

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

A Race Well Worth Watching

This Presidential election had been shaping up like the latest Hollywood blockbuster: another sequel of a sequel, indistinguishable from those which have gone before. Sound and fury were guaranteed in abundance, but significance? Not so much.*

On the Right we had the now-standard assortment of nearly two dozen Republican yahooks. All of them are running on issues which are only marginally relevant to the actual lives of the average citizen. The solutions they offer will only make things worse.

On the alleged Left we had one candidate about whom half the Democrats are already sick of hearing, orbited by two obscure ex-Governors, one an ex-Republican, and former Rep. Jim Webb, another ex-Republican.

When it comes to elections, we hold with John “Bet-a-Million” Gates, who, in the absence of a horse race, would bet on raindrops trickling down a windowpane: any contest is better than no contest. But this one lacked pizzazz.

Bernie ex Machina

Then, on April 30th, Bernie Sanders announced that he is running for President. Not a man to mince words, on national television three days later he called for “a political revolution.” And, not being a shirker, and as “the only candidate who’s prepared to take on the billionaire class

which now controls our economy and increasingly controls the political life of this country,” he volunteered to lead that revolution.

Pizzazz accomplished.

The Obligatory Dismissals

It is hard to imagine a candidate less likely to satisfy or impress our Vapitol’s gatekeeping class.†

Sanders has a Brooklyn accent. That is not, in itself, a disqualifier. If he used it to denigrate union members he’d get unlimited free air time from Bill O’Reilly and Sean Hannity — whom earlier generations of Irish-Americans would have called scabs.

Instead, Sanders uses his distinctive voice to denounce our so-called “job creators,” risking inclusion in the category of crank. In our body politic, that means his memory functions and he can count.

Sanders remembers the promises made, and the betrayals that followed. He understands their cost to the people who count on jobs, rather than tax handouts from the government, to put food on their tables.

Here is where journalism comes in, to play its critical role in the democratic process for better or for worse.

Bernie — why stand on formality? — consistently speaks about issues that have real and direct impact on the everyday lives of ordinary Americans; things like jobs, wages, health



M. LATRO 15 MAY 15
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care, child care, and retirement. He also puts forward proposals that would lead to improvements.

The dominant corporate media treat those issues and proposals as just so many abstract items from a checklist labeled “Left” — or “Far Left.”

Meanwhile, well-funded corporate think tanks have hired skilled experts to convert raw material from focus groups into abstract items to put on their own checklist, which they modestly label, “Mainstream.”

Journalism today is the practice of reciting a few items from each checklist, then throwing in some happy chatter.

It is necessary that this be so, for if populism were allowed to run free, no one knows what might happen. Rising productiv-

ity might actually result in rising wages for a change.‡

Do the Math

This will be a contest unlike anything we’ve seen in decades, yet toilers in the corporate media already know Bernie cannot win.

George McGovern took a somewhat-leftist, fairly populist approach to the Democratic contest in 1974, and he won the nomination.

Granted, a hastily-chosen running mate cost him the general election, but there’s no reason to presume that Bernie would run into that problem.

The more cogent critique of 1974 is that after McGovern’s loss Democrats abandoned their

base, choosing to chase after victory by following the lead of Republicans and sucking up to the wealthy. It is encouraging and a little surprising that they will apparently let Bernie run with them now.

Sanders is playing the wild card here. He’s gambling that he can conjure up the Holy Grail of American politics: a way to bring into the polling booths some small fraction of the millions of disenfranchised non-voters out there.

Just five percent of that huge number could produce an unexpected result — and Bernie might be just the guy who can do it.

* Outside of the Judicial Branch, that is. A Republican victory would surely hand the Supreme Court over to the Oligarchs for a generation to come. If the Democrats win it might be a tossup.

† We refer, of course, to Washington, DC. This variant spelling began as a typo. We fear to correct it, though, now that zygotes have rights equal to PhDs. We might be charged with wordicide.

‡ This threat is confined, of course, to populism from the Left. Populism from the Right is benign, harmless, conducive to job growth, and good for the bottom line. White hoods, burning crosses, and threats to employees of the Bureau of Land Management are unrelated phenomena.

The Alleged News®

And the laughs just keep on coming ...

Some people say Presidential election campaigns last too long, but we beg to differ. In our view, eighteen months is not nearly enough time to savor the many piquant offerings being placed before us.

Take Mike Huckabee, for example — the *other* white former Governor and would-be President from Hope, Arkansas. Huckabee, as he deserves to be called, announced his candidacy just ten days ago, and already we’re in stitches.

The Huckster — let us save the ink — also ran back in 2008, kicking off his campaign with a daring, two-word border security plan: “Chuck Norris.” He did pretty well for a Republican Governor who raised taxes 21 times. In terms of popular vote he finished second among the also-rans.

Back then The Huckster was

just coming off a ten-year run in a somewhat respectable job. Since 2008 he’s been enjoying the lavish rewards of a Murdoch Fellowship: for hosting a one-hour, prime time television show on Fox News, he received a stipend of \$10,000 a week, plus umpteen million dollars worth of free campaign advertising.

The Fox News connection will certainly be a net plus in the Republican primary. His presumably lucrative side racket may be less helpful.

During his 2008 campaign The Huckster developed an extensive mailing list. It has no doubt grown thanks to the “Huckabee” show. For years now it has been filling email boxes across the nation with all manner of skeezy offers. Recent ones include an oil field in Utah, Food4Patriots survival foods, guides to annuities, “survival seeds,” and instructions

on how to earn a sure-fire 18.79 percent return on your investments.

It was his work as the pitchman for a quack diabetes cure, though, which has truly earned him the title of Huckster — and which, incidentally, illustrates why American exceptionalism is such a central pillar of the Right Wing belief system. Where but here, thanks to the First Amendment and a comatose FDA, can diabetes be cured, not by eating fewer cinnamon rolls, but by eating more of them?

The Huckster, a former Baptist minister, applies equal rigor to his religious pronouncements. He once explained that the Sandy Hook Massacre was the natural consequence of our having banned school prayer. More recently he warned that, as a nation, we “are moving rapidly toward the criminalization of

Christianity.” Last month, it still being legal to say such things, he told members of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, “I do not come to you tonight with the ability to speak Spanish. But I do speak a common language. I speak Jesus.”

You Call That a Qualification?

Carly Fiorina has also announced her candidacy — for President, she says. This raises, in theory, the possibility of a general election battle between two women. A more likely theory holds that she is aiming for the Vice Presidency, which would certainly be a more plausible target.

That turf has long been coveted by New Hampshire’s junior Senator, Kelly Ayotte. She, though, has been conspicuously absent lately — ever since her state political director had a run-in with the Nashua Police Department

during an anti-prostitution sting. If that is why Ayotte has been keeping a lower profile lately, it hardly seems justifiable. She bears no responsibility for Dave Wihby’s private indiscretions.

