

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

That Other Red, White, and Blue

As much as it is a symbol, the Confederate flag is also a symptom — a sign of our national disease. When we're doing poorly, out it comes, in all its racist glory.

Right now we're having a relapse. Band-aids and ointments are being applied here and there. That may not be much, but it is something: at least some of us are admitting that we're sick.

The good news is, there's a tiny ray of hope peeping over the far horizon. It may be — it is — the longest of longshots. But that's no reason not to hope for a cure.

A Previous Relapse

It has been fifty years since that benighted flag drew this much attention.

One-tenth of the nation, having waited for a century, was willing to wait no more. Hundreds of thousands marched on Washington, calling for payment on that promissory note called the Emancipation Proclamation. In terms of the debt owed, they were short-changed. Still and all, progress was made — which was all it took to spark a backlash.

Whites who were unreconstructed bigots — mostly Southern, but not all, as diseases do metastasize — could no longer base their self-esteem on laws which said they were superior.

As Jim Crow declined, the Confederate flag was reborn. It became a banner of contradiction: a source of pride for marginalized whites symbolizing the loss of their power to oppress marginalized blacks.

Hogan's Confederate Heroes

That familiar image — the other red, white, and blue —

has been so ubiquitous for so long that for those under fifty it has always been present. With American culture being what it is, the Southern flag was not necessarily only a racist, redneck symbol. Any country capable of setting a sitcom in a German POW camp can turn a traitor's flag into a fashion accessory.

Meanwhile, the economy evolved. Instead of durable goods, we now ship jobs overseas. People from coast to coast became the modern equivalent of sharecroppers. We're all marginalized now.

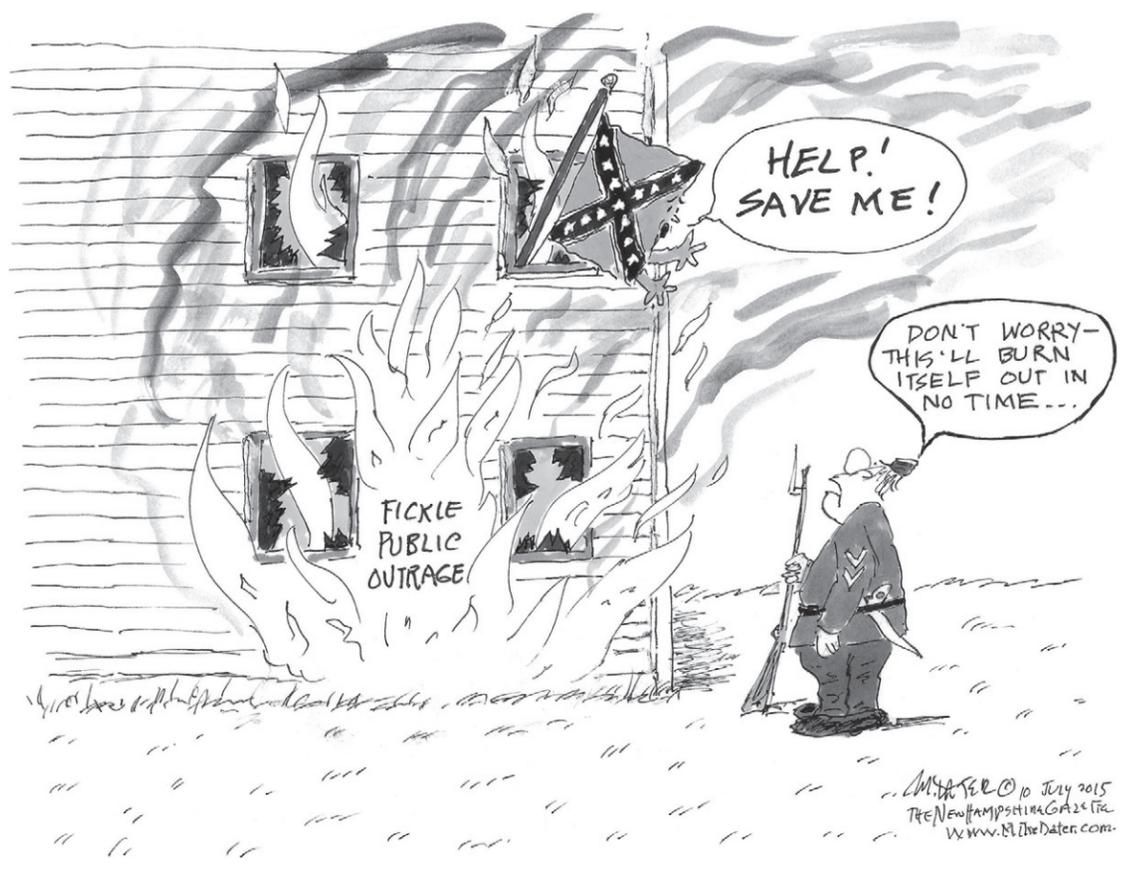
Our National Anti-Appendix

Scientists said a few years ago that they'd finally figured out the appendix. It serves as a little reservoir for beneficial bacteria. When a person has cholera or dysentery, his digestive tract gets de-populated. Once the coast is clear, the good little germs come out from their vermiform hiding place.

The South, which as we've said, has somewhat metastasized by now, acts as the nation's appendix — but in reverse. Whenever the nation starts approaching racial health, by electing a black President, say, or threatening to take down officially-sanctioned Confederate flags, it releases virulent toxins in an attempt to restore our old antebellum balance.

An Uncomfortable Formula

Forgive us, Garrison Keillor, but only half of all Americans are above average. Now consider this: if you include such things as Adam Sandler movies, television shows such as "Housewives of Fill In the Blank," &c., &c.,



it soon becomes clear that this nation spends less on education than it does on its opposite.

We would also argue that there may be a finite limit as to just how much any nation can know. You could even write a formula: population times individual inherent capacity equals X.

Whatever part of X is occupied with nonsense will not be available to ask basic questions such as, why is it such an eternal struggle just to keep my head above water?

What Noble Heritage, Exactly?

After nine black people were shot dead in their church last month, the Governor of their state suddenly become more sensitive to appearances and called for the removal of the Confed-

erate flag from Capitol grounds. If the Governor were a male Caucasian, even a message that nuanced and equivocal would have been fairly bold. Coming as it did from a daughter of Sikhs from Punjab, it bordered on the heroic.

Still, the Governor was careful to say that the flag represented "traditions that are noble," such as "respect, integrity and duty." That's hogwash. The heritage represented by the Confederate flag is that of exercising arbitrary power based on skin color. There's a word for that in post-bellum America: un-American. Forty percent of us are at least partially of German descent. Where are all the Nazi flags?

Flat-out racists may be a mi-

nority among Republicans, but the Party can ill afford to offend them; hence, the careful language.

A Radical and Benign Cure

The Stars and Bars is a powerful symbol of the tragic misuse of power — during slavery, and after. An economy that works for working people is the only thing with the power to change that. If a generation or two of Americans were able to live the American dream, we might develop an immunity to racism — and the demagoguery which protects it.

