

The New Hampshire Gazette

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A Non-Fiction Newspaper
Vol. CCLVIII, No. 14
April 4, 2014

The Fortnightly Rant

Vulture Capitalism Comes Home to Roost

There are some things that nobody expects, the Spanish Inquisition being only the most obvious example. Another might be a fire extinguisher filled with gasoline. When you buy a product, you expect it to solve a problem, not make it worse.

So Gregory M. Jordan was not unreasonable, after re-financing his California home in 2005, to expect that each mortgage payment he made thereafter would reduce the principal that he owed to his lender.

Apparently suffering from an undiagnosed ailment we'll call Paranoia Deficiency, Jordan also presumed that the interest rate he was shown on a Truth In Lending Disclosure Statement [TILDS] had some kind of basis in fact. He later found that the interest rate he was shown was just a "teaser rate" — good for one month only.

Despite the evanescent nature of that teaser rate, it was used to calculate the amount of the monthly mortgage payment shown to Jordan on the TILDS. Like a *Tyrannosaurus rex* in his side view mirror, Jordan's monthly payments turned out to be significantly larger than they had first appeared.

Due to that higher-but-undisclosed interest rate, Jordan's monthly payments — though larger than he had anticipated — were insufficient to cover even the monthly interest that he owed.

As a consequence of this series of unfortunate events, even after making his payments on schedule, every month Jordan found himself owing the lender more money, not less — a condition called "negative amortization."

That was a problem for Jordan, but not for the mortgage originator, Paul Financial LLC. In those heady days, it was easy for mortgage originators to sell wholesale lots of mortgages to the wizards of Wall Street for conversion into arcane "financial instruments."

Sex, Lies, and Subprime Mortgages

Mara Der Hovanesian gives a vivid description of those times in her article titled, "Sex, Lies, and Subprime Mortgages," published in *Bloomberg BusinessWeek Magazine* on November 12, 2008.

In describing "[t]he sexual favors, whistleblower intimidation, and routine fraud behind the fiasco that has triggered the global financial crisis," Der Hovanesian mentions "[o]ne former [mortgage] wholesaler in Northern California [who] joined subprime lender GreenPoint Mortgage in 1997, right out of college.

"By 2004, she says, she was pulling in several hundred thousand dollars a year. She kept a chauffeur on call to shuttle her and her friends to 'exclusive clubs, restaurants, and parties,' and treated friends to shopping sprees at Neiman Marcus, Gucci, and Louis Vuitton. 'It was the time of our lives,' says the woman, who now works as an account executive for another lender in the area."

A Serial Predator

Gregory Jordan's incredible exploding mortgage was just one of many thousands that were sold during the short life of Paul Financial LLC. Between its founding in mid-2003 and its foundering in late 2007, it peddled mortgages worth — on paper, anyway — \$7.6 billion. Throughout that period the company was owned and operated by Peter T. Paul.

Before setting up his eponymous LLC, Paul had been a Vice Chairman and member of the Board of Directors of Greenpoint Mortgage — during the period it was paying its mortgage wholesalers so lavishly they could afford to keep chauffeurs on call.

Paul had come to Greenpoint during a 1999 merger in which Greenpoint paid \$475 million to buy Headlands Mortgage Company, a company he had founded in 1986. According to a 1998 article in *American Banker*, Headlands specifically targeted "Alt-A" borrowers — those who lacked documentation showing they could make their mortgage payments. The same article noted that "[b]oth Fannie [Mae] and Freddie [Mac] have pledged to expand underwriting guidelines to catch the same 'alternative A' quality borrowers that Mr. Paul targets."



M. J. FOWLE 04 APR 2014
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE
S. FOWLE, UNINDICTED CONSPIRATOR

Between 1997 and 2002, Headlands was the nation's 25th largest originator of subprime mortgages and Greenpoint was the largest,* but as time went on they gained many imitators.

Good Times Never Last

No game of musical chairs goes on forever. In July, 2007, two Bear Stearns hedge funds holding exploding mortgages from Greenpoint went broke. Months later Paul Financial threw in the towel. Greenpoint was already defunct. Thanks to sub-prime mortgage shenanigans of the sort pioneered by Paul, the global economy cratered.

In a remarkable coincidence, between 2007 and 2010 the median net worth of U.S. households fell by 47 percent — exactly matching the percentage of the population "who believe that they are victims ...

* *Anti-Predatory Lending Legislation: A Multi-State Study of Impacts*, by Tonya Diane Zimmerman, UMI Dissertation Publishing (September 3, 2011), 404 pages.

who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing ... who pay no income tax."

Some of this has been covered here before. We risk redundancy to add a final detail, brought to our attention by a reader.

Opportunity Just Keeps Knocking

In October, 2009, in an article headlined "New investors swoop on battered U.S. housing market," Reuters reported that "Peter Paul ... has transformed his business from a loan originator to a buyer of distressed loans. ... By buying up distressed loans and getting homeowners ... refinancing or payment plans ... Paul said his Headlands Asset Management ... is set to make profits of 30 percent."

Lest anyone forget, Peter T. Paul, whose name now graces what used to be called the Whittemore School of Business at UNH, is using some fraction of his wealth to sponsor Dan Innis, the former Dean of the Whittemore School, as a Republican candidate for the First Congressional District.

The Alleged News

The Obamacare "Catastrophe"

Monday night, March 31st, was the enrollment deadline to sign up for Obamacare. Despite technical problems with the website and virulent opposition from Republicans, the program hit its original goal: seven million people signed up for health care coverage.

Another 4.5 million people are now covered thanks to expanded Medicaid, and three million people under 26 are now covered by their parents health care plans. Nearly 15 million people now have access to health care who otherwise would not — perhaps as many as 22 million, it's hard to count with the numbers whizzing by so fast.

Never before has America suffered under such tyranny — it's

Kristallnacht on Main Street! George Washington is gnashing his wooden teeth while spinning in his grave!

Fairly Unbalanced

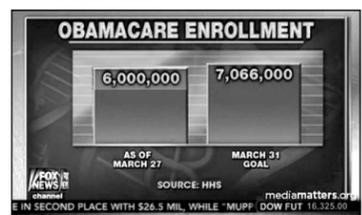
To show their audience how unlikely it would be for the program to meet its goal, Fox News displayed this graphic on March 31st:



With just a glance, any innumerate idiot could see that to date, only about one-third of the projected number had signed up

for Obamacare.

Spoilsports complained about the graphic, though. They argued that the relative size of the two columns bore no resemblance to the actual data. To accurately represent the actual numbers, the nitpicking nabobs of numeracy said the graph should have looked more like this:



They Might Be RINOs

We do not know if Fox News has covered Kaiser Health's most recent tracking poll, released on

March 26th; we have not monitored all their broadcasts — even our masochism has its limits.

We're guessing, though, that to spare its audience from the horrors of cognitive dissonance, Fox has not reported the results, because the poll clearly shows that Republicans hate Obamacare in name only. They actually like the policies established by Obamacare.

Kaiser found that among Republicans: 76 percent approve of the extension of coverage to dependents; 73 percent approve of the closing of the "donut hole;" 65 percent approve of individual subsidies; 75 percent approve of the elimination of out-of-pocket expenses for preventive services;

62 percent approve of Medicaid expansion; and 69 percent approve of guaranteed issuance of policies.