Fiorina, on the other hand, is responsible for Hewlett-Packard’s 2002 acquisition of its troubled rival Compaq. The merger led to the loss of 30,000 jobs. Inexplicably, though, she touts her CEO experience as her primary qualification for office.

An online CNBC feature about the Worst American CEOs of All Time ranked her No. 19. It called her a “consummate self-promoter [who] was busy pontificating on the lecture circuit and posing for magazine covers while her company floundered. She paid herself hand-

The Alleged News®

from page one

some bonuses and perks while laying off thousands of employees to cut costs.”

Fiorina’s ongoing ineptitude is perfectly reflected in her failure to secure the URL *CarlyFiorina.org*. Visitors to the site see a message saying, “Carly Fiorina failed to register this domain. So I’m using it to tell you how many people she laid off at Hewlett-Packard. It was this many:” followed by 30,000 examples of the sad face emoticon :(.

Ironically Hillary Clinton, Fiorina’s would-be opponent in the all-woman Oval Office cage match, suffered a nearly-identical embarrassment. *HillaryClinton.net* sends visitors to *CarlyForPresident.com* — Fiorina’s real campaign website, without all the sad faces.

A Doctor in the [White] House?

Almost simultaneously with Huckabee and Fiorina, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson an-

nounced his candidacy.

Carson is currently a columnist for the website *WND*. This makes him a colleague of Pamela Geller, the organizer of the Muhammad cartoon event which recently precipitated a shootout in Garland, Texas; Les Kinsolving, who once lost his State Department Press credentials for accepting a \$2,500 gratuity for writing nice things about apartheid South Africa; Dick Morris, who once talked to his boss, President Clinton, while a hour prostitute listened in; and Ted Nugent, who wore feces-encrusted trousers to dodge the draft.

But let’s not condemn Carson for the sins of his associates — his own views should suffice. For example, he has said that Obamacare is “the worst thing that has happened in this nation since slavery.” An IRS investigation prompted him to say, “We live in a Gestapo age.” The Obama Administration can best be understood, he has said,



There are ten more days until Memorial Day. Presumably this flag at the South Street Cemetery will have been replaced by then. Whether or not the flagpole will ever be returned to the vertical, we cannot say.

by reading *The Naked Communist*, a certifiably paranoid screed by Cleon Skousen, a notorious John Bircher.

Last week Carson essentially said the President can choose to ignore the Supreme Court if it legalizes gay marriage, because “the laws of the land come from the legislative branch ... [the Constitution] doesn’t say [Presidents] have the responsibility to carry out a judicial law.”

Rand Paul’s Designated Licker

Perhaps the screwiest moment so far of the 2016 First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election® came on Monday, as a campaign tracker for American Bridge, a pro-Democratic organization, was recording a Rand Paul campaign event at the Londonderry Town Hall. David

Chesley, Paul’s Political Director for New Hampshire, loomed just inches from the tracker’s lens for a few moments, providing a clinic-worthy view of his nostrils. Then he stuck out his tongue and licked the lens.

Knowing a good thing when they saw it, the staffer Tweeted, along with the video clip, “@RandPaul’s NH Political Director has a new slogan for the state: Lick Free or Die.” James “Sullivan County” Pindell Tweeted that Chesley “has been @nhgop chair Jennifer Horn’s most trusted aide going back almost a decade. Only left party last month.” WMUR, after querying the Paul campaign, reported that Chesley’s job is secure.

Is This Weather 2.0?

The temperature in Ports-

mouth did not go above 70° from mid-October through mid-April — just a few days shy of six months. Then it exceeded 80° four times during the first 12 days in May. After the winter we just endured, let’s hope we’re not in for another heat wave summer like 2013.

We’re working on a theory: in the future, nice weather will be more delightful than ever, in a bittersweet kind of way. Because as time lurches on, and harsh, extreme weather becomes common, pleasant, moderate weather will, perforce, become more rare.

Swallows Would Be OK, But ...

Now that Spring has at long last sprung, the manifold delights of the season are upon us. Flowers are blooming, birds are chirping, &c, &c.

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Also returning, like swallows to Capistrano but far less welcome, are little red helicopters, noisily thrashing across our collective airspace. But we, the lowly, ground-bound denizens of the town, are not supposed to find these intrusions annoying.

We should be grateful for their presence, we are told by their owner, because their pilots vigorously tout to all their paying passengers the gustatory delights available in the restaurants below, thereby increasing the town's Gross Domestic Product.

Further aggravating the situation, the Airport Committee of the Pease Development Authority [PDA] voted 2 to 1 on Monday in favor of a plan to sell helicopters at the former SAC base. Margaret Lamson, bless her recalcitrant heart, voted "no." Now the matter goes to the PDA Board, which has no choice in the matter. A refusal would land the PDA in court, with the FAA weighing in for the plaintiff. Our fate was sealed 25 years ago, when the decision was made to go for FAA certification, rather than tearing up the runway to plant spuds.

Opponents were on hand, naturally. According to the *Portsmouth Herald*, an aviation attorney who was present advised them against taking an adversarial approach.

"The best way to get some cooperation and ... some mitigation ... is through conversation and agreement," Gary Aber said. We'd like to know how any agreement could be reached with a party which consistently misrepresents the altitude of its flights.

How High?

Bruce Cultrera, the man behind the helicopters, has always claimed his little red Robinsons fly at 1,000 feet. That would be about the height of the 82nd floor of a skyscraper.

Given the paucity of such structures here in old Po'Town, we'll use the next best thing: the steeple of the North Church. It is, we are told, 193 feet high. Add a few more feet for the weathervane, and it's just about 200. When you see a little red helicopter, ask yourself if there's room for five steeples below it.

Who You Gonna Call?

In its infinite concern for the peace of mind of the general public, and perhaps because it's required by law, the PDA has established two separate systems



for fielding noise complaints.

One is readily available, but does not work. The other works, but is not readily available.

The PDA's web page for complaints, at <http://www.peasedev.org/contactus-noisecomplaints.php>, is easily Googled, but broken.

You might think that that same web page would be a good place for the PDA to list the number of its telephone hotline, but apparently the PDA does not. Here it is: (603) 436-6333.

Mystery Solved Compounded

New Hampshire Public Radio reported Wednesday morning that "New Hampshire Congressman Frank Guinta has agreed to repay \$355,000 he says he loaned himself during his run for Congress in 2010."

This must come as a pleasant surprise to Citizen Guinta. Congressman Guinta has owed him that money for quite a long time — since before he became Congressman Guinta, in fact.

It seems that Congressman Guinta has agreed to pay Citizen Guinta back within the next 12 months. That might not be easy. It's more than twice Congressman Guinta's annual salary of \$174,000 a year.

