing our history and working cooperative with the local community with Mr. Huddleston's "line-in-the-sand" stance about destroying the pool and building a stadium instead of upgrading academic facilities and offerings?

Pride in UNH takes many forms, from hockey/football to lesser-lauded academic accomplishments. Can New Hampshire start to take pride in its univer-

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

sity by having it becoming a 21st Century educational institution that understands the focus must be on innovation, creativity, problem solving, accountability and giving faculty the tools to make classrooms as dynamic as the world that surrounds them?

Will UNH also role model cultural awareness and civic engagement by changing its decision to destroy its historic outdoor pool, thereby preserving a piece of New Hampshire history, not just for the Durham and UNH communities, but for all New Hampshire residents?

Carol Glover
Durham, NH

Carol:

Given the state's virtual abandonment of its responsibility to provide funding for higher education, it's no wonder priorities are screwed up in Durham.

The Editor

§

He Feels Represented

To the Editor:

My Congresswoman, Carol Shea-Porter has the best interest of the people of New Hampshire and America at heart. She is a realist, recognizing the good and the bad in the Affordable Care Act, recognizing that this will be a process and she is willing to do the work to make things better for the people rather than big business.

The idea that America had the best health system in the world is a lie, that "system" may have been in America but it was only available to the wealthiest.

The ACA may have had some issues during its infancy but in its intent and at its core it is going to make things better for working Americans. Ending pre-existing conditions, lifetime caps and allowing children to stay on their parents plan until they are 26 are

huge positives. The multitudes of other positive items in the Affordable Care Act will help all of us by improving health insurance plans across the board; providing preventive services at no cost, changes to the treatment of mental health issues and improving prescription coverage are just a tiny sample of the improvements that people are not aware of which benefit 100 percent of Americans; even the wealthy, though all it does is save them money while it may save one of our lives.

As far as costs go we were already paying far more monetarily to cover people thru emergency room healthcare and there is no way to measure the cost of the pain, suffering and lost lives incurred by Americans who went without the care they could not afford or that was refused them by a faceless corporate bureaucracy.

It is not the Affordable Care Act that canceled anyone's insurance. It was the insurance companies, who could have improved those plans to meet the requirements of the Affordable Care Act but they chose not to. The plans that were canceled were canceled because they were poor plans that did not adequately protect their holders. Too many Americans were falsely secure, thinking they were safe because they had insurance. The truth for too many was, had they had to use their plans, they would have discovered limits in coverage, annual or lifetime caps, cancellations or a myriad of other methods, developed by the insurance industry to allow them to refuse to make good on their promises.

I can understand why my Congresswoman would be upset by the issues regarding the system to enroll her constituents into this better system, more thought, planning and testing should have

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And Other Correspondence

been given to something so important. At the same time I think we need to recognize that the failures of the web site have little to do with the core essence and purpose of the ACA and the good it will do for those who need it.

There has been too much misinformation about the ACA, as there has been with so many issues which don't favor the wealthy. People need to educate themselves about what the Affordable Care Act actually contains not listen to the rhetoric of those whose interest doesn't lie with working Americans.

I am grateful to have my Congresswoman, Carol Shea-Porter fighting for us, for America and working people rather than Guin-ta fighting for the wealthy.

David Holt
Somersworth, NH

Political Misrepresentation?

To the Editor:
Why is Michael Cryans running as a shadow of Ray Burton? Who is the real Michael Cryans?

Ray Burton did not support Omer Ahern, a Republican who was running for re-election in District 2 for Grafton County Commissioner in 2012. Omer has been a great advocate for reigning in Grafton County spending and keeping Grafton County Property Taxes low. Burton and Cryans have consistently opposed Ahern's pro-taxpayer initiatives. My question again is who is Michael Cryans? Is he for We the People? Is he for lower taxes?

I read an article in the *Examiner.com* headlined, "Disturbing: Ray Burton sending emails for Michael Cryans from the grave." The emails backing Michael Cryans are sent from Ray Burton's email account. The question in the article was, why would someone use Burton's email and contacts

to push Cryans or any other candidate? Is this ethical? Hundreds of people are getting them! Some voice concern because they were close to Ray and find this in poor taste! A quote from this article is as follows: "Burton cannot speak from the grave and no one should be sending emails in his name to anyone, let alone supporting a candidate that no one knows for sure Burton actually supported given the choices. Cryans should do himself a favor and ask that the emails cease. It would be interesting to know what other information Democrats have gained from whoever is sending these emails. Burton most likely had different contacts than Cryans as he was a Republican." Is this manipulation by the Democrats? This is unethical and immoral!

In 1996 Cryans ran against Ray Burton and lost. Clearly Cryans is no Burton. This unethical and unconscionable behavior is unacceptable and the voters should reject this candidate!

Joe Kenney who has led a life of service: U.S.M.C., Selectman, State Senator. Please vote the candidate with proven constitutional service and strong ethical principles. Vote for Joe Kenney March 11th!

Rosemary Landry
Meredith, NH

Rosemary:
You're trying to suggest that Ray Burton would approve of a Tea Partier as his replacement? We think not.

Burton's sister Joan Day has said, "I cannot think of a more qualified individual to fill [Ray's] seat than Mike Cryans. ... It is with great pride that I endorse [him]."