For once, these issues are on the table in the Presidential campaign. They were put there by the least likely of candidates. He is filling stadiums wherever he goes. Maybe it is time.

The Alleged News®

Panic of the Oligarchs

Since conservatives are deaf to irony, it's up to the rest of us to enjoy this: just prior to Independence Day, three members of the Republican Oligarchy issued a diktat. To no avail it instructed all the Republican presidential candidates, and Party Concierge Reince Priebus, to adhere to the Republican 11th Amendment.

Foster Freiss sent the letter on behalf of himself, casino multi-billionaire Sheldon Adelson, and hereditary rich kid Todd Ricketts, according to the AP. Freiss is a mere half-billionaire, which probably explains why he got stuck with the scut work.

This remedial etiquette lesson was occasioned, of course, by Donald Trump's grand entrance into the Republican race, an event which inspired *The National Review's* best headline ever: "Witless Ape Rides Elevator."

In the comic strip "Peanuts," there's always a cloud of dirt swirling around Pigpen's head. In politics, orbiting around that thing on top of Trump's head — and mixed in with all the boasts, of course — there's always a swirling mass of of insults and vitriol.

Engaging with Trump in these matters is like scratching a poison ivy rash: it only makes things worse.

When Trump referred to Mexican immigrants as a rapey bunch of raping rapers, or words to that effect, J. Edgar "Jeb" Bush, whose wife Columba is a native of Mexico, took offense. Trump's response was to say that Bush "has to like the Mexican illegals because of his wife."

Sen. Ted Cruz [R-Texas], a Hispano-Canadian of Cuban descent, declined to take offense.

He said — coining the best new political phrase of the campaign — that he would not engage in "Republican-on-Republican violence."

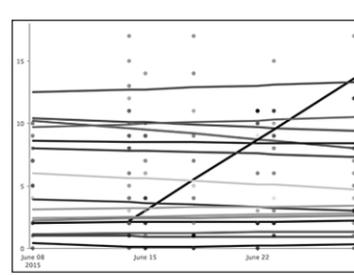
In a rare display of perception, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie said, "I find it ironic, right, that Ted Cruz [who is noted for calling other Republicans "squishes" who make up a "surrender caucus"] is giving lectures on Republican-on-Republican violence. I mean, all due respect, I don't need to be lectured by Ted Cruz."

Republican megadonors like Freiss, Adelson, and Ricketts created the situation that they decry. Their huge pools of cash have insulated their candidates from the rank-and-file Party members they claim to represent. If Republican candidates had to raise campaign funds \$20 at a

time, they would have to be more respectful of each other. But nooooo

Best of all, Trump is perfectly positioned to act as his own megadonor. Even if he's only worth a third of what he claims, he can still afford to bankroll a bang-up campaign.

It doesn't take an M.D. in psychiatry to see what motivates The Donald — as long as his ego is getting stroked, he's in. This chart shows how he's doing so far: he's the diagonal line taking off like a rocket.



Recently it has been revealed that Trump has not voted in a presidential primary election since 1992, did not vote in the 2002 general election, and has donated more money to Democratic candidates than to Republicans.

Trump has promised that if elected he "will be the greatest jobs President that God ever created." Apparently he will not start work until he's sworn in, though. His line of clothing is manufactured in Mexico and China. In fact, even the Trump International Hotel now going up on Pennsylvania Avenue, five blocks from the White House, is being build largely by illegal immigrants, according to the July 6th *Washington Post*.

The Alleged News®

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The Alleged News®
from page one

Only a Pawn in Their Game

We've been tracking a couple of veterans organizations for some time now. On June 29th, the one we trust sent us an email about the other one.

"Our organization, VoteVets, has spent over \$7 million electing progressive veterans during each of the last three election cycles," it said.

"We've been so successful that the Koch Brothers' recently funded an astroturf organization called the 'Concerned Veterans for America' as part of their pledged \$900 million effort to buy the 2016 elections."

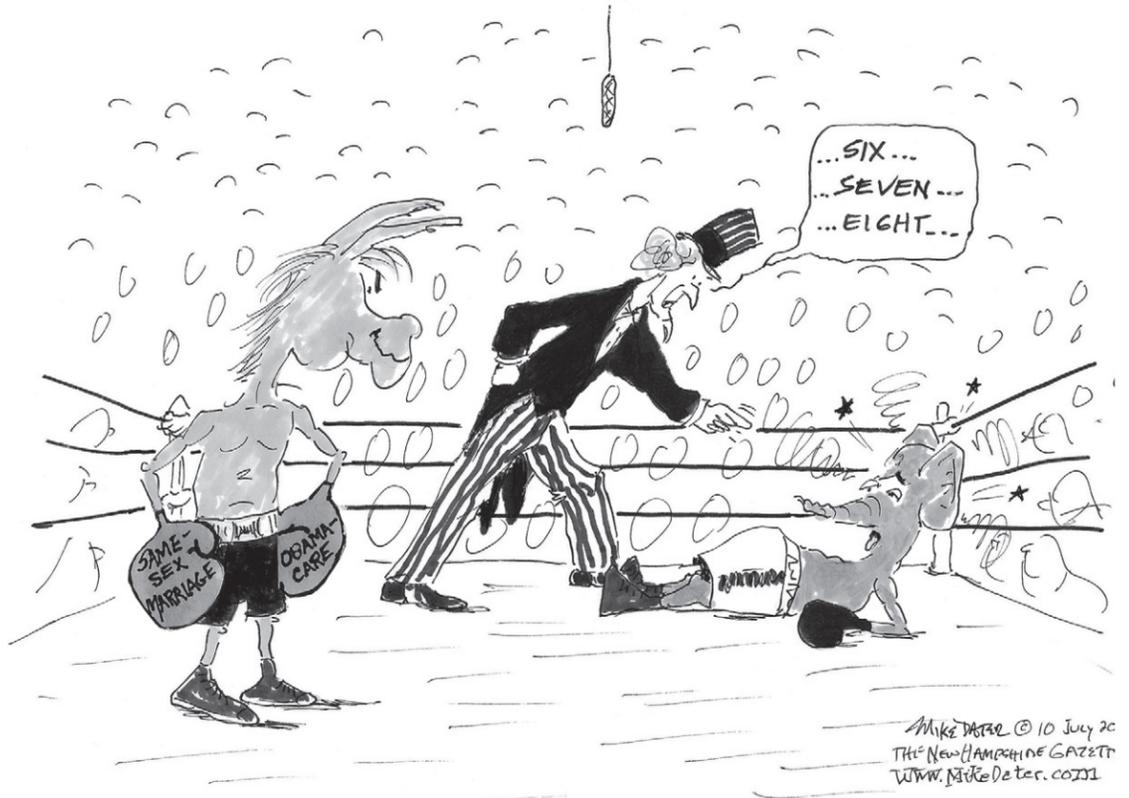
We first became aware of Concerned Veterans for America [CV4A] through the tweets of Al Baldasaro, a former Marine, current State Rep. from Lon-

donderry, and reliable negative indicator. He still supports Frank Guinta, for example. Baldasaro is a big booster of CV4A.

