

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### Budget Fuss at the Pentagon

That noted American philosopher The Joker has observed that “Nobody panics when things go ‘according to plan.’ Even if the plan is horrifying! ... But when [anyone announces something unexpected], well then everyone loses their minds!”

The Joker’s theory survived a real-world test on February 24th, when Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced that the Pentagon was revising its budget downwards. To no one’s surprise, Senator Lindsey Graham [R-SC] was among the first to flip out.

“We are going to kill it, not let it happen,” Graham told *The Hill*, calling the proposed budget, “ill-conceived, ill-designed, bad defense policy, detached from reality — I am running out of adjectives.”

“Fox & Friends,” America’s answer to the *Académie Française*, posted a message on its Facebook page, “...Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel will recommend billions of dollars in budget cuts that would reduce housing allowances, increase health-care premiums, and limit pay raises for our troops ... What do you think about that?”

Brian Smith, a well-trained Fox viewer, responded, “If the Obama’s [sic] would STOP taking 100 million dollar VACATIONS we wouldn’t have to cut anything from the troops!!!”

Dick “Perpetual Dick” Cheney, who, as a former utility infielder for the military-industrial complex, might have been expected to have a more nuanced view, said essentially the same thing: “they peddle this line that now we’re going to pivot to Asia but they’ve never justified it and I think the whole thing [is] not driven by any

change in world circumstances it’s driven by budget considerations. He’d much rather spend the money on food stamps than he would on a strong military or support for our troops.”

Cheney glossed over the fact that, were it not for food stamps, uniformed service members and their families would have had to forego \$100 million worth of meals last year.

#### Short the Troops

One of the first sources of savings in Hagel’s new budget will be those hungry trigger-pullers. Cutting subsidies to post commissaries and raising health care fees for active duty and retired personnel is sure to drive up food stamp usage.

Hagel also said he’d reduce the size of the Army by about 10 percent, which, despite the pending absence of multiple decade-long wars, caused a widespread outbreak of toupee fires amongst the commentariat.

A January report by *Defense News* said the Army was already considering “replacing thousands of grunts with robots.”

#### Follow The Money ... Where?

In addition to being enormous, the Pentagon’s budget is mysterious. No one really knows what the generals do with all that money. Perhaps, like The Joker, they just stack it all up, soak it with gasoline, and set it on fire.

In 1996, a law was passed requiring all Federal agencies to perform annual audits. Since then, the Treasury has paid out \$8.5 trillion to the Pentagon; but, as Reuters reported last November, the Pentagon can’t say with certainty where it all went. Eighteen years later, the Government Accountability Office says the



Pentagon’s books are still such a mess that they are “unauditable.”

Reuters described a recurring monthly nightmare at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, which tries to keep the Pentagon’s books: “Numbers were missing. Numbers were clearly wrong. Numbers came with no explanation of how the money had been spent or which Congressional appropriation it came from.”

Staff accountants frantically track down as much missing information as they can, but often resort to “unsubstantiated change actions” — made-up numbers referred to as “plugs” — to reconcile the Pentagon’s numbers with the Treasury Department’s.

According to Reuters, the Pentagon comprises an “amalgam of fiefdoms,” each with its own accounting system, all of them relying “on a tangle of thousands of disparate, obsolete, largely incompatible accounting and business-management systems ... built in the 1970s and [using] outmoded computer languages ... on old mainframes.”

“It’s like if every electrical socket in the Pentagon had a different shape and voltage.”

**Please Stop Helping So Much**  
Furthermore, Congressional frugality seems to be hampering the Pentagon’s efforts to save money. *DefenseOne.com* headlined a January report on the problem, “Budget Cuts Are Hurting the Pentagon’s Ability to Identify Budget Cuts.”

**An Awkward Question**  
Despite these challenges, in 2011 the Pentagon was able to compile an illuminating report at the request of Sen. Bernie Sanders [I-VT]: in the preceding decade, contracts worth more than \$1 trillion had been awarded to hundreds of companies “engaged in systemic fraudulent behavior.”

In 2008, Lockheed Martin paid \$10.5 million to settle charges of submitting false invoices. The next year the Pentagon gave Lockheed Martin \$30.2 billion in new contracts, which was a record high for the company.

In 2005, Northrop Grumman paid \$62 million to settle charges of “routinely submitting

false contract proposals.” The next year the Pentagon gave Northrop Grumman \$12.9 billion in new contracts, 16 percent more than the year before.

Perhaps we need a Pentagon corollary to Balzac’s famous dictum: “Behind every great defense contract is a fraud.”

**Hey, Big Spender**  
The U.S. is responsible for spends almost 40 percent of the world’s annual military budget: more than China, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and France combined.

If ever there was an enterprise that is too big to fail, it’s the Pentagon.

**Want Fries With That MRAP?**  
It’s all quite distressing, and there’s no solution in sight. But, at least we mere citizens get a few crumbs that fall from the table.

For example, 13,000 Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected trucks, for which the generals paid a total of \$6.5 billion, have been given away to police departments all around the nation.

That’ll keep those disgruntled taxpayers in line.

## The Alleged News

### The Death Panel That Would Not Die

The dreaded Obamacare Death Panel has failed to materialize, but fear not — Georgia Governor Nathan Deal has a plan!

Deal wants to “revisit” the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act of 1986 requiring hospitals to provide emergency health care treatment to anyone, even undocumented immigrants and penniless Democrats.

Apparently Deal thinks the concrete health problems of the destitute can be cured with glittering generalities. He told University of Georgia alumni that “we should be able in this passage of time to figure out ways to deal with those situations but not have the excessive costs associated with unnecessary visits to the emer-

gency room,” the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* reported on February 26th.

Why is Deal so keen on barring the indigent from emergency rooms?

According to the *Journal Constitution’s* Jim Galloway, “[holding down costs for hospitals] is an important topic for Deal, given that many hospitals in rural Georgia are caught in the financial pinch caused by the Governor’s refusal to expand Medicaid rolls, and the Affordable Care Act’s reduction of federal cash for indigent care.”

Elected to Congress as a Democrat in 1992, Deal switched parties in 1995 because he found fellow Georgian Newt Gingrich’s “Contract With America” so se-

ductive.

Deal resigned on March 21, 2010. He said he did so to run for Governor. Cynics say he did it to end an investigation by the Office of Congressional Ethics [OCE].

The OCE had been investigating three meetings Deal and his Congressional chief of staff had with Georgia officials regarding auto inspections. Congress doesn’t generally care much about auto inspections, but Deal, the owner of Gainesville Salvage Disposal, does. For twenty years his business had a lucrative monopoly on the inspection of all salvaged vehicles in ten Georgia counties. According to *AtlantaUnfiltered.com*, a “flawed bidding process” resulted in a windfall profit of

\$415,000.

Eight days after his resignation the OCE released its report. It found that “as a ‘public servant,’ Representative Deal took active steps to preserve a purely state program, one that had generated financial benefit for Representative Deal and his business partner,” using resources of the House of Representatives to do so.

The OCE recommended further investigation, but as Deal had resigned, that point was moot.

**Supporting the Troops**  
On February 27th, a bill to boost benefits for veterans by \$22 billion over the next decade came up for consideration in the Senate. Sen. Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III [R-AL] said, “We’re not

going to be intimidated on this. We’re going to do the right things for the veterans of America.”

Somehow, due to the intricate mysteries of Republican ideology, “the right thing to do” was to kill the bill.