This must be disheartening news for Ted Cruz, Mike Lee, and other members of the "purer than thou" caucus of the Party — assuming that it manages to somehow break through its epistemic closure. Since we are compassionate as well as apolitical, we offer this free advice to the GOP: your party can never achieve true greatness if its principles are polluted. Identify and expunge these Socialist scum. Purge the government-dependent bums!

The Alleged News

to page two

The Alleged News

from page one

Vietnam Veterans Day 2014



Two years ago, to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, President Obama proclaimed March 29th to be Vietnam Veterans Day.

So much for that — few paid any attention then, and it's been mostly ignored or forgotten since. Not without reason: trying to honor Vietnam Veterans must be like trying to buy a gift for the man who has everything — including schizophrenia.

Some of them, like former (and, he hopes, future) Senator

Bob Smith, would like to mount a mission and comb the jungles of Vietnam in search of POWs. Others, like the Smedley Butler Brigade in Boston, would prefer that the Pentagon beat a few swords into plowshares and use them in a de-mining effort of the same terrain.

By now most Vietnam veterans have come to a place where they can accept and respect each other, despite any disparity in their views on the war itself. It's the civilians and politicians who get their goat.

To be fair, Vietnam has been a greased pig for every American President since Roosevelt.

Take the timing of President Obama's proclamation. He made it on March 29th because that day marked the departure of the last of our combat troops in 1973 — the only really popular part of that whole exercise in futility. But that day was the 39th anniversary of the end of the war, not the 50th.



Hundreds of kids — and adults — got a big thrill on March 25th when the Red Sox brought their 2013 World Series Trophy to the Portsmouth Public Library. Here Todd Cronin, of Rye, has a photo taken with sons Wesley, 5, on the left, and Sawyer, 7.



MALAYSIA'S LATEST EFFORT IN THE SEARCH FOR FLIGHT 370

The event that took place fifty years earlier was Operation Chopper.

On January 12, 1962 — fifty years, two months, and seventeen days earlier, to be exact — U.S. Army helicopter pilots lifted more than 1,000 ARVN troops into combat northwest of Saigon. Perhaps symbolic of the back-asswards nature of the whole war, the mission used thirty Piasecki H-21s "Flying Banana" helicopters — originally designed for Arctic rescue work.

Etymologists take note: that day may have been the origin of the use of the term "chopper" to mean "helicopter."

At the time, President Kennedy denied U.S. forces were involved in combat. Fifty years after the fact, Obama had enough political cover to tell the truth: it was "America's first combat mission against the Viet Cong."

The Requisite Boilerplate

In 2012, Obama said Opera-

tion Chopper was "the beginning of one of our longest and most challenging wars." He'll surely get no argument on that.

If Obama were a free man he could have quit then, while he was ahead. As President he was expected to say more. But constrained by his position, he was only free to speak of the Vietnam War in general terms and platitudes.

So he did what he had to and rolled out the boilerplate: "Through more than a decade of conflict that tested the fabric of our Nation," he said, "the service of our men and women in uniform stood true."

Whose Truth?

Well, yes — sort of. It all depends on what your definition of "true" is.

Thanks to a wave of revisionism unleashed during the first term of the Reagan Administration, and epitomized by draft-dodger Sylvester Stallone's "Rambo" movies,

Vietnam is widely seen as a valiant effort that was fatally undermined by a bunch of filthy hippies and their gutless cronies in Congress.

That's not true, that's "truthy."

A more accurate — and vastly different — view of the war appears in "Sir! No, Sir!" Available from Netflix, David Zeigler's documentary tells the story of the antiwar movement inside the U.S. armed forces: soldiers, sailors, and Marines who stood true to each other, and to the truth about the war as they knew it.

Rather inconveniently for all concerned, their opposition to the war put them in direct conflict with their immediate superiors and their whole chain of command, all the way up to the Pentagon and the White House. The ensuing struggle was messy on a grand scale. But it shortened the war like nothing else could.

Now, there's a tough line for the guy behind the Presidential podium to tackle: "Shout out to

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all you Vietnam Veterans Against the War — if it wasn't for you we might still have troops in Vietnam!"

Really Old School

Some 'Nam vets, this writer included, will never be satisfied until the Marine Band backs up the Commander in Chief belting out Edwin Starr's 1969 hit song "War":

*Ooooh, war, huh
Good God y'all
What is it good for
Absolutely nothing
Say it again.*

That said, we've noticed that despite their prejudice against stupid, misguided wars, even many anti-war veterans of the Southeast Asian War Games share a high regard for one group of men who volunteered to fight. Of course, that war was the antithesis of their own.

Just 26 years before the Vietnam War got rolling — funny how time slips away — 2,800 Americans volunteered to go fight in Spain.

In July of 1936 Generalissimo Francisco Franco led a rebellion against the duly-elected leftist government. The Americans, generally known as the Abraham

Lincoln Brigade, fought for the Republic and against Franco's fascists.

One of the last living Abraham Lincoln Brigade veterans, John Hovan, died March 27th, in North Smithfield, RI, at the age of 97.

Following his return from Spain, Hovan served in the U.S. Navy as a SeaBee during World War II. Despite his service in that "Good War," like many other Lincoln Brigade veterans he was scorned by alleged patriots such as J. Edgar Hoover and was labeled a "premature anti-fascist."

Hovan never wavered in his principles. During the Red Scare of the early 1950's he was grilled as a subversive by Members of Congress and lost his job as a result; his house was fire bombed and painted with swastikas for good (albeit irony-deficient) measure.

Spain appreciated him, if his own country did not: in 2009, Hovan was made a Spanish citizen.

Last Man Standing

It appears that Delmer Berg is probably the last living American veteran of the Spanish Civil War.

Esley Daniel "Delmer" Berg was born in Anaheim, CA in



Boston-based Cathartes Private Investments offers "extraordinary downtown living" to those who can pay \$40,000 a year in rent for a two bedroom apartment at Portwalk. While the project is under construction, it offers about 60 decibels of flapping noises to everyone in a 200-yard radius whenever the wind speed exceeds 20 mph.



1915. While serving in the U.S. Army, he bought out his contract for \$120 so he could fight fascism in Spain. He was wounded in action in Valencia. After returning from Spain, he re-enlisted the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. In 2012, Berg was living in Columbia, CA, in the heart of Gold Rush country.

Home Boys

New Hampshire was represented by at least ten premature anti-fascists: Homer Bates Chase, Frederick Leon Copp, Daniel A. Fitzgerald, Orvo William Kempainen, Christopher E. Litsas, Matthew Irving Matison, Evan Shipman, Owen Jefferson Smith, Richard Chester Thompson, and Ralph Roy Welch.

Kempainen, a Finn from Newport, and Copp, from Manchester, were both killed in action in 1938.

Walking Off The War

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and Warrior Hike are providing a group of more recent military veterans the opportunity to "Walk Off The

War" along the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). This year's group of veterans began the six-month-long physical challenge on March 17 at Springer Mountain, the southern terminus of the Trail in Georgia.

The "Walk Off The War" Program provides participating combat veterans with equipment and supplies required to complete a thru-hike of one of America's National Scenic Trails; coordinates trail town support in the forms of transportation, food and lodging; and assists veterans with future employment opportunities through partners and sponsors.