CV4A is, in turn, a big booster of the VA Accountability Act, a bill which would purportedly fix the Veterans Administration. The CEO of CV4A is Pete Hegseth. If that name sounds familiar, perhaps you've seen him on Fox News, where he's a military analyst.

Or, maybe it sounds familiar because last month, while taping a routine ax-throwing segment for Fox, Hegseth missed his target and hit one of the drummers in West Point's Hellcats Marching Band. As "Nightly Show's" host Larry Wilmore put it, "Technically, this is an attack on our military."

The bill Hegseth is backing would not, as one might expect, increase funding levels for the



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Mechanized marauders appeared to be stealing windows from the top floor of the Portsmouth Athenæum on Monday afternoon. We hope the Portsmouth Police Department will read this newspaper and take the appropriate steps.

VA. On the contrary, the Act would increase the power of VA administrators to fire staff and privatize services. Because, remember, Hegseth works for the Kochs, and the Kochs hate unions, and many VA workers belong to unions.

If Hegseth can throw an ax at a West Pointer to entertain goobers watching Fox News, why shouldn't the Koch brothers deprive veterans of health care in order to destroy unions?

NH Budgetary B_____t

The State legislature wrote a budget that included \$90 million in business tax cuts, amounting to more than the combined budgets of the Department of Justice, Resources and Economic

Development, the State Veterans Home, and Environmental Services. Seventy-five percent of the cuts would have gone to just 1.2 percent of the State's businesses.

Governor Hassan vetoed the budget. Republicans, who had engineered the budget so as to bolster Senator Ayotte's prospects in 2016, promptly accused Hassan of doing so for base political motives.

Congressman Frank Guinta's announcement on June 29th that he will run for re-election was greeted with groans from many Republicans, and cheers from Democrats. At this point, the contest boils down to who will win the Democratic primary.

Three days earlier Guinta —

clearly immune to irony's charms — had tweeted that he and his fellow Republicans on the Committee on Financial Services were "committed to abolishing waste, fraud & abuse w/in financial institutions."

Your New Weather

A woman was killed Tuesday at the Big Four Ice Caves, 70 miles northeast of Seattle, when an ice cave collapsed due to the prolonged warm weather in that region. It should come as no surprise.

Seattle just had its warmest winter on record. Also, the first six months of 2015 have been the warmest ever recorded for that city. So far this month, the temperature there has hit 90° five

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times. Since June 2nd, as of Tuesday, there had only been two days of measurable rainfall, for a total of 0.03 inches.

Meanwhile, closer to home, the National Weather Service in Caribou, Maine reported on July 1st, "Its official. The first 6 month of the year (Jan-Jun) were the coldest ever on record at Bangor, Maine!"

Eric Fisher, CBS's Chief Meteorologist in Boston, tweeted on June 30th, "We saw more snow in 1 storm than Anchorage saw their entire 'snow year.'"

The evidence remains: on Tide Street in Boston, there is a "12-foot-high mound of ice-encased trash ... the last vestige of the city's record snowfall," according to the July 6th *New York Times*.

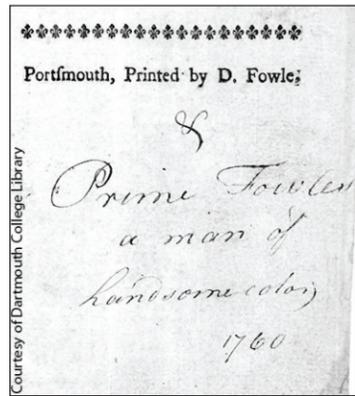
The Primus Admiration Society

The Rauner Special Collections Library houses most of Dartmouth's rare books and manuscripts, as well as the archives of the College. It also maintains a blog. Every few days a new post goes up, featuring some small, curious detail about an item in the collection.

A May 29th post stopped us in our tracks.

Over a small photographic image of some old, familiar-looking type, was a headline containing a very familiar name.

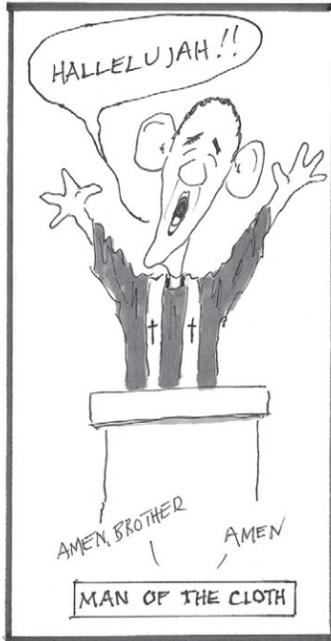
The text of the post began, "Yesterday, while pulling some 18th-century broadsides to show how the popular press functioned, we came across a curious inscription on 'An Account of the Terrible Fire which Happened in Boston' from 1760. After the horrific account, the printer's name is set in type: 'Portsmouth, Printed by D. Fowle.' But under that, written in an 18th-century hand, is '& Prime Fowle a man of handsome color; 1760.'"



Courtesy of Dartmouth College Library



The annual swimsuit edition of Sports Illustrated was invented in 1964 by French-born André Laguerre. The appropriately-named Laguerre had been a liaison to the British Army during the evacuation of Dunkirk, was wounded when his ship hit a mine, and later served on the staff of Charles DeGaulle. No wonder he wanted to liven up Henry Luce's sports magazine — he must have been bored to tears. Recently, in clear violation of the letter and spirit of the Flag Code, the magazine published photographs of Hannah Davis lolling around on a submerged U.S. flag. The Flag Police do not approve, and they doubt whether Laguerre would.



POSSIBLE GIGS AFTER RETIREMENT

Primus: dead these 224 years, and still capable of surprising us.*

Flotsam and Jetsam

The Pirate Party now has three seats in the Icelandic legislature. In polls taken last month, it was the most popular of the nation's six parties.

Maine Governor Paul LePage has endorsed Chris Christie, the Governor of New Jersey, where a man recently caught a South American testicle-eating pacu.

Ceres Bakery will celebrate its 35th Birthday on Saturday, July 18th. Coffee will be free on that day; sass is free every day.

"You know how they have abbreviated names for sections of cities, like "SoHo" in New York?" someone said. "The section of Portsmouth with the huge new buildings should be called "Faux-Po — or FoPo, for short." We thought we'd already named it "Hotel Gulch," but a hard drive search failed to turn up that term.

Condos at the former Olde

Port Traders are now on the market for upwards of \$800K: more affordable housing for millionaires on the sites of run-down furniture stores.

Texas pastor Rick Scarborough, who had promised to set himself on fire if the Supreme Court nixed marriage discrimination, has now reconsidered.

Fox News jabbering head Todd Starnes has attributed the recent record-breaking floods to God's anger over the same ruling.

Starnes' comrade Robert Jeffress, meanwhile, opined that the decision was the "greatest blunder" in the Court's history. Apparently, in his eyes, Dred Scott was correct.