**Guns Don’t Kill People ...**  
In Fort Wayne, IN, a man trying to sell a gun to a family member died February 23rd after accidentally shooting himself in the chest.

In Michigan the next day a 36-year old owner of three guns died while trying to demonstrate to his girlfriend that guns are safe when they are not loaded. The man, who

**The Alleged News**  
from page one

had been drinking most of the day according to the girlfriend, pointed each gun at his head then pulled the trigger; the third one was loaded.

The following day a Sheriff's Deputy in South Carolina pulled over a 70 year-old man because the plates on his pickup truck had expired. Contrary to the officer's instructions the man got out of the truck, then reached into the cab for his cane. The officer, thinking the cane was a shotgun or rifle, fired several shots at him, hitting him once in the chest.

The man is expected to recover. The York County Sheriff's office has determined that the Deputy acted appropriately.

Earlier last month a Kansas man was arrested after accidentally discharging his concealed handgun about 1:30 a.m. in a South Wichita bar called the Shot Club II. The bullet went through the man's right thigh and hit the

left thigh of a man sitting next to him.

**Open Carry**

In other gun news, the February 8th issue of the *Wausau Daily Herald* ran a guest column by Dereck Simonsmeier, of Schofield, WI, complaining that he'd been ejected from the local Pic 'N Save for openly carrying a holstered 1911 Remington .45 pistol on his hip. "I do not carry it to be tough or to start a fight," he wrote, "I carry it because it is my right and to protect the ones I love. Yet even with the welfare of others in mind, I am scrutinized and mocked for exercising my Second Amendment right."

Four days later Simonsmeier, two other open-carrying males, and an unarmed woman went to a home in Wausau where they allegedly threatened a male resident at gunpoint. All four were arrested for "endangering safety."

Gun fatalities in the U.S. will probably surpass traffic fatalities some time in 2015, according to a Bloomberg News analysis of ex-



The light circle represents what a typical one-mile-radius emergency evacuation area might look like if one were imposed in Portsmouth following a hypothetical accident at the Maplewood Avenue rail crossing.

isting trends.

**Hot Time in the Old Port?**

Since Sea-3 announced plans to dramatically increase the volume of its propane shipments through Portsmouth via Pan Am Railways, local interest in the potential hazards of such operations has understandably increased. An incident in Lincoln, CA [pop. 43,000] provides some context.

A single railroad tank car carrying propane caught fire on August 23, 2011. Fire officials decided not to extinguish the fire because escaping unburned gas might form an explosive, ground-hugging cloud. Instead, firefighters sprayed the burning tank car with water to keep it cool and prevent it from exploding.

Initially it was thought that the tank was full and might burn for as long as three weeks, so a team of experts was brought in to perform a risky "hot tap" procedure: a hole would be drilled into the tank and the propane drained

into a nearby pit where it would be burned off.

Fortunately the tank car turned out not to be full; the "hot tap" was called off and the fire burned itself out in two days. The end of the emergency was no doubt a relief to those living in the 4,800 homes within a one-mile radius of the fire, where a mandatory evacuation was in force while the fire burned. Businesses were shut down as well.

A evacuation radius of at least one mile appears to be fairly typical in such cases; e.g. in Waverly, TN on February 24, 1978, when a derailed tank car full of liquified petroleum gas [LPG] exploded killing 16 people; in Weyauwega, WI on March 4, 1996, when a broken rail caused the derailment of fourteen cars carrying propane and LPG which then burned for two weeks; and in Plaster Rock New Brunswick on January 7, 2014, when 17 derailed cars carrying crude oil and propane caught

fire. Curious how far such an evacuation area would extend here in Portsmouth, we commissioned the Cartography Department to create an image superimposing a circle of that size over a Google Earth image [see left]. The circle is centered where Pan Am's rails cross Maplewood Avenue [and batter the life out of automobile suspensions].

Clearly any effective evacuation would empty downtown Portsmouth. To the north the evacuation area would extend to the Piscataqua River Bridge and Walker Street in Kittery. The western end of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the Peirce Island swimming pool would be included, as would the northern end of the South Street Cemetery. To the west the evacuation area would go as far as the Button Factory and the Rt. 1 Traffic Circle.

**Derailment in Westford, MA**  
A fourteen-car freight train

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belonging to Pan Am Railways derailed in Westford, MA on Wednesday, February 19th. The derailment occurred at about 11:00 p.m., leaving a number of the cars "teetering on the overpass" where it crosses Bridge Street, according to the *Lowell Sun*. Two of the cars that left the tracks contained LPG.

Officials in Westford first learned of the derailment at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, when Fire Chief Joe Targ happened to drive by the scene. He then called Westford Town Manager Jodi Ross.

"We called our contacts at Pan Am, and there was no answer, so I walked down the tracks to find the general manager," Ross told WCVB-TV, which also reported that "[r]ailroad managers who refused to talk with reporters wouldn't talk to the town manager, either."

"We were dismayed, especially when he called the police to get me off the tracks," Ross reportedly said.

Pan Am Vice President Cynthia Scarano told the *Lowell Sun*, "If there was a regulation saying we had to, or we needed to [notify town officials], we would have."

Fortunately the train that derailed in Westford did not catch fire — it was the idling but unattended train on a spur in Newfields, NH that burned on February 25th. The *Herald* reported that an electrical fire "extensively damaged" a locomotive and boxcar. The fire was extinguished by Newfields and Newmarket fire fighters.

A meeting between Pan Am representatives and regional officials was scheduled for Wednesday at City Hall. Originally planned as a closed meeting, it was later opened to the public, provided that they hold their tongues. The Newington Planning Board will take up Sea-3's proposal again on March 10th.

**Respectability For Sale**

"There's a new big-dollar player in New Hampshire politics, and his name is Peter T. Paul," wrote a giddy John DiStaso in the February 22nd *Union Leader*.

"[T]he wealthy Republican donor and philanthropist ... is setting up a SuperPAC whose first goal is to help his friend Dan Innis become a Congressman." The headline generously refers to Paul as a "UNH Benefactor," but that



hardly covers the complexities of this three-way relationship.

Paul and Innis seem to be acting as partners, if not co-conspirators. As we reported last July, would-be Congressman Innis became the Dean of UNH's Whittemore School of Business in 2007. In 2008 Paul, a 1967 graduate, donated \$25 million to UNH. Much digging and building ensued.

In April of 2013, Paul cut the ribbon on the \$50 million Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics; thanks to his own vast wealth and Innis's ministrations, Paul had become a Great Man and the Whittemore School became history. Now the Great Man aims to make his amanuensis into our Congressman.

And while Paul certainly gave generously to the University, he got something valuable in return. Perhaps we could call him UNH's client or customer.

He gave them money, they gave him an aura of respectability. Considering where the money

came from, that's no small feat.

As far as we can tell, we're still the only news organization in the state that's noticed that Paul's fortune was amassed at the expense of the global economy.

UNH's online biography of Paul does mention the Headlands Mortgage Company, which he founded in 1986, calling it "one of the premier wholesale lending institutions in the country, specializing in originating, selling, securitizing and servicing residential mortgage loan products." The University left out one key word: subprime.

Janeen McGuire covered that angle in a 2001 *Montréal Review* piece titled, "The Keys Are in the Mail: A Foreclosure Story."

She wrote, "Paul worked closely with Wall Street firm Bear Stearns to bundle some of the first Alt-A loans into securities so they could be sold to investors in bulk. This partnership with Wall Street was the propellant behind a market that built itself into a \$722 billion

house of cards."