"Hiking over 2,000 miles during the course of six months gives a veteran an opportunity to decompress and come to terms with their wartime experiences," said Sean Gobin, Warrior Hike executive director. "The camaraderie that is shared between our combat veterans and the trail town communities helps facilitate their integration back into civilian life."

Veterans hiking the A.T. this year include Scott Brooks-Miller, a Vietnam War veteran, and several returning service members

from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The ATC, the clubs maintaining the trail, and veterans' groups in trail towns will provide the veterans with support services, including lodging, transportation and meals.

"Similar to Earl Shaffer, the first Appalachian Trail thru-hiker, these veterans will have the opportunity to journey along the Appalachian Trail and reconnect with nature and with the American people," said Ron Tipton, executive director and CEO of the ATC. "The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is proud to team up with Warrior Hike to offer this experience to our military veterans." Warrior Hike also offers hikes on the Continental Divide and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails.

For more information, visit www.appalachiantrail.org/events or www.warriorhike.com.

There Is Such a Thing as Progress

During the month of March, for the first time in eleven years, no U.S. troops died in combat.



Hey, Kids! Free Booze!

To the Editor:

The Koch brothers' group, Americans for Prosperity (AFP), has initiated a new effort to exert their control over American healthcare. By now, most of us are aware of their cynical attempt to manipulate results of elections by getting their allies in the Republican Party to pass unnecessary, restrictive voting laws to prevent or discourage reliably Democratic voters from voting. Recently, a new, just as sinister scheme, has surfaced. The AFP has been hosting drinking parties at colleges and universities around the country, with the sole aim being to bribe college students not to sign up for healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

On March 20, AFP-NH, a Koch funded group called Generation Opportunity, and the College Republicans held one of these events for students at UNH. At the event, held at the Dover Brickyard just off campus, each student attending was given a ticket for two free alcoholic beverages and information designed to discourage them not to sign up for new benefits and financial assistance for which they are eligible. Another such event was scheduled to be held at Dartmouth University on March 25.

A news report in the *Tampa Bay Times* describes a similar event held at Virginia Tech as follows:

"Lured by free beer, gift cards and the chance to win an iPad,

100 students heard a pitch from the young staffers of a group named Generation Opportunity: Obamacare is a bad deal, and you should opt out."

The *Times* goes on to report that a "blueprint for an upcoming tailgate calls for games such as beer pong and cornhole, free Taco Bell and beer."

Trading alcohol for political support is reminiscent of the bad old days when ward healers bought votes with whiskey.

Lenore Patton
Hampton, NH

MediScare is Back!

To the Editor:

It's back — Mediscare! And it's just as false and misleading as ever. In December 2013 New Hampshire began being bombarded with ads attacking Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter which tried to scare us into believing that the Affordable Care Act was denying us the opportunity to renew our policies and keep our doctors. Shea-Porter immediately responded saying, "Washington Republicans should take down their misleading attack ads and stop frightening Granite Staters who hold individual policies from Anthem, because they can indeed renew their policies and keep their current doctors and hospitals." She added that she'd worked successfully with Anthem to extend the renewal deadline for individual policy holders. The fact-checking organization Politifact investigated the attack ads and found them to be false, stating that, "New Hampshire policy holders were always able to extend their current policies 12 months, thanks to the state's early renewal option." For that reason and also because Shea-Porter had convinced Anthem to extend its renewal deadline to December, Politifact rated as true Shea-Porter's December statement that, "Granite Staters who hold individual policies from

Anthem ... can indeed renew their policies and keep their doctors and hospitals." Of course most people in New Hampshire don't hold individual policies - only 5 percent do - so the majority (with employer based insurance) are not affected by any of this. We are so fortunate to have such a hard-working Congresswoman who cares about that 5 percent of New Hampshire citizens and fought to prevent New Hampshire's one individual-policy insurer from harming them.

Lew Henry
Gilmanton Iron Works, NH

The Mystery of Flight 370

To the Editor:

I remember exactly when my youth ended and when, at the same time, I was sentenced to life in the prison known as "adulthood." I had this model airplane, see; a Cox .49 gas powered model of a WWII Spitfire. It wasn't remote controlled really, at least by radio frequency. It had a handle with strings attached to it and you could fly it in a circle around you, taking off and landing and you could even perform loop-de-loops! Then, eventually, the day came when I needed to let that small airplane fly free from the confines of its circular existence. So I did what I had to do. I started the little sucker up (which was always fraught with danger since it was easy to lose a finger if done improperly), and for good measure, I poured rubbing alcohol all over it and set it ablaze before I tossed it into the air, free at last of any control whatsoever. It took off sounding as always like a giant angry mosquito or a flying chainsaw, with wings ablaze, into an uncertain future. I turned away as it disappeared into the twilight and I have never looked back.

I am not sure where that little plane ever ended up. I'm guessing not the Indian Ocean but probably more likely a marsh in Hamp-

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,

ton or Seabrook. And who knows where I will end up. But regardless, I just hope that the families of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 get an answer as to where their loved ones ended up. But they may not. It's a huge world out there and when we crash and burn sometimes we don't leave an obvious debris field.

Robert "Wheel Gun Bob" Ford
Portsmouth, NH

Thank God for Obamacare

To the Editor:

We are periodically reminded that illness and injury do not care whether someone leans Democrat, Republican or Independent! Former U.S. Senator (MA) Scott Brown, who is "exploring" a run for New Hampshire's U.S. Senate seat, met with New Hampshire Republican State Representative Herb Richardson and his wife, Rita, and received an earful in response to his labeling Obamacare a "monstrosity" and threatening to repeal the law. The Richardsons, offering nothing but praise for President Obama's signature healthcare law, were said to have left Brown totally speechless.

Representative Richardson had reportedly been injured on the job and was living on workers compensation while recovering. The Richardson's financial situation became so dire that it cost them their home. At the time, the couple had been paying an exorbitant \$1,100 a month for health insurance. However, the pair qualified for a tax subsidy offered through Obamacare, and they now have a healthcare plan that covers the both of them at \$136 per month. For that reason, the Republican chose to defend Obama's law by calling it "a financial lifesaver" and Mrs. Richardson, speaking from the heart, stated, "Thank God for Obamacare."

The Republican Party has foolishly convinced itself that success in the 2014 midterm election will hinge upon its ability to discredit the ACA, despite it being viewed very favorably by Americans. Many millions of dollars from anonymous donors are pouring into New Hampshire, on behalf of Frank Guinta and Scott Brown, to be used for negative advertising against Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, who have every reason to be proud of their support for Obamacare.

In addition to the Richardson's case, I have also just learned that the former chair of the New Hampshire Republican Party is saving himself a bundle (\$1000 monthly) on health insurance via Obamacare; hence, I am confident that there must be thousands of other similar success stories about the law in New Hampshire. Therefore, if all New Hampshire citizens that are benefitting from Obamacare have the courage to tell their story and vote their conscience, then the right individuals will remain in office and our healthcare system will only improve.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, NH

The Real Mongrels

To the Editor:

The illusion of superiority over another race or religion is a thoroughly counterfeit self-esteem limbo and the vulture despots take advantage constantly.

The desperate Republican party and its free Marketeer Corporate (Rogue) benefactors immediately saw a potential advantage before and after the 2008 election — to vilify and disqualify President Obama in their red heat propaganda: It was exactly tailored to prick up the ears of latent bigots

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And Other Correspondence

who were already eager to hear the dog whistles.

