

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

The Day America Went to Hell

"The glory which is built upon a lie soon becomes a most unpleasant incumbrance. How easy it is to make people believe a lie, and how hard it is to undo that work again!"

— Mark Twain in *Eruption*

A ticklish time is approaching for authority figures in Washington, D.C. — August 4, 1964 is right around the corner. That was the day America went to hell, but it would be hard for them to admit that.

The Case for Saying Nothing

The safest thing for Washington's officialdom might be simply to keep their mouths shut. That would insult nearly three million men who went to Vietnam — not to mention the families of those who died — but it wouldn't be the first insult heaped upon their pre-existing injuries. Besides, everybody knows how prickly they can be; say it was a noble cause and you'll set off the alumni of Vietnam Veterans Against the War; say it was anything less and the Legionnaires will howl.

Fortunately those two factions have mellowed over the years — towards each other, anyway. Either they've developed the wisdom to grant each other the right to hold their own opinions, or they've worn out their adrenal glands and can't be bothered to fight anymore. But woe betide the mouthy civilian who spent the war years sitting on a pilonidal cyst

As for the millions of Vietnamese who perished, and the millions more who suffered then and suffer now, a public apology from our Commander in Chief would be altogether fitting and proper — and politically suicidal.

At least they got something in return for their sacrifices: our departure.

Pat Who?

There is an established precedent for giving the Incident the silent treatment. Pat Tillman was front page news the day he enlisted in 2002. The former NFL football player became more newsworthy still when he died in Afghanistan two years later. His fame peaked when it was revealed that he'd been killed by friendly fire. But a Google™ news search limited to the month of April, 2014 shows that the tenth anniversary of his death passed without any coverage at all, official or otherwise.

More Cowbell Lies?

A second option exists, in theory: confront the inexorably approaching anniversary with yet another layer of lies. Because of the staggering quantity already told, though, this would take some creativity. Experts have been baffled for ages by the challenge of fitting ten pounds of anything into a five pound bag.

A Very Big Bang, Indeed

On August 4, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced, and Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara reiterated, that North Vietnamese patrol boats had, in a "deliberate" pattern of "naked aggression," made the second "unprovoked attack" in two days on U.S. Navy warships which had been "on routine patrol in international waters" in the Gulf of Tonkin.

In short, America, immensely powerful and wholly innocent, was being picked on by a fourth-rate nation made up largely of barefoot — and apparently suicidal — peasants. It made little sense but a more accurate account would have been less palatable.

The Sordid Truth

By July of 1964, the U.S. had



been conducting a covert operation called OPLAN34Alpha for about two years.

On July 31st, as part of that operation, gunboats manned by South Vietnamese personnel and foreign mercenaries, under the direction and control of the CIA and the Pentagon, shot up North Vietnamese military installations on two offshore islands. Naturally this caused a surge of traffic from North Vietnamese radar and radio facilities. That traffic was then monitored by the *U.S.S. Maddox*, a Bath, ME-built destroyer converted to an electronic surveillance spy ship.

It was only then, in broad daylight on August 2nd, that three North Vietnamese PT boats approached the *Maddox*, which opened fire at a range of 10,000 yards. Each boat launched a torpedo; none hit their mark. One boat sank, the other two, damaged, retreated. The *Maddox* sustained a single hit from a 14.5-mm machine gun.

U.S. officials knew immediately and exactly what all the fuss was about. As Robert Scheer reported in

the *LATimes* in 1985, the following night then-Secretary of State Dean Rusk cabled Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam, "the *Maddox* incident is directly related to [North Vietnam's] efforts to resist these [OPLAN34Alpha] activities."

The following night, August 4th, 1964, the moon was but a sliver. Atmospheric conditions made radar unreliable, but jittery operators on the *Maddox* thought they saw potential attackers on their screens. A two-hour fire-fight followed against the phantom foes.

As soon as the shooting stopped the Captain of the *Maddox* warned the Pentagon that the threat could very well have been illusory. The Pentagon ignored him.

The NSA, according to a secret official history made public in 2005, distorted the evidence to cover up honest mistakes.

Relying largely on that distorted NSA report, the U.S. attacked North Vietnam. Three days later Lyndon Johnson had *carte blanche* from the U.S. Congress to do as

he saw fit. The rest is misery.

It Gets Worse

It was bad enough that we killed millions of Southeast Asians; it was worse, as we Americans generally reckon things, that we killed about 58,000 of our own young men (though, truth be told, they'd have mattered more if they'd come from a higher socioeconomic strata). Perhaps worst of all, the American tragedy in Vietnam stemmed from a futile effort to preserve the indefensible.

We became involved in Vietnam at the end of WW II to defend Western Europe from the Bolshevik menace. To bolster France we tried to help it prop up its wretchedly corrupt colonial government in Saigon — at exactly the time when colonialism was rightfully dying.

In the process, the Vietnam War killed off America's tradition of the citizen soldier and replaced it with the standing army Washington had warned us against, drove our economy off the rails, and rotted our faith in self-government — to preserve a system that deserved to die.

The Alleged News

The Tale of Two Arthurs

A generation of northern New Englanders has grown up hearing tales of the epic battle between The Two Arthurs: grandsons of the the Demoulas family's patriarch, Athanasios, their struggle stems from a thirty year-old act of fraternal treachery.

Telemachus and George, sons of Athanasios, bought the family's little market in 1954. The brothers had promised each other, according to legend, that in case either died the other would look after his family. Apparently the details were not adequately specified.

By 1971 they had built a thriving chain of supermarkets. Then George died unexpectedly in Greece.

Telemachus, aka Mike, carried

on building Market Basket into a regional giant — all the while flim-flamming his brother's family out of their share of the business. An inquisitive heir began unraveling Mike's scheme in 1990, when it was revealed that George's half of the business amounted to eight percent.

Demoulas lawsuits soon became a growth industry, featuring strippers as witnesses, jurors soliciting bribes, fistfights in the court, secret tape recordings, disbarred lawyers, and a half-billion dollar judgment. Justice was allegedly served in 1994. A judge awarded George's heirs 51 percent of the company's stock. Why it never became a reality TV show is an enduring mystery.

According to Ezekiel 18:19-20, "the son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father," and so it was with Arthur T. Demoulas, son of Telemachus — he was made CEO in 2008.

Though he was fired last month, "Artie T." accomplished something quite extraordinary in his six years at the helm.

In an era when many of America's corporate CEOs are deservedly despised as a mob of greedy tyrants, Artie T. is thought of more as a beloved amalgam of Mister Rogers and a rock star.

By all accounts his popularity among rank and file employees is based on his policies: treat them with respect and pay them better than the competition.

These policies got Artie T. fired. That generosity came at the expense of the myriad other descendants of Athanasios. United behind Arthur S. Demoulas, Artie T.'s first cousin, they have decided that the slice of juicy pie which fell into their laps on the day of their birth is not sufficiently generous.

So now one of the oldest family-owned businesses in this country, and one of the largest family-owned businesses in the world, with \$4 billion in annual revenues, is positioned much like the *Costa Concordia* was right before it became famous.

At stake are the futures of the families of 25,000 employees and the prospects for new Bentleys for

the stockholders — the outcome is anyone's guess.

The Tale of Two Arthurs contains everything we expect from Greek mythology, from the lowly to the exalted: sordid behavior, internecine conflict, and a parable illuminating the times in which we live.

In the infamously competitive retail grocery business, Market Basket was thriving — suggesting that there's no apparent reason why other corporate giants cannot also pay their employees living wages.