**A Prayer Answered**

Former U.S. Senator Bob Smith announced Tuesday that he is running for Senate. Ever modest, he said his campaign is "about saving the United States of America."

Meanwhile Scott Brown, the Hamlet of Rye, told *Politico* on Monday that he would "probably" make a decision before the filing deadline in June.



The City of Portsmouth and the General Services Administration [GSA] have been arguing over the McIntyre Building for about ten years. Based on this evidence, collected February 22nd, the Flag Police have concluded it's time for the GSA to cough up the keys.



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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**Newmarket Is Pro-Democracy**

To the Editor:  
The Newmarket Town Council has called for a Constitutional Amendment opposing corporate money in politics.

With the passage of resolution 2013-2014-50, Newmarket joins nearly 500 local governments nationwide in calling for a Constitutional Amendment to end the corrosive influence of corporate money in politics and to restore Constitutional rights to the people. The resolution calls on the U.S. Congress and the states to pass an amendment that would guarantee the people's right to regulate political spending, and clarify that the inalienable rights of the Constitution are possessed by people only, effectively overturning the basis of U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*.

The Newmarket town council passed this resolution by a vote of 6 - 0 on February 19, 2014.

"The issue of Representatives being beholden to large money donors isn't a partisan one. The monopoly of influence on our elected Representatives by well financed special interests that finance their campaigns drowns out the voices of normal people and threatens our form of government. I am glad we are sending a message to our representatives that we recognize the system is broken and that we expect action to be taken to remedy this issue,"

said Councilor Phil Nazzaro.

Momentum is building in New Hampshire with over 50 communities having warrant articles calling for a Constitutional response to the flood of money from corporations and the ultra-wealthy that has inundated elections since the court's disastrous *Citizens United* decision. Since this ruling, 16 states and the District of Columbia have called for a Constitutional amendment, and New Hampshire, along with 12 other states, is working on doing the same this year.

New Hampshire has been flooded with outside money from powerful special interests on both the left and the right since the 2010 *Citizens United* decision. For example, in the 2012 New Hampshire gubernatorial race, estimates show that outside groups spent \$19 million (almost five times what the candidates spent). In a democracy, you shouldn't need money to have a voice in your own government.

Newmarket voters have reaffirmed what we have seen every time this issue has come to a vote, that the vast majority of people, across party lines, wants a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's disastrous *Citizens United* ruling, take democracy off the auction block, and preserve constitutional rights for people — not labor unions and corporations.

Ellen Read  
Newmarket, NH  
Ellen:

*Our editorial chapeau is ceremoniously lifted in a salute to the Newmarket Town Council.*

*We see from the website MoveToAmend.org that David Cobb, "a fiery speaker and former Green Party presidential candidate," will be touring New Hampshire soon, giving his talk "Creating Democracy & Challenging Corporate Rule."*

*Described as "part history lesson*

*and part heart-felt-call to action, it "tells the story of the American creation myth and the Constitution as it pertains to Corporate Personhood and illegitimate but legal corporate constitutional rights."*

*For the benefit of our readers, here is the schedule for Cobb's upcoming barnstorming tour of New Hampshire:*

*Friday, March 21 - Nashua, NH - 6:00 p.m.;*

*Saturday, March 22 - Fitchburg, MA - 1:00 p.m. & Peterborough, NH - 6:30 p.m.;*

*Sunday, March 23 - Manchester, NH - 11:45 a.m. (& Potluck)*

*Monday, March 24 - Henniker, NH - 7:00 p.m.*

*Tuesday, March 25 - Durham, NH - 7:00 p.m.*

*Wednesday, March 26 - Hanover, NH - 4:30 p.m.*

*For more information about Move to Amend, call Olivia Zink at (603) 661-8621.*

*The Editor*

§

**Free Trade: Good for Maine?**

To the Editor:

The South Berwick Town Council is considering a resolution on the pending Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement, and whether the U.S. Congress should grant President Obama "fast track" authority on international trade deals.

To foster discussion of the merits of such a resolution, a community meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12th at 7 p.m. at the South Berwick Town Hall Auditorium. All are welcome to come and share their questions and comments. For more information, call (207) 703-3814.

Michael Hasty  
South Berwick, ME  
Michael:

*Obstrepous citizens refusing to accept the illegitimate domination of their lives and communities by monied interests from away — we love it.*

*The Editor*

*Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,*

**Which Is It, Frank?**

To the Editor:

On his website, former U.S. Congressman Frank Guinta claims to have led the charge to repeal or defund the Affordable Care Act. This year, in an attempt to win back his Congressional seat, the former Congressman seems to be running mainly on this one issue. He had pledged to the Republican Liberty Caucus of New Hampshire that he does not support the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in any form.

That makes his statement at a recent health care forum at the Dover Community Senior Center particularly interesting. Before an audience of mostly seniors, Mr. Guinta was asked if he was hopeful that the Affordable Care Act would eventually work if given time. He replied, "I'm optimistic. I want it to work. I want something to work."

In a follow-up interview, the former Congressman stated that his position has not changed. He opposes the Affordable Health Care Act, but he is optimistic that we can solve our health care problems with some other alternative.

I am confused. Which is it: he wants it to work or does he want to get rid of it? I suspect many of the seniors in the audience were confused too.

Beth Olshansky  
Durham, NH

§

**Sanders Poynt Hearing**

To Friends of Sanders Poynt:

Just a reminder that in spite of my relative silence and interminable delays by our New Hampshire System of Justice, our court hearing is getting closer, scheduled for July 24th, 25th and 31st. With all the cold this winter, it's difficult to anticipate summer is actually on its way.

And one piece of additional news. I have agreed to being deposed by Ben King [attorney for the Wentworth By The Sea Country Club], said deposition taking place on St. Paddy's day. Hope it's not too interesting.

Thanks for your support.

Bob Jesurum  
Rye, NH

Bob:

*Thanks for sending this. We do get asked from time to time what's up with Sanders Poynt. We would have preferred to hear that justice had prevailed and the offensive barriers to public access had been removed at great expense to Mr. Binnie, but we'll settle for knowing the facts. Please keep us informed as this glacier race unfolds.*

*During this lull in the proceedings we've come to think of this as the latest version of what's been called Fuadach nan Gàidheal, or the Expulsion of the Gaels, which is more than a little ironic. As our readers will no doubt recall, during the 18th and 19th centuries wealthy landowners in Scotland were able to draw on the services of clever lawyers and politicians to drive the common people from their ancestral homes — all quite legally, of course. Now an immigrant from that same land — who is said to have come from humble origins — has so risen in this country that he has hopes of driving the local inhabitants from land that has been open to their use from time immemorial.*

*The Editor*

§

**Sen. Stiles Please Step Forward**

To the Editor:

I think that Senator Nancy Stiles is a "political schizophrenic" — "Seacoast Stiles" and "State House Stiles."

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# And Other Correspondence

Once in Concord the Senator becomes the consummate politician — partisan, an ideologue, special interest loyalist and disconnected. At home she poses as a moderate; in Concord she acts as an extremist. How she votes is how she should be judged.

Her car must have a “flux capacitor” which takes her “back to the past” by the time she reaches Concord. It also erases what she has said and heard at home. So much for her “I’m here to listen” mantra.

Whether it is school vouchers, background checks for gun purchasers, stand your ground, right to work, or the expansion of Medicaid, her position depends on her location and the need for a party line vote. Senator Stiles talks, locally, about what’s good for the state but “in chambers” votes for minority interests and what is best for the Republican Party.