Burton's brother, Steve Burton of Hanover, has also endorsed Cryans, calling him "intelligent, compassionate, and dedicated to serving the needs of others."

Finally, Burton's sister, Mary Grimes of Columbia, has said, "... I am confident that Mike Cryans is the man to succeed [Ray]."

One of the reasons Ray was so popular was his equanimity. You're bent out of shape over a semi-literate screed by a person who's his exact opposite. Can't wait for the election — we suspect Cryans will do quite well.

The Editor

§

Politicizing the Olympics

To the Editor:

I have been appalled to hear America's media and politicians focus on every little glitch happening in the Sochi Winter Olympics. They are cheering for the failure of the Sochi games.

Politics has no place in the Olympics. Have we not learned the lesson from President Jimmy Carter who boycotted the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan? What did that prove? Now, our country has invaded and is still waging war in Afghanistan. The only losers in the 1980 Olympics were the U.S. athletes who were denied the opportunity of a lifetime dream to be an Olympian.

The *Boston Globe* recently had a revealing article about the Russian gay community's viewpoint on protesting Russian anti-gay laws during the Olympics. Andrei Tanichev (who owns a gay nightclub in Sochi) poignantly said, "angry foreigners demanding that ... Putin change Russia's laws on sexual relations cannot help, and might only make things worse." Tanichev further points out, Russian "society is not ready."

Tanichev words echo something very important — let's reserve the Olympics as a place to honor and celebrate the athletes from around the world. Let us show respect and admire the host country's culture and people. Olympic athletes are prohibited

from making political statements during the games and so should everyone else.

Let the light of the Olympic torch shine.

John Meinhold
Portsmouth, NH

John:
You're proposing a politics-free Olympics? Too radical a departure from tradition for us!

Would you have had Jesse Owens sit out the Berlin Olympics?

The Editor

§

The Unfortunate Rollout

To the Editor:

It is unfortunate that the roll out of new healthcare law got off to such a rocky start. Despite that, I believe that the new law will help many people. But longtime opponents have used the botched rollout as an opportunity to trash the law. It is important to separate the rollout from the law itself, yet heavily funded campaigns against the law have worked hard to knit the two together. They are hoping that people forget about the many benefits.

For instance, the new health care law now forces insurance companies to cover those with pre-existing conditions. Nationally this is an incredibly popular aspect of the law. The new law also outlaws greedy and unfair practices like annual or lifetime caps on coverage or rescinding policies when people get sick because the insurer found a "mistake" in their application. On a personal level, the new healthcare law has provided affordable health care insurance for one of my own young adult children who otherwise could not afford coverage.

However, despite my support for the law, I am glad Congresswoman Shea-Porter told President Obama that he should accept some resignations from his staff over mismanagement of the rollout. Those responsible for the problems should be replaced. Ad-



ditionally, here in New Hampshire, the actions that allowed Anthem to develop a narrow "network" that left out doctors and hospitals should be corrected. These glitches need to be addressed. I appreciate Congresswoman Shea-Porter stepping in to do just that.

Beth Olshansky
Durham, NH

§

Ortega and Exceptionalism

To the Editor:

A recent BBC Radio broadcast cited an exhaustive list of dignitaries who attended Nelson Mandela's state funeral in South Africa, including Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who was re-elected to office by the people of Nicaragua in 2007. One may recall that Ortega had previously held office for five years up to 1990, when he was defeated in a democratic election. His name should hopefully ring a bell for those that persistently bemoan the end of America's "exceptionalism" at the hands of President Obama's noninterventionist foreign policy. Personally, when I hear the name "Daniel Ortega," I automatically think intervention and Iran/Contra.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan offered the following confession to the nation during hearings regarding the Iran/Contra Scandal: "A few months ago, I told the American people I did not trade

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Northcountry Chronicle

The Harvest

by William Marvel

As a boy I used to wander the woods near my house, reenacting whatever historical lore I had most recently imbibed. Somewhere I learned that Daniel Boone carved his name into a tree in 1784, and that the tree was still standing a century later, so for a time no tree was safe from my knife — especially the young maples or beeches with smooth grey skin that gave way easily beneath my blade. Marred trunks dotted the woods between our house and my grandmother's, proclaiming my passage.

I revisited those woods each year as an adult, helping my father collect his winter's firewood. Occasionally we would cut down a tree with barely-legible evidence of my vandalism, and eventually we must have gotten them all, so in 1981 I stopped to engrave the trunk of a beech that we let stand for another year.

Keeping ahead of firewood consumption became my father's

primary occupation in retirement. He bought an old Jeep that had not been started in a decade, got it running, and built a wooden bed for it. For the rest of his life that was our means of bringing up oak, beech, maple, and ash, which we reduced to furnace lengths on a cordwood saw he built from scavenged parts. The work kept him fit into his late 80s.

It was the fall of 1991, I think, when we were loading the Jeep near the brow of the slope that descends into Black Cat Swamp. He was 82 and I was 42, but while he moved slower than I did he always managed to handle his full share of wood. We were just topping off a load when Fred Wheeler came sauntering along with his rifle. Fred and my father had spent the bitterly cold winter of 1960 cutting timber together down in the swamp, where wild-life was always abundant, and my father asked why he wasn't hunting down there, where the deer were.