No apparent reason except greed, that is

The Alleged News

from page one

Tracking Helicopters

“Helicopter school eyes Pease as launching pad,” read the headline in *The Wire*, Portsmouth’s late and much-missed local arts newspaper. The subject of Larry Clow’s August 30, 2013 article was, of course, Seacoast Helicopters LLC.

“Regarding noise concerns,” Clow wrote, [company owner Bruce] Cultrera says that the helicopter he’s using, a Robinson R-22, is one of ‘the quietest helicopters in the industry.’”

Clow also noted that “Cultrera says that while his scenic tour routes will involve flying over Portsmouth, it is unlikely the helicopter will fly directly over downtown.”

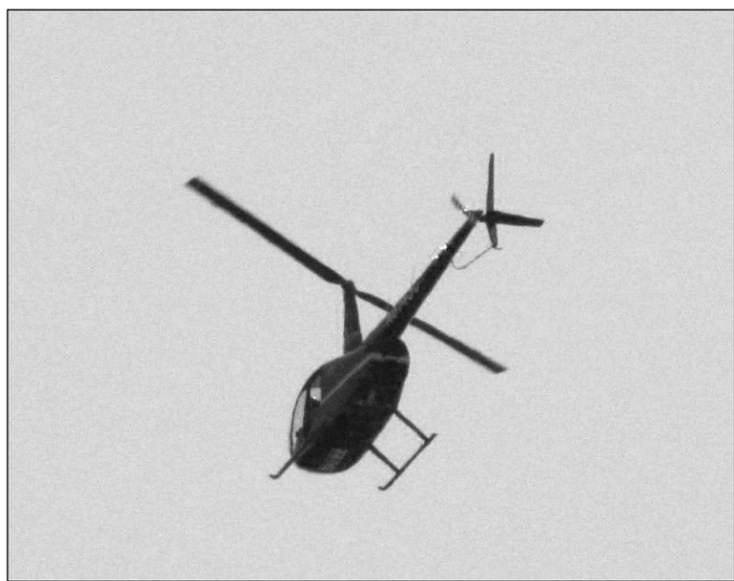
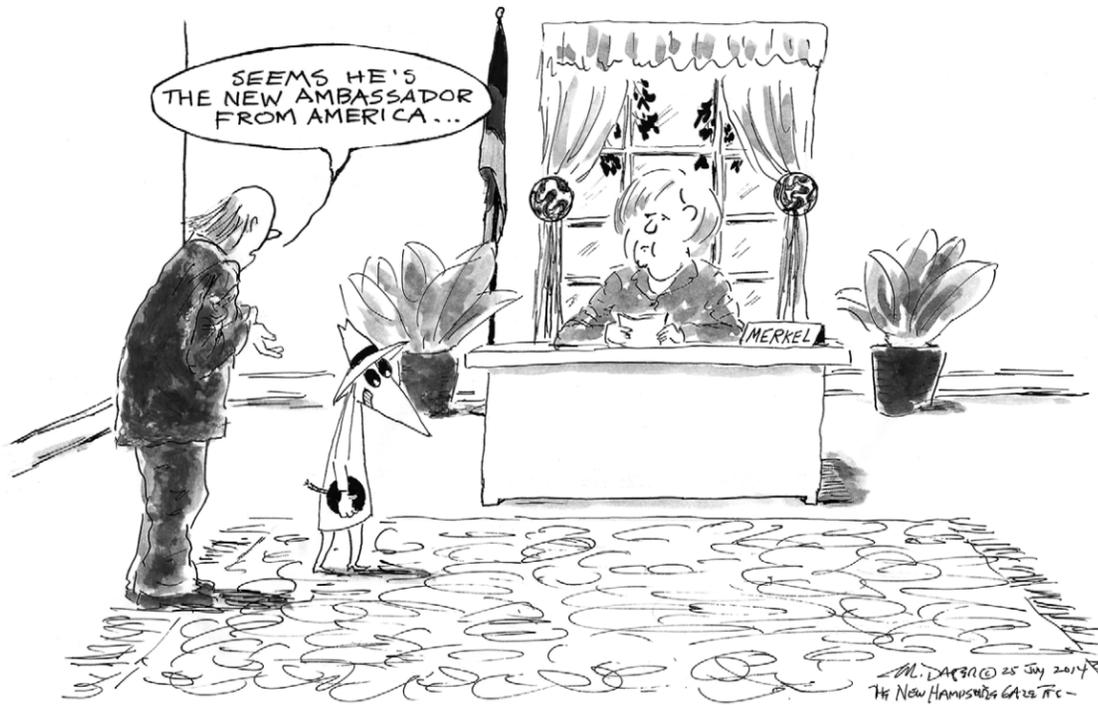
That was last year, this is now: it’s summertime, and the weath-

er’s been peachy. Sadly, though, as with motorcycles, so it is with helicopters: the more beautiful the day, the more likely its peace will be shattered by some infernal mechanical contraption.

Sadder still, those statements from Cultrera, promising a low-impact operation, are apparently no longer operative. Seacoast Helicopter’s larger, heavier, noisier Robinson R44 helicopter has become a frequent flyer through downtown Portsmouth’s airspace, as evidenced by a story in the July 18th edition of the *Portsmouth Herald*.

“Helicopters Have Residents Abuzz,” read the headline, “City officials fielding noise complaints.”

The Award-Winning Local Daily’s article quoted City Manager John Bohenko calling the sound of hovering helicopters “obnoxious.” City Councilor



This helicopter, seen here flying over the North End at 12:36 p.m. on Monday, July 21st, appears to be the Robinson R44 II helicopter, FAA tail number N814SC, registered to Seacoast Helicopters LLC. It also appears to be violating the FAA’s minimum altitude regulation, though that’s hard to say with certainty. There is a simple way to resolve that question — see “Tracking Helicopters.”

Zelita Morgan chimed in saying, “I hear a lot of complaints about helicopters ... Helicopters is one issue that has not been fully addressed or resolved.”

Implausible Deniability

The *Herald’s* Jeff McMenemy, perhaps feeling constrained by his corporate overlords at Gatehouse Media, allowed Cultrera to insert this straw man argument into the AWLD without comment: “There’s a lot of helicopter activity in this area It’s by no stretch of the imagination all ours.” As if anyone had suggested that Cultrera owned the only helicopters in the vicinity.

David Mullen, who as Pease Development Authority [PDA] Executive Director makes his livelihood by promoting aviation at the expense of tourism or peace and quiet, ventured an even greater stretch of credulity.

According to McMenemy, Mullen said that Pease authorities were “looking into the complaints, but are not sure yet if the issues are being caused by the red helicopters flown by Seacoast Helicopters or by another red heli-

copter from the West Coast that’s in Portsmouth for filming.

“This could be another red helicopter or it could be our tenant, that’s what we’re trying to find out.”

Who You Gonna Believe?

If the PDA doesn’t know who owns the helicopters flying in our airspace, they probably don’t know the altitude at which they’re flying, either.

According to the AWLD’s McMenemy, Cultrera said that “his helicopters typically fly at about 1,000 feet” — which is to say, he admitted that his airborne lawnmowers barely adhere to the FAA’s minimum altitude regulations. And we have our doubts about that.

The image at the far left, made on Monday, July 21st by our Wandering Photographer, suggests that Cultrera’s Robinson R44 II helicopter, FAA tail number N814SC, might have been flying well below that altitude — but who is to say?

How High the R-44?

It is difficult, from the ground, to determine how high up any

particular aircraft is. The FAA makes it very clear, however, how high up they are supposed to be.