I find it odd that our Senator thinks her GPS is a better guide for her actions than the public opinion in her district.

It would certainly be refreshing to have a Representative who states a position prior to the vote and is willing to discuss it publicly allowing the voters a chance to influence her.

Apparently, any kind of public debate is not part of either of Senator Stiles’ political personalities.

Dave Potter  
North Hampton, NH

### § Ol’ Leather-Face

To the Editor:

That leathery-faced chastiser of uppity Presidents, Governor Jan Brewer, has apparently done the right thing in vetoing a proposed law that would have allowed businesses in the less-than-great state of Arizona to refuse services to those that may not comport

themselves in accordance with copper-aged superstitions. I suspect her motivation for the veto had far less to do with “doing the right thing” than it did with trying to avoid an avalanche of horrible publicity, the ire of jowly war-mongering Neocon RINOs, or (most importantly) the potential impacts on the state coffers.

I just hope that the Great White Sheriff of Maricopa County throws her in jail so she can subsist only on bread and water until she can provide her birth certificate.

Robert “Wheel Gun Bob” Ford  
Portsmouth, NH

Bob:

*Ensnared though we are in opposite corners of the Land of the Free, the Copper State and the Granite State share certain oddball characteristics; politics with a piquant twist being, perhaps, the first among them. Having spent several years in that state in the early 1970s and issued several numbers of this paper from it circa 1994-95, we assert that fact without fear of contradiction. John Fife Symington III was the governor during the latter period, and his career proves our point.*

*Symington is the great-grandson of Henry Clay Frick, who has the dubious distinction of being both partly responsible the Johnstown Flood of 1889 and primarily responsible for the Homestead Strike Massacre of 1892, thus earning himself the sobriquet of “most hated man in America.” He is also the nephew of Stuart Symington, who, as a Senator of the Democratic persuasion, dealt some pretty good licks to Joe McCarthy; so it’s not as if he had not been exposed to at least one good role model.*

*Nevertheless, in November, 1995, after Rep. Newt Gingrich [R-GA] shut down the government, Governor Symington barked that the “Grand Canyon must remain open,*

*by force, if necessary.” According to the infallible Wikipedia, this led the Pentagon to “[warn] the head of the Arizona National Guard against the use of force and [raise] the possibility that, if necessary, the [Arizona National Guard] would be Federalized and brought under the control of the White House. The governor decided to go ahead and, accompanied by the Speaker of the House, fifty unarmed National Guard troops, twenty-five state Park Department employees, and other people, traveled to the canyon. When Symington’s group arrived, Symington beat on the park gates in front of the media.”*

*Sadly, Symington’s entertaining reign ended in 1997 after he was was convicted on seven counts of bank fraud (he skated on 21 Federal charges of extortion). Since Arizona law contains a quaint provision prohibiting convicted felons from holding office, he was forced to resign. Through good luck and good lawyers Symington got his conviction overturned on appeal by the Ninth Circuit Court, but that was just the beginning of his redemption.*

*As President Bill Clinton was leaving office — and handing out pardons like candy on Halloween — he issued a pardon to Symington before a jury could retry him. Fair enough: thirty years earlier, when they were both college students frolicking on a Cape Cod beach, Symington rescued Clinton from a rip tide.*

The Editor

§

### My Citizens United Experience

To the Editor:

The Citizens United and Speech-Now.org v. FEC rulings made it legal for corporations and billionaires to anonymously spend unlimited money to influence elections. These rulings led to the advent of Super PACs, which act as shadow political parties that thrive on large donations from billionaires and corporations. Contributors are extremely interested in corporate tax breaks, deregulation,

tax loopholes and outsourcing jobs; and far less interested in your Social Security, Medicare, working wages and conditions, clean air and water, or affordable healthcare. Super PACs purchase large blocks of advertising time to attack those opposed to their agenda. Relentless attack ads on New Hampshire’s First District Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter and U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen have already begun.

Because the Senator and Congresswoman share my values and do a fabulous job of representing me, I planned on donating \$10-20 to each of their re-election campaigns to help them overcome the millions being spent by the billionaire Koch Brothers, et al. I, unfortunately, had to put my donations on temporary hold when the following potential life-changing event occurred.

I returned home from work (my second career) at 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 21st, when I was greeted by a letter from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service [DFAS] that went like this: “Dear MSgt Merritt: Beginning with your payment dated December 1, we will hold 40 percent of your gross retired pay each month in order to recoup the remainder of your Special Separation Benefit received back in 1992.... Thank you for your service to your country. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.” I immediately understood what Henry David Thoreau meant by, “The masses of men live quiet lives of desperation.” I was certain that I had fought this battle almost four years ago and that DFAS agreed to a semi-tolerable recoupment rate of 10 percent per month over the long term. After all, my greatest offense was the reentrance to active duty military service and going on to honorably

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six



On March 28, 2006, WSCA-LP was granted a license by the Federal Communications Commission to serve the public interest as a public trustee until April 1, 2014.

Our license will expire on April 1, 2014. We filed an application for renewal with the FCC on November 20, 2013. A copy of this application is available for inspection during our regular business hours. It contains information concerning this station’s performance during the last seven years.

Individuals who wish to advise the FCC of facts relating to our renewal application and to whether this station has operated in the public interest, should file comments and petitions with the FCC.

Further information concerning the FCC’s broadcast license renewal process is available at our 909 Islington Street, Suite 1 studios in Portsmouth, New Hampshire or may be obtained from the FCC, Washington, DC 20554, www.fcc.gov.

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*Northcountry Chronicle*

# The Secret Vocation

by William Marvel

No one can credibly deny that the basic tenet of our retail culture is to cheat the customer at every turn. Reduce quantity, reduce quality, and raise the price: it's the American way.

I've previously declaimed about the trick of surreptitiously minimizing product quantities. The weight of grocery items drops steadily but imperceptibly, if state law will allow it, while the price remains the same or even rises. A pound of spaghetti now weighs only 13.25 ounces, and a pound of coffee is down to 12. The five-pound bag of sugar that was so common since my grandmothers' time dropped to four pounds last winter, as I detected when I poured it into the airtight container where I keep it: a whole bag never used to fit, but now there is plenty of room to spare. The price, however, is higher now than it was the last time I remember buying a real five-pound bag.

The other trick to the science

of cheating the customer involves the sheer shoddiness of nearly all merchandise. Almost any manufactured goods, from kitchen gadgets to appliances to automobiles, are designed with increasingly flimsy parts that deteriorate far sooner than the sturdier components they replaced. That's no secret: everyone knows that durable goods are no longer very durable, and that most household items are worthless junk, or soon will be.

The secret, I believe, is that the practice is carefully premeditated. Until lately, I assumed that manufacturers were merely trying to save a few pennies on production when they replaced forged or cast metal with plastic. The inevitably diminished life spans of their products were merely incidental to those business decisions, I supposed. Planned obsolescence, meanwhile, struck me as a hyperbolic term used to criticize the evident indifference of the producers of goods to the poor quality of their products.

Now, I'm convinced that shoddy

materials reflect less of an effort to squeeze a little more profit out of the original product and more of a calculated attempt to be certain that the product does not last, so the sucker who bought it has to buy another one, sooner than ever before. I came to that conclusion because, in many cases, no one in the business of making a specific item could be stupid enough to overlook the consequences of concentrating flimsiness in the most vital part.