"Well," said Fred, who would

have been 87 or so, "because if I get one down there I've got to drag it up the hill, and I'm not as young as I used to be."

Just then my father was picking up a bolt of beech that must have weighed 75 pounds. With a groan he threw it on top of the load, which was higher than his head.

"I know what you mean," he said, dusting his hands. "This was a lot easier when I was 65."

Now it's up to me to keep ahead of the firewood, but without my father's assorted pensions I have less time to devote to it. Last spring was so cold that we dipped deeply into my 2013-2014 supply, and while I have plenty of wood for next winter we're a little short for this one. I've beaten a path down toward the swamp in search of dry, dead trees that can go directly into the furnace, and there aren't many that fit the bill: most are either not dead enough or are so punky that they are damp from snow and rain, and might create creosote from that moisture. So



The Marvels and their cordwood saw, circa 1990

far the only satisfactory candidates have been a couple of beech tops that snapped off in storms, one dead maple that was still fairly solid at the top, and a fallen oak with a dry, dense core.

Finding suitable trees was the easy part. Four feet of mature hardwood is still pretty hefty even when it's dry, and with deep snow and no Jeep I have to balance each length on my shoulder and climb the hill that Fred Wheeler feared. It's 300 yards or more to the back shed, where I cut them up and split them.

Having just visited her broad-beamed kin in Kansas, my wife's interest in exercise has spiked again, and she gamely pitches in. Now it looks like we might have enough to cover the deficit, but just in case I sawed down the trunks of the two dead beeches that had snapped off. One of them was a foot in diameter, and at eye level I detected distortions in the peeling bark that rudely spelled my own name, above the year 1981. Time to inscribe another trunk, I'd say — and to wonder if I'll be around to cut that one down.

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

arms for hostages. My heart and my best intentions still tell me that's true, but the facts and the evidence tell me it is not." Reagan was referencing his administration's ill-advised transfer of missiles to Iran for its assistance in gaining the release of U.S. hostages in the Middle East. Proceeds from weapons sales were used to fund a shady right wing militia in Nicaragua in a failed attempt to overthrow the left-leaning Ortega.

Another fascinating twist to this twisted foreign policy was: The

weapons sold to Iran were to be used against Saddam Hussein and Iraq, whom the U.S. was simultaneously supporting in a proxy war against the Iranians. Of course it was the Iranians who resented us in the first place for overthrowing their democratically-elected leader and replacing him with a brutal tyrant. This resentment festered and led to the Islamic Revolution, the taking of hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, and a long, lingering mutual distrust.

Relentless blowback from the foreign policy of the "Exception-

alists," all in the name of Middle East oil, has brought us almost to the point of no return where we even find ourselves debating over possible U.S. intervention in Syria's civil war between al-Qaida-backed rebels and the Assad Government being aided by an allied Iran & war-devastated Iraq.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, NH

§

End Prohibition, Vote GOP

To the Editor:

The only Republican contender for governor, Andrew Heming-

way, is for ending Prohibition. Unlike Democrats Hassan and Lynch, who support Richard Nixon's Drug War, Andrew supports legalizing marijuana.

The New Hampshire General Court has been trying to roll back prohibition for six years. Five times in the last six years, they have voted to decriminalize and/or legalize marijuana. In 2012, a decriminalization bill passed with a 2-1 margin. But the governor remained opposed.

In 2013's session, Representative Steve Vaillancourt intro-

duced (and both Republicans and Democrats co-sponsored) HB 492, which would legalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana and place a 15 percent sales tax on it. The bill has passed the House and is in the Ways and Means committee. It is estimated that the bill would bring in up to \$40 million dollars of tax revenue.

It's high time we ended the prohibition of a drug that is milder and safer than the legal drugs alcohol, tobacco, oxycontin, &c. It is high time that we returned

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The Psychic Pain Borne By The Rich

by Jim Hightower

One thing about the tea party Republicans in Congress is that they do know who butters their biscuits. Several have recently rushed forward with an anguished plea in defense of Wall Street barons, CEOs, and billionaires: "Stop the vilification of wealthy people," is their cry.

A crusade to protect pampered plutocrats from having to hear

the public's scornful words about them is not likely to draw much support from ... well, from the public. Still, it is true that being a one percent is not an easy burden to shoulder. Yes, they do have money and power, but don't you see, they never have enough. If your sense of self-worth is tied up in your net worth, then what if your net is comparatively small?

It's important for us riff-raff to realize that there are the rich —

and then there are THE RICH. The relativity of status within the one percent creates enormous stress, even feelings of wealth inadequacy. They're constantly thinking: "Is his bigger than mine?" Imagine if you had to live with that!

Perhaps you didn't know, but the average household income for the one percent as a whole is a mere \$1.26 million a year. Okay, that's rich, but it's not RICH. For that

honorific, you have to step it up many notches and climb into the elite class of the richest one-tenth of one percenters. Their average household wealth is \$6.37 million a year. Now that's money.

Yet, it's not enough. Those elites are looked down on by an even thinner slice of net worthies: The royal class of the richest one one-hundredth of one percenters. This is the stratosphere where the richy-richest of THE RICH

dwel, making ends meet on an average household income of \$31 million a year.