Regulation 91.119 (b) says: “Except when necessary for takeoff or landing, no person may operate an aircraft below the following altitudes ... Over any congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or over any open-air assembly of persons, an altitude of 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the aircraft.”

Gazette to the Rescue

Fortunately for all concerned, there’s an easy way to know who’s flying overhead, and just how high they are. You just bring up *Flight-Radar24.com* in your web browser. It’s so simple, even an adult can use it.



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of the world, much like Google Earth. You scroll and zoom to the area you're interested in, whether it be the Ukraine or the Seacoast, and presto: little moving icons appear, showing the make, model, registration, heading, and altitude of almost all the aircraft flying above it.

It's ADS-B Time

Naturally, there is one little hitch: *FlightRadar* can only show information from aircraft equipped with an automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast [ADS-B] transmitters, which use GPS to monitor an aircraft's location, then broadcast that information to whoever is set up to receive it. And, if Cultrera's helicopters are equipped with ADS-B, they're not using it — we've checked repeatedly.

As we understand it, ADS-B is destined to take the place of radar for air traffic control. Toward that end, the FAA is going to require the installation of ADS-B in virtually all aircraft by the year 2020. So it's only a matter of time, anyway.

Once Cultrera does install ADS-B on his helicopters, assuming his pilots always comply with FCC altitude regulations he'll never have to worry about an

altitude complaint.

On the Facebook page for Seacoast Helicopters, Bruce and Karen Cultrera wrote on August 14, 2013, "We look forward to a long and friendly partnership with the Seacoast community. Our intent is to be an asset and not a detriment to our neighbors. If there are questions or concerns about any aspect of our business or about helicopter flying, please contact us directly at 1 (800) SC-HELOS [724-3567]. Thank you. Bruce & Karen Cultrera. Seacoast Helicopters."

Maybe if enough people called and asked the Cultereras politely, they would install and use ADS-B in all their helicopters as soon as is humanly possible, as a gesture of good will towards the people of Portsmouth — not to mention the PDA.

Court: The Public Be Damned

Back in 2012, around Halloween, former plastic coathanger magnate and current Wentworth By The Sea Country Club owner Bill Binnie, taking huge liberties with a sloppily-issued building permit, sent his minions to destroy a public parking area and erect a series of impenetrable barriers — within the state's Route 1B right-of-way — effectively

blocking public access to the little beach at Sanders Poynt in Rye.

Prior to that unfriendly move, the public had had access to the shoreline there since the first local residents arrived, probably over the Bering Land Bridge about 15,000 years ago.

Since 1783, that right has been guaranteed by the New Hampshire Constitution — but the Attorney General's office seems no more interested in enforcing its provisions than the Town of Rye had been in those of its building permit.

To defend his Constitutional prerogative to dabble his toes in the waters of Little Harbour, Rye resident Robert Jeserum filed a lawsuit. It was scheduled to begin on July 24.

On June 25th, Binnie's attorneys filed a motion asking the judge to postpone the trial until November or December, so that they could build a better argument explaining why the judge should just rule in Binnie's favor without bothering to go through



the hassle of a trial.

Paul McEachern, Jeserum's attorney, duly filed an objection to Binnie's motion. He argued that Binnie's attorneys had missed the deadline by about ninety days; noted that a witness, Paul Sanders, after whose ancestors the Poynt was named, had traveled from Seattle to testify, and cited further bogosities in Binnie's motion too arcane to bother with here.

On July 14th, McEachern received official notice from the court that, late, flimsy, and bogus as it might be, Binnie's motion had been granted.

As a notorious clarinet player close to the case observed on Tuesday, local eight year olds have now been denied access to the Sanders Poynt Beach for a quarter of their lives.

Great Deal on a Bridge

Have you ever wanted to own a 2,804 foot-long bridge with a 243 foot-long lift span, complete with a 96 foot-long riveted camelback pony truss approach span?

Of course you have — who

hasn't? Now's your chance!

Meet Sarah! This American-made classic was built in 1940, and, frankly, it shows. She's had a pretty tough life. Her previous owners believed in deferred maintenance, if any.

That's why this fine bridge is yours for the asking. All you need do is assume all future legal and financial liability. Contact David Gardner at the Maine DOT before September 1st.

Dinosaurs Walk Among Us

Who knew? It turns out dinosaurs still walk among us; here's proof: droppings characteristic of the species *Fairpointus obli-viosus* appeared on doorsteps all over town this past week.



High humidity and dropping temperatures left the Pierce Island Bridge wreathed in fog the afternoon of Wednesday, July 16th.

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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Boost Social Security Benefits

To the Editor:
Beginning May 21, 1981, President Reagan penned a series of letters to Congressional leaders and members of the National Commission on Social Security Reform urging passage of legislation preserving Social Security for current recipients, and future generations. In one letter, he warns "There has been a great deal of misinformation and, for that matter, pure demagoguery on the subject of Social Security." Thirty-three years later, that misinformation continues, aided, in part, by the contribution by Pete Peterson of \$1 billion towards the destruction of the Social Security program; and by those who call for cuts in benefits or privatization.

Defying purveyors of misinformation, the 1983 Amendment is credited with leading to the current \$2.6 trillion surplus in the Social Security Trust Fund.

Social Security does not contribute to the national deficit, nor the national debt; its administrative costs approximate one percent; it is prohibited from borrowing; it is financed by those who get direct, guaranteed benefits; and any funds borrowed by it must be repaid with interest.

A boost in Social Security benefits is warranted. The annual cost-of-living allowance has not kept pace with inflation; average monthly benefits equal a person working at minimum wage. At current benefit levels, Social

Security spending by recipients adds \$775 billion per year to the nation's economy. Boosting benefits translates to boosting our economy.

Bills in Congress would raise monthly benefits \$70/month, welcome news to the 58 million beneficiaries of the earned-benefit, anti-poverty insurance program known as Social Security. Learn more at www.boostsocialsecuritynow.org.

Bob Perry
Strafford, NH

An Ancient Argument [sic]

To the Editor:
In regard to your front page editorial, "Reviving an Ancient Argument," I was very offended and angry with your editorial. I continued to be offended as I perused the rest of your paper.

Your "non-fiction newspaper" hasn't any news articles in it. I couldn't find one. All of the articles were opinion pieces with a one-sided point of view. They weren't even honest opinions either. They were filled with hate and vitriol for conservative viewpoints and the media people who you assume are also conservative.

As you stated, Mrs. Allen's book, "Our Declaration," is just political theory. It is an idea with gathered evidence and not a proven fact. You didn't even mention if Mrs. Allen offers any citations from other independent sources regarding the missing punctuation period.

There is nothing written in history regarding a missing punctuation mark. None of our Founding Fathers have mentioned it in their own writings. The lack of a history of this controversy adds to my skepticism.

The Declaration of Independence was written to justify the independence of the original thirteen colonies against an out of control governing body led by King George III.

You would have to ask yourself why the Continental Congress would write a declaration of independence proposing that the value of individual rights come directly from government, as a tool for protecting those rights. Huh? What convoluted nonsense!

That is exactly what our forefathers were declaring themselves independence from. The author is obviously trying to rewrite history just as all Progressives do. It they don't like the game they want to change the rules.

Mrs. Allen is clearly biased given her past involvement with our current President. Her scholarly resume indicates that she has always worked in the area of academia and not the working class so she is lauded as more intelligent than the rest of us slobs. She shares the same view as our President that academia knows better than us common folk because we're just so stupid.