The Tea Party mob was solicited and financed by several vulture capitalist/political groups — using rhetoric that stealthily enraged thousands of gullible voters. It grew to the extent that those eager lackeys were sent to the House of Representatives where they turned the GOP into the Party of NO! Tea Party voters and other desperados delivered a blow to the black man in the White House — the decent, educated man who only wants to help them. Indeed — who actually are the real mongrels?

Helen McKinney
Sapphire, NC

§

Brown's Candid Admission

To the Editor:

Former Senator from Massachusetts Scott Brown is now carpetbagging in our state. While some pundits in Washington and New York fawn all over him, things aren't going so well for him up here. In Manchester recently he was asked by an Associated Press reporter about his credentials to represent the people of New Hampshire in the U.S. Senate. His response: "Do I have the best credentials? Probably not. 'Cause, you know, whatever." I'm not making this up, that's an actual quote.

In addition to his candid admission that he doesn't have the best credentials, his repeated calls to "repeal Obamacare" show that he is completely out of step and out of touch with the people of New Hampshire. Our legislature just passed (in a bipartisan fashion) — and our governor just signed — Medicaid expansion so an additional 50,000 working people will get health care coverage. If Scott Brown had his way and the Affordable Care Act were

repealed, these Granite Staters would lose their health care and everyone with a pre-existing condition could lose theirs.

I encourage Mr. Brown to hop in his pickup truck and drive back to Massachusetts.

Larry Drake
Portsmouth, NH

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The ACA Works

To the Editor:

As of the middle of March, 5.2 million Americans have signed up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. Forecasts indicate that number will surge well beyond the CBO estimate of 6 million by the original March 31st deadline. This means that as many as 4 million people who did not have health insurance will have coverage, and the number of uninsured Americans is on track to reach the lowest number since 2008.

ACA success stories are pouring in from all around the country. Families who were once dismissed as uninsurable due to pre-existing conditions are now protected from the practices of discrimination from the insurance industry. The self-employed and those not insured by their employer now find affordable coverage in the private insurance marketplace. And people dropped by their insurance companies or covered by inadequate policies that don't meet the ACA's minimum standards, now have an opportunity to buy comprehensive coverage — in many cases at substantial savings.

In New Hampshire, news of successful Obamacare stories are streaming in. Republican State Rep. Herb Richardson and his wife, Rita, recently countered former MA senator Scott Brown's claim that Obamacare was a "monstrosity" with their public support of Obamacare as noth-

ing short of a "financial lifesaver" for them. Mrs. Richardson added an enthusiastic "thank God for Obamacare!"

Also of note is the recent admission by the former New Hampshire Republican Chairman, Fergus Cullen, that his family will now save \$1000/month for more comprehensive coverage through Obamacare. While he claims that the savings of \$12,000/year weren't enough to turn him into an ACA supporter, it may be more than enough for others in need of affordable coverage.

Today in New Hampshire we are being bombarded with anti-Obamacare ads paid for by Americans for Prosperity and Crossroads super PAC. Meanwhile, we have the spectacle of an out-of-state politician — Scott Brown — acting as head cheerleader for those behind this grotesque campaign of disinformation. This kind of outside money will fund his Senate run against our homegrown New Hampshire Senator Shaheen.

But the simple fact is that it is increasingly difficult for Scott Brown and other Republicans to argue with success stories that are real.

The Richardsons and Mr. Cullen have already shown us how well the ACA law worked for their families. Now it's time to spread the word so it has a chance to work for others.

Kimberly Meuse
Portsmouth, NH

§

Americans for Plutocracy

To the Editor:

The night before the vote on Medicaid Expansion during the special session of the New Hampshire legislature last fall, I received a call from Americans for Prosperity, the group funded by the billionaire Koch brothers, asking me to call my senator (that would be Nancy Stiles) to ask her to vote no. I had already called

Senator Stiles to ask her to vote yes. She, however, did not listen to the plea of a mere constituent, bowing instead to the wishes of outside money.

Now Scott Brown is planning a run for the U.S. Senate from New Hampshire, and refusing to pledge to reduce spending by outside groups. These special interest groups are not only spending money to convince us that what is good for them is also good for us, but they are importing their own politician, bought and paid for, as well.

Independent New Hampshire is not that easily fooled — we already have our own home grown Senator. Jeanne Shaheen is doing an outstanding job representing our interests in Washington and we are going to send her back!

Cynthia Muse
Rye, NH

§

Surprise for a Carpetbagger

To the Editor:

Recently former MA Senator Scott Brown toured New Hampshire, leading up what is likely to be another run for the Senate, this time in our fair state against incumbent Senator Jeanne Shaheen. During the delivery of what has become a standard part of the national Republican playbook, Brown bashed Obamacare, as he did in 2010. But things are different now and Scott Brown had a surprise coming.

Despite a rocky rollout, Obamacare is now in effect and millions have signed up for it. As of March 25, over sixteen million to be exact. Scott Brown discovered that some of those enrollees not only live in New Hampshire, but also are Republicans! Just talk to Republican State Representative Herb Richardson, who interrupted Brown's harangue against Obamacare during a recent visit. A serious workplace injury forced Richardson to sell his 12-room home in Lancaster and move into



a trailer because of the high costs of his health insurance premiums (\$1,100/month under COBRA). Richardson only received \$2,000 month in workers' comp and the numbers just didn't add up. Grateful for Obamacare, Richardson now pays only \$136/month for a health insurance policy that covers both him and his wife.

So despite the millions of dollars being poured into TV ads as part of a national Republican anti-Obamacare campaign, the truth remains. Millions have signed up, over 100,000 more are signing up each day, and some of those now benefiting from Obamacare are (oops) Republicans. The old playbook just doesn't work the way it used to.

Beth Olshansky
Durham, NH

§

More Lies From Plutocrats

To the Editor,

Americans for Prosperity, the puppet organization for Republican billionaires Charles and David Koch, recently ran this television ad featuring cancer patient Julie Boonstra:

"I was diagnosed with leukemia. I found out I only have a 20 percent chance of surviving. I found this wonderful doctor and a great health care plan. I was doing fairly well fighting the cancer, fighting the leukemia, and then I received a letter. My insurance was

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Northcountry Chronicle

The Invisible Raise

by William Marvel

From the rhetoric historically applied to the minimum wage argument, one thing is clear: no matter how high the minimum is raised, a large percentage of the population and hordes of pandering politicians are going to complain that it's too low. The frequent resurgence of that argument, within memory of the latest increase, also seems to illustrate that raising the minimum wage does little or nothing to help those who work for it. The only thing it does do with any certainty is contribute to inflation, and after so many years of Ben Bernanke at the Fed, who needs more inflation?

Like most of my generation, I began my adult life working for minimum wage. At the time, that statutory minimum was set at \$1.40 per hour, but while I was still at the *Reporter Press*, during the Johnson administration, it went up to \$1.60. That amounted

to nearly a 15-percent raise, but somehow it ended up doing me no good. The price of food, fuel, and clothing quickly rose to eat up that extra eight dollars, and before I knew it I had more week left at the end of the paycheck than had been the case before.