Come on, people, have some feeling for the psychic pain of those who're struggling to keep up with the one one-hundredths of one percent. It's a tough world up there.

§

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to "Live Free or Die," and gave up nanny-state socialism. New Hampshire isn't New York city, and we don't need government bureaucrats to run our lives.

Want to end Prohibition? Support Andrew Hemingway for governor.

Bill Walker
Plainfield, NH
Bill:

We don't know how old you might be but, having been born during the Truman administration, it gives us a great deal of pleasure to publish a letter on this topic from a supporter of the party which was then run by Robert Taft.

The Editor

§

Beware of Big Money

To the Editor:

New Hampshire voters beware! Now that we have officially entered an election year, you are likely to see unprecedented amounts of big money coming into our small state to try to influence your vote. Already, just since the New Year, Americans for Prosperity, a conservative advocacy group organized and financed by the Koch Brothers, billionaire industrialists, has launched a \$20 million national ad campaign. No surprise, these ads target Democratic House and Senate candidates who are up

for re-election and who voted in support of our new health care reforms. As reported by the *New York Times*, these ads contain false accusations, misrepresentations, and outright lies. If \$20 million seems like a large sum of money, keep in mind that this represents only a drop in the bucket of the millions yet to be spent. In 2012 alone, the Koch Brothers network raised \$407 million.

Conservative groups such as Americans for Prosperity have not only raised unprecedented amounts of money through corporate donations, but also they have built unrivaled systems of organizational complexity that results in great secrecy. There is virtually no way for citizens like you and me to learn what individuals and corporations gave enormous donations.

While the IRS and several lawmakers are working to initiate efforts to prevent these "social welfare groups" and other tax-sheltered groups from being used as political conduits, their efforts have been met with significant resistance from Republican lawmakers. This is no surprise. So prepare for an unrivalled media blintz this year and keep in mind that you can't (and shouldn't) believe everything you hear. Don't

let big money take away our democracy!

Beth Olshansky
Durham, NH

§

Paranoid Politicos

To the Editor:

As Ronald Reagan famously said, "There you go again!" Portsmouth's paranoid Republican politicos are still trying to sell us on the existence of voter fraud and the non-existence of voter suppression by using a phony bait and switch argument and a cherry picking logic.

The bait is an appeal to the readers' ego by claiming that their ballot is being nullified and their basic right to vote is being stolen. Time to rally the troops! The switch is that they never present any proof of this and quickly move on to argue for a voter ID law. A direct connection is not needed.

Using intimidation as the symbol of voter suppression is also a sham. It is the most onerous and obvious technique and also the least common for good reason, it is illegal. The trick is that there are many ways to suppress voting and to base your argument on only one is intellectually dishonest.

Republican — and only Republican — administrations across the country are: reducing

polling hours, polling machines, polling personnel, cutting early voting, restricting student voting, eliminating early and same day registration and installing ID requirements all in the name of preventing voter fraud. Visit the *BrennanCenter.org* website for a full description of the extensive actions being taken.

I'm hard pressed to see how fewer voting days, shorter hours or fewer voting machines will do more than create longer lines, discourage voters and indirectly suppress the vote.

This multi-layered reaction to a miniscule problem is gross overkill, especially when one exempts absentee voting. Absentee ballots present the greatest risk for voter fraud, no ID or personal appearance required. But! The majority of absentee ballots are Republican and we wouldn't want to do anything that would reduce their number. Do I smell hypocrisy?

The hallucination that Republicans love to enjoy is that busloads of Democrats are sneaking into New Hampshire, under the cover of darkness, on Election Day eve. Presumably they hide out somewhere until the polls open and then go in with their Groucho Marx disguise and use the name of a dead person to vote. Let's get

real folks, if I were a poll worker I would be annoyed with the presumption that multiple individuals are successfully impersonating my dead neighbors and I can't figure it out.

Republicans' disproportionate response to a rare attempt at voter fraud and their cavalier dismissal of purposeful infringements on voter's rights, by Republican led states is illogical. Thirty three states introduced 93 restrictive bills in 2013. Their attitude reflects a warped perspective that should disqualify them from public office in New Hampshire and the USA.

With their new found free time maybe they could enjoy a night at the opera?

Dave Potter
North Hampton, NH

Dave:

Once again, we blame the press.

Republicans, given the opportunity to utter obviously untrue pronouncements whenever they like without being challenged by the press, have become addicted to the practice.

That has given them the political space in which to erect a series of "fixes" to this non-existent problem.

They'll bring back the poll tax, next.