You also pointed out that she is a black woman. Why even mention it? The premise of the article has nothing to do with the author of the book being a woman or even being black for that matter. Leftists love to bring race into the current political discussion because they believe that they aren't racist but people on the right are very racist.

My last point has to do with your comment that the right's "favorite Constitutional Scholars" are Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly. They're just entertainers, remember? Why didn't you offer up Mark Levin to "man up and take her on." At least Mark Levin claims to be a Constitutional Scholar. Glenn and Bill do not.

I do not give you my permission to print this letter in your rag of a newspaper. I just wanted to write to you to show that even a middle aged American with an Associates Degree can have a coherent thought without getting their talking points from a politi-

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

cal party.
Mrs. X
Undisclosed Location, NH
Mrs. X:

Sorry about printing your letter without your permission, but if we let whoever writes to us decide what we print, chaos would quickly ensue. To make amends we've withheld your name and home town.

We've decided not to refute your letter; you've done a better job of that than we ever could.

PS — We're curious — how did you determine that our opinions are not honest?

The Editor

§
Good for Small Business

To the Editor:
Congresswoman Shea-Porter is a friend of small business. She introduced the Reward and Encourage New Business (RENEW Business) Act, a bill to permanently double the tax deduction for new businesses to \$10,000. This is the right way to help both businesses and employment!

According to the *Washington Post*, job creation is linked to small-business start-ups. Statistics show that start-ups are responsible for most of the net job growth every year. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, it's the start-ups that do most of the hiring and create net new jobs.

Bloomberg cited a report by the Kauffman Foundation, which pointed out that "the important element in job creation isn't the smallness of a business but the newness." According to the report, between 1977 and 2005, firms in their first year created an average of 3 million jobs per year. Clearly Shea-Porter did her homework on the best way to create jobs!

In the 111th Congress, Shea-Porter's legislation passed and became law, but has since expired.

House Republican leadership should bring Congresswoman Shea-Porter's bill to the floor. We need more jobs and we need action from Republicans, not just more empty words!

Mark Mitchell
Barrington, NH

§
More Border Hysteria

To the Editor:
Our nation's illegal alien problem exemplifies Washington's war on the American people. Washington politicians, Republicans and Democrats, have lied repeatedly about immigration and pursued policies that benefits the politicians but hurts most Americans.

Senator Ted Kennedy, who changed our immigration philosophy, told us regarding his 1965 immigration law: "The bill will not flood our cities with immigrants. It will not upset the ethnic mix of our society. It will not relax the standards of admission. It will not cause American workers to lose their jobs." But it has.

Regarding the 1986 amnesty law he promised: "We will secure the borders henceforth. We will never bring forth another amnesty bill like this." The border wasn't secured. In 2007, Senator Kennedy worked to give amnesty to about 12 million more illegals.

Politicians told us the 2006 Secure Fence Act would stop illegal border crossings. On May 10, 2011 President Obama told us that the border fence is "now basically complete." During his 2012 campaign President Obama repeatedly led us to believe the border was secure. On February 4, 2013 Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano told us that the border is secure.

But the border isn't secure, illegal aliens flood into our country. According to the *New York Times*

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And Other Correspondence

almost 300,000 illegal aliens have come here just since April! About 60,000 illegal alien children have come here over the last six months, creating a humanitarian nightmare and threatening the health and safety of the American people.

President Obama wants \$3.7 billion to deal with the problem (but not to close the border) created by his failure to enforce our laws and by his 2012 announcement of (essentially) amnesty for most illegal alien children. (Yes, he set conditions, but illegals believe he will let them all stay here, and they are probably right.)

Americans have repeatedly told politicians to close the border. But illegal immigration benefits the politicians and they refuse to stop it. American citizens will increasingly suffer until the current politicians are replaced with people who care about American laws and American citizens.

Don Ewing
Meredith, NH

Don:

If the border is not secure, how is it that we are catching all these people trying to cross it?

The Editor

§

Rebel!

To the Editor:

Along with hundreds of other people who are concerned about the democratic foundations of our country, on July 5th I walked along New Hampshire's Seacoast in support of the New Hampshire Rebellion. This non-partisan, non-profit citizens' movement is dedicated to halting the tsunami of money being spent by the billionaire class to influence our elected representatives and control the economic and political life of this nation for their benefit.

The goal of the New Hampshire Rebellion is to make money

in politics the central issue in the 2016 campaign by asking every candidate, "How are *you* going to end the system of corruption in DC?"

Over 95 percent of Americans (not Democrats, not Republicans, but Americans!) think that money in politics is a problem, but don't know what to do about it. Well, this is something we can do! And the idea can be extended to our statewide and local elections by asking those candidates, "What are *you* going to do to get money out of politics in New Hampshire?" And then hold them accountable for some kind of positive action.

Please go online to nhrebellion.org to find out more about this organization and how you can help take our country back!!

Cynthia Muse
Rye, NH

§

A Middle Class Oasis

To the Editor:

I grew up next to the Demoulas Market in Methuen, MA, which later became Market Basket. Now there are other grocery stores near where I live but I do the bulk of my shopping at Market Basket. I have been to grocery stores in other parts of the country and they tend to be inferior to Market Basket.

Because of this I do not want Market Basket to change. It certainly will if Arthur T. Demoulas is not reinstated. Mergers and corporate takeovers are never good for the customers, employees or the community. They are for the benefit of the few people at the top and achieve that benefit at the expense of everyone else. Our society worsens just a little bit more with each one. More people have less than before and the overall quality of life gets just another little bit worse.

The Demoulas difference has always been consideration for the customers, the employees and the community. Now a few people driven by inconsiderate greed want to change that. While they may say things will change for the better and they all say that the bottom line is that they want more money. This will not magically appear instead it will cost us all.

The Demoulas Markets chain which became Market Basket was born in the heyday of middle class prosperity. A time when everyone's success mattered. It has operated by that principle and been an oasis in a desert of corporate greed. We need to bring back a country that works for us regular middle class working people and a good start would be getting Arthur T. Demoulas reinstated.

Tom Laperriere
Rochester, NH

§

Their Propaganda is Backfiring

To the Editor:

The U.S. must be experiencing a Neo-Enlightenment. Or perhaps Americans are just tired and exasperated with all the billionaire-sponsored negative advertisements rudely interrupting their viewing of "Dancing with the Stars," "American Idol," or Fox "News" programming.

I just heard a report on NPR from the Brookings Institute which stated that the negative ads attacking Obamacare and advocating its repeal are actually encouraging more Americans to register for it. Obamacare, although imperfect, is the best system of healthcare we'll have as long as the health insurance industry remains a part of the equation, which happens to be one of the primary causes of our healthcare problems to begin with. I verified the information in the Brookings report via Gallup and Healthways, which tracks the percentage of uninsured Americans. Sure enough,



the rate of medically uninsured in the U.S. recently (second quarter of 2014) dropped 2.2 points to 13.4 percent, the lowest rate it has ever been. And just imagine that this significant progress was made in spite of the Energy Magnate Koch Brothers having invested \$30 million into repealing President Obama's landmark health care reform, even if it meant leaving tens of millions of Americans without access to healthcare.

This is a very positive sign that Americans are starting to resent and reject Republican/Conservative initiatives like the U.S. Supreme Court's *Citizen United* and *McCutcheon* decisions which have opened the floodgates to wealthy contributors that badly undermine our democracy by purchasing our elections. This trend spells bad news for Tea Partiers Frank Guinta and Scott Brown (elected in 2010 on their Tea Party bona fides), who are being bought and paid for by the said billionaires, who are attempting to buy their way to their radical vision for America.