It wasn't as though retailers realized that all the minimum-wage slugs had an additional eight bucks on payday, and conspired to relieve them of it, but it happened as promptly as if it had been a concerted plot. When our wages rose to \$1.60, all those people who had already worked their way up to \$1.60 or \$1.80 by merit or longevity felt shortchanged, and many of them asked for more money. If their employers agreed to increase their pay, the prices of whatever they made or did had to increase to cover that cost. If the employers refused, those better-paid employees had to either accept an effective cut in pay or quit — which would partly account for the rise in unemployment that

frequently follows minimum-wage increases.

In our age of pathological empathy, we should not be surprised at a clamor for raising the minimum wage, especially during a Democratic administration. More than doubling it, from \$7.25 to \$15, seems particularly extreme, but keep in mind that the idea of a \$15 minimum wage originated in Seattle, the new cultural capital of the West Coast; that is where some of our most cockamamie ideas have germinated (along with the plants that may have initiated or enabled those ideas).

Consider the effects of a \$15-per-hour minimum wage. Most or all of the teachers in local private schools would suddenly fall below the statutory minimum, despite advanced educations and years of experience. So would at least one well-educated and highly capable employee at the Conway Public Library. Starting wages for many municipal positions would have to be increased,

as would substitute pay in the public schools. Bringing those people into anything resembling parity with their former economic strata would likely put quite a few private enterprises out of business, and pinch the taxpayer painfully.

That, however, would only be the beginning. Think of the hordes of public employees, and particularly teachers, who would immediately demand substantial raises because, for all their degrees, skills, and dedication, they could say that they "barely earn minimum wage." Similar envy might also afflict administrators, who expect to earn two or three times as much as their troops. With personnel costs driving the vast majority of most municipal budgets, the impact on the average homeowner would be nothing short of devastating. All those negative consequences would very quickly trickle back on the very person the increase was originally intended to benefit, but it would hurt a lot of others along the way.

President Obama's proposed nine-dollar minimum would yield proportionate damage, entailing a 25-percent increase, and Senator Tom Harkin's \$10 minimum approaches 40 percent, but who among us is prepared to withstand another 25- or 40-percent round of inflation? We who trusted our elders and saved for retirement instead of depending on public pensions have already seen our savings evaporate through the deliberate inflation Mr. Bernanke calls "quantitative easing." The only real beneficiary of any increase in the minimum wage will be the Democratic Party in the 2014 elections, through the cultivation of another constituency unsophisticated enough to think it will get something out of it. That is apparently the motive, and it is small comfort for those who must continue to live on even less than the minimum-wage earner now brings home.

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

canceled because of Obamacare. Now, the out-of-pocket costs are so high; it's unaffordable. If I do not receive my medication, I will die. I believed the president. I believed I could keep my health care plan. I feel lied to. It's heartbreaking for me. Congressman Peters, your decision to vote Obamacare jeopardized my health." (Washington Post, 2/20/14)

My heart goes out to Ms. Boonstra, and I wish her nothing but the best in her struggle against her cancer. However, her statements about Obamacare have no factual basis.

Glen Kessler of the Washing-

ton Post fact-checked her claims. Kessler wrote, "The claim that the costs are now 'unaffordable' appeared odd because, under Obamacare, there is an out-of-pocket maximum of \$6,350 for covered expenses under an individual plan, after which the insurance plan pays 100 percent of covered benefits..."

"Meanwhile Boonstra told the Detroit News that (under Obamacare) her monthly premiums were cut in half, from \$1,100 a month to \$571. That's a savings of \$529 a month. Over the course of a year, the premium savings amounts to \$6,348 - just two dollars shy of

the out-of-pocket maximum."

In short, treatment under Obamacare costs two dollars more than what Boonstra previously paid. It is not "unaffordable." On the basis of her comments, Boonstra was given a "three Pinocchio" score by The Fact Checker of the Washington Post. Three Pinochios indicate significant factual error and/or obvious contradictions.

Apart from this statement, how credible are Boonstra's other comments? "Boonstra told The Detroit News she had never been politically active before joining the anti-Obamacare campaign. The

newspaper reported her ex-husband, Mark Boonstra, had served as chair of the Washtenaw County GOP, and was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder (R) to the Michigan Court of Appeals in 2012" (Huffington Post, 2/19/14).

So, what can we make of all this? (1) Attacks on Obamacare are central to Republicans' hopes to win Congress in 2014. (2) As a result, Republicans will, as Boonstra did, play fast and loose with the truth. (3) Plutocracy, rule by the richest people like the Koch brothers, is rapidly replacing democracy as our form of government. (4) At the behest of the

Koch brothers, Americans for Prosperity will respond hotly to this letter presenting in response complicated, contorted, and essentially feeble arguments. (5) The American Cancer Society endorses Obamacare.

Gary Patton
Hampton, NH

§
Great Scott!

To The Editor:

Great Scott, Brownie is in town! The Republican Party have beamed up Scottie to run against Senator Shaheen. Here he comes to save the day!

But which Republican party?

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The Mobsters of Wall Street

by Jim Hightower

Assume that you ran a business that was found guilty of bribery, forgery, perjury, defrauding homeowners, fleecing investors, swindling consumers, cheating credit card holders, violating U.S. trade laws, and bilking American soldiers. Can you even imagine the punishment you'd get?

How about zero? No jail time.

Not even a fine. Plus, you get to stay on as boss, you get to keep all the loot you gained from the crime spree, and you even get a \$8.5 million pay raise!

Of course, you and I would never get such outrageous, absurd, kid-glove pampering by legal authorities. But, then, we're not the capo of JPMorgan Chase, America's biggest bank and a crime syndicate that apparently is too big to jail.

Jamie Dimon is the slick CEO who has fostered a culture of thievery during his years as a top executive at JPMorgan, leading to that shameful litany of crime. Yet, federal prosecutors have bowed to the politically-connected Wall Streeter, refusing to ruffle his feathers with even a single criminal charge.

Meanwhile, one of the scams that Dimon directly supervised produced a \$6 billion loss for

shareholders in 2012. And his reign of mismanagement and illegalities cost the bank's shareholders another \$20 billion in federal fines last year, resulting in a 16 percent drop in profits. You might think the bank's board of directors would at least slap Jamie's wrist for the loss of those billions, but no — in January, they rewarded him, raising his pay by some 70 percent to a sweet \$20 million!

The New York Times noted that,

"To ordinary Americans," such a reward for poor performance "may seem curious." Curious? Uh-uh. Try incomprehensible, insane, and immoral. Wall Street's haughty elites continue to demonstrate that they're common mobsters — only not so ethical.

§

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I'm confused where Scott Brown fits. Last week at C-PAC, (Conservative Political Action Committee) the consensus was that the party needed to reject establishment candidates and refocus on their basic conservative principles. Another often stated principle was that mainstream Republicans do not win elections.

Brown is definitely not an "extreme Massachusetts conservative" and while in the Senate was a close acolyte of McCain, Mr. Establishment. Is a pro-choice candidate, who claims to be a bipartisan moderate what the C-PAC attendees had in mind? Are New Hampshire conservatives behind Brown?

One must wonder what is in it for Brown? A loss would kill his political career forever but a win might position him as a VP Candidate, maybe his real objective or that of the Koch brothers?

For non-conservatives, remember the handsome and personable Brown is still a 1% Republican wedded to their big business/trickle down philosophies and against equal pay for women and gay marriage. Why has he declined to sign the People's Pledge, to refuse "outside" campaign money, when it was his idea down in Massachusetts?