Summing up our coverage of recent Olympian inanity, Bryan Fisher has prophesied that, in the future, "it will eventually be illegal for a Christian who believes in natural marriage to serve in public office."

SoBo History on Display

South Berwick's bicentennial has inspired history exhibits now on view at three locations, the Old Berwick Historical Society [OBHS] informs us:

the Counting House Museum, South Berwick Public Library and Town Hall. Many tales and little-known facts collected since South Berwick's founding in 1814 are in store for the visitor.

In "Main Street, South Berwick: 200 Years of Downtown History," the Society presents highlights in its base facility, the Counting House Museum, located at Main and Liberty Streets. The Counting House is staffed by Historical Society volunteers from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on weekends and other times by appointment. Admission is by donation.

Smaller displays on the town's history, from the 1700s and 1800s, are also on view at South Berwick Public Library and South Berwick Town Hall during their respective regular open hours. All of the exhibits were created by OBHS member Cari Quater from the Society's collection of about 10,000 documents and photographs on local history, and about 1,000 historic objects. More information is available at info@oldberwick.org or (207) 384-0000.

* For the benefit of new readers, Prime, or Primus, as he was more often called, was an enslaved African who served as Daniel Fowle's pressman from about 1751 into the 1780s. For a fuller account of his life, see our paper of May 29th, available online at <http://www.nhgazette.com/?p=5995>.

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Deadly Tally

To the Editor:

The recent mass shooting at the historic AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, again reminds us of the terrible toll taken by deranged people armed with guns. Below is a list of mass killings which occurred in just the past 10 years. (*Los Angeles Times*, 6/18/2015) 9 killed, 7 injured at Red Lake Indian Reservation, Minnesota, Oct. 2, 2006: 5 killed, 5 injured in Nickel Mines, Pa., Feb. 12, 2007: 5 killed, 4 injured in Blacksburg, Va., Dec. 5, 2007: 8 killed, 4 injured in Omaha, Feb. 14, 2008: 5 killed, 16 injured in Dekalb, Ill., April 3, 2009: 13 killed, 4 injured in Binghamton, N.Y., Nov. 5, 2009: 13 killed, 32 injured in Ft. Hood, Texas, Aug. 3, 2010: 8 killed, 2 injured in Manchester, Conn., Jan. 8, 2011: 6 killed, 11 injured in Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 12, 2011: 8 killed, 1 injured in Seal Beach, Calif., April 2, 2012: 7 killed, 3 injured in Oakland, Cal., July 20, 2012: 12 killed, 58 injured in Aurora, Colo., Aug. 5, 2012: 6 killed, 3 injured in Oak Creek, Wis., Sept. 28, 2012: 6 killed, 2 injured in Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 21, 2012: 3 dead, 4 injured in Brookfield, Wis., Dec. 14, 2012: 27 killed, one injured in Newtown, Conn., June 7, 2013: 5 killed in Santa Monica, Cal; Sept. 16, 2013: 13 killed, 3 injured in Washington, D.C., June

18, 2015: 9 dead in Charleston, S.C.

Some among us throw up their hands and say nothing can be done about these slaughters. They will occur no matter what. In this sense, these murders are claimed to be a "normal" part of our lives.

Normal? There is nothing normal about them. They are abnormal acts carried out by deviant individuals. And something can be done about them. Sixty percent of gun purchases undergo background checks by federally-licensed gun dealers to be sure the buyers are neither felons nor mentally unstable persons. That leaves 40 percent of gun purchases occurring without any oversight. That includes handguns bought at gun shows and intrastate transactions taking place on the Internet.

Background check legislation proposes extending background checks to all gun purchases. The idea of universal background checks has been consistently supported in a series of surveys by 80 to 90 percent of New Hampshire residents. Yet, despite widespread public support, both U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte and the state legislature (on two separate occasions) have voted against background checks.

What can you do to bring about change? Vote Senator Ayotte and those in the legislature who oppose sensible gun safety legislation out of office and replace them with supporters of common sense gun regulations. Gun violence in America is a national disgrace. At some point, we must have the resolve to deal with it. That time is now.

Gary Patton
Hampton, NH

Misplaced Pride

To the Editor:
Last week the nation was once

again mourning the murder of nine human beings at the hands of a of a man with a gun full of hate and anger. These events are happening so often in America that we are no longer shocked by their occurrence. As President Obama said, these types of mass murders do not happen in other civilized nations with such frequency as they do here. But, we can be almost 100 percent certain that our spineless Congress will do absolutely nothing to curb this endless gun violence, just as they did nothing following the slaughters at Aurora, Columbine, Sandy Hook, or even the shooting of a member of Congress.

In an sad irony, the murderer in Charleston, SC, was pictured wearing a jacket with the symbols of the South African Afrikaner and Rhodesian flags, both symbols of Apartheid white supremacy, racial segregation, and hate, while the murders took place in a State that still flies the battle flag of the Confederacy on the grounds of its State Capitol. As with the flags of the Afrikaners and Rhodesia, it is a symbol of segregation, white supremacy, treason, human bondage and hate.

The reason given by supporters for the Confederate battle flag flying on the State Capital grounds, is that it represents a symbol of "southern pride," or more honestly stated, white southern pride, since I suspect most African American citizens of South Carolina, many the descendants of slaves, do not look upon it as a symbol of pride. However history does not support this claim. The Confederate battle flag was introduced to the South Carolina State Capital in 1961 as part of the Centennial of the start of the Civil War. It was placed there by the segregationist Dixiecrat legislators in response to the gains in achieving integra-

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL**

tion by the civil rights movement in the south, not a symbol of "southern pride."

Symbols that people or societies display and honor tell us a great deal about the character of these societies and individuals. The symbols worn by the killer in Charleston, certainly tells us a great deal about him and his character and motives. Likewise, the symbol of the Confederate battle flag flying on the South Carolina State Capital grounds tells us a great deal about the society and individuals who allow it to remain there.

The Confederate battle flag flying in South Carolina is also an injustice to the memory of the thousands of Union soldiers who died to save the Union against a rebel insurrection. It also serves as a constant reminder to the large African American community living in South Carolina, of the ugly history of slavery, Jim Crow, and racial segregation.

It is a sad commentary about the State of South Carolina. If this is the best symbol to represent "southern pride" they can display, then they have a serious image and moral problem. If the leaders in South Carolina wish to display a symbol of "southern pride," they can start by removing the Confederate battle flag from the State Capital grounds and replacing it with something more representative of southern hospitality and human dignity.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, NH

Student Loan Repayment

To the Editor:

Today is June 19th. I will not fault you if you've forgotten what occurred on this date two years ago. If you're thinking it was when Kim Kardashian's beaded,

see-through Roberto Gavallis' gown was first revealed, no, that's not it. Give up?

On this date (June 19th, 2013), Paul Singer (a reporter for *USA Today*) exposed a program that allows federal employees and congressional staff to have their college loans paid off by ... guess who? Ah, you got that one right ... you.