Guinta and Brown's campaigns are not only counting heavily on the failure of Obamacare, which will never happen, but also that their incessant negative advertising, funded by their friends, will convince us that Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter and U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen are doing any-

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Northcountry Chronicle

The Security Trap

by William Marvel

It can hardly be said that I was an opponent of health-care reform. When President Obama first introduced it, I championed the single-payer option, but I regarded his willingness to abandon that alternative as the death knell of real reform. I still do, despite the short-term benefits Obamacare seems to have produced. From my perspective, we are left with the worst of both worlds: private insurance companies still control the market, under artificial price controls that will inevitably change, and those profit-conscious corporations now hold us in a captive market, since we are all forced by the threat of escalating fines to carry health insurance. Compulsory insurance leaves less incentive for competitive pricing — as we learned decades ago, when Massachusetts drivers started feigning residency in New Hampshire, where automobile insurance was still optional and premiums were much lower.

It is true that health insurance is momentarily more affordable, especially with the current subsidies, but my wife is discovering that the threshold for losing any subsidy is not very high. Neither are they guaranteed to continue indefinitely. Thus far, the insurance she obtained under the exchanges is only slightly less generous than the plan she had previously, and admittedly it is cheaper, but she is still forced to buy from Anthem, with whom she has to fight every month over whether she has paid the premium. The new insurance consumed a great deal of her time to secure, and since then she has wasted long hours documenting our income and convincing Anthem's stubbornly obtuse administrators that they have already received the monthly payment from her bank account. I've come to suspect that Anthem's regular notices to the contrary reflect an effort to scam customers out of an occasional extra premium.

It may seem odd that I, an atheist in full support of wom-

en's reproductive rights, should sympathize with the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision, exempting employers from providing birth-control options that they find philosophically repugnant. Whatever the merits of that particular case, Obamacare was passed with a menu of promises, one of which assured religious individuals and organizations that they would not be forced to compromise their principles. It would constitute a monumental fraud to reverse that promise after the fact. If the Hobby Lobby decision is obnoxious, the people to blame may be those who still supported the ACA after elimination of the single-payer option.

My fundamental objection to the unfunded mandate of compulsory insurance, outside a single-payer system, is that it strikes another blow to the freedom that seemed so nearly tangible in my youth. Material acquisition was never an overwhelming impulse of mine, and for many years I worked only part of each year, so

I could spend the rest traveling or writing. That required stringent economy — always involving much overtime, cheap housing, junk cars or no car, and no entertainment expenses. Compulsory health insurance would have made that life virtually impossible. Unless I had been able (and willing) to finagle some form of public support like general relief, I would have been locked into perpetual wage labor.

Popular analogies to Social Security and Medicare fail because we are taxed for those programs only while we are working, but under the ACA we are now forced to maintain health insurance whether employed or not. The idea that the state can compel a citizen to carry such personal protection is antithetical to the very concept of freedom. The liberty to gamble that a healthy lifestyle will avoid most illness has been supplanted by the obligation to pay premiums inflated by the negligence of millions who don't take care of themselves.

William Shirer, the premier historian of Hitler's Germany, noted that Bismarck used similar welfare-state impositions to soften resistance to his autocratic rule in the 1880s. As described by Shirer, Bismarck's safety net sounds eerily like ours under Obamacare, with mandatory insurance against illness, accident, or general disability — all administered by the state but funded by workers and employers. This had "a profound effect" on German working people, wrote Shirer, "in that it gradually made them value security over political freedom and caused them to see in the State, however conservative, a benefactor and protector." Shirer added that Hitler "took full advantage of this state of mind."

Freedom and security cannot simultaneously flourish unabridged: one cannot be enhanced without detriment to the other. Without a single-payer plan, Obamacare shows nearly as effectively as the Patriot Act how far the balance has tipped away from freedom.

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

thing but the great things they're doing for New Hampshire. Their plan is backfiring big time!

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, NH

Wayne:

When your party's main objective is to take health care away from millions of people, you've got a problem.

The Editor

§

Election Consequences

To the Editor:

Attention Granite Staters! Before you vote in November take a step back and consider some information you can gain from looking

at "the big picture" or some "big themes." What is happening in state governments around the country? Are there any particular trends or patterns of behavior in Congress or the Supreme Court that would influence how you will cast your ballot?

As an example, have you noticed that lately the Supreme Court has been giving more rights to corporations and less rights to individuals? Talk about activist courts!

Have you identified the trend, among House Republicans, that they want to spend more time on social and religious issues than on

the practical matters of jobs, immigration reform, student loans or the national infrastructure? The other trend is to do nothing that might look like bipartisan cooperation and risk offending a single Tea Party voter. The new mantra for most House Republicans is — taking governing responsibility means taking political risk.

Elections have consequences and those consequences will be very different depending upon which party controls the Congress. This axiom is just as true or maybe more so at the state level.

The annual rating of the Best

States for Business by CNBC and the National Manufacturers Association was just published and contained an interesting sub report — The 10 Worst States to Live In. Vermont and New Hampshire are on the opposite end of that list at 48 and 49, great positioning we all would like to maintain. Examples of the key criteria used are; healthcare, education, crime rate, jobs and the environment.

The worst states have an important factor in common — Republican controlled governments — eight governors, nine Republican

majority senates and nine Republican majority houses. The highest rated ten states had seven Democratic governors with mostly same party legislatures.

Sometimes the fifty thousand foot view can show a pattern that one would not normally see. It also can provide a perspective that concentration on "the local" might not. Politics may be local but political philosophies are not. What happens in one Republican controlled government doesn't stay home. Over time these philosophies bear very different results, not always immediately but

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Can A \$7-Billion Penalty Be A Good Deal?

by Jim Hightower

Media outlets across the country trumpeted the stunning news with headlines like this: "Citigroup Punished."

At last, went the storyline, the Justice Department brought down the hammer on one of the greedheaded Wall Street giants that're guilty of massive mortgage frauds that crashed our economy six years ago. While millions of

ordinary Americans lost homes, jobs, and businesses — and still haven't recovered — the finagling bankers were promptly bailed out by Washington and continue to get multimillion-dollar bonuses. So, hitting Citigroup with \$7 billion in penalties for its role in the calamitous scandal is a real blow for justice!

Well, sort of. Actually ... not so much. While seven billion bucks is more than a slap on the wrist,

it pales in contrast to the egregious nature of Citigroup's crime and the extent of the horrendous damage done by the bankers. In fact, when it announced the settlement, the Justice Department itself pointed out that Citigroup's fraudulent acts "shattered lives."

For most of us, paying billions is impossible to imagine, much less do. But this is a Wall Street colossus with \$76 billion in revenue last year alone. It rakes in enough

profit in six months to more than cover this "punishment." Also, the bank will get to deduct 40 percent of the penalty from its income tax. Then there's this little number that the prosecutors failed to mention when they announced the settlement: Citigroup's taxpayer bailout in 2008 was \$45 billion — six times more than it is now having to pay back!

Even by Wall Street standards, pulling a 600 percent profit from

grand larceny is a pretty sweet deal. One clear indicator that this "punishment" is way too light is that on the same day it was announced, jubilant Wall Street investors jacked up Citigroup's stock price by 3.6 percent.

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eventually.

If you do not want to experience the negative consequences of Republican controlled states like Oklahoma, Tennessee, Ohio, Arkansas, Mississippi, Indiana, Michigan, Louisiana, Kentucky and Alabama — the ten worst state in which to live — keep the Republicans out of our state government.