Consider the wheels on a lawn mower. Once upon a time, they were mounted on axles spanning the front and back of a solid, cast chassis, and the machine would last for years, until the engine finally burned out. Now, mowers seem to have no axles: the wheels hang instead from scissor hinges bolted to the thin sheet metal of the body, and every turn of the mower applies sideways pressure that soon enough breaks those hinges or tears them away from the mower chassis. One season is often enough to leave the wheels

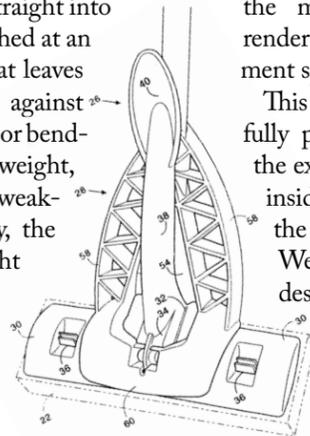
too badly splayed for use, and there's no fixing it.

Then there are those gossamer-thin cords on electronic equipment that break with such frustrating frequency. My 1999 Mac iBook is powered by a transformer with a wire on the laptop-end the thickness of carpet thread: instead of running straight into the plug, it is attached at an awkward angle that leaves it either crushed against the top of the desk or bending from its own weight, and every tug weakens it. Predictably, the wire ruptures right where it joins the plug. I've already had to replace a couple of them, and the third is beginning to flicker now.

Even those who manufacture kitchen-floor mops have to understand that the functional end of that tool is the most important element. They nevertheless design ergonomic handles and

fancy squeezing mechanisms, while clearly making sure that the sponge itself is the cheapest, least reliable part. My cellar and most restaurants therefore contain a collection of expensive mops with sponges that have shredded or peeled off, or for which the makers have all too quickly changed the mounting bracket to render that box of replacement sponges useless.

This all seems too carefully planned, and suggests the existence of yet another insidious new vocation in the manufacturing world. We already know that design and packaging engineers develop new ways to fool consumers about the quality or size of whatever they buy. Most corporate headquarters also apparently house a black-ops room for obsolescence engineers, who devise the most reliable means of assuring rapid product failure.



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

earn a retirement pension.

Following the utterance of a few expletives and quickly coming to terms with the situation, I, with a hardened resolve, immediately notified Congresswoman Shea-Porter and Senator Shaheen's offices, via e-mail, of my dilemma. Both offices — without the knowledge that I'd eventually be donating \$10 to their respective campaigns — contacted me early Monday morning to assure me of their assistance in the matter. Unfortunately, the Super PAC-funded Tea-Party sponsored government shutdown, the following

day, put my case on indefinite hold, which enabled DFAS to hold 40 percent of my retirement check on December 1st, as promised, and created a snowball effect on my finances that one can only imagine. Once the government was reopened, my Congresswoman and Senator resumed the good fight with DFAS on my behalf and succeeded in getting my recoupment rate restored to 10 percent effective January 2.

My case is absolute proof positive that Congresswoman Shea-Porter and Senator Shaheen represent and work on behalf of all

their constituents, including the little guy like me, and not just for the wealthy and connected.

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, NH

### § BearCats In Your PD?

To the Editor:

Whether or not perception is reality, it certainly seems as if there are more violent crimes today than in years past, which has led some persons to conclude law enforcement agencies require more firepower. For Rep. J.R. Hoell, however, state agencies and municipal police departments

should not be allowed to acquire military-style equipment, including the controversial BearCats. An acronym for Ballistic Engineered Armored Response Counter Attack Truck, BearCats are wheeled armored personnel carriers retrofitted with .50 caliber-rated ballistic glass, blast-resistant floors, specially designed gunports, and roof hatches.

In sponsoring legislation that would specifically ban BearCats and similar vehicles statewide, Hoell argues the bill is needed to protect residents from a militarized police force. In asking for

their opinion, a clear majority of Live Free or Die Alliance (LFDA) Facebook members agree, as 68 percent expressed support for the bill. In total, the LFDA received 558 citizen responses, including specific comments from 192 individuals supported by 339 concurrences. In addition to the aforementioned statistics, 17 percent said they would not support the bill, while 15 percent did not offer a clear position.

For the majority of those who expressed their support, militarizing the police makes little fiscal sense. "The sooner we stop the

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# Climate Change, Drought, Beer, And Me

by Jim Hightower

Okay, climate-change deniers — you've gone too far. You've gone from just being annoying know-nothings to now posing a serious threat to an essential good that embodies humankind's finest collaboration with nature: Beer.

It's one thing for the science denial cult to stand in the way of doing something about melting ice caps in the Arctic, but it's another thing altogether for them

to mess with beer. This makes it personal.

While the deniers keep doing their denial dance, California is drying up. The higher temperatures caused by climate change has produced an ongoing drought that has, among other bad things, caused a precipitous drop in the water level of Lake Mendocino, which could come close to being a dry lakebed this summer.

What has that got to do with beer? Glad you asked. Mendocino

no feeds the Russian River, which flows by the town of Petaluma, home of the Lagunitas Brewing Company, which makes very fine beers. A key ingredient in the Lagunitas brew is the excellent water the company draws from the Russian River, which presently is in danger of becoming a trickle.

Can't Lagunitas and other breweries along the river just switch to groundwater? No. The head beermaster at Lagunitas

notes that heavy minerals in that water would cause it to fizz in the brewing process, plus there are concentrations of nitrates, iron, and manganese in the area's groundwater, creating issues of odor, taste, and other unpleasant-ries that do not add up to good beer.

What the Lagunitas experience is teaching us once again is that the nature of nature is that all things are linked together, despite the fantasies of industry skills

who insist that their contaminants have no dire consequences. Mess with the global climate and you mess with Lake Mendocino, which messes with the Russian River, which messes with the beer. And now you're messing with me and millions of beer drinkers. Like I said: It's personal.

§

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militarization of police the better," one respondent remarked. "We have many more constructive programs in this state that could use the money."

Many who disagreed with the majority opinion, however, said such a decision should rest with individual towns. "Let the people of the town vote on it as part of the budget," said one commentator.

With others citing the state motto as sufficient reason to at least question the bill, one gentleman's remarks touched on the central issue that disturbed many in the majority. "This not an example of live free or die — this is an example of live as free as the police want you to," he said. "Those [BearCats] are an excessive use of force waiting to happen."

The nonprofit, nonpartisan LFDA takes no position on this or any issue. Rather, this report is presented as a summary of citizen testimony on this subject. As New Hampshire's Virtual Town Hall, the LFDA community, numbering over 25,000, provides objective information on state issues, promotes the civil exchange of opinions, and communicates views to elected officials. To

learn more about this issue or the LFDA, visit [www.lfda.org](http://www.lfda.org).

The Live Free Or Die Alliance [LiveFreeorDieAlliance.org](http://LiveFreeorDieAlliance.org)

§

## Credibility on Ukraine Crisis?

To the Editor:

The hypocrisy and sensationalism emanating from our leaders and the media over the Ukraine crisis is nauseating to listen to.

Russia showed the world during the Sochi Olympic Winter Games that there is indeed a new Russia. It may not be the ideal blueprint country the West demands, but it is clearly not an imperialistic monster now being portrayed by our leaders and media.

Senator John "I want World War III" McCain and Russophobic fossils from the Cold War era Madeline Albright and Zbigniew Brzezinski are not who the media should be showcasing in this crisis. In fact, McCain should be explaining why he had recently appeared with Ukraine Neo-Nazi Svoboda Party leader Oleh Tyahnybok.