After reading Singer's article I spent most of the month of July (2013) calling all 100 U.S. Senators, the entire North Carolina House delegation, and several Congressional members from back home in New England with whom I was familiar.

I then called Paul Singer, apprised him of what I had done and he immediately requested an Op-ed piece for *USA Today* from me within 12 hours. I had it written, emailed and in New York in three.

USA Today refused to print it and the issue was promptly dropped by national media and therefore banished from the American psyche to the eternal relief (I am sure) of our congressmen and women.

Briefly, this is what I gleaned from my effort two years ago. The scheme is called the "Student Loan Repayment Program #5379." It was established in 1990 under the George H.W. Bush Administration but not implemented until 2000 when first employed by federal agencies. The U.S. Senate started using it in 2002, the House in 2003. It's been a carefully guarded government perk ever since.

I assure you this is a strictly bipartisan issue, an equal number of Republicans and Democrats in the U.S. Senate admitted to using the program (nine and nine), and an equal number said they didn't

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And Other Correspondence

(six and six). The remaining 70 or so denied any knowledge of the program (including staff of both North Carolina senators and the majority of 13 North Carolina Congress critters).

No need for further details, I will end this letter exactly as I ended the one I wrote two years ago. This government perk (like so many others) is an insult, a shameless and offensive act knowingly perpetrated against your children and grandchildren and mine and every American worker and taxpayer. You should be outraged that during this time of escalating college costs and a continuing massive national debt that our elected so-called "representatives" would continue the unconscionable funding of this program.

In 2011 alone, you spent almost \$72 million paying off student loans for 10,134 federal employees who are unrelated to you. This is a glaring and a grave injustice. So I ask. How long are you going to tolerate this obscene and perverse misuse of your money before you take some kind of responsible action to try and stop it?

David L. Snell
Franklin, NC
David:

We looked into this. It seems a tempest in a teapot. The sums involved are trifling in the greater scheme of things. Furthermore, many of those who benefit are veterans performing useful work. And, frankly, we're pretty leery of hair-on-fire alarmism coming from a billionaire whose day job is managing his own hedge fund.

The Editor

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Guinta's Bogus Claim

To the Editor:

Congressman Frank Guinta sent out an email claiming that

Obamacare (the Affordable Care Act) caused premiums to rise by \$4,000. He referenced a piece by the Kaiser Family Foundation. The piece actually said that premiums had risen by 4 percent and the employees' average share of a family plan would be \$4,316. They were \$3997 in 2010 when the ACA was passed.

I then looked at the Kaiser Foundation's graph of health insurance premiums from 2001 through 2014. From 2001 through 2008, under President Bush, premiums rose 75 percent for single plans and 79 percent for family plans. From 2009 through 2015, under President Obama, premiums rose by 28 percent for single plans and 22 percent for family plans.

The Republican Party has been campaigning for six years for the return of out-of-control health care inflation and taking coverage away from six million low income people who gained it under the ACA. If you long for those days, Frank Guinta, Kelly Ayotte and the candidates running for President in their party hope to make your dream come true.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth NH

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Chutzpah on the Court

To the Editor:

Call it gall; call it chutzpah. The arrogance of Supreme Court Justice Roberts decrying the gay marriage decision as "five lawyers have closed the debate and enacted their own vision of marriage as a matter of constitutional law" diminishes all previous examples of hypocrisy. This is the Supreme Court that appointed George W. Bush president by stopping the vote counting in Florida, which when unofficially completed actually tallied Gore the majority of votes, amounting to a

half-million majority nationally. With the *Bush v Gore* decision, the Supreme Court Justices really did undermine our democracy, and enabled a presidency that executed the worst foreign policy blunder in our history and the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression.

Justice Roberts expresses "serious concerns that the Court had extended its role from constitutional enforcer to activist," yet he himself took the initiative to bring *Citizens United* to the bench. That decision turned our electoral system into legalized bribery, and surely ranks in all-time hypocritical chutzpah as well. Do these Justices even hear what they are saying?

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA

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Laudable If True

To the Editor:

Congressman Frank Guinta recently touted his amendment to the Interior Appropriations Act (HR 2822) to increase funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Certainly an accomplishment worth touting — if it actually had been an accomplishment. Alas, it was more of what we've come to expect from Mr. Guinta — a continuing effort to bamboozle and trick us. In short, another lie.

To explain, Mr. Guinta offered an amendment to increase funding for land acquisition by \$16 million offset by reductions elsewhere. Four minutes later he withdrew it. Why? Because Congressman Ken Calvert (R-CA), chair of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, opposed the amendment, objecting that "this amendment might leave advocates on both sides of the aisle with some difficult and unnecessary choices." Mr. Calvert offered to work with him during the conference process, and so Mr. Guinta agreed to withdraw

it.

Conference outcomes are notoriously uncertain, and the Senate often obstructs even amendments that pass the House, let alone withdrawn amendments. So this is nothing to brag about. In fact it's nothing at all. It's sleight of hand, hot air, smoke and mirrors — all part of a ploy by unfrank Guinta to seem effective.

The pattern of lies continues. Guinta was found in violation of campaign finance laws, but lied about it for five years, claiming to have been found compliant, and now he tries to take credit for a withdrawn amendment. We can't trust a word he says. Mr. Guinta should do us all a favor and resign.

Susan Mayer
Lee, NH

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Representing the GOP Base

To the Editor:

Wasn't it just a little peculiar that Senator Kelly Ayotte would describe Donald Trump's entrance into the Republican presidential nominee sweepstakes as a "positive thing"? I suppose she did not want to run the risk of alienating herself from the potential 2016 Republican Presidential nominee and, consequently, from possible selection as his running mate, considering Trump just ranked #2 among the 14 declared Republican candidates in New Hampshire and national polls.

It is perfectly understandable why the Republican leadership is getting nervous and doesn't view Trump's candidacy in the same favorable light that Senator Ayotte does. I just caught a sound snippet of Ari Fleischer, President G.W. Bush's former press secretary saying, "Donald Trump is like watching a roadside accident. Everybody pulls over to see the mess. And Trump thinks that's entertainment. But running



for President is serious. And the risk for the party is he tarnishes everybody." Mitt Romney's former deputy campaign manager, Katie Packer Gage, stated, "The challenge with somebody like him is that when you're running in these races, there's sort of an assumption that you're racing with professionals. He makes up facts. It's a challenge because he's very unpredictable."

Fox "News" political commentator and operative Karl Rove, the principal creator of the GOP voting base (comprised of individuals who are persuaded to vote diametrically opposed to their enlightened self-interest and the very wealthy who enjoy a symbiotic quid pro quo relationship with the GOP to maintain or enhance the status quo at the expense of the former), had stuff to say about Trump that wouldn't be fit for print.

I agree with Senator Ayotte, for very different reasons, that Trump's candidacy is a "positive thing." All one need do is watch the video footage of Donald Trump announcing his candidacy, and be only slightly familiar with his biography, to see why the GOP base identifies so well with the man, who is an amalgamation of all the elements of that base; hence, making him the Republican I most hope to see, ex-

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Zach Dundas

The Great Detective: the Amazing Rise and Immortal Life of Sherlock Holmes

What is it about Arthur Conan Doyle's peculiar creation that continues to fascinate us? Journalist and lifelong Sherlock fan Zach Dundas set out to find the answer.