Don't send any to Washington either.

Dave Potter
North Hampton, NH

§

Guinta Had His Chance

To the Editor:

Frank Guinta was only in Congress for two years, but he had the chance several times to protect our privacy and failed each time. He voted to allow employers to obtain employees' Facebook and email passwords. But employers shouldn't be sneaking peeks into their employees' private communications. He even voted to give the government the "right" to spy on our library records and see what we read!

I hope we won't let Mr. Guinta back in Congress in November to take away even more of our privacy rights.

Charles Proulx
Raymond, NH

Yankee Blowback

by William Blum

The number of children attempting to cross the Mexican border into the U.S. has risen dramatically in the last five years: In fiscal year 2009 about 6,000 unaccompanied minors were detained near the border. Homeland Security estimates for the fiscal year 2014 the detention of as many as 74,000 unaccompanied minors. Approximately 28 percent of the children detained this year are from Honduras, 24 percent from Guatemala, and 21 percent from El Salvador. The particularly severe increases in Honduran migration are a direct result of the June 28, 2009 military coup that overthrew the democratically-elected president, Manuel Zelaya, after he did things like raising the minimum wage, giving subsidies to small farmers, and instituting free education. The coup — like so many others in Latin America — was led by a graduate of Washington's infamous School of the Americas.

As per the standard Western Hemisphere script, the Honduran coup was followed by the abusive policies of the new regime, loyally supported by the United States. The State Department

was virtually alone in the Western Hemisphere in not unequivocally condemning the Honduran coup. Indeed, the Obama administration has refused to call it a coup, which, under American law, would tie Washington's hands as to the amount of support it could give the coup government. This denial of reality still persists even though a U.S. embassy cable released by Wikileaks in 2010 declared: "There is no doubt that the military, Supreme Court and National Congress conspired on June 28 [2009] in what constituted an illegal and unconstitutional coup against the Executive Branch." Washington's support of the far-right Honduran government has been unwavering ever since.

The questions concerning immigration into the United States from south of the border go on year after year, with the same issues argued back and forth: What's the best way to block the flow into the country? How shall we punish those caught here illegally? Should we separate families, which happens when parents are deported but their American-born children remain? Should the police and various other institutions have the right to ask for proof of

legal residence from anyone they suspect of being here illegally? Should we punish employers who hire illegal immigrants? ... on it goes, decade after decade. Those in the U.S. opposed to immigration declare that the U.S. does not have any moral obligation to take in these Latino immigrants.

But the counter-argument to this last point is almost never mentioned: Yes, the U.S. does have a moral obligation because so many of the immigrants are escaping a situation in their homeland made hopeless by American intervention and policy. In addition to Honduras, Washington overthrew progressive governments which were sincerely committed to fighting poverty in Guatemala and Nicaragua; while in El Salvador the U.S. played a major role in suppressing a movement striving to install such a government. And in Mexico, though Washington has not intervened militarily since 1919, over the years the U.S. has been providing training, arms, and surveillance technology to the police and armed forces to better their ability to suppress their own people's aspirations, as in Chiapas, and this has added to the influx of the oppressed to the U.S., irony

notwithstanding.

Moreover, Washington's North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), has brought a flood of cheap, subsidized U.S. agricultural products into Mexico, ravaging *campesino* communities and driving many farmers off the land when they couldn't compete. The subsequent Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) has brought the same joys to the people of that area.

These "free trade" agreements — as they do all over the world — also result in government enterprises being privatized, the regulation of corporations being reduced, and cuts to the social budget. Add to this the displacement of communities by foreign mining projects and the drastic U.S.-led militarization of the War on Drugs with accompanying violence and you have the perfect storm of suffering followed by the attempt to escape from suffering.

It's not that all these people prefer to live in the United States. They'd much rather remain with their families and friends, be able to speak their native language at all times, and avoid the hardships imposed on them by American police and other right-wingers.