President Barack Obama says the Russian troops in Crimea are in violation of international law. Obama should first be clarifying the leaked phone conversation,

widely available on the Internet, between Asst. U.S. Secretary of State for Europe Victoria Nuland and the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Geoffrey Pyatt, that shows evidence they may have influenced the recent coup d'etat of Ukraine's president. Besides a flagrant violation of international law, this leaked tape is an international disgrace for the United States.

Secretary of State John Kerry says Russia has made an "incredible act of aggression" against a sovereign country, even though Russia appears to be securing one of its most important naval bases, after the democratically elected president of Ukraine (elected even with international observers) had been driven from his office by an organized armed mob. Legions of double standards are conveniently being overlooked. For example, have Obama and Kerry forgotten about U.S. led attacks on the sovereign countries of Iraq, Libya, Serbia and Afghanistan? And what about the U.S. attacks on Panama, Grenada, Laos, and even the infamous Bay of Pigs in Cuba? Do Obama and Kerry have amnesia over the relentless drone missile strikes in Yemen, Pakistan and Somalia? We are told

by the media that Russia might "shockingly" annex Crimea from Ukraine. Yet, it was the United States that led the way to illegally separate Kosovo from Serbia and then even build a massive U.S. military base called Camp Bondsteel there. Exactly what book of international law does the United States government adhere to?

Kerry also had recently told the president of Ukraine to show "restraint" during the horrific protests in Kiev, despite the protesters throwing fire bombs, building barricades, setting buildings alight, and shooting and killing policemen. But, here in the so-called "land of the free," some 400 Keystone Pipeline peaceful protesters were quickly arrested and carted away for the criminally aggressive act of "blocking the sidewalk or strapping themselves to the fence" outside of the White House on March 2nd.

Political pundits are saying Russia needs to be "isolated." Are they kidding? How do you isolate the largest country in the world that stretches across nine times zones and is an integral part of the world economy? The West needs to reset it's Russophobic Cold War mentality and join the 21st century reality that includes

Russia as a partner and not as a despised "evil doer."

Dr. John Meinhold  
Portsmouth, NH

§

## Religious Discrimination

To the Editor:

Arizona legislators asked their Governor to sign a bill allowing any business the freedom to discriminate based on religious beliefs. The Governor vetoed the bill. The First Amendment is not a legal loophole that allows religious people to hurt other people based on prejudice or interpretation of the Bible or any other religious book. Simply because someone interprets the Bible, Koran or any other religious book a certain way ... &c., &c.

Dr. Glenn Mollette  
Newburgh, IN

Glenn:

We're with H.L. Mencken: "The universe is a giant flywheel spinning dizzily through space. Man is an ant that has hitched a ride on the flywheel. Religion is the notion that the flywheel was constructed for the sole purpose of giving the ant a ride." For those of us with less-grandiose opinions, the endless arguments over your mutually-exclusive theoretical details are tedious.