Maybe Congressman Guinta could borrow the money from Citizen Guinta's parents ... no, wait — that couldn't be right. It probably wouldn't even be legal. It would certainly be confusing.

What will Citizen Guinta do with that sudden windfall? We know that he knows a Congressman whose political convictions are identical to his own. Perhaps Citizen Guinta could donate the money to Congressman Guinta ... no wait — we're back where we started.

Perhaps a more fruitful line of inquiry would be counting the times Congressman Guinta has lied about the \$355,000 loan he received from Citizen Guinta.

We could begin with the time, last fall, during the 2014 election,

when he approved a campaign ad which said, in part, "Carol Shea-Porter is lying about Frank Guinta's finances. The House Ethics Committee 100 percent cleared Frank Guinta. He's in full compliance."

Remembering Primus, And Many Others

One week from tomorrow, Portsmouth will do what it can to make right an injustice — a great, long series of injustices.

A Reburial Ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m., at Chestnut and Court Streets, the site of the African Burying Ground.

Amends will be made, as best they can, to some 200 souls who were enslaved in life and dishonored in death. Even their names are in most cases unknown.

One exception is Primus, whose suffering built this newspaper, one pull on the press at a time. The debt owed Primus cannot be repaid, but he and it will be remembered. And, through him, all his nameless friends.



The steeple of the North Church is about 200 feet high — one fifth of the altitude claimed by Seacoast Helicopter's frequent overflights.

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The Birth of ISIS

To the Editor:

President Obama and the American people don't need a lecture on Iran, Iraq or ISIS from former President George W. Bush, former Co-President Dick Cheney, the Neoconservatives or Republican hawks any more than you and I need one on fire safety from a convicted arsonist.

I recently heard Bush and Cheney criticizing the President for his handling of the Islamic State (ISIS), an impossible, no-win situation which was directly conceived from the Bush Administration's Iraq misadventure.

A well researched article on ISIS recently published by the *Washington Post* quoted Hassan Hassan, a Middle East analyst who explained, "A lot of people think of the Islamic State as a terrorist group, and it's not useful. It is a terrorist group, but it is more than that. It is a home-grown Iraqi insurgency, and it is organic to Iraq." He continued, "the raw cruelty of Saddam Hussein's Baathist regime, the disbandment of the Iraqi army after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, the subsequent insurgency and the marginalization of Sunni Iraqis by the Shiite-dominated government (see CIA stooge Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki) all are intertwined with Islamic State's ascent."

Hassan's expert analysis makes perfect sense when one recalls

that Ambassador Paul Bremer, who led the Bush Administration's Occupational Authority of Iraq, issued a de-Baathification law, which disbanded the Iraqi Army, cut off its 400,000 members from government employment and robbed them of their pensions. These understandably angry and disenfranchised soldiers were furthermore allowed to keep their guns and go home to nothing; hence, we have the birth of the Sunni insurgency which morphed into ISIS and its skillful recruitment of thousands of foreign Jihadists. Further evidence that Hassan's analysis is spot on is the fact that most of ISIS' leaders in Iraq and Syria are former Iraqi military officers who belonged to Saddam's Baath Party.

Please take note that many of the individuals lecturing us on ISIS were responsible for setting Iraq and the Middle East on fire in the first place and are currently lurking in the shadows while pushing for a costly war with Iran.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, NH

Wayne:

You have highlighted a particular phenomenon which represents our broader dysfunction.

The Bush Administration's illegal invasion opened a Pandora's Box full of chaos in the Middle East. Financial deregulation and crackpot theories have wreaked havoc on our economy. Energy policies favoring the oil industry have put our very climate at risk.

When a prominent person points out one of these catastrophes, the party which caused it denounces them. If a prominent person points to the broader pattern among these catastrophes, they risk being called deranged. Either way, a large part of the corporate press will report the slander as if it might be true.