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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, July 27	Monday, July 28	Tuesday, July 29	Wednesday, July 30	Thursday, July 31	Friday, August 1	Saturday, August 2
<p>1996—To protect the sanctity of life, Eric Robert Rudolph bombs the Atlanta Summer Olympics. For some time, though, Richard Jewell is guilty in the press.</p> <p>1974—The House Judiciary Committee votes to impeach R.M. Nixon for trying to cover his tracks.</p> <p>1964—South Vietnam gets another 5,000 American "military advisors," for a total of 21,000.</p> <p>1963—Dick "Dick" Cheney is busted for driving drunk.</p> <p>1957—Jimmy Wilson (black) is sentenced to death in AL for stealing \$1.95 from a (white) woman.</p> <p>1954—Guatemalan President Jacobo Árbenz Guzmán is overthrown by mercenaries at the behest of the CIA. Genocide follows.</p> <p>1953—A truce "ends" the fighting in Korea; our troops are still there.</p> <p>1935—In his first performance, human cannonball W.C. Miller, 24, flies 150 feet from Ocean Park Pier in Santa Monica and fatally crashes full-length against a wave.</p> <p>1893—During the first jolt from New York's electric chair, William Taylor breaks the straps. A second jolt fails due to generator trouble. Morphine and chloroform keep him alive for an hour so the third jolt can finally kill him.</p> <p>1877—PA Governor Hartranft sends 9,000 troops to defend Pittsburgh against striking railroad workers.</p>	<p>2008—A tornado leaves a 40-mile swath of destruction in New Hampshire and kills a woman in Deerfield.</p> <p>2006—A wild storm topples the partially-renovated steeple of the North Church and its surrounding scaffolding onto Pleasant Street.</p> <p>2003—Tom DeLay (R-TX), who once said Americans smoke Cuban cigars "at the cost of our national honor," is photographed in Jerusalem lighting up a \$25 Hoyo de Monterrey double corona.</p> <p>2003—The country's two largest banks are fined \$300 million for helping Enron fleece investors.</p> <p>1965—Lyndon Johnson doubles the draft quota.</p> <p>1957—An Air Force C-24 hauling 3 nukes along the East coast dumps 2 in the ocean after losing power.</p> <p>1945—A B-25 crashes into the Empire State Building. One engine goes right through the building, another severs elevator cables and sends a car plummeting to the basement. Six floors burn; flaming gas streams down the sides of the building. Toll: 13 dead, 26 injured.</p> <p>1932—U.S. Army troops led by Dwight Eisenhower, aided by George S. Patton, and commanded by General Douglas MacArthur drive the "Bonus Expeditionary Force"—20,000 hungry World War I veterans—out of Washington D.C., killing two in the process.</p>	<p>1986—Disgusted by U.S. policies in Latin America, ex-Chaplain Charlie Litley renounces the Medal of Honor he was awarded for his bravery in Vietnam.</p> <p>1981—Congress passes Ronald Reagan's tax cut for the rich.</p> <p>1974—The House Judiciary Committee adopts a second article to impeach Richard M. Nixon, this time for misuse of power and violating his oath of office.</p> <p>1967—Old bombs cook off after an accidental missile launch, nearly sinking the <i>U.S.S. Forrestal</i> off North Vietnam, killing 134.</p> <p>1966—Bob Dylan crashes his Triumph, breaking his neck.</p> <p>1965—The 101st Airborne lands in South Vietnam.</p> <p>1950—In Korea, the U.S. 7th Cavalry withdraws from No Gun Ri having shot hundreds of civilian refugees, mostly women, children, and old men, under orders from high command.</p> <p>1923—"No more war" demonstrations held in 23 countries.</p> <p>1921—Disgruntled former corporal Adolf Hitler becomes President of the German Nazi Party.</p> <p>1920—Disabled German veterans rally for "No more war."</p> <p>1839—While looting the Tuileries along with the rest of the mob, Alexandre Dumas <i>père</i> finds a copy of one of his novels in the royal apartments and takes it.</p>	<p>1975—Teamsters' boss Jimmy Hoffa makes his last public appearance in Birmingham, MI.</p> <p>1974—The House Judiciary Committee adopts a 3rd article of impeachment of Richard M. Nixon, for ignoring subpoenas.</p> <p>1972—Fifty-three caribou are found dead near an Army chemical and biological warfare lab. The base commander suggests they were hit by lightning.</p> <p>1956—Congress adopts "In God We Trust" as the national motto.</p> <p>1945—After delivering the Hiroshima A-bomb, the <i>U.S.S. Indianapolis</i> is torpedoed and sunk. Due to security measures, the sinking isn't reported for 5 days; sharks and drowning claim 880 out of 1,100 aboard.</p> <p>1938—A Hitler bestows Germany's highest award for non-citizens, the Grand Cross of the Supreme Order of the German Eagle, on his pal Henry Ford.</p> <p>1916—A German saboteur destroys a thousand tons of munitions stored on a barge at Black Tom Island in New York Harbor.</p> <p>1864—Union forces breach Confederate defenses at Petersburg by exploding a huge mine. Sadly, nearly 4,000 Union soldiers are slaughtered in the resulting crater because Brig. Gen. James Ledlie, selected to command by the drawing of straws, is drunk.</p>	<p>1999—Astrogeologist Eugene Shoemaker becomes the first Earthling to have his cremated remains interred on the moon.</p> <p>1996—Ex-Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. [H.] Walker Bush speak for pay before an audience of Moonies.</p> <p>1974—Dick Nixon's former advisor John Erlichman gets five years in a felons' country club.</p> <p>1972—The public is shocked as Thomas Eagleton withdraws his candidacy for Vice President.</p> <p>1971—A \$100,000 "contribution" to the Republican convention persuades the "Justice" Department to let ITT retain its ownership of Hartford Fire Insurance.</p> <p>1971—Dave Scott becomes the first person to drive a motor vehicle on the moon. Parking is no problem.</p> <p>1950—The city of Chicago approves a plan to have its citizens tattooed with their blood type.</p> <p>1944—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry disappears during a flight over southern France.</p> <p>1938—New York Yankee Jake Powell is suspended after saying, on Chicago radio, that he'd "hit every colored person in Chicago over the head with a club."</p> <p>1934—In Scotland, German businessman Gerhard Zucker demonstrates his rocket mail proposal. He is deported after his rocket explodes and incinerates the mail.</p>	<p>2007—An undersized gusset plate gives way on the overloaded I35-W Bridge in Minneapolis; 13 die.</p> <p>1992—Lt. Gov. Butch Otter [R-ID], is busted for drunk driving a day after winning a "tight jeans" contest at Boise's Rockin' Rodeo Inn.</p> <p>1983—After a fourteen-year suspension, the U.S. resumes the manufacture of chemical weapons.</p> <p>1981—MTV is launched; the remnants of civilization crumble.</p> <p>1977—Former U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, misled by the fuel gauge of his traffic-reporting helicopter, dies after crash landing to avoid children playing.</p> <p>1976—First occupation of the Seabrook nuclear power plant site.</p> <p>1972—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports on a "two-bit burglary" at Democratic National HQ.</p> <p>1972—1st Lt. G.W. Bush is suspended from flying status with the Texas Air Nat'l Guard for failure to take a physical exam (which would have required him to pee in a cup).</p> <p>1969—A Massachusetts Superior Court judge rejects a DA's request for an inquest into the death of Mary Jo Koepchne.</p> <p>1966—Honor student and former Marine Charles Whitman shoots 45 (killing 12) from a tower at the University of Texas.</p> <p>1917—IWW organizer Frank Little is lynched in Butte, MT. No one bothers to look for the culprits.</p>	<p>2000—The GOP picks George W. Bush to be president, and Dick "Dick" Cheney to run the country.</p> <p>1993—A short circuit sends a self-destruct command to a Titan IV rocket over the Pacific. It blows up, destroying three spy satellites. Total cost: \$1 billion.</p> <p>1990—Iraq invades Kuwait.</p> <p>1965—CBS reporter Morley Safer suggests that the U.S. might not win in Vietnam.</p> <p>1964—The <i>U.S.S. Maddox</i>, collecting intelligence in support of covert operations in North Vietnam, reports an "unprovoked" attack by North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin.</p> <p>1943—Prisoners at Treblinka revolt. Only forty survive, but the camp is shut down.</p> <p>1943—The nimble American PT boat #109 is rammed and sunk by a ponderous Japanese destroyer.</p> <p>1939—A. Einstein writes to FDR describing the possibility of constructing a nuclear bomb.</p> <p>1931—A. Einstein urges all scientists to refuse military work.</p> <p>1865—After capturing and sinking American whaling vessels all summer, the <i>CSS Shenandoah</i> learns the war's been over since April.</p> <p>1832—Hundreds of starving Sauk and Fox Indians try to surrender at Bad Axe, WI only to be massacred by the Illinois militia. Wisconsin apologizes—in 1990.</p>
<p>12:07 12:39</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:23 6:27</p>	<p>12:45 1:14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:58 7:04</p>	<p>1:20 1:48</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:32 7:41</p>	<p>1:55 2:22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:06 8:18</p>	<p>2:30 2:56</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:41 8:57</p>	<p>3:08 3:34</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:17 9:40</p>	<p>3:49 4:16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:58 9:58</p>