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, March 9	Monday, March 10	Tuesday, March 11	Wednesday, March 12	Thursday, March 13	Friday, March 14	Saturday, March 15
<p><b>1994</b>—RIP Charles Bukowski.  <b>1986</b>—U.S. Navy divers locate the sunken crew compartment of the Space Shuttle <i>Challenger</i>.  <b>1982</b>—The <i>Washington Post</i> reveals that \$19 million in covert aid has gone to the Contras.  <b>1974</b>—After his former commander arrives in the Philippines and gives him the order, Japanese Lieut. Hiroo Onoda finally surrenders. He is pardoned for killing 30 Filipinos after WW II.  <b>1969</b>—Afraid of the consequences of even the mildest sedition, CBS-TV cancels "The Smothers Brothers."  <b>1964</b>—First Mustang rolls off a Ford assembly line.  <b>1954</b>—WMUR-TV in Manchester begins broadcasting.  <b>1946</b>—Ted Williams turns down \$500,000 to play ball in Mexico.  <b>1941</b>—Writer Sherwood Anderson dies of peritonitis after swallowing a toothpick at a party in Panama.  <b>1932</b>—Ford Motor Co. makes its first production Flathead V-8.  <b>1916</b>—Pancho Villa and 1,500 guerrillas raid Columbus, NM and kill 17 Americans.  <b>1864</b>—U.S. Grant is appointed Commander of the Union Army.  <b>1862</b>—The <i>Monitor</i> defeats the <i>Merrimack</i> in the first clash of iron ships.  <b>1841</b>—The <i>Amistad</i> mutineers are declared free men by the U.S. Supreme Court.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—Rumors on Wall Street say Bear Stearns is low on cash, and in trouble. Board member and ex-CEO Alan "Ace" Greenberg, on CNBC, says that's "ridiculous."  <b>2004</b>—Alberto Gonzales hovers over the hospital bed of John Ashcroft, trying to coerce the critically ill man into helping him shred the Constitution.  <b>1992</b>—Injected with poison by Oklahoma state workers, Robyn Lee Parks gasps and gags for eleven minutes, then dies.  <b>1974</b>—The Philadelphia Crime Commission says police corruption is "systematic at all levels." Mayor Frank Rizzo tries to block its investigation.  <b>1951</b>—Genial old Ike declares America's willingness to launch a first-strike nuclear attack.  <b>1945</b>—American bombers drop nearly 2,000 tons of incendiary bombs on Tokyo, killing approximately 100,000 civilians and leaving 1,500,000 homeless.  <b>1945</b>—A Japanese firebomb balloon lands on electric wires in Hanford, WA, temporarily shutting down a nuclear reactor making plutonium destined for "Fat Man," the Nagasaki A-bomb.  <b>1913</b>—RIP Harriet Tubman.  <b>1906</b>—A coal mine explosion in France kills 1,060, sparking a strike by 45,000 miners which is suppressed by the Army.</p>	<p><b>2011</b>—The most powerful earthquake in its history hits Japan, causing a tsunami that kills 15,850 and sets off three nuclear meltdowns.  <b>2008</b>—SEC Chairman Christopher Cox says "We have a good deal of comfort about the capital cushions at these firms at the moment," three days before Bear Stearns collapses.  <b>1966</b>—Viet Cong overrun a Special Forces camp at A Shau; survivors escape by U.S.M.C. helicopter.  <b>1958</b>—A B-47 accidentally drops a Mark 6 A-bomb, minus its core, on Mars Bluff, SC. Six people on the ground are injured by the non-nuclear explosion, and one house is destroyed.  <b>1954</b>—The U.S. Army says Sen. Joe McCarthy &amp; aide Roy Cohn used threats to get special treatment for Private G. David Schine.  <b>1942</b>—At Corregidor, "Dugout Doug" MacArthur bugs out.  <b>1926</b>—In Parliament, George Lansbury proposes the abolition of the Royal Navy.  <b>1917</b>—Baghdad falls to an Anglo-Indian force.  <b>1847</b>—Death of John "Johnny Appleseed" Chapman, Daniel Fowle's 3rd cousin twice removed.  <b>222</b>—Fed up with Emperor Elagabalus prostituting himself in taverns and brothels, and egged on by his grandmother, the Praetorian Guard cut off his head.</p>	<p><b>2009</b>—Self-professed expert Frank Gaffney asserts that Saddam Hussein may have been involved in the Oklahoma City bombing.  <b>2006</b>—In Fordland, MO, Matt Suter is sucked out of his house trailer by a tornado and dropped, alive, in a pasture 1/4 mi. away.  <b>2005</b>—Middletown, VA Police Chief Roger Ashley is arrested twice in one day for drunken driving, once in his cruiser.  <b>2003</b>—The <i>Guardian</i> reports that Halliburton is still paying VP Dick "Dick" Cheney up to \$1 million a year in "deferred compensation."  <b>2002</b>—Homeland Security Tsar Tom Ridge unveils a Homeland Security Advisory System which never went below "Elevated."  <b>1968</b>—Eugene McCarthy places 2nd in the New Hampshire Democratic Primary, inspiring President Lyndon Johnson to drop out.  <b>1928</b>—Hours after a personal inspection by its builder Wm. Mulholland, L.A.'s St. Francis dam collapses killing 600 people.  <b>1912</b>—Captain Albert Berry becomes the first man to jump out of an airplane and live.  <b>1888</b>—The New York Weather Bureau predicts "light snow" just before a blizzard kills hundreds.  <b>1804</b>—Federal district judge John Pickering is impeached by the U.S. Senate for "drunkenness, profanity, &amp; violence" on the bench.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Iraq's dreaded pilotless drone looks "more like something out of ... Rube Goldberg ... than anything that could threaten Iraq's foes," reports <i>The New York Times</i>.  <b>2002</b>—George W. Bush says of Osama bin Laden, "We haven't heard much from him ... I don't know where he is ... I truly am not that concerned about him."  <b>1968</b>—Clouds of nerve gas drift outside the Army's Dugway Proving Grounds in Provo, UT, poisoning 6,400 sheep in nearby Skull Valley.  <b>1964</b>—Kitty Genovese is stabbed to death in Queens as thirty-seven aural witnesses do nothing.  <b>1962</b>—The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Lyman L. Lemnitzer, signs a Top Secret memo authorizing Operation Northwood—a "terror campaign" on U.S. soil to build support for an attack on Cuba.  <b>1957</b>—Georgia's General Assembly votes to impeach five U.S. Supreme Court justices.  <b>1954</b>—Viet Minh forces besiege French troops at Dien Bien Phu.  <b>1921</b>—The "unstable" Baron Ungern-Sternberg becomes dictator of Mongolia.  <b>1881</b>—Russian nihilists assassinate Czar Alexander.  <b>1877</b>—Chester Greenwood, 18, of Farmington, ME, receives a patent for earmuffs, his first of 130.</p>	<p><b>2002</b>—The Justice Dept. charges accounting firm Arthur Andersen with obstruction of justice for shredding Enron documents.  <b>1984</b>—<i>New York Times</i> headline: "Youth robs woman trapped underneath bus in Trenton of \$2,000."  <b>1965</b>—"Except for Vietnam," the AP reports Richard Nixon saying, "U.S. foreign policy is in a shambles."  <b>1964</b>—We still don't know who killed JFK, but on this day a jury decided Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald.  <b>1961</b>—A B-52 carrying nuclear weapons on a routine training flight crashes in California.  <b>1927</b>—Birth of Edward Abbey, writer, anarchist.  <b>1912</b>—In Lawrence, MA., strikers win both "Bread and Roses."  <b>1891</b>—A mob of twenty thousand xenophobes in New Orleans lynches 11 Italian immigrants recently acquitted of murder.  <b>1888</b>—James "Honest Dick" Tate, Kentucky's State Treasurer, vanishes with \$247,000 of its money.  <b>1883</b>—Karl Marx, 64, dies in London, impoverished.  <b>1879</b>—Birth of Albert Einstein.  <b>1757</b>—British Admiral John Byng, convicted of not "doing his utmost" at Minorca, is shot.  <b>1471</b>—Sir Thomas Malory, author of <i>Le Morte d'Arthur</i>, dies in Newgate Prison.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—JPMorgan and Federal Reserve auditors inspect Bear Stearns' books and turn pale.  <b>2005</b>—Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) says the White House hid an audit showing a \$108 million over-charge by Halliburton in Iraq until after the presidential election.  <b>1989</b>—To flatter veterans without incurring actual additional expenses, the Veterans Administration is elevated to Department status.  <b>1982</b>—CIA-trained forces in Nicaragua blow up commie bridges.  <b>1980</b>—A <i>Boston Globe</i> editorial about a speech by Pres. Jimmy Carter appears under the headline, "Mush from the Wimp."  <b>1962</b>—An airliner carrying 96 U.S. soldiers to Vietnam disappears over the western Pacific.  <b>1955</b>—Col. Tom Parker takes over as Elvis's manager.  <b>1917</b>—Czar Nicholas II abdicates the Russian throne under duress.  <b>1916</b>—President Woodrow Wilson sends 16,000 soldiers into Mexico to catch Pancho Villa. They fail.  <b>1874</b>—A French "protectorate" takes over in Annam (Vietnam).  <b>1869</b>—The first bill granting women the right to vote is introduced to Congress, where it dies, naturally.  <b>1820</b>—Maine quits being part of Massachusetts.  <b>1783</b>—George Washington quells a near-mutiny of Army officers by flourishing his spectacles.</p>
6:24      7:07	7:28      8:10	8:29      9:07	9:24      9:57	10:11      10:40	10:53      11:17	11:31      11:51
12:44	12:59      1:48	2:02      2:28	3:00      3:39	3:51      4:23	4:35      5:02	5:14      5:37
Sunday, March 16	Monday, March 17	Tuesday, March 18	Wednesday, March 19	Thursday, March 20	Friday, March 21	Saturday, March 22