Fortunately we, in our obscurity,

are immune. Or perhaps deranged.
The Editor

~~~~~  
**A Proposed 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment In Four Sentences**

To the Editor:

Here is a proposed 28th Amendment:

Money is not speech.

The funding of political activities should be regulated to prevent corruption and protect the integrity of the electoral process.

Corporations are not people.

Only natural born human persons are entitled to the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America and its Amendments.

As the original author of this Proposed Four Sentence 28th Amendment To The U.S. Constitution I hereby grant their free use. Anyone may copy, print, and distribute this work freely, provided they do not make any changes to it.

I also suggest that proponents of it adopt the hand sign of holding up one arm with four fingers extended and the thumb folded into the palm to show support for the proposed amendment.

Thomas J. Laperriere  
Rochester, NH

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Un-Representatives

To the Editor:

Once again, Seacoast Republican state "unrepresentatives" voted against the wish of the majority of their constituents. In this case, these GOP representatives voted in favor of a bill (SB 116) repealing a 90-year old New Hampshire law. This statute requires an individual carrying a concealed gun to have a permit to do so. The repeal of SB 116 creates safety problems. For example, a minor can legally carry a gun in New Hampshire if that weapon is given to the child by a parent or guardian. SB 116 does not exempt minors. If it passes,

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL**

teenagers would be able to legally carry guns hidden in backpacks, and the police would have no knowledge of the weapon.

SB 116 was opposed by the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police and in a recent Public Policy Poll, by 71 percent of New Hampshire residents. That made no difference to our Seacoast Republican unrepresentatives. All of them who voted unanimously supported SB 116. Their names and the areas they represent are listed below:

Fred Rice, Tracy Emerick, and David Wood (Hampton); Patrick Abrami and Joanna Ward (Stratham); Max Abramson and Francis Chase (Seabrook/Hampton Falls); Andrew Christie (Hampton/Hampton Falls/Seabrook); and Carol Bush (Newington/Greenland).

Previously, Republican State Senator Nancy Stiles also voted to repeal the permit law.

This vote was not the first time Seacoast Republican state representatives have ignored the wishes of the public. All those casting a vote (Rice, Emerick, Ward, Wood, Abrami, Abramson, Tucker and Chase) opposed HB 650 which proposed that all gun purchasers undergo background checks to be sure they are neither felons nor dangerously mentally disturbed. A series of polls indicated that 80 to 90 percent of New Hampshire citizens favored background checks (HB 650).

Fortunately, Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan listened to the public. Hassan indicated that she would veto the attempted repeal of the permit law (SB 116) citing her concerns for public safety. Using votes in the House and Senate as predictors, Hassan's veto can be sustained in both chambers. Thank you Gov. Has-

san for representing your constituents, something our Seacoast GOP state representatives might start doing.

Gary Patton
Hampton, NH

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**Predators of the Sky**

To the Editor:

*"The struggle of people against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting."* — Milan Kundera

Iberdrola Renewables, a foreign, for-profit corporation in the business of developing industrial wind projects all over the world, has sponsored "Predators of the Sky" at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, New Hampshire. Whether the Science Center is aware of it or not, they have accepted monies from a corporation that kills and maims "predators of the sky" and then sponsors a program that rehabilitates the very creatures their projects are responsible for killing and maiming. How ironic.

Iberdrola Renewables has targeted the ridgelines of New Hampshire for industrial wind projects for a number of years now. They own and operate Groton Wind and the project in Lempster, New Hampshire. Industrial wind projects are documented to kill and maim "predators of the sky" that are known to use thermal drafts for hunting and then often come into contact with the turbine blades. This is acknowledged as collateral damage. Industrial wind turbine developers can apply for a permit to legally "take" (meaning to maim or kill without penalty), protected birds such as those rehabilitated through the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center.

Does Iberdrola Renewables think that by sponsoring such a

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# And Other Correspondence

program that it would improve their public relations with the people of New Hampshire? Is this their way of justifying the killing and maiming of “predators of the sky” here in our state? Maybe this kind of ironic sponsorship looks good to Iberdrola’s stakeholders, investors, our legislators, or even the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, but don’t let it fool you! It is as though Iberdrola Renewables is attempting to justify the killing and maiming of these amazing predators by sponsoring a program that would rehabilitate them. The problem is that you cannot rehabilitate the dead ones.

CARE Group (Citizens of Alexandria Rights Effort) is a local non-profit organization of resident volunteers providing education to the Newfound-Cardigan region about local, community self-government and empowering the citizens of Alexandria to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents and ecosystems. Participants of CARE Group petitioned for a Community Bill of Rights Ordinance (RBO) in 2014 to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents and ecosystems of Alexandria by prohibiting the siting of industrial wind projects within the town. After continued bullying from industrial wind developers, participants of CARE Group petitioned another RBO in 2015 to further protect residents and our ecosystem to include the prohibition of exploratory data collecting necessary for industrial wind developers to test the viability of a project. Each of these Community Bills of Rights passed by margins of 3 to 1. CARE Group can be contacted by email at: CARE-groupNH@gmail.com, or join us

on Facebook - CARE Group.  
Michelle Sanborn, President of CARE Group  
Alexandria, NH

## “Warm and Fuzzy” Frank

To the Editor:  
Congressman Frank Guinta has suddenly decided that it’s politically useful to embrace the “warm and fuzzy” and to act as if he loves animals. He’s made a big deal out of sponsoring a bill against horse slaughter, a very worthy bill that should not be used for political gain. That bill was around in 2007 when it was one of the first bills that newly elected Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter cosponsored, and she was still a cosponsor in 2014.

Let’s look at the facts and do a comparison. Congressman Guinta in his one previous term had a 27 percent rating from the Humane Society Legislative Action Fund. In contrast Congresswoman Shea-Porter had a 100 percent rating from the Humane Society in the 110th, 111th, and 113th Congresses. In the 113th Congress, Shea-Porter was designated a Humane Leader.

Mr. Guinta has a pathetic environmental, animal, and wildlife protection record. He voted to reduce funding for the Endangered Species Act. The League of Conservation Voters rated him 11 percent, the Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund gave him 10 percent, and the Sierra Club gave his failing performance the F it deserved. But over her three Congresses, Ms. Shea-Porter had a 100 percent rating from Defenders of Wildlife, 90 percent-100 percent from League of Conservation Voters, and was endorsed by the Sierra Club.

No matter how much Mr. Guinta tries to mislead his con-

stituents, he can’t escape his consistently appalling environmental and wildlife record.

Susan Mayer  
Lee, NH  
Susan:

*Judging from the latest news, Guinta has also lost his prior ability to escape from our enfeebled Federal Election Commission.*

The Editor

## Churches in Decline for Turning Their Backs on Reality

To the Editor:

According to a Pew Research Center study released Tuesday May 12th the number of Americans calling themselves Christian has dropped off sharply in recent years while the “none” classification has sharply increased especially among young people. One third of millennials say they have no faith affiliation. This was the result of a survey of 35,000 American adults.

What does this mean? This should be a wake up call for Christian America to look at itself and realize what it is doing wrong. And as an outsider I have an opinion to share.

I was neither raised Christian or religious but I lived in a majority Christian society. Although some of their rituals seemed a little strange to me it seemed that one of the core principles of Christianity was that people were supposed to be “good people” and live a “Christ Honoring Life.” But Christian culture has changed since then. It seems to me that the Christian identity has been exploited by political interests who created the “culture wars.” Now Christians are no longer focused on being “good people.” Christians have become angry, paranoid, cultish, selfish, intolerant, and a little crazy in a scary sort of way. Not the same kind of Christians I grew up with.