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The Northcountry Chronicle

The Custer Post, At Century's End

by William Marvel

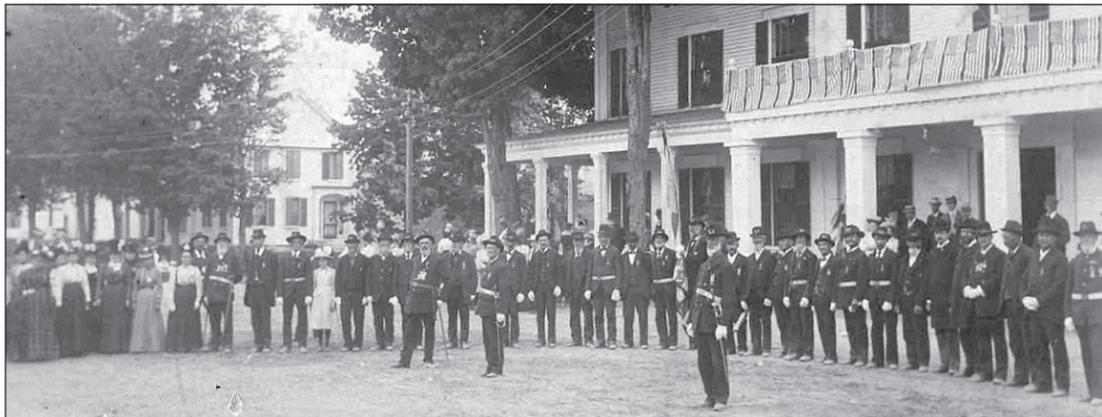
A dozen decades ago, before national holidays became just another opportunity to sell trinkets to suckers, the whole town would turn out for patriotic holidays. Stores closed, traffic dwindled to nothing, and everyone awaited the parade, which was usually headed by the Civil War veterans from the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The GAR was founded soon after the war, originally as a clandestine Republican political club, but that partisan spirit was nearly its death knell. By the early 1870s membership was plummeting, and interest only revived when the organization reinvented itself as a fraternal order promoting the spirit of self-sufficient independence that most veterans claimed to represent. In the 1880s they abandoned that image of self-reliance and started lobbying for service pensions, even for those who served only brief enlistments, but they still offered themselves as representatives of the ultimate patriotism. With a full generation lapsing between wars, they had no competition in that line.

Most GAR posts were named

for either a famous Union general or a conspicuous local citizen who had died in the war. The only Conway native who fit the latter description was Captain Charles Cloutman, who was killed at Fort Donelson commanding a company in the 2nd Iowa, but he had left Conway in 1848. Hardly anyone remembered him when a couple of dozen Conway residents chartered GAR Post Number 46 in Conway on September 26, 1879, but they all remembered the death of George Armstrong Custer three years before, so they chose his name.

The Conway men who had enlisted early in the war had seen the worst of it, and many of them had never come home, while at least as many left town for greener pastures after they did return. The only charter members of the Custer Post who had enlisted from Conway were ten veterans of the 18th New Hampshire, who had all enlisted in the last six months of the war for hefty bounties and relatively safe service. The others all came here from elsewhere, including two or three who had seen plenty of action. Benjamin F. Clark, who ran the spool mill, had lost an eye at Antietam with the 15th



Massachusetts. Orrin Robertson, an Eaton native who operated a store on Washington Street, had been with the 7th New Hampshire in 1864 at Olustee, Florida, where he was wounded in the leg, hip, and both arms; he limped thereafter, and never regained the use of his right arm.

Newcomers joined the Custer Post periodically, and others dropped out or were "dismissed" for nonpayment of dues. Membership never exceeded a few dozen even in the post's heyday, but well into the 20th century they maintained a hall above Thom's store — the future National Red & White grocery store and UpperCrust Restaurant.

The post turned out in force every Memorial Day and Fourth of July. In this photo, taken at the head of Washington Street,

midsummer foliage and a profusion of flags on the balcony of the Conway House peg this as a Fourth of July celebration. The flags all bear 45 stars, which dates the image between 1896 and 1908. In the foreground stand the post officers, and the one on the left with the withered right arm and cane is undoubtedly Orrin Robertson. Alongside his GAR ribbon he is wearing the Gillmore Medal, which he earned July 18, 1863, in the attack on Battery Wagner. That was where the black 54th Massachusetts made its celebrated first assault, but the 7th New Hampshire tallied the worst casualties in that battle — including Corporal Robertson, who suffered his first wound there. Robertson died May 23, 1904, which further reduces the vintage of the

photo to 1903.

No member of the Custer Post was born before after 1848, yet three veterans in the picture don't seem as old as 50, while even the youngest volunteers from the last days of the war would have been that old by the end of the century. Considering all that, this photo was probably taken in the late 1890s. The big watering trough that stood at the Four Corners is still faintly visible at left, just above the Ladies Auxiliary. Another four or five years would pass before automobiles started sputtering through that intersection, frightening horses and making obnoxious noises. James Thurston, the last survivor of the veterans pictured here, died in 1928, and by then such a mid-street pose would have been a risky venture.

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

posed front and center, forced to debate real issues with the next U.S. President, Bernie Sanders.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, NH

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A Trump Cabinet

To the Editor:

Over here at the Independent Research Academy we've been eagerly awaiting the advent of

Donald Trump's campaign for President of the United States. Our staff has intercepted a leak of some of Mr. Trump's prospective Cabinet nominees. We find that his selections are good indications of his values and political acumen. His first choices; for Defense, Hulk Hogan, For State Department, Ronald McDonald, at Health and Hu-

man services, Dr. Ruth. Nominnee for Energy secretary will be T. Boone Pickens with Bernard Madoff at Treasury. His pick for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs is rumored to be Colonel Sanders. I guess his advisors haven't told him. One interesting side issue here is the George Pataki seems to have moved up slightly in the polls. You heard it here first. Re-

spectfully,

Ray Meyerbach, President, Independent Research Academy
Portsmouth, NH

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Our Choice

To the Editor:

What kind of a society do we want to live in? Here in America most of us would say one with equal opportunity and fairness

for all. Do we have that?

Consider the poor in our country. Were they born with the same advantages and opportunities as the rest of us? We have opposing points of view about that: (1) yes, they are just lazy, don't take responsibility, make bad decisions and being poor is their own fault; or (2) no, they didn't have a stable childhood

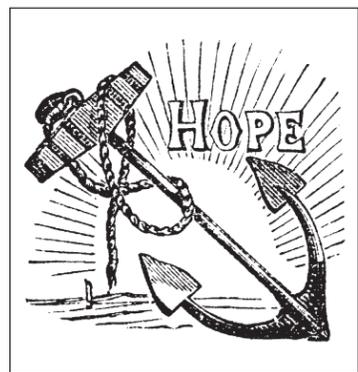
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Why Does The GOP Hate Poor People?

by Jim Hightower

As you might imagine, being poor means a life of sacrifices, frustrations, depression, and constant struggle. So what is it about Republican office holders that cause them to go out of their way to make poor people's lives even harder?