<p><b>2008</b>—JPMorgan buys Bear Stearns, but only because the Fed puts up \$30 billion.  <b>2003</b>—On "Meet the Press," Dick "Dick" Cheney claims that Saddam Hussein "has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons," and that "we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators." It's a fact.  <b>1993</b>—A blizzard kills 184 in the Northeast.  <b>1990</b>—On his deathbed, Lee Atwater claims to repent; sadly, there are no lie detectors present.  <b>1988</b>—Kurds in Iraq are gassed with ingredients Saddam Hussein bought from U.S. and European companies.  <b>1971</b>—Lava Lamp gets a patent.  <b>1970</b>—Sen. Roman Hruska (R-NE) defends G. Harrold Carswell's nomination to the Supreme Court by saying, "there are a lot of mediocre judges and people and lawyers. They are entitled to a little representation, aren't they?"  <b>1968</b>—GIs in Vietnam kill hundreds of civilians at My Lai.  <b>1965</b>—In Montgomery, AL, police attack civil rights marchers.  <b>1926</b>—Robert Goddard demonstrates a practical liquid-fueled rocket in Auburn, MA.  <b>1912</b>—During a raging Antarctic blizzard, Captain Lawrence Oates tells the other members of the Scott Expedition, "I am just going outside and may be some time."</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—New York Governor Eliot Spitzer's nocturnal habits cost him his day job.  <b>2007</b>—The <i>Navy Times</i> reports that Fox News guest and U.S.M.C. Corporal Matt Sanchez had an earlier career as a gay porn star.  <b>2005</b>—"[B]ased on a review of the video footage [Terri Schiavo] certainly seems to respond to visual stimuli," says Sen. [Dr.] Bill Frist on the Senate floor. An autopsy later reveals she was blind.  <b>2004</b>—Local narcs and off-duty cops celebrate St. Patrick's Day by duking it out in the parking lot at Paddy's on the Peace Tradeport.  <b>2003</b>—George W. Bush tells Saddam Hussein that Iraq isn't big enough for the both of them, and gives Hussein 48 hours to get out.  <b>2003</b>—Disgruntled tobacco farmer Dwight Watson drives his John Deere into a pond on the Mall, paralyzing Washington D.C.  <b>1992</b>—"Dick" Cheney and two other members of G.H.[H.]W. Bush's cabinet admit they had written rubber checks on the House bank.  <b>1972</b>—Dita Beard, hospitalized by Nixon goons, is forced to recant a statement she'd made linking an ITT campaign contribution with the settlement of an anti-trust suit.  <b>1966</b>—<i>Alvin</i> the sub finds a missing H-bomb off the coast of Spain.  <b>1931</b>—Nevada OKs gambling.  <b>1776</b>—Brits bug outta Boston.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—Narcs and off-duty cops resume their fisticuffs at Gilley's in Portsmouth.  <b>2003</b>—The U.S. names its "Coalition of the Willing," which counts among its members Latvia and Estonia.  <b>2003</b>—"Why should we hear about body bags and death and how many?" Barbara Bush asks Diane Sawyer on "Good Morning America." "It's not relevant...why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?"  <b>1992</b>—Bizarre Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot says he'll run for President if his supporters get him on the ballot in 50 states.  <b>1990</b>—A dozen paintings are stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston.  <b>1972</b>—A Congressional study says the income gap between the richest and the poorest has doubled since 1952.  <b>1970</b>—Country Joe McDonald is convicted and fined \$500 for leading a Massachusetts crowd in the infamous Fish Cheer.  <b>1969</b>—The U.S. begins secretly bombing Cambodia.  <b>1963</b>—The Supreme Court rules that states must provide lawyers for indigent defendants.  <b>1953</b>—The State Department orders overseas libraries cleansed of books by authors of "suspect" loyalty.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Former Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi says his country is in a civil war.  <b>2004</b>—<i>USA Today</i> admits that its Pulitzer-contender Jack Kelley ought to have competed in the fiction category.  <b>2003</b>—George W. Bush kicks off his new war by sending 40 Tomahawk missiles into a residential neighborhood in Baghdad killing innocent civilians instead of his nemesis, Saddam Hussein.  <b>2002</b>—Scientists report "alarming" melting of the Larsen Ice Shelf.  <b>2002</b>—The Pentagon's top Cuba expert admits she spied for Cuba.  <b>1983</b>—Appearing on NBC's "Diff'rent Strokes," Nancy Reagan tells "a true story" about "a boy we'll call Charlie." "Burned out on marijuana" at 14, Charlie "brutally beats" Sis when she won't steal money to feed his weed habit.  <b>1954</b>—The U.S. government burns books by Wilhelm Reich.  <b>1945</b>—Off Japan, Kamikaze attacks kill 800 sailors on the <i>U.S.S. Franklin</i>.  <b>1937</b>—Birth of Clarence "Frogman" Henry.  <b>1935</b>—Over 100 are injured in a riot in Harlem. A study later blames police brutality for causing the riot. Fiorello LaGuardia suppresses the report.  <b>1916</b>—Eight U.S. Army biplanes go after Pancho Villa.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—U.S. ground troops invade Iraq to protect The Homeland from Saddam's innumerable weapons of mass destruction.  <b>1995</b>—Religious fanatics release nerve gas in Tokyo subway.  <b>1992</b>—UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus says Iraq has agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.  <b>1976</b>—Press Baron William R. Hearst's granddaughter Patricia is convicted of bank robbery.  <b>1954</b>—"If the [Vietnamese] Communists continue to suffer the losses they have been taking," says French Chief of Staff Gen. Paul Ely, "I don't know how they can stay in the battle."  <b>1933</b>—Germany opens its first concentration camp at Dachau.  <b>1933</b>—"Get to hell out of here, you son of a bitch," would-be FDR assassin Giuseppe Zangara tells the chaplain before his electrocution for killing the mayor of Chicago. "Goodbye to all poor peoples everywhere! Push the button!"  <b>1905</b>—An old boiler explodes at the Grover Shoe Factory in Brockton and shoots through the roof. The building collapses, trapping hundreds of workers. Several barrels of naphtha catch fire. Fifty-eight die and 150 are injured.  <b>1899</b>—Martha Place becomes the first woman to be executed by electrocution, in New York.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Richard Clarke, the senior U.S. counter-intelligence officer since Bush I, says Bush II ignored al Qaeda until 9/11/01.  <b>1995</b>—At its own stately pace, Mississippi ratifies the 13th amendment outlawing slavery, but fails to file it.  <b>1962</b>—Over Edwards AFB, a bear becomes the first living thing ejected from a plane traveling at supersonic speed.  <b>1960</b>—In South Africa, police kill 89 black protesters in the Sharpeville Massacre.  <b>1952</b>—In Cleveland, disk jockey Alan Freed throws the "Moondog Coronation Ball"—the first rock 'n roll concert.  <b>1947</b>—New York Police find compulsive hoarder Homer L. Collyer dead in his junk-crammed Harlem townhouse.  <b>1907</b>—Marines land in Honduras to "protect American interests."  <b>1857</b>—An earthquake destroys much of Tokyo; subsequent fires kill more than 100,000.  <b>1851</b>—Josiah Warren and others form "Modern Times," an anarchist colony, in New York.  <b>1844</b>—Millerites are again disappointed: the world once more fails to end as their religious leader had predicted.  <b>1843</b>—Millerites are disappointed: the world fails to end as their religious leader had predicted.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—<i>MV Queen of the North</i>, a 410-foot Canadian ferry four miles off course, hits an island at 17 knots and sinks with a loss of two lives. Union reps deny crewmembers were having sex at the time.  <b>1987</b>—The <i>Mobro 4000</i>, a barge filled with 3,168 tons of NYC garbage, begins a futile 162-day, 6,000 mile odyssey; it finally returns to the Big Apple for incineration.  <b>1986</b>—David Funchess, a black former Marine with a Purple Heart and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, shuffles off this mortal coil in Florida's electric chair, the first Vietnam veteran executed in the U.S.  <b>1975</b>—A technician looking for air leaks with a lighted candle starts a fire causing \$100 million in damages at the Brown's Ferry nuclear power plant in Alabama.  <b>1973</b>—During a meeting with Richard Nixon, John Dean, John Mitchell, and H.R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman coins the phrase "modified limited hangout."  <b>1972</b>—National Commission on Marijuana recommends that marijuana be legalized.  <b>1966</b>—An Undersecretary of Defense warns his boss bombing North Vietnam is useless.  <b>1947</b>—Truman orders FBI loyalty checks on gov't workers.  <b>1933</b>—Happy days are here again: FDR signs a bill legalizing beer &amp; wine.</p>
12:06      5:50      6:10	12:24      12:40      6:25      6:43	12:56      1:15      7:01      7:17	1:30      1:52      7:39      7:54	2:07      2:33      8:21      8:35	2:48      3:18      9:06      9:20	3:35      4:10      9:56      10:11



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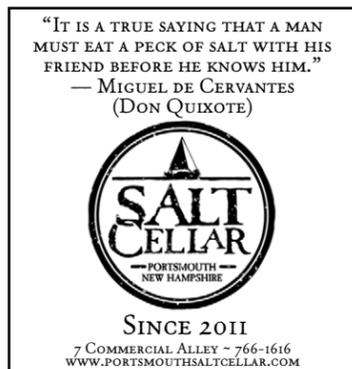


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