Lately Christianity seem to be at war with reality itself embracing an anti-science stance. Christians seem to think that if they believe hard enough that reality transforms itself into what they want to believe is true. During the George W. Bush years Carl Rove is quoted as saying:

*“[G]uys like me were ‘in what we call the reality-based community,’ which he defined as people who believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernible reality.’ ... ‘That’s not the way the world really works anymore,’ he continued. ‘We’re an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality. And while you’re studying that reality — judiciously, as you will — we’ll act again, creating other new realities, which you can study too, and that’s how things will sort out. We’re history’s actors ... and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do.’”*

During the Bush years Christians thought they were bigger than reality itself. That they were more powerful than the universe. They believed they could defy the laws of nature. But as we found out in hindsight, reality is bigger than they were and when they went to war with reality America lost, and we are still paying for Bush’s sins. Fighting reality is like getting mad and kicking a rock as hard as you can in order to “teach the rock a lesson.” But when you do that the rock teaches you a lesson.

The internet hasn’t helped Christianity either. The web gives people access to reality based information in a way that sharply contrasts with Christianity’s war on reality. Christians should not be fighting against science because fighting science is like kicking a rock. Christianity needs to modernize and find a way to live in harmony with reality and in harmony with the rest of the non-Christian world.



As our understanding of reality increases over time the religious world needs to evolve to accommodate and embrace what science is discovering.

Centuries ago the Catholic Church was not happy when Galileo, inventor of the telescope, determined that the Earth revolved around the Sun. They imprisoned him for life. But now we all know Galileo was right. Every day we are discovering new things. We cure disease. Our rockets travel to other planets. We discover new and exciting particles. The wonders of the universe are surrendering their secrets and young people want to explore our universe, this world, the real world.

If Christianity is going to continue to be relevant as humanity colonizes Mars then it needs to at least go back to focusing on being “good people” and living life in a Christ honoring way. If religion can make the lives of people better and inspire people to live a life worth living then it has a chance. But if religion wants to be at war with reality then may Darwin have mercy on our souls.

Marc Perkel  
Gilroy, CA

## Tax Deform

To the Editor:  
Harry Reid called our income tax system a voluntary one. He wants you to think it’s just like giving to your church, or charity.

originals or prints of Mike Dater's drawings and other tomfoolery are available at [www.mikedater.com](http://www.mikedater.com)

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# Mud Season

by William Marvel

Nearly a year before I was born, my father was thinking about retiring to the hill where he had grown up when he bought the house where I now live. We came here once before the final move; there are pictures of me in the middle of the road in front of the house, sitting on the fender of the 1946 Chrysler in which (thanks to my father's procrastination) I was born. There was also the story my mother told of repeatedly dropping my snowsuted carcass off the front porch into the snowbank, and then watching me clamber back up the steps in hysterics, so she could do it again. Evidently she misunderstood me from the start, for I have always hated winter, and I know I must have been begging her to let me back into the house, where it was warm and there wasn't any damn snow.

Bob Tibbetts confirmed for me that he and Mel Dennett broke Davis Hill Road open with the town plow so we could make that visit. There were only three houses on the hill at the time, including our place and my grandparents'

farm, but none were occupied in the winter. Beyond our house the road was not maintained at all, summer or winter, but the snow was so deep that Bob could not stop at our place, and had to keep going down the rough, rocky section toward the lake. He got stuck near Philbrook's Flats, and walked back to the house so my father could give him a ride to town for another truck, as there were no telephones here then.

We moved up for good in 1954, and for the next three years we faced bottomless mud every spring. For several weeks around April we would park at the bottom of the steep hill at the south end of the road — the newest section, completed in 1874 — and walk the last half-mile home. On Saturdays we would haul the groceries up the hill in canvas rucksacks, and once I lost a package of lunch meat that my father made me go back for. In the summer of 1957 the town trucked in two or three feet of gravel over the native clay, covering some of the old stone walls but making the road passable year-round.

Then, in the 1980s, developers persuaded the selectmen to reopen the north end of the road,

which had not been maintained in more than half a century. That decision accommodated the Center Conway population explosion that drives so much of our municipal expense, including the slipshod construction of another school, and it led to increased traffic on the 200-year-old road. The most heavily developed portion, which was historically known as the Old Goshen Road, required ambitious paving and drainage work, but the entire length of the original Davis Hill Road remained gravel. Occasional re-graveling and semi-annual grading proved adequate, too, despite caravans of Mainers who mistake the road for a shortcut to Center Conway.

For several years now, new drivers on Davis Hill had been screaming back and forth with the new driver's customary air of invulnerability, leaving tall rooster-tails of dust behind them, creating long washboards, and digging lots of potholes. It was still possible to pick one's way around that level of damage, but recently the northern extremity of the road started to fail during mud season. For a couple of weeks each of the last few springs it has



Davis Hill Road, March, 1950

been impossible to negotiate that section in a low-slung compact car — not so much because of the mud as from the depth of the potholes.

Those periods of impassibility have coincided with the construction of a massive new home, for which an endless stream of contractors, subs, dump trucks, concrete trucks, water tankers, and suppliers' trucks climb the hill. That influx naturally poses a more significant short-term burden on the road than all the residential and incidental traffic that preceded it. The town crew

has done its best to fill and rake, to the extent of having a truck out there nearly every weekday, and the acute impact of this construction traffic could lead to drastic solutions if it were mistaken for a chronic problem.

I'm hoping that doesn't happen, and that patience prevails. Like sap buckets and road postings, mud season is one of those traditional signs of spring welcomed by those who have weathered a Carroll County winter. It tends to slow us down a little, and some of us need that incentive more than others.

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

Giving is an emotional act, usually done from the heart. Americans give to many causes, more than any other nation on Earth. We are a giving people.

George W. Bush once advanced the scariest idea I'd ever heard of. In 2001 The CATO Institute reported "President George W. Bush has proposed that faith-based charities be made eligible to receive billions of dollars in Federal grants to

provide social services." Government would have decided which religious organizations received funding. Someone in Washington D.C. would hand out favors to his or her best choice.

When government hands out your tax dollars, is that giving? More than likely the IRS would have been in charge of selecting the "proper" receivers of these monies. Someone like Lois Lerner would choose between

Catholics or Baptists or Lutherans, &c.

Contrast it with the theft that is our current tax system. You have no say in how much they take. They want to crush your hope, work harder and they take more. The FairTax is voluntary, you pay how much you wish.

Al Ose  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Al  
*After laboriously searching the*

*internet for at least 0.012 seconds, we were able to locate the 2008 interview in which Reid made the statement to which you refer. We have to admit, he was asking for trouble when he said it.*

*After spending another 0.012 seconds on The Google, which we will never get back, we found a lucid explanation of the paradox on the website of Jonathan R. Siegel, Professor of Law at George Washington University.*

"[O]ur tax system relies on the individual taxpayer to make the initial determination of how much he or she owes and to file a return showing this amount ... most people fulfill this responsibility without personal, individualized compulsion brought against them by the government. That's what the IRS calls 'voluntary.'"

*You're welcome.*  
The Editor

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## Stop Postal Executives From Destroying Our Postal Service

by Jim Hightower

When a big-name retailer finds its sales in a slow downward spiral, the geniuses in the executive suite often try to keep their profits up by cheapening their product and delivering less to customers.

To see how well this strategy works, look no further than the declining sales at Walmart and McDonald's. When the geniuses in charge of these behemoths applied the cut-back strategy, their