GOP governors, congresscritters, and other officials perniciously insist that access to

food stamps and other public assistance must be as burdensome and humiliating as possible. The latest example comes from the two Republican members of the Federal Communications Commission, which intends to expand a public subsidy called "Lifeline," extending broadband internet service to all poor households.

Universal access to the web is touted as essential to America's educational advancement and

global competitiveness. Also, some 70 percent of teachers now assign homework requiring every student to do online searches. So our national interest and simple fairness say everyone should be able to connect. Yet — even though Lifeline was started in 1985 by the Republican saint, Ronald Reagan — the two FCC Republicans voted "no" on extending his sensible idea.

Luckily, they were outvoted,

but they then demanded a requirement that poor families must publicly reveal that they are poor. The two Scrooges are subjecting these families to a daunting and humiliating bureaucratic process, which will prevent many kids from getting the internet access that everyone needs for education success.

Come on — the "subsidy" they're wailing about is a mere \$9.25 a month. Compare that to

the billions of dollars of fraud in the Pentagon budget, which Republicans approve without questioning! What is this sour, dark smudge on the souls of GOP officials that leads them to demean poor people, preventing them and our society from reaching our fullest potential? It's stupid ... and it's shameful.

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environment, community support systems, good health care or quality education and thus didn't have a fair chance.

In Sunday's *Portsmouth Herald* Kate Murray had an interesting column about shifting your point of view to understand and learn from opposing ideas. Her mother's method of handling sibling squabbles fairly by having one child divide the contested item and the other having first choice of which piece to take reminded me of John Rawls' theory of justice.

Rawls wonders what societal structure would be developed by persons in what he calls the original position: the state in which no one knows what place he or she would occupy in the society to be created. If you didn't know whether you would be male or female, black or white, rich or poor, healthy or unhealthy, old or young, gay or straight, etc., what kind of social contract would you embrace to insure equality of opportunity and fairness?

It's a theory, a mental construct, but still an intriguing idea and perhaps a path to understanding and empathizing with others, especially children, who cannot choose the circumstances of their birth.

What kind of society do we

want children to live in?

Cynthia Muse
Rye, NH

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### Chumps for Trump

To The Editor:

A warning to "Granite Staters"! Don't be branded a chump by supporting Donald Trump for President. Amazingly, in a recent New Hampshire poll "The Donald" came in second among Republican candidates for the office.

Do you really want to join the "Chumps for Trump"? By definition a chump is: a dupe, a sap, a mark, a sucker. Exactly what Trump thinks of everyone but himself. Don't be drawn in by his bombast and pomposity, it can be an addictive spectacle.

Trump, is a human cartoon, a proven liar and cheat not to mention a world class blowhard and egotist. His vicious verbosity proves he is a bigot and chauvinist with the diplomatic skills of a rabid wolverine and the integrity of a snake.

Yet there seem to be people here in down-to-earth New Hampshire who believe his non-stop self-promotion and publicity stunt. Maybe they are just hoping to extend the farce and see him eventually self-destruct?

If you measure business ac-

men by how many times one declares bankruptcy and stiffes his investors, then Trump is as good as he says. He is also a great job creator for the "fact checker" sector, spewing twisted, exaggerated and completely false statements every time he opens his mouth.

His recent display of verbal diarrhea billed as his campaign announcement boarded on logical incoherence. He contradicts himself consistently and makes cause and effect statements that make no sense. If one pays attention you will see that he never finishes a thought or completes a proper sentence. One must wonder about his ability to focus on anything besides himself.

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion but please reconsider falling for Trump's charade. You will be embarrassing the entire state of New Hampshire if you help him extend his ego trip.

Dave Potter  
North Hampton, NH

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A Reasonable Suggestion

To the Editor:

Just thinking out loud — to make the Republican TV debates even more viewable, perhaps one round could be staged with contestants in swimsuits?

David Severn
Portsmouth, NH

David:

If Trump is going to be on the stage, that would seem appropriate. Sauce for the goose, and all that.

The Editor

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### The NH Rebellion Question

To the Editor:

Had I not committed myself to work the second shift on Independence Day, I certainly would have liked to have participated in the NH Rebellion's successful "Walk for Independence (from big money politics)." I was certainly with the rebellion in spirit as I did bicycle to work from Dover to Portsmouth (24 miles roundtrip), as I frequently do, and gave a lot of thought to the meaning of Independence Day, the NH Rebellion (inspired by the many signs on front lawns), and pothole filled streets, which served as the basis for this letter.

Having met individuals from the NH Rebellion and having read the movement's charter, I know the rebellion to be "a grassroots movement of citizens" with the noble mission of "uniting to stop the corruption of big money politics — so the people's voice is heard."

The members of the movement have told me that a question all members of the NH Rebellion will ask every 2016

presidential candidate is, "What specific reforms will you advance to end the corrupting influence of money in politics?" I have listened very carefully to all 14 (with the list growing daily) of the declared Republican candidates and the four Democrats and will tell you with confidence that Senator Bernie Sanders (Independent Vermont) is the only candidate honestly taking on the issue of corrupting dark money and with credibility in doing so.

Bernie, who refuses to beg for money from or be beholden to billionaires, has made his disdain for the Supreme Court Citizens United ruling well known and, while in the Senate, has played an integral role in all efforts to overturn the decision that is singly most responsible for undermining our democracy through corrupt money from wealthy contributors. I have personally heard him say in front of very large crowds of supporters, in response to questions similar to that of the NH Rebellion, "If elected president, I will have a litmus test in terms of my nominee to be a Supreme Court justice and that nominee will say that they are going to overturn this disastrous Supreme Court decision."