Does Brown think that the folks up North will be fooled by his barn coat/pick-up truck disguise? I don't think New Hampshire voters are that gullible, we don't place personality over policy and philosophy when choosing a candidate.

Brown obviously didn't know if he could win the senate seat or the governorship in Massachusetts, even though Massachusetts has a history of electing Republican Governors. What he did know was that our neighbors to the South didn't want Brown around town anymore.

Why should it be any different up here? If Scott Brown misses being in the spotlight he should have kept his job with Fox.

Dave Potter

N. Hampton, NH

§

A Fool's Errand

To the Editor:

The arrival of April Fools' Day made me think of the Fool's errand the GOP has been pursuing with 50 votes in the House to kill the Affordable Care Act.

I also wonder if they have a "Fool School" where GOP operatives and talking heads learn how to try and fool all of the people all of the time. It has a two part curriculum, the 3Rs and Debate

Training.

The 3Rs — refuse, reject, revise. Refuse to accept facts, reject ideas that don't fit their emotional beliefs/opinions and revise anything and everything to support their position.

Debate training teaches that if you can't win a debate on the merits, or by offering a better alternative, distort, exaggerate or outright lie.

This GOP SOP — standard operating procedure — is most evident with their position on the Affordable Care Act.

They call it Obamacare to play to the bigots in their base. They call it a government takeover of the healthcare industry even though it only affects about 15 percent of the population and utilizes private doctors, hospitals and insurance companies. A slight exaggeration to say the least!

The GOP claims that the free market and consumers will arrive at the best system if the government just stays out of the way.

Since the beginning of time this process had evolved to one that rejected consumers due to pre-existing conditions, imposed annual and lifetime coverage limits, applied a premium surcharge on women and claimed the right to cancel customers who make

too many claims.

The "best system" has left millions, who wanted coverage, uninsured either because the insurance companies don't want them or they can't afford the product. So much for the free market!

As consumers become more knowledgeable about the ACA, and millions finally sign-up and begin to enjoy it's benefits, it will become increasingly difficult for the GOP to disparage the program and fool the public with lies and distortions.

Let us hope that the GOP SOP re: the ACA is DOA!

Dave Potter

North Hampton, NH

§

That Guinta ...

To the Editor:

Former Congressman Frank Guinta seems to live in his own world — the contrary-to-fact world.

In this world, the Affordable Care Act [ACA] is not really the law (even though the President signed it and the Supreme Court said it was Constitutional), and so it can be undone at any time. How would rolling back the clock on health reform be beneficial to the 5 million people who signed up for it (through health exchanges) in the last few months? The roll-

back wouldn't hurt all those young people who have been staying on their parents' policies till age 26? Let's just go back to pre-ACA days and let insurers cap coverage that people paid for, giving people the "Just don't get sick!" choice. And of course the unfortunate 129 million with pre-existing conditions can just go back to no insurance or exorbitant rates — where's the harm in that?

No, Mr. Guinta isn't worried about the health of Americans. He wants to repeal the whole Affordable Care Act and go back to the drawing board, leaving millions without health coverage again. Let's be real. After 50 fruitless attempts to repeal the law, it's still the law, as it has been for the last four years. Polls show that most people want the ACA to work.

Time to accept the inevitable with grace and rejoin the real world, and, as the Democrats did with President Bush's Medicare Part D, work hard to improve the law.

Charles Proulx

Raymond NH

Charles:

It's indisputable: New Hampshire's GOP and reality parted company long ago.