slow decline turned into a perilous nose-dive. You'd think their experience would keep other executives from making the same mistake, but here comes an even bigger — and much more important — retail behemoth saying, "We have to cut to survive."

That's the pronouncement last year by the honcho of the U.S. Postal Service, which has been eliminating employees, closing facilities, and reducing services for years. Each new round of reductions drives away more cus-

tomers, which causes clueless executives to prescribe more cuts. In a January decree, USPS virtually eliminated overnight delivery of first-class mail, and it's now planning to close or consolidate 82 regional mail processing plants. This means fewer workers handling the nation's growing load of mail, creating further delays in delivery. The answer to this, say the slap happy executives, is — guess what? — to cut even more "service" out of postal service. They want to close hun-

dreds of our local post offices and eliminate Saturday mail delivery (which is one of USPS' major competitive advantages).

Fed up with the deliberate degradation of this vital public service, postal workers themselves are putting forth a vision and innovative plan not merely for USPS to survive, but thrive. With more than 70 other national groups, they've forged "A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service." To be part of its actions, go to: *AGrandAlli-*

*ance.org.*

"APWU Asks Union Members to Build Support for Postal Bills," American Postal Workers Union, February 19, 2015, <http://www.apwu.org/news/web-news-article/apwu-asks-union-members-build-support-postal-bills>.

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## A Chance to Dig in Old Dirt

The Old Berwick Historical Society is now accepting applicants for its hands-on summer archaeology opportunity for college and upper level high school students, teachers in need of recertification credits, and history buffs interested in exploring an area with a rich colonial past.

Between June 22 and July 10, Dr. Neill De Paoli will direct excavations on the property of Paula and Harvey Bennett, in the section of town known long ago as Old Fields. The Old Fields dig site is reputed to be the former home, tavern, and garrison of the families of Humphrey and Mary Spencer (c. 1696-1742), and Captain Ichabod Goodwin (1740-1777).

"This is a wonderful hands-on opportunity to dig into the historic past of one of New England's earliest settlements," said De Paoli, whose investigation of the Old Fields site is part of a broader historical and archaeological study of southeastern Maine during the conflict-riven 1690s – 1710s. He has over 35 years of experience as a historical archaeologist, having directed projects in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

The field school participants will learn basic excavation and recording techniques, laboratory procedures and identification of artifacts, and will investigate archaeological features related to the site's homesteads and taverns. The program will be highlighted by field trips to the Counting House Museum, local 17th and 18th century old Berwick landmarks, and weekly films and discussions.

"Participants will continue the search for more archaeological evidence of other structures that were part of the early Spencer homestead, tavern, and garrison complex stone structures unearthed in previous years," De Paoli explained.

Since 2010, archaeologists have been uncovering evidence of the foundations and cellar to the Spencer and Goodwin house and tavern along with the fire that destroyed it in 1794. They have recovered a treasure trove of late 17th and 18th century artifacts left behind by the Spencers, Goodwins, tavern-goers, and the five or more black and Indian slaves owned by Captain Goodwin. Finds included an array of broken English, German, Amer-

ican, and Chinese earthenware, stoneware, and porcelain plates, drinking mugs and tankards, and bowls, and glass wine and case bottles and stemmed drinking glasses that once held food and alcoholic beverages such as cider, ale, wine, gin, and rum enjoyed by family members, tavern clients, and workers.

Five Irish, Spanish, and German coins dating from 1689 to 1727 typified the international currency used by New Englanders during the late 17th and 18th centuries. The discovery of two tiny brass tinkling cones in 2012 presented a somewhat different scenario. Native Americans commonly used these artifacts throughout 17th and 18th century North America to decorate clothing such as blouses, leggings, and pouches. The Spencer-Goodwin house examples could have been lost by Wabanaki Indian visitors, been part of a small stock of trade goods owned by Humphrey Spencer or Captain Ichabod Goodwin, or adorned the clothing of Captain Goodwin's Indian slave Sara John.

The Olds Fields archaeological field school will be held Monday

## Long Time Gone

The boy on the bench on the boardwalk just got back from the war. He watches the waves washing the shore, the shore birds pecking at tiny crabs in the sand or diving for fish in the shallow surf. There was sand where he was, but a long walk to the beach, and the pecking birds were snipers, the diving birds IEDs. Now that he's home, and home isn't home, what will he do with himself? Maybe he'll go to college. Or trade school. Maybe he'll re-enlist. He lifts his gaze to the distant horizon where sea meets sky at the edge of the world. He wonders how far he could swim.

W. D. Ehrhart

through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. from June 22 to July 10. Participants must be at least 17 years old, and may sign up for one or more of the three one-week sessions: June 22-26, June 29-July 3, and July 6-10. Multiple sessions are discounted: one session is \$175, two are \$325, and three are \$475.

To register for the non-credit course, applicants must send a

non-refundable deposit of \$100 to the Old Berwick Historical Society. Checks should be made out to "OBHS" and mailed to: Old Berwick Historical Society, P.O. Box 296, South Berwick, ME 03908.

More information on all the Old Berwick Historical Society's programs is available at [info@oldberwick.org](mailto:info@oldberwick.org), or by calling (207) 384-0000.

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## ADMIRAL FOWLE'S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

| SUNDAY, MAY 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | MONDAY, MAY 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 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| <p><b>2004</b>—Same-sex marriage is legalized in Massachusetts, to the delight of Karl Rove.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—The House Ethics Committee charges that serial groper Bob Packwood (R-OR) fails to meet its own lax standards.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Army veteran and deranged meth addict Shawn Nelson steals a tank from a San Diego Armory and goes on a vehicle crushing rampage before being shot by police.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Thirty-seven sailors die aboard the <i>U.S.S. Stark</i> when the ship is hit by an Exocet missile fired by an Iraqi jet fighter.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—<i>Time</i> quotes Ronald Reagan: "Fascism was really the basis of the New Deal."</p> <p><b>1968</b>—In Catonsville, MD, nine people break into a draft board and burn over 600 files.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—The Supreme Court, getting one right, rules that "separate but equal" education won't do.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—At Madison Square Garden, tens of thousands of Friends of the New Germany rally under a swastika in support of A. Hitler.</p> <p><b>1905</b>—Hiram Cronk, 105, the last veteran of the War of 1812, is buried in Brooklyn, NY.</p> <p><b>1872</b>—Five <i>San Francisco Examiner</i> reporters form the Bohemian Club to "elevate journalism to that place in the popular estimation to which it is entitled." Now reporters are barred.</p>                                      | <p><b>2009</b>—<i>GQ</i> magazine reports that Donald Rumsfeld was in the habit of quoting the Bible when briefing President George W. Bush.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—The 27th Amendment, prohibiting any Congress from raising its own pay, is ratified 202 years after its submission.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—The Rev. Sun Myung Moon is convicted of tax fraud.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Mt. St. Helens cuts loose for the first time in 123 years.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—India successfully tests a nuclear weapon in an operation named Smiling Buddha.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—The pilot of an American B-26 shot down over Indonesia is initially dismissed as a "soldier of fortune," but it's later admitted he was a CIA employee.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—Andrew Kehoe, angry at having to pay taxes to support the Bath, MI school system, blows up the school killing 43 people including 39 grade-schoolers. He then kills his wife, loads his truck with dynamite and nails, and blows up the school superintendent and himself.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—The draft law is enacted.</p> <p><b>1897</b>—Frank Capra is born in Palermo.</p> <p><b>1896</b>—The U.S. Supreme Court rules, in <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i>, that racial segregation is legal.</p> <p><b>1842</b>—In Rhode Island, Dorrites try unsuccessfully to take the state arsenal.