The Editor

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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

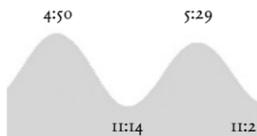
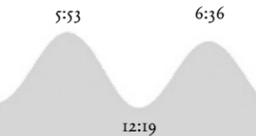
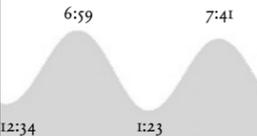
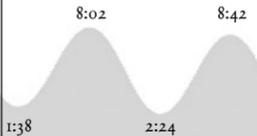
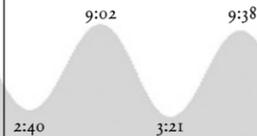
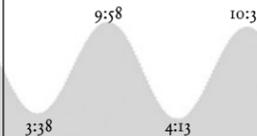
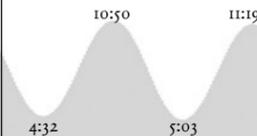
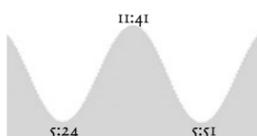
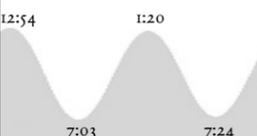
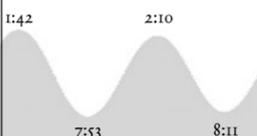
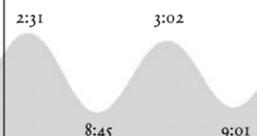
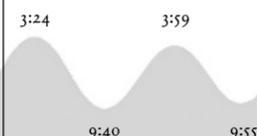
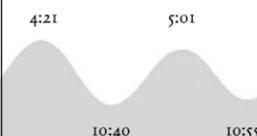
moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