Sunday, August 3	Monday, August 4	Tuesday, August 5	Wednesday, August 6	Thursday, August 7	Friday, August 8	Saturday, August 9
<p>1999—A House/Senate committee agrees to cut taxes for the rich by nearly \$800 billion.</p> <p>1981—Federal air traffic controllers go on strike.</p> <p>1971—Derry, NH's Alan Shepard becomes the first man to whack a golf ball on the moon.</p> <p>1966—Lenny Bruce, free on appeal, beats a four-month sentence on an obscenity rap by dying.</p> <p>1962—Tusko the elephant dies in an Oklahoma City zoo two hours after researchers give him LSD.</p> <p>1948—Alger Hiss is accused of spying by ex-Red Whittaker Chambers.</p> <p>1943—Gen. George S. Patton slaps a shell-shocked private in an Army hospital.</p> <p>1939—After catching five baseballs dropped from a blimp 500 feet above the World's Fair, Joe Sprinz tries to catch one dropped 1,000 feet. He loses four teeth.</p> <p>1931—In Chicago, an anti- eviction march by 60,000 turns into a riot; three die.</p> <p>1923—By the light of a kerosene lantern, at 2:47 a.m. in Plymouth, VT, Calvin Coolidge is sworn in as President by his own father.</p> <p>1913—Police shoot up an IWW farmworkers' meeting in Wheatland, CA, killing four. For organizing the meeting, two union leaders are later convicted of murder and sentenced to life.</p>	<p>1995—Congress votes to de-regulate the media with predictably splendid results.</p> <p>1992—The Republican National Convention re-nominates the Bush/Quayle ticket. Snicker.</p> <p>1987—The FCC jettisons the Fairness Doctrine, declaring it "restricts the journalistic freedom of broadcasters."</p> <p>1973—Toronto police arrest Yankee outfielder Dave Winfield for accidentally killing a seagull with a thrown ball.</p> <p>1964—The <i>U.S.S. Maddox</i> and <i>U.S.S. Turner Joy</i> report a second torpedo attack in Gulf of Tonkin. Oddly, there are no casualties; neither is there any damage.</p> <p>1961—Barack H. Obama allegedly is born in Hawaii.</p> <p>1948—HUAC chairman J.P. Thomas's pocketing of the payroll from his pals' no-show jobs is exposed in Drew Pearson's column.</p> <p>1945—Red Sox vs. Senators in D.C.: Joe Cleary (last Irish native in the Majors, ERA 189.0), is relieved by one-legged Bert Shepard, the Majors' first amputee. In 5 innings Shepard gives up just 3 hits and 1 run, but the Sox win 15-4.</p> <p>1925—After 13 years, U.S. Marines leave Nicaragua.</p> <p>1916—The U.S. agrees to buy the Virgin Islands from Denmark.</p> <p>1892—In Fall River, MA, somebody gives Lizzie Borden's father and stepmother the axe.</p>	<p>2012—A White Supremacist invalidates his own ideology by murdering six Sikhs in Oak Creek, WI.</p> <p>2011—Responding to GOP threats that it might not pay its bills, S&P downgrades the U.S. Government's credit rating.</p> <p>2004—"Our enemies," says George W. Bush, "never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we."</p> <p>1981—Ronald Reagan fires 12,700 air traffic controllers.</p> <p>1977—The NRC admits it's lost 4 tons of enriched uranium.</p> <p>1969—The Army reveals that eight Green Berets have been arrested for "terminating" a suspected South Vietnamese double agent "with extreme prejudice."</p> <p>1964—U.S. bombs N. Vietnam.</p> <p>1962—South Africa nabs fugitive Nelson Mandela thanks to a tip from the CIA.</p> <p>1950—Eighteen are killed when a B-29 crashes into a trailer park in California, but at least the nuclear weapon on board fails to explode.</p> <p>1912—The Progressive Party is formed "to dissolve the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics."</p> <p>1864—As Admiral Farragut dams the torpedoes and takes Mobile Bay, Portsmouth native Samuel Todd mans the conn of the <i>U.S.S. Brooklyn</i> with such distinction he is later awarded the Medal of Honor.</p>	<p>2001—Given a briefing titled, <i>Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S.</i> George W. Bush, while on vacation, responds, "All right. You've covered your ass now."</p> <p>1991—Tim Berners-Lee introduces the World to the Web.</p> <p>1970—Disneyland is invaded by 300 pot-smoking Yuppies chanting VC slogans & demanding freedom for Mickey Mouse.</p> <p>1945—Sayonara, Hiroshima.</p> <p>1930—New York Supreme Court Justice and Democratic bigwig John Force Crater purges some private files, cashes a large check, and disappears forever.</p> <p>1926—Gertrude Ederle swims the English Channel, two hours faster than any of the five men who had previously accomplished that feat.</p> <p>1895—The socialist paper <i>Appeal to Reason</i> begins. By 1902 its circulation is the 4th highest in the U.S.</p> <p>1890—New York State takes 8 minutes to execute William Kemmler, thrashing and smoking, in its new electric chair.</p> <p>1882—Abel Pifre prints newspapers on a steam-powered press fueled by a solar boiler on an overcast day in Paris.</p> <p>1855—A Louisville mob armed with a cannon is dissuaded by the mayor from destroying a Catholic church. They settle for burning down houses in the Irish quarter and killing 20.</p>	<p>1979—A nuclear fuel plant leak near Erwin, TN, contaminates 1,000 people with 5 times a year's normal background radiation.</p> <p>1974—In New York, Philippe Petit takes a stroll on a wire between the World Trade Center towers.</p> <p>1964—Congress falls for Gulf of Tonkin hoax and gives LBJ. unprecedented (and unconstitutional) power. Sen. Wayne Morse (D-OR) votes no, saying "I believe that within the next century, future generations will look with dismay and great disappointment upon a Congress which is now about to make such a historic mistake."</p> <p>1964—<i>Time Magazine</i> says of <i>A Hard Day's Night</i>, "avoid this film at all costs."</p> <p>1942—Marines land on Guadalcanal.</p> <p>1936—Rep. Marion Zioncheck (D-WA), who once had a load of manure delivered to J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover's front lawn, defenestrates from the fifth floor of a Seattle office building.</p> <p>1917—Sqn. Cdr. E.H. Dunning, first man to safely land a plane on a moving ship, dies five days after performing that feat while attempting to repeat it.</p> <p>1915—Gen. A. Godley sends the Australian 3rd Light Horse into Turkish machine guns at Gallipoli despite a failed artillery barrage. Sixty-two percent of the men in the unit are either killed or wounded.</p>	<p>1991—After 17 years as the world's tallest structure, the 2,120 ft. Warsaw Radio Mast collapses.</p> <p>1989—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese's pal E. Robert Wallach is convicted of racketeering for accepting \$425,000 to influence Meese and others to win defense contracts for Wedtech Corp.</p> <p>1988—Mehran Karimi Nasserri gets stranded at the airport in Paris, where he spends the next 16 years.</p> <p>1980—While running for reelection, Rep. Jon Hinson (R-MI) admits he has been accused of committing an obscene act in a "gay haunt" in Virginia and once barely escaped a fire in a gay movie theatre. But he denies he's gay.</p> <p>1974—Richard M. Nixon announces he's a quitter after all.</p> <p>1973—Veep Spiro "Ted" Agnew calls true allegations that he accepted kickbacks while Governor of Maryland "damned lies."</p> <p>1968—R. Nixon chooses S. Agnew for a running mate.</p> <p>1925—Thirty thousand members of the Ku Klux Klan march in full regalia down Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1903—Miners strike in Cripple Creek, CO.</p> <p>1892—Three McCoys kill a Hatfield during an election day brawl in Pike County, KY.</p> <p>1879—Birth of Emiliano Zapata, Mexican revolutionary.</p>	<p>1997—New York cop Justin Volpe sodomizes Haitian immigrant Abner Louima with a broomstick.</p> <p>1989—Pres. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush signs the multi-billion dollar Savings and Loan bailout. Among those bailed out at the expense of the taxpayer: his own sons Neil and Jeb.</p> <p>1974—Nixon vacates the White House.</p> <p>1945—Sayonara, Nagasaki.</p> <p>1936—Death of muckraker Lincoln Steffens.</p> <p>1892—Reacting to yesterday's unpleasantness, a group of Hatfields tie three McCoys to a tree and shoot them.</p> <p>1874—Charles Fort, chronicler of the paranormal, materializes in Albany, NY.</p> <p>1872—Fire destroys 547 buildings in Boston, killing 14.</p> <p>1848—The Barnburners and Free Soilers merge into the Scorched Earth party and nominate Martin Van Buren for President.</p> <p>1842—Herman Melville escapes from the Tybee Valley in the Marquesas where he has been held captive by cannibals for a month.</p> <p>1842—The Webster-Ashburton Treaty resolves the issues that led to the Aroostook War.</p> <p>1779—General Henry Clinton & 1,500 American troops breach a dam to flood Iroquois towns and fields in upstate New York.</p>
<p>4:36 5:03</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:43 11:19</p>	<p>5:29 5:55</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:34</p>	<p>6:28 6:53</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:16 12:29</p>	<p>7:30 7:52</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:16 1:28</p>	<p>8:32 8:52</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:17 2:28</p>	<p>9:31 9:50</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:15 3:27</p>	<p>10:27 10:27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:11 4:24</p>

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