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, April 6	Monday, April 7	Tuesday, April 8	Wednesday, April 9	Thursday, April 10	Friday, April 11	Saturday, April 12
<p>2009—BP's Deepwater Horizon obtains relief from oppressive federal over-regulation.</p> <p>1992—Donald E. Harding gasps, moans, and makes obscene hand gestures for five minutes as he dies in Arizona's gas chamber.</p> <p>1977—"If the president does it," Richard Nixon tells David Frost, "that means it's not illegal."</p> <p>1976—Howard Hughes dies intestate.</p> <p>1968—Oakland police shoot it out with the Black Panthers. Bobby Hutton, 18 and unarmed, dies.</p> <p>1954—"The time has come," says Sen. John F. Kennedy, "for the American people to be told the truth about Vietnam."</p> <p>1953—The Cotton States League throws out the Hot Springs team for signing black pitchers.</p> <p>1917—Former peace candidate Woodrow Wilson declares war on Germany.</p> <p>1909—Matthew Henson, black son of a Maryland sharecropper, becomes the first non-Inuit to set foot on the North Pole. Ailing Admiral Peary stays in the sled, but later takes credit.</p> <p>1868—Brigham Young marries wife #27.</p> <p>1712—Twenty-three enslaved Africans revolt in New York, killing nine whites and injuring six others. Twenty-one are later convicted and executed.</p>	<p>2003—U.S. troops take Baghdad.</p> <p>1999—Three years after State Sen. Carl Koella beats a felony hit-and-run for killing a motorcyclist on Rt. 321, Tennessee's legislature names a stretch of Rt. 321 after him.</p> <p>1994—Employee Auburn Cal-loway attacks the flight crew of Fed-Ex Flight 705 with hammers and a spear-gun in a suicidal attempt to win death benefits for his family. After a fight leaving the cabin awash with blood, the crew subdues him and lands safely.</p> <p>1990—Future Bush #43 administration appointee John Poindexter is found guilty of multiple felonies in the Iran/Contra scandal. He later wiggles out on appeal.</p> <p>1970—California Governor Ronald Reagan announces his position on ending student demonstrations: "If it takes a bloodbath, let's get it over with."</p> <p>1966—The U.S. retrieves a lost H-bomb off the coast of Spain.</p> <p>1961—A cracked electrical plug causes an F-100's Sidewinder missile to blow the wing off a B-52 during a training exercise over New Mexico; in its crash, 3 airmen die.</p> <p>1954—Ike mistakes Southeast Asia for a row of dominos.</p> <p>1922—Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall, a Republican, leases the federal Teapot Dome oilfield to his pal Harry Sinclair, who, coincidentally, loans Fall \$25,000.</p>	<p>1984—Richard Nixon observes, "It's the media's responsibility to examine the President with a microscope ... but when they use a microscope, it's going too far."</p> <p>1974—Hank Aaron breaks Ruth's record for career homers, reaping him hate mail and death threats from sports fans.</p> <p>1971—A home in Wethersfield, CT is struck by a 6 lb. meteorite.</p> <p>1956—Parris Island DI marches six U.S.M.C. recruits into a swamp for disciplinary purposes. They drown.</p> <p>1952—Truman orders the Army to seize steel mills.</p> <p>1947—After eighteen days of excavation, New York Police find compulsive hoarder Langley Collyer dead in his junk-crammed Harlem townhouse.</p> <p>1942—American and Filipino forces on Bataan surrender to the Japanese Army.</p> <p>1913—The 17th Amendment takes effect, requiring direct election of U.S. Senators.</p> <p>1899—In New York, Martha Place becomes the first woman executed in an electric chair.</p> <p>1885—U.S. troops invade Panama, "to defend our national interests."</p> <p>1864—The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passes, outlawing slavery.</p> <p>1826—In a duel, Secretary of State Henry Clay misses Sen. John Randolph; and Randolph misses Clay.</p>	<p>2006—"Scooter" Libby says "W" OK'd leaks of secret CIA intel.</p> <p>2003—In Baghdad's Firdos Square, American troops pull down a large statue of Saddam Hussein in front of an audience of Iraqis.</p> <p>1997—A Cambodian newspaper proposes importing mad cows to clear land mines.</p> <p>1981—The U.S. sub <i>George Washington</i>, carrying as many as 160 nuclear warheads, collides with and sinks a Japanese freighter in the East China Sea.</p> <p>1972—Dwayne "Archer Daniels Midland" Andreas gives \$25,000 to the Nixon reelection campaign, in return for which the Comptroller of the Currency later approves a bank charter.</p> <p>1959—NASA introduces America's first seven astronauts.</p> <p>1927—Death sentences issued by Judge Webster Thayer, who had called Nicolas Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti "those anarchist bastards" during their trial, are upheld in Massachusetts.</p> <p>1914—Adm. H.T. Mayo demands a 21 gun salute from Mexicans at Tampico, provoking an international incident.</p> <p>1865—Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders his Army to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse.</p> <p>1553—Rabelais dies, leaving this will: "I have nothing. I owe much. I leave the rest to the poor."</p>	<p>2005—Tens of thousands of Iraqis mark the 2nd anniversary of Saddam Hussein's fall by shouting "No, No to Satan!" and demanding that U.S. troops leave.</p> <p>1996—An Australian gadget registers a wind speed of 253 mph wind depriving New Hampshire of its 231 mph world record.</p> <p>1972—American B-52s resume bombing North Vietnam after a hiatus of more than four years.</p> <p>1972—Crooked financier Robert Vesco slips \$200,000 to Nixon's re-election campaign in exchange for which Attorney General John Mitchell cuts him slack.</p> <p>1970—A deed is prepared giving presidential and vice-presidential papers of Richard Nixon to the National Archives — backdated to qualify him for an otherwise illegal tax deduction.</p> <p>1963—The U.S.S. <i>Thresher</i> implodes about 220 miles east of Boston killing 16 officers, 96 enlisted men, and 17 civilians.</p> <p>1945—Doctors at Oak Ridge deliberately inject plutonium into a car wreck victim.</p> <p>1865—Rioters in Portsmouth destroy the office of Joshua Foster's newspaper <i>The States and Union</i>.</p> <p>1841—Horace Greeley, a New Hampshire native known for his odd appearance and uncouth manners, begins publishing the highly successful <i>New York Tribune</i>.</p>	<p>2007—Aufweiderschen, Kurt Vonnegut.</p> <p>2006—At the Washington Nationals home opener, the ceremonial first pitch is thrown by Vice President Dick "Dick" Cheney, who is greeted with jeers and catcalls.</p> <p>2003—U.S. officials in Iraq unveil deck of cards showing 55 "Most Wanted" Iraqi officials.</p> <p>2002—Venezuelan generals replace Pres. Hugo Chavez with Pedro Carmona in a CIA-approved coup.</p> <p>1985—Press Secretary Larry Speakes says his Boss will lay a wreath at Bitburg, where Americans and Germans lie buried. Oops: Americans, no; Waffen SS, yes.</p> <p>1968—The Civil Rights Act of 1968 is signed into law.</p> <p>1951—President Harry S. Truman fires General Douglas MacArthur for insubordination.</p> <p>1950—A U.S. B-29 carrying a nuclear weapon crashes near Albuquerque. The nuke's high explosives ignite; good thing the fissile core wasn't installed.</p> <p>1941—Ford signs its first contract with the United Auto Workers.</p> <p>1938—Richard Whitney, president of New York Stock Exchange, gets 5 to 10 for larceny.</p> <p>1898—President McKinley generously declares Cuba's independence from Spain.</p> <p>1893—Frederick Ives patents the halftone printing process.</p>	<p>2001—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney files his 2000 tax return which shows that \$5.1 million of his \$36 million adjusted gross income came from Halliburton.</p> <p>1961—Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human to orbit Earth.</p> <p>1937—60,000 U.S. students demonstrate against war.</p> <p>1933—In Oakland, the Besler brothers fly a nearly-silent steam-powered airplane.</p> <p>1867—Wm. Bullock, inventor of the web-fed rotary press, dies of complications after his leg is crushed by his own invention.</p> <p>1864—At Fort Pillow, hundreds of Union soldiers, black and white, are massacred by thousands of Confederates led by Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, who later founds the KKK.</p> <p>1862—Union men steal a Confederate locomotive, <i>The General</i>, in Georgia and head north; but conductor Wm. A. Fuller, on foot, on a handcar, and finally in another locomotive, chases <i>The General</i> down.</p> <p>1861—Confederate gunners fire on Ft. Sumter.</p> <p>1788—A New York mob opposed to body-snatching attacks a hospital, occupies the dissecting room, and displays various body parts at the windows. The riot lasts two days, killing five.</p> <p>1782—American militia troops massacre 100 neutral, Christian Indians of the Delaware Nation.</p>
4:44 5:26	5:43 6:27	6:45 7:28	7:46 8:24	8:42 9:14	9:32 9:57	10:16 10:36
11:03 11:18	12:02	12:19 1:03	1:22 2:00	2:21 2:52	3:12 3:38	3:58 4:18