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, February 23	Monday, February 24	Tuesday, February 25	Wednesday, February 26	Thursday, February 27	Friday, February 28	Saturday, March 1
<p>2008—Fox News inadvertently interviews comic Lee Camp about the Iraq War: “[This is] just a parade of propaganda, isn’t it? ... a festival of ignorance. A million people are dead in Iraq... Go outside ... hug your children ... love your family... do something with your life.”</p> <p>2008—Because one maintenance crew fails to warn another that humid air confuses its sensors, a \$1.4 billion B-2 bomber crashes in Guam.</p> <p>2004—Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education, calls the nation’s largest teachers union a “terrorist organization.”</p> <p>1974—Two days after presiding over the 100th birthday of his newspaper, the <i>Oakland Tribune</i>, former Sen. William Knowland (R-CA) shoots himself dead.</p> <p>1971—Lt. Wm. Calley confesses to mass murder, and says his CO, Capt. E. Medina, ordered it.</p> <p>1945—Marines plant the U.S. flag atop Mt. Suribachi.</p> <p>1942—The Japanese submarine I-17 fires more than a dozen 5.5 inch rounds at the Richmond oil refinery near Santa Barbara, CA.</p> <p>1922—Henri Landru is executed in France for having 11 wives. He hadn’t suffered enough?</p> <p>1868—In Great Barrington, MA, W.E.B. Dubois is born.</p> <p>1775—“Give me liberty, or give me death,” says Patrick Henry — maybe.</p>	<p>2001—“My plan reduces the national debt, and fast,” says G.W. Bush, “... economists worry that we’re going to run out of debt to retire.”</p> <p>1991—Ground war against Iraq begins, amid concerns about anthrax and botulism sold to Iraq by U.S. companies with Commerce Department approval.</p> <p>1989—Nine passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 811 from Honolulu to New Zealand are sucked out a hole in the plane.</p> <p>1988—Supreme Court upholds Larry Flynt’s right to portray Jerry Falwell as a man who lost his virginity to his mother, in an outhouse, while intoxicated.</p> <p>1988—At 1:17 a.m., Capitol police carry Sen. Robert Packwood (R-OR) into the Senate chamber feet first to make up a quorum.</p> <p>1942—Anti-aircraft batteries in Los Angeles fire 1,400 rounds at a weather balloon. Three are trampled to death in the resulting panic and dozens more are injured.</p> <p>1922—Lewis Vernon Harcourt, 1st Viscount Harcourt and former British Secretary of State for the Colonies, commits suicide rather than face exposure as a pederast.</p> <p>1809—As his New Drury Lane Theatre burns, owner Richard Sheridan (<i>The School for Scandal</i>) drinks at a neighboring coffeehouse, saying “A man may surely be allowed to take a glass by his own fireside.”</p>	<p>2003—Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki warns the Senate that occupying Iraq would require far more troops than Donald Rumsfeld planned to use.</p> <p>1988—Sam Donaldson broadcasts excerpts from President Reagan’s private schedule for the day, making it clear the Chief Executive is still reading scripts for a living.</p> <p>1968—“I do not believe Hanoi can hold up under a long war,” says Gen. William Westmoreland.</p> <p>1964—Cassius Clay KO’s Sonny Liston.</p> <p>1947—Prussia ceases to exist.</p> <p>1919—Oregon becomes the first state to tax gasoline.</p> <p>1913—The IWW’s Paterson, NJ silk strike begins.</p> <p>1913—The 16th Amendment establishes an income tax.</p> <p>1870—Hiram Rhoades Revels (R-MS) becomes the first black U.S. Senator.</p> <p>1862—Congress authorizes the first “greenbacks.” In one year, their value is down to 39 cents.</p> <p>1837—In Vermont, Thomas Dav- enport is granted the first patent for an electric printing press.</p> <p>1836—Colt patents the six gun.</p> <p>1836—Joice Heth is autopsied before 1,500 paying spectators in New York City, at the behest of P.T. Barnum. Before her death, Barnum had exhibited Heth as George Washington’s 162 year-old “Mammy.”</p>	<p>2003—Saddam Hussein tells interviewer Dan Rather he would like to debate George W. Bush on TV.</p> <p>2001—In Afghanistan, the Taliban destroy huge statues of Buddha.</p> <p>1993—A truck bomb explodes beneath the World Trade Center in NYC; 6 are dead, 1,000 injured.</p> <p>1991—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush admits the U.S. has been supporting the Khmer Rouge for over a decade.</p> <p>1991—Thousands of Iraqi troops fleeing from Kuwait are massacred on the Highway of Death.</p> <p>1987—The Tower Commission reports that President Reagan has been confused and uninformed.</p> <p>1974—A Senate report details close ties between the Ford Motor Co. and the Nazis.</p> <p>1972—Pittston Coal’s cheap-jack dam on Buffalo Creek in West Virginia collapses killing 118, injuring 1,121, and leaving 5,000 homeless. The company ends up paying less than \$15,000 per casualty.</p> <p>1970—NPR incorporates.</p> <p>1954—A C-119 “Flying Boxcar” buzzes the Huntingdon, TN, county courthouse then crashes, killing four on board and injuring two on the ground.</p> <p>1936—The ceremonial opening of the first Volkswagen plant is conducted by A. Hitler.</p> <p>1932—Birth of Johnny Cash.</p> <p>1928—Birth of Fats Domino.</p>	<p>2003—Deputy Sec. of Def. Paul D. Wolfowitz says “the notion that it will take several hundred thousand U.S. troops to provide stability in post-Saddam Iraq, [is] wildly off the mark.”</p> <p>1986—Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos are chased out of the Philip- pines by their own people.</p> <p>1977—Canadian Mounties bust Keith Richards for possession of heroin and cocaine.</p> <p>1975—The FDA announces the recall of a batch of GE pacemak- ers. Too late, though: all 1,241 have been implanted.</p> <p>1973—American Indian Movement occupies Wounded Knee.</p> <p>1970—The <i>New York Times</i> reports that the U.S. Army no longer con- ducts illegal domestic surveillance; untrue then, and now.</p> <p>1968—Walter Cronkite says on the <i>CBS Nightly News</i> that “we are mired in stalemate” in Vietnam.</p> <p>1962—Renegade South Vietnam- ese pilots bomb Saigon’s Presiden- tial Palace with U.S. airplanes.