</p>                                                                | <p><b>1997</b>—NBC sportscaster Marv Albert is indicted for forcible sodomy and biting a prostitute.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Veep Dan Quayle attempts to pin recent LA riots on TV character "Murphy Brown."</p> <p><b>1964</b>—U.S. diplomats find at least 40 hidden microphones in the U.S. embassy in Moscow.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—In Madison Square Garden, Marilyn Monroe, barely wearing a diaphanous gown, sings "Happy Birthday" to President John F. Kennedy.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—A 15-megaton bomb test in the South Pacific raises radiation levels in the U.S. to 10 times normal.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—U.S. Postmaster General Summerfield OK's a CIA mail-opening project.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—An unexpected wind shift in Nevada sends fallout from our dirtiest nuke test ever, code-named Upshot-Knothole Harry, to the location where Howard Hughes will film <i>The Conqueror</i> one year later.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—In South Amboy, NJ, four ammunition barges carrying 467 tons of ammunition explode killing 30 and injuring 350 more.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Rep. C. Fuller (D-AR) introduces a bill requiring Civil Service employees be able to "sing, write or recite the words to the Star Spangled Banner" from memory.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—Malcolm Little, later "X," is born in Omaha, NE.</p>                                                                 | <p><b>2004</b>—U.S. and Iraqi troops raid the home and offices of Ahmed Chalabi, formerly the neo-cons' most trusted source of Iraqi intelligence.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—Mavis Hutchinson, 53, makes New York City after running across America for 69 days.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—After 11 bloody assaults in 10 days, American troops of the 187th Airborne take Dong Ap Bia at a cost of 70 dead and 372 wounded. "Hamburger Hill" is abandoned sixteen days later.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—George Orwell takes a bullet in the throat while fighting Franco's fascists in Spain.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—Charles Lindbergh takes off from Long Island.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Thomas Edison announces that Americans prefer silent films to talkies.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Henry Ford prints the bogus <i>Protocols of the Elders of Zion</i> in his newspaper, the <i>Dearborn Independent</i>.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—The town of Codell, KS is hit by a tornado.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—The town of Codell, KS is hit by a tornado.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—The town of Codell, KS is hit by a tornado.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—In New York, Jacob German has the honor of receiving the first ticket for speeding—he went over 12 mph.</p> <p><b>1776</b>—Mohawks defeat colonists at the Battle of the Cedars.</p>                                                                      | <p><b>2010</b>—Glenn Beck claims "a good portion" of Americans were glad when FDR died.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The GAO dismisses GOP claims that departing Democrats vandalized the White House.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—U.S. Senate votes to spend \$20 billion and resume full-scale production of nerve gas and other chemical weapons.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—A nuclear-powered light-house goes into operation off the Estonian coast at Tallin.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Students are protesting in West Berlin, Paris, Peking, Berkeley, and New York.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—The U.S. tests an H-bomb over Bikini Island.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Louis Slotin's screwdriver slips, and the same plutonium core that killed Harry Daglian the previous August gives Slotin a lethal burst of radiation.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Humphrey Bogart, 45, marries Lauren Bacall, 20.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Nathan Leopold, 19, and Richard Loeb, 18, murder Robert Franks, 14, for the fun of it.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—Fats Waller comes wailing into this world.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—Shortly before being relieved of the burden of his head by Dr. Guillotin's humane device, Emile Henry says, "<i>Courage, camarade, vive l'anarchie.</i>"</p> <p><b>1823</b>—The 200th anniversary of the settling of Portsmouth is "celebrated with great <i>éclat.</i>"</p> | <p><b>2004</b>—Portsmouth's own Leftist Marching Band makes its debut before a surprised and delighted audience in Market Square.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—George W. Bush is slightly injured falling off a bicycle.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Director Boris Sagal is struck and killed by a helicopter rotor blade while making a film. Sagal had filmed the pilot episode of <i>Combat!</i>, whose star, Vic Morrow, will die the same way in 1982.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—In New York, police arrest nearly 1,000 at occupied Columbia University.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Police and students clash in the Latin Quarter of Paris.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The nuclear sub <i>Scorpion</i>, two nuclear torpedos, and all 99 crew members are lost at sea.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A 10 megaton H-bomb is accidentally dropped near Albuquerque. Its attached parachutes fail to operate. The non-nuclear explosives leave a crater 12 feet deep and 25 across.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—Former Secretary of Defense James Forrestal is ambiguously defenestrated from a 16th floor hospital window.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—<i>Life</i> magazine publishes a photo of an American girl at her desk with a souvenir sent by her boyfriend in the Pacific—the skull of a Japanese soldier.</p> <p><b>1884</b>—Hugh Daily fans 13 for the Chicago Browns pitching with his right hand — the only one he has.</p> | <p><b>2012</b>—At the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, half a billion dollars in damage is done to the <i>U.S.S. Miami</i> by an arson fire set so the culprit could leave work early.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney's deciding vote in the Senate gives the rich a huge tax cut.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports that Rep. Wayne L. Hays (D-OH) has a mistress on his payroll at \$14,000 a year, though she admits she "can't type ... can't file, [and] can't even answer the phone."</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Six hundred National Guardsmen in APCs, backed by a helicopter and a tank, respond to a protest that began over a high school election in Greensboro, NC.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—<i>Reichsführer</i> Heinrich Himmler cheats the hangman.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Squalus</i> sinks off the Isles of Shoals with 59 aboard. Twenty-six die, but, within 40 hours, 33 have been rescued.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—Police in Louisiana ambush and kill Bonnie and Clyde.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—"I wish you all had one neck and that I had my hands on it," serial killer Carl Panzram writes to the Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—In San Francisco, 16 passengers fall out of an exploding dirigible. All survive.</p> <p><b>1832</b>—Samuel Sharpe is hanged for leading Jamaica's 1831 Slave Rebellion. He now adorns the \$50.</p> |
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| SUNDAY, MAY 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         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                 | Wednesday, MAY 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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| <p><b>2001</b>—Senator James Jeffords (R-VT) walks out on the GOP, temporarily shifting the balance of power.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Maryland excuses right-wing harridan Linda Tripp of wire-tap charges, because she was ignorant of the law.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Stephen McCoy, being killed by Texas state employees, has a violent reaction to the drugs. His heaving and thrashing causes a male witness to faint and fall over, knocking over another witness.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—In South Africa, a 22 lb. baby is born.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Hundreds of anti-nuke occupiers are arrested at Seabrook.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Barry Goldwater suggests using nuclear weapons in South Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—R.I.P. Elmore James.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—NASA's Mercury capsule <i>Aurora 7</i> overshoots its intended landing area by 250 miles.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—The first home bomb shelter is shown in Pleasant Hills, PA.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—United Press International is formed.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—<i>Bismark</i> sinks the <i>Hood</i>.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—Beatrice Zimmerman, of Hibbing, MN, has a son, Robert.