Sunday, April 13	Monday, April 14	Tuesday, April 15	Wednesday, April 16	Thursday, April 17	Friday, April 18	Saturday, April 19
<p>2002—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is back in office after an exciting day off.</p> <p>1992—Chicago's business district is shut down after the Chicago River breaches an underground tunnel system.</p> <p>1981—Rep. Jon Hinson (R-MS) resigns three months after being arrested for attempting to commit oral sodomy in a House restroom.</p> <p>1981—For a fraudulent article about an 8-year-old junkie, the <i>Washington Post's</i> Janet Cooke is awarded the Pulitzer Prize.</p> <p>1970—The <i>Apollo 13</i> moon shot lives up to its numeral.</p> <p>1962—Rachel Carson's <i>Silent Spring</i> is published.</p> <p>1953—The CIA's MK-ULTRA brainwashing program begins.</p> <p>1919—British troops massacre at least 379 unarmed Indian men, women and children at Amritsar.</p> <p>1901—After 14 years on Devil's Island, French anarchist Clement Duval's 20th escape attempt succeeds. He makes it to New York City and lives to be 85.</p> <p>1873—In Grant Parish, LA, the White League and the Klan kill 280 African-Americans in the Colfax Massacre on Easter Sunday.</p> <p>1861—Fort Sumter surrenders with a cannon salute to the flag. A stray spark causes an explosion killing Private Daniel Hough, the first casualty of the Civil War.</p>	<p>2006—Six retired generals sign a <i>New York Times</i> Op-Ed calling on Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to resign.</p> <p>2004—John Ashcroft blames Bill Clinton for terrorist attacks that took place seven months after Clinton left office.</p> <p>1999—Dan Quayle throws his silly hat in the ring.</p> <p>1994—Over Iraq, U.S. fighter jets shoot down two U.S. helicopters.</p> <p>1988—An Iranian mine nearly sinks the guided missile frigate <i>U.S.S. Roberts</i>.</p> <p>1964—RIP Rachel Carson.</p> <p>1945—Eight days into its first patrol an improperly-flushed high-pressure head floods the <i>U-1206</i>. Commander Karl-Adolf Schlitt scuttles the boat; four die, the remaining 46 crewmen are captured.</p> <p>1939—John Steinbeck's <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> is published.</p> <p>1935—A terrible windstorm crosses the Great Plains, bearing away topsoil.</p> <p>1910—President Taft becomes first president to throw out the first baseball, from the stands.</p> <p>1865—John Wilkes Booth shoots Abraham Lincoln.</p> <p>1860—First Pony Express rider arrives in San Francisco.</p> <p>1772—In South Weare, NH the County Sheriff tries to collect fines from sawmill owners for stealing the King's trees. They beat him up.</p>	<p>2003—George W. Bush installs Gen. Jay Garner to administer Iraq "until an Iraqi government can be formed." He lasts less than a month.</p> <p>1994—Dick "Dick" Cheney explains to C-SPAN viewers that G.H.[H].W. Bush didn't topple Saddam Hussein because it would have created a "quagmire" in Iraq.</p> <p>1992—Leona Helmsley, America's anti-sweetheart, takes up residence at the federally-owned Crowbar Hilton in Lexington, KY.</p> <p>1984—Welsh comedian Tommy Cooper suffers a heart attack on-stage while performing live on British television. He is given CPR behind the curtain—in the dark, with no success—while the show goes on in front.</p> <p>1980—RIP Jean-Paul Sartre.</p> <p>1970—Rep. Gerald Ford calls for the impeachment of Justice Wm. O. Douglas.</p> <p>1961—The CIA's ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion begins as three flights of falsely-marked American B-26s bomb and strafe Cuban airfields.</p> <p>1960—SNCC is formed.</p> <p>1912—The <i>Titanic</i> changes course and heads for the bottom instead of New York.</p> <p>1889—Birth of A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.</p> <p>1755—Samuel Johnson's <i>Dictionary</i> is published in London.</p>	<p>2008—"Thank you, your holiness," George W. Bush says to Pope Benedict, "Awesome speech."</p> <p>2005—Jozef Galica, of Ponorin, Poland is quoted in <i>Gazeta Wyborcza</i> saying the death of John Paul II, the Polish Pope, has inspired him to close his brothel. First miracle?</p> <p>2003—Pre-written obituaries are discovered prematurely posted on CNN.com, including one for Dick "Dick" Cheney identifying him as the "UK's favorite grandmother."</p> <p>1992—The House Ethics Committee — no laughing — releases names of 303 check-kites.</p> <p>1992—President of Afghanistan Mohammad Najibullah, a Communist, resigns, making way for a more enlightened government.</p> <p>1973—Perhaps to relieve an excess of inventory, the Pentagon begins bombing Laos.</p> <p>1969—Eminent Christian Billy Graham advises Dick "Dick" Nixon to bomb North Vietnam's dikes — estimated casualties: 1 million.</p> <p>1954—"There is no reason why French forces should not remain in Indo-China and win," says Richard Nixon, three weeks before the Viet Minh overrun Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p>1953—Ike says militarism hangs humanity "from a cross of iron."</p> <p>1947—In Texas City, TX, a load of fertilizer aboard the French vessel <i>SS Grandcamp</i> explodes, killing 581 in a 3-kiloton explosion.</p>	<p>2002—G.W. Bush flip-flops, vows to rebuild Afghanistan.</p> <p>2001—Sharon's Israel takes a bite out of Gaza. U.S.'s Colin Powell takes a bite out of Sharon.</p> <p>1987—Comedian Dick Shawn, onstage in San Diego, suffers a fatal heart attack. It takes several minutes for the audience to realize it's not part of the act.</p> <p>1981—The Supreme Court decides banning the use of peyote as a religious sacrament doesn't violate the First Amendment.</p> <p>1970—<i>Apollo 13</i> makes it home.</p> <p>1967—"The defeat of the Communists forces in South Vietnam is inevitable," says ex-Veep Richard Nixon. "The only question is, how soon?"</p> <p>1966—G. Gordon Liddy busts Tim Leary for pot possession.</p> <p>1965—25,000 march against Vietnam War in New York City.</p> <p>1961—Transports chartered by the CIA deliver 1,511 Cuban exiles to the Bay of Pigs.</p> <p>1959—In Times Square, 22 are arrested for refusing to take part in an air-raid drill.</p> <p>1954—Eisenhower threatens to nuke Red China.</p> <p>1935—Sun Myung Moon has a revelation: Jesus Christ asks him to complete His mission.</p> <p>1850—In the Senate, Henry Foote (D-MI) pulls a pistol on Thomas Hart Benton (D-MO).</p>	<p>2006—"I'm the decider," says George W. Bush. "What's best is for Don Rumsfeld to remain as the Secretary of Defense."</p> <p>1988—In retaliation for the near-destruction of the <i>U.S.S. Roberts</i>, U.S. Naval forces destroy two of Iran's oil platforms and sink two of its frigates in the Persian Gulf.</p> <p>1977—The federal frame-up of Leonard Peltier succeeds.</p> <p>1974—On behalf of Thomas Pynchon, Professor Irwin Corey accepts the National Book Award for <i>Gravity's Rainbow</i>. The solemnity of the occasion is marred by a streaker running across the stage.</p> <p>1968—The Army admits nerve gas from Dugway Proving Grounds killed 6,400 Idaho sheep.</p> <p>1967—One day after announcing his opposition, Calif. Gov. Ronald Reagan announces he supports a new Redwood National Park.</p> <p>1942—Eighty men in 16 bombers take off from the <i>U.S.S. Hornet</i>, bomb Tokyo, and ditch their planes in China. Ninety percent of them survive the mission.</p> <p>1930—The BBC's newscast reports that "there is no news," then plays piano music.</p> <p>1906—An earthquake and fire destroy much of San Francisco, killing 500 to 700 people.</p> <p>1844—For a second time, believers in William Miller's Doomsday prediction are disappointed.</p>	<p>2004—A government spokesman reveals that NORAD had run a training exercise based on a hijacked airliner crashing into a building.</p> <p>1995—RIP 168 souls in Oklahoma City.</p> <p>1993—For the good of the children, who end up among the 80 dead, the FBI attacks David Koresh's compound at Waco, TX.</p> <p>1971—Officials at Arlington National Cemetery turn away Gold Star Mothers and Vietnam veterans participating in Operation Dewey Canyon III.</p> <p>1951—In a grandiose fit of mock humility, Gen. Douglas "Dugout Doug" MacArthur tells Congress, "Old soldiers never die," leaving unspoken the obvious corollary, "that's what the young ones are for."</p> <p>1948—Costa Rica 86s its army.</p> <p>1943—The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising begins.</p> <p>1939—After some study, Connecticut OKs the Bill of Rights.</p> <p>1877—Birth of Ole Evinrude, inventor of the outboard motor.</p> <p>1861—The first Federal fatalities of the Civil War: four Union soldiers are stoned to death by a Baltimore mob.</p> <p>1775—Isaiah Thomas, former apprentice of Daniel Fowle's peculiar brother Zechariah, observes and perhaps participates in the clash between Minutemen and British soldiers in Lexington.</p>
10:56 11:12	11:34 11:47	12:12	12:23 12:50	1:01 1:31	1:42 2:15	2:22 3:04
4:39 4:56	5:18 5:32	5:57 6:09	6:36 6:48	7:17 7:28	8:01 8:13	8:49 9:02



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