</p> <p>1939—The Supreme Court de- clares sit-down strikes illegal.</p> <p>1938—Britain and France recog- nize Franco’s fascist government.</p> <p>1933—Nazis burn the Reichstag and blame the Communies.</p> <p>1902—Speaking to the firing squad about to shoot him after a bogus court martial, Harry “Breaker” Mor- rant says “Shoot straight, you bastards. Don’t make a mess of it.”</p>	<p>1997—Bill, Monica and a blue dress.</p> <p>1997—Two heavily armed and armored men hold up a bank in North Hollywood, CA. Twelve cops are wounded, the two robbers die.</p> <p>1993—The ATF bungles an assault on a heavily armed colony of relig- ious wackos in Waco.</p> <p>1991—“By God,” says George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush, “we’ve kicked the Vietnam Syn- drome once and for all.”</p> <p>1986—Ronald Reagan is heard to call reporters “sons-of-bitches” for asking questions during a photo- op; press aide Larry Speakes ex- plains he really said, “It’s sunny and you’re rich.”</p> <p>1958—In New York, 27 die after drinking “King Kong” moonshine.</p> <p>1933—Adolf Hitler exploits the Reichstag Fire to get civil liberties suspended in Germany.</p> <p>1921—The Kronstadt Revolt begins in Russia, criticizing bolshevism. “Shoot them down like partridges,” orders Leon Trotsky.</p> <p>1893—Birth of Ben Hecht, author of <i>The Front Page</i>.</p> <p>1877—The U.S. seizes the Black Hills, in violation of a treaty.</p> <p>1854—A group of political activists meet in Ripon, WI, and may or may not found the Republican party.</p> <p>1840—Joshua V. Hines begins pub- lishing <i>Signs of the Times</i>, a news- paper devoted to William Miller’s Domsday prophecies.</p>	<p>2002—U.S. forces in Afghanistan begin Operation Anaconda, aimed at capturing or killing Taliban fighters in the Shah-i-kot Valley.</p> <p>1977—Sara Lowndes Dylan files for divorce from her hubby Bob.</p> <p>1971—The Weather Underground explodes a bomb at the U.S. Cap- itol, but there is no resulting im- provement.</p> <p>1954—After surviving 39 combat missions in Korea, Ted Williams breaks his collarbone at spring training.</p> <p>1954—The Pentagon blows up a Bikini with an H-bomb. The same day, Puerto Rican nationalists shoot five U.S. Congressman on the floor of the House. There is no resulting improvement in either case.</p> <p>1932—Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., aged 20 mos., is kidnapped; by whom is still disputed.</p> <p>1906—Emma Goldman publishes the first issue of her anarchist news- paper, <i>Mother Earth</i>.</p> <p>1872—Yellowstone, the world’s first national park, is created.</p> <p>1860—Abraham Lincoln speaks at Phenix Hall in Concord, NH, and again later in Manchester.</p> <p>1847—Michigan becomes the first state to stop killing convicts intention- ally.</p> <p>1562—In Vassy, France, Catholics massacre between 30 and 1,000 Huguenots, kicking off 37 years of religious warfare.</p>
 <p>4:50 5:29</p> <p>11:14 11:29</p>	 <p>5:53 6:36</p> <p>12:19</p>	 <p>6:59 7:41</p> <p>12:34 1:23</p>	 <p>8:02 8:42</p> <p>1:38 2:24</p>	 <p>9:02 9:38</p> <p>2:40 3:21</p>	 <p>9:58 10:30</p> <p>3:38 4:13</p>	 <p>10:50 11:19</p> <p>4:32 5:03</p>
Sunday, March 2	Monday, March 3	Tuesday, March 4	Wednesday, March 5	Thursday, March 6	Friday, March 7	Saturday, March 8
<p>2004—UN weapons inspectors re- port that Saddam Hussein had no WMDs. Oops.</p> <p>2002—A U.S. gunship mistakenly fires on a U.S./Afghan convoy dur- ing Operation Anaconda, killing CWO Stanley Harriman. Afghan soldiers flee. The remaining U.S. forces are attacked by the Taliban.</p> <p>1965—Operation Rolling Thunder begins: non-retaliatory U.S. bomb- ing of North Vietnam.</p> <p>1946—Ho Chi Minh is elected president of North Vietnam.</p> <p>1944—Fumes from a stalled loco- motive kill 521 in an Italian train tunnel.</p> <p>1942—Lt. Gen. John DeWitt an- nounces all Japanese-Americans will be required to move away from the West Coast and should do so voluntarily for their own good.</p> <p>1901—By way of the Platt amend- ment, Congress informs Cuba it’s a “protectorate” and our troops are staying.</p> <p>1877—Bribed by Republicans, the Electoral College selects Ruther- ford B. Hayes over Samuel Tilden.</p> <p>1860—Abraham Lincoln visits the Amoskeag mills, then speaks at City Hall in Dover.</p> <p>1836—Texas declares indepen- dence from Mexico.</p> <p>1805—Aaron Burr—the first Vice President to shoot a man—resigns from the Senate for other, unrelated reasons.</p>	<p>2005—Hauled from the depths off Nantucket, spared from the plate for his size, Bubba the 23 lb. lobster expires on his way to Ripley’s.</p> <p>1991—A troublemaker videotapes Los Angeles Police officers chastis- ing Rodney King.</p> <p>1973—A badly designed latch on a DC-10 fails over France. A door blows off, six passengers are sucked from the plane, and the ensuing crash kills the rest.</p> <p>1955—Elvis Presley appears on television for the first time, fatally undermining Western Civilization.</p> <p>1949—The Tucker automobile company crashes.</p> <p>1934—John Dillinger busts out of the Crown Point, IN jail with a fake pistol and drives off in the sheriff’s new V-8 Ford.</p> <p>1931—“The Star-Spangled Ban- ner” becomes our national anthem.</p> <p>1927—Doing 170 mph during a land speed record attempt in Wales, J.G. Parry-Thomas is decapitated by a broken drive chain.</p> <p>1913—In Washington, D.C., 8,000 suffragists march down Pennsyl- vania Avenue. They’re met by jeers and jostling; 200 are injured.</p> <p>1873—In the “Salary Grab Act,” Congressmen raise their salaries retroactively.</p> <p>1863—Congress passes the first U.S. draft law. Exempt: men who can pay the government a \$300 bribe.</p>	<p>2003—President Bush’s younger brother Neil admits during divorce proceedings that he’d had sex with strange women during business trips to Asia.</p> <p>2001—Fox TV broadcasts a “Lone Gunman” episode in which rogue U.S. agents hijack an airliner by re- mote control and try to crash it into a World Trade Center building.</p> <p>1987—Ronald Reagan admits trad- ing arms for hostages.