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—Commander Charles B. Momson leads an effort that rescues 33 surviving crew members of the <i>U.S.S. Squalus</i>.</p> <p><b>1883</b>—The Brooklyn Bridge opens.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—Morse demonstrates the telegraph to Members of Congress.</p> | <p><b>2007</b>—Students and faculty at U. Mass. howl and boo as Andrew Card, George W. Bush's ex-Chief of Staff, gets an honorary degree.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—A Boeing 727 takes off from an Angolan airport without a flight crew or permission to take off. It is never seen again.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Four years after his death, Peter Lawford's ashes are scattered at sea, because none of his children will pay for entombment.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Seven million people hold "Hands Across America," thereby solving the twin problems of hunger and homelessness.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Dan Goodwin climbs the Sears Tower dressed as Spiderman.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—"Capital punishment," says John Spengelink, sitting in "Old Sparky," "them without the capital get the punishment."</p> <p><b>1979</b>—After an engine falls off, American Airlines Flight 191 crashes in Chicago killing 271 on board and 2 on the ground.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—John F. Kennedy promises to put a man on the moon.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—After circling the North Pole, Umberto Nobile's airship <i>Italia</i> crashes northeast of Spitsbergen with 16 aboard. Eight survive, six vanish as the envelope drifts away.</p> <p><b>1787</b>—In Philadelphia, the Constitutional Convention convenes and proceeds to exceed its charter.</p> <p><b>735</b>—The Venerable Bede ceases to accrue venerability.</p> | <p><b>2004</b>—The <i>NY Times</i> admits its pre-war Iraq coverage was "not as rigorous as it should have been."</p> <p><b>1989</b>—In <i>The Wall Street Journal</i>, future Veep J. Danforth Quayle predicts, "We are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy, but that could change."</p> <p><b>1977</b>—George Willig scales the World Trade Center in NYC.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Nixon's "Plumbers" fail to gain entry to Democratic National HQ at the Watergate.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—The destroyer <i>U.S.S. Richard B. Anderson's</i> departure for Vietnam is delayed due to sabotage.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—House Committee on Un-American Activities begins its un-American activities.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Forty Ford thugs beat the living hell out of Walter Reuther and three union colleagues in the "Battle of the Overpass."</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Louis T. "Moondog" Hardin, composer, street musician, and Viking-helmet-wearing blind eccentric, is born.</p> <p><b>1828</b>—The mysterious child called Kaspar Hauser is found wandering the streets of Nuremberg.</p> <p><b>1647</b>—In Hartford, CT, where the State House now stands, Alse Young becomes the first American hanged for witchcraft.</p> <p><b>1637</b>—At Mystic, CT, Captains Mason and Underhill start the Pequot War by burning Pequot forts and killing 600 Indians.</p> | <p><b>1994</b>—Charles Rodman Campbell does his best to dodge it, but Washington State's hangman gets the noose around his neck.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—New York City fines George Willig one cent per floor for climbing the World Trade Center.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Alaska legalizes pot.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Nixon's "Plumbers" again fail to gain entry to Democratic National HQ at the Watergate.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—NBC's <i>Today Show</i> reports straight-faced on the Society for Indecency to Naked Animals' campaign to clothe quadrupeds.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—The British sink the <i>Bismark</i> to the bottom of the sea.</p> <p><b>1940</b>—British troops begin leaving Dunkirk under difficult conditions.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—The Golden Gate Bridge is opened to pedestrians.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—Birth of the arch-fiend Henry Kissinger.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—A plague outbreak hits San Francisco.</p> <p><b>1777</b>—Major Samuel Langdon sets out for Cambridge with four teams hauling gunpowder expropriated from the Crown.</p> <p><b>1702</b>—"I am about to—or I am going to—die," says French grammarian Dominique Bouhours, "either expression is used."</p> <p><b>1541</b>—In the Tower of London, Margaret Pole, 8th Countess of Salisbury, attempts to run from her executioner. After three or four strokes, he prevails.</p> | <p><b>2009</b>—Jonathan Trappe crosses the English Channel suspended from a cluster of 54 multicolored balloons.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The second fiction writer in one month resigns from the <i>NY Times</i>.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—Pakistan announces it has conducted five successful nuclear weapon tests.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Mathias Rust, 19, lands a rented Cessna in Red Square.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Nixon's "Plumbers" finally gain entry to Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate Hotel, but they get busted.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Audie Murphy, most-decorated soldier of World War Two, dies in a plane crash at 45.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Stock market loses \$20 billion in value.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Able and Baker, two monkeys, are launched into space by the U.S. Army.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—"The Ballad of Davy Crockett" is America's #1 song.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—During a ceremony in Saigon, observers see a "white-silver disc-shaped object" flying straight and fast overhead for about two minutes.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—FDR pushes a button in Washington, D.C., opening the Golden Gate Bridge to cars.</p> <p><b>1830</b>—Pres. Andy Jackson decrees all Indians must move west of the Mississippi.</p> <p><b>1653</b>—Strawbery Banke becomes Portsmouth.</p>                                      | <p><b>2008</b>—Sen. (and candidate) John McCain says "Mosul is quiet" on a day when 30 die there.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—FBI head Robert Mueller admits his outfit might have been able to prevent 9/11.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The Bush twins, charged with underage boozing, plead <i>nolo contendere</i>.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—In Gibsonton, FL, Lobster Boy Grady Stiles Jr. is murdered by a hit man hired by his family.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Michael Jackson attempts to buy the Elephant Man's bones.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Charles deGaulle flies to Germany to confer with French generals about bringing 20,000 troops back home to restore order.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary top Everest.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—World War One "Bonus Marchers" begin arriving in Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—U.S. Supreme Court rules that baseball is a sport, not a business, and is therefore exempt from anti-trust laws.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—U.S. forces invade Dominican Republic. They stay until 1926.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—For dancing the "Turkey Trot" on their lunch break, 15 young women are fired by the Curtis Publishing Company.</p> <p><b>1856</b>—Abraham Lincoln delivers his "Lost Speech" — said to be his best ever — in Bloomington, IN.</p> <p><b>1842</b>—A patent for lifting boats is granted to Abraham Lincoln.</p>              | <p><b>2007</b>—Dale Rippey, a 62 year-old Florida resident, is attacked by a rabid 25-pound bobcat. Rippey, a Vietnam veteran, strangles the bobcat with his bare hands.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—About 450 people, most of them Vietnam veterans, are arrested during an anti-war protest on Lexington Green.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Caribbean despot Rafael Trujillo, aka <i>El Jefe</i>, succumbs to a bad case of CIA-supplied M-1 carbines.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Police attack striking workers at Republic Steel in Chicago. Ten are shot dead, 55 are hospitalized, and 30 more are wounded.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Two companies of Marines are shipped to Nicaragua "to protect American interests."</p> <p><b>1909</b>—The National Conference on the Negro convenes, leading to the formation of the NAACP.</p> <p><b>1883</b>—Six days after the Brooklyn Bridge is opened, a panic leads to 12 people being trampled to death.</p> <p><b>1806</b>—Future President Andy Jackson kills a man in a duel.</p> <p><b>1783</b>—America's first daily paper, <i>The Pennsylvania Evening Post</i>, begins publication. It is "a sorry-looking, poverty-stricken sheet," published by a "catchpenny Tory."</p> <p><b>1741</b>—New York, to uphold slavery, burns 13 black men at the stake, and hangs 17 black men, two white men, and two white women involved in planning a slave revolt.</p>                           |
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