</p> <p>1960—<i>La Coubre</i>, a French munitions ship, mysteriously explodes in Havana harbor, followed by a second explosion. Between 75 and 100 people die. Inexplicably, CIA involvement is suspected.</p> <p>1937—The UAW wins a sit-down strike in Flint, MI.</p> <p>1933—“We have nothing to fear,” says FDR, “but fear itself.”</p> <p>1917—During a filibuster, Sen. Harry Lane (D-OR) prepares to stab Ollie James (D-KY) in the neck if James pulls out his pistol; meanwhile, Democrats prevent Sen. Robert La Follette (Progressive Rep.-WI) from bashing the presiding officer with a spittoon.</p> <p>1909—President Taft and First Lady Nellie Taft take up residency in the White House little suspect- ing that under the lawn is a voodoo doll of Mrs. Taft, buried there by Teddy Roosevelt’s daughter Alice.</p> <p>1865—Vice President Andrew Johnson is sworn in drunk.</p>	<p>2007—In Bloomington, IL, Dee Riddle is startled by a meteorite crashing through her bedroom window.</p> <p>2003—Dixie Chick Natalie Maines says she’s ashamed that George W. Bush is a Texan.</p> <p>2003—In a White House press conference, Helen Thomas tells Ari Fleischer “There is no imminent threat” to the U.S. from Saddam Hussein. Apparently he fails to pass that information along to his boss.</p> <p>2001—A Nor’easter begins which will dump 40 inches of snow on Rockingham County.</p> <p>1963—Patsy Cline, singer of “I Fall to Pieces,” is killed when her plane crashes.</p> <p>1960—Alberto Korda takes a nice photo of Che Guevara.</p> <p>1953—Everybody dies; this time for a change it’s Stalin.</p> <p>1933—In Germany, the Nazi party wins a plurality in the Reichstag.</p> <p>1933—On his first full day in office FDR declares a bank holiday.</p> <p>1927—U.S. Marines land in Chi- na.</p> <p>1877—“Rutherford” B. Hayes is sworn in as the nineteenth U.S. president.</p> <p>1871—Rosa Luxemburg is born.</p> <p>1770—Heinous British troops slaughter innocent Bostonians in the Boston Massacre. (Or, provin- cial terrorists attack duly consti- tuted authority.)</p>	<p>2007—A jury finds Dick “Dick” Cheney’s Chief of Staff I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby guilty of perjury and obstruction of justice.</p> <p>2003—George W. Bush claims in a press conference that Saddam Hussein’s operatives have “biologi- cal and chemical agents” they are moving “to different locations every 12 to 24 hours, or placed in vehicles that are in residential neighbor- hoods.”</p> <p>1991—President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush claims that his defeat of Saddam Hussein has created a “new world order.”</p> <p>1981—After 19 years as anchor, Walter Cronkite casts off from the “CBS Evening News.”</p> <p>1971—The same day the FCC bans songs that “promote or glorify the use of illegal drugs,” unsuspecting Lawrence Welk singers perform “One Tokes Over the Line.”</p> <p>1966—Sgt. Barry Sadler’s “Ballad of the Green Berets” hits No. 1.</p> <p>1964—Cassius Clay takes the name Muhammad Ali.</p> <p>1930—Clarence Birdseye invents a method of quickly freezing food.</p> <p>1896—Charles B. King (1868- 1957) demonstrates the first auto- mobile ever seen in Detroit.</p> <p>1857—The Supreme Court rules in <i>Dred Scott v. Sanford</i> that “the un- happy black race [never possessed] rights which the white man was bound to respect.”</p>	<p>1981—An 18 year-old is stabbed to death in Disneyland’s first ho- micide.</p> <p>1965—Six blocks into a 50-mile, Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march, 600 marchers are attacked by state and local police on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.</p> <p>1955—The Commissioner of Base- ball, Ford Frick, says the he favors legalizing the spitball.</p> <p>1932—Detroit police fire on a hun- ger march of Ford workers, four of whom die.</p> <p>1911—Twenty thousand U.S. troops are dispatched to the Mexi- can border to protect “American interests.”</p> <p>1908—In Cincinnati, Mayor Mark Breith announces that “women are not physically fit to operate auto- mobiles.”</p> <p>1906—In Finland, the Senate ap- proves of universal suffrage—except for the poor.</p> <p>1876—Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone.</p> <p>1850—New Hampshire native Daniel Webster, representing Mas- sachusetts in the U.S. Senate, argues in the Senate that slaveholders are entitled to be secure in their own- ship of their slaves.</p> <p>1799—In Bethlehem, PA, John Fries and a mob of four hundred insurgents and onlookers free 19 property tax protestors from a fed- eral marshal and his 13 deputies.</p>	<p>1971—The still-anonymous Citi- zens Commission to Investigate the FBI breaks into the Bureau’s Media, PA office and makes off with over 1,000 documents which reveal illegal wiretapping, infiltra- tion of organizations, and media manipulation.</p> <p>1971—Radio Hanoi plays Jimi Hendrix’s “Star-Spangled Banner.”</p> <p>1968—The Soviet sub <i>K-129</i> sinks in the Pacific. The CIA later re- trieves part of it.</p> <p>1966—In Dublin, fifty years after the Easter Rising, an IRA bomb destroys Nelson’s Pillar. Within days the song “Up Went Nelson” tops the Irish charts.</p> <p>1965—As the first U.S. combat troops—U.S. Marines—hit the beach at Danang ready to fight, they are welcomed by Vietnamese girls offering leis.</p> <p>1958—William Faulkner says American schools have degenerated into babysitters.</p> <p>1950—The USSR announces it’s got an A-bomb.</p> <p>1927—Babe Ruth signs a two-year contract with the Yankees worth \$160,000.</p> <p>1913—The IRS begins collecting.</p> <p>1906—U.S. troops in the Philip- pines attack a Moro stronghold, killing them all regardless of age or gender. Teddy Roosevelt calls it “a brilliant feat of arms [that upheld] the honor of the American flag.”</p>
 <p>11:41 12:07</p> <p>5:24 5:51</p>	 <p>12:30 1:20</p> <p>6:14 6:37</p>	 <p>12:54 1:20</p> <p>7:03 7:24</p>	 <p>1:42 2:10</p> <p>7:53 8:11</p>	 <p>2:31 3:02</p> <p>8:45 9:01</p>	 <p>3:24 3:59</p> <p>9:40 9:55</p>	 <p>4:21 5:01</p> <p>10:40 10:55</p>

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