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, NH

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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 moving 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 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        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| <p><b>1982</b>—The Federal Emergency Management Agency pledges that, in the event of a nuclear war, the mail will get through.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—A fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO destroys the only copy of the service records of 16 to 18 million Army and Air Force veterans.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—In Pennsylvania, a garbage dump fire spreads to a coal mine where it will burn for more than twenty years.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Armed vigilantes in Bisbee, AZ round up striking copper miners, herd them into cattle cars, take them east into New Mexico, and abandon them in the desert without food or water.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Lyudmila Pavlichenko is born in the Ukraine. As a Red Army sniper, she kills over 300 Nazis during WW II and becomes the first Soviet citizen welcomed to the White House.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—Birth of Milton Berle, the first American transvestite to have his own television show.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—The Pennsylvania militia wins the battle against striking Homestead steelworkers.</p> <p><b>1836</b>—In Cincinnati, a pro-slavery mob destroys type used by James Burney to print his abolitionist paper, <i>The Philanthropist</i>.</p> <p><b>1834</b>—Botanist David Douglas of the eponymous fir is trampled by wild bulls in a Hawaiian pit trap.</p>                                                  | <p><b>2008</b>—A remote outpost in Wanat is attacked by 200-500 Al Qaeda and Taliban. Of 48 U.S. soldiers, 9 are KIA and 27 are WIA; of 24 Afghan soldiers, just 4 are WIA.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—Sen. Bob Smith (R-NH) drops out of the Presidential race, and the Republican Party to boot, to run as an Independent.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Warren Rudman tells Ollie North during the Iran-Contra hearings, "The American people have the constitutional right to be wrong."</p> <p><b>1959</b>—A sodium-cooled nuclear reactor in Simi Valley, CA has a partial meltdown, releasing 300 times more radiation than Three Mile Island, a fact kept secret for 20 years.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—A B-50 Superfortress crashes in Lebanon, OH, killing its crew of 16. The fissile core of the nuclear weapon on board not being installed, the crater made by its high explosives was only 25 feet deep.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Israeli troops drive 70,000 Palestinians from their homes in Lydda and Ramleth.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Student Alexander Schmorell and Professor Kurt Huber, co-conspirators in the anti-Nazi pamphleteering group White Rose, are guillotined in Munich.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—A New York mob, enraged by draft laws exempting the rich and egged on by Democrats, go on a three-day rampage, leveling whole blocks and attacking Greeley's pro-Union <i>New York Tribune</i>.</p> | <p><b>2004</b>—Senate Republicans try to ban gay marriage via Constitutional amendment but just can't seem to rise to the occasion.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—During filming of <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>, a rigging error drops a \$540,000 movie camera into a huge vat of chocolate.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—A syndicated column written by Robert "The Reptile" Novak reveals the identity of Valerie Plame, a covert CIA agent.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—A Florida jury orders five tobacco companies to pay \$145 billion in damages. An appeals court later lets them off the hook.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—A derailed tanker car full of pesticide spills into the Sacramento River killing 100,000 trout.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Alabama tries twice, 19 minutes apart, to electrocute Horace F. Dunkins, who's black and developmentally-disabled. The first try fails because the chair is wired wrong.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Oliver North's testimony before Congress ends; perhaps he's out of lies.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Bob Haldeman informs Tom Huston that Richard Nixon has approved his despicable Plan.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—An important show trial ends as planned in Massachusetts: Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are found guilty.</p> <p><b>1791</b>—In Lausanne, Vevey, and Rolle, Switzerland, citizens celebrate the liberation of the Bastille, shouting "Live free or die."</p> | <p><b>1995</b>—A weather phenomenon called a derecho (a mesoscale convective complex) sends hurricane force winds through New York and New England, toppling thousands of trees and killing three people.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Jimmy Carter delivers his "malaise" speech, in which the word "malaise" does not appear.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—In Florida, on live TV, newsreader Christine Chubbuck pulls a loaded pistol from a shopping bag and shoots herself dead.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The Republican Party saddles itself with Barry Goldwater as a presidential candidate.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—The then-honestly-named War Department calls 337,000 Americans draft dodgers.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—President John W. Garrett, of the B &amp; O Railroad, gives his shareholders a 10% dividend and his workers a 10% pay cut.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—Beach-goers in Rye, NH observe an optical illusion making the Isles of Shoals appear to be only a mile or two offshore.</p> <p><b>1779</b>—Troops under General "Mad Anthony" Wayne take Stony Point—and 700 prisoners—with a bayonet charge.</p> <p><b>1685</b>—Executioner Jack Ketch eventually beheads the Duke of Monmouth, after eight ax blows.</p> <p><b>1381</b>—Lollard preacher John Ball, for inspiring the Peasants' Revolt, is hanged, drawn, and quartered as Richard II looks on with approval.</p>                                                                        | <p><b>1995</b>—RIP May Sarton.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—Fragments of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 crash into Saturn.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—A dam, badly built on shaky ground, collapses in Church Rock, NM, spilling 1,100 tons of radioactive mill waste, 93 million gallons of effluent, and as much radioactivity as Three Mile Island.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Al Butterfield reveals he's been bugging the Oval office at the behest of The Man himself.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—<i>Apollo 11</i> blasts off, next stop: the Moon.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—In NYC, Tom Cornell and Chris Kearns stage the first anti-Vietnam War demonstration.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Shortly after takeoff from Macao, a Catalina seaplane becomes the first commercial flight ever hijacked. It crashes. Sole survivor Wong Fu, a hijacker, is released due to jurisdictional difficulties.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The Atomic Age begins with a bang at Alamogordo, NM.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—Workers in San Francisco conduct a four-day General Strike.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—In Vancouver, President Harding urges Canadians to "live long and prosper."</p> <p><b>1877</b>—B &amp; O Railroad firemen in Martinsburg, WV strike in response to wage cuts.</p> <p><b>1858</b>—The better to resist the allure of prostitutes, Thomas P. "Boston" Corbett castrates himself with a pair of scissors. Seven years later he will kill John Wilkes Booth.</p>                              | <p><b>2010</b>—Glenn Beck fan Byron Williams, on his way to start a revolution by attacking The Tides Foundation and the ACLU, shoots it out with California Highway Patrol instead. Williams loses.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The FBI announces that it can't find 449 firearms and 184 laptop computers, including one holding classified data.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Flight 800 spontaneously explodes off Long Island. Right.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Art Sylvester, an American official in Saigon, tells Morley Safer "if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you're stupid."</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Twenty-six minutes after a small atomic bomb is tested in Nevada, a company of men from the Fourth Infantry Division marches through the blast zone.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Lightning ignites a huge mine placed near Ypres in 1916. A cow is killed.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Two munitions ships explode at Port Chicago, CA killing 322, mostly black bomb handlers.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Partying with Mexican Revolution veterans, President Alvaro Obregon tells strolling caricaturist Leon Toral, "Make sure you make me look good." Toral says, "I will," and shoots him dead.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Gov. Henry Mathews calls out a local militia company to suppress the Martinsburg, WV railroad strike. It sides with strikers, instead.</p> | <p><b>1985</b>—Doped up after cancer surgery five days earlier, Ronald Reagan OKs sending arms to Iran.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—James O. Huberty tells his wife he's "going to hunt humans," then kills 21 and wounds 19 at a San Diego McDonald's. A SWAT team sniper kills Huberty. His widow unsuccessfully sues McDonalds for poisoning his mind with MSG.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Norman Mailer's protege Jack Abbott, on work release after a stretch for bank robbery, stabs a man to death in the East Village.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Senator Ted Kennedy gives Mary Jo Kopechne a ride part of the way home from a party, takes a swim, then a nap.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Harlem riots after cops kill an unarmed 15-year-old.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Ordered by <i>der Führer</i> to kill a fly, aide Fritz Darges suggests since the pest is airborne a Luftwaffe adjutant ought to do the job. Hitler immediately banishes Darges to the Eastern Front.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—Hunter S. Thompson is born, Louisville, KY.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan lands in Ireland after an unauthorized trans-Atlantic flight.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—H.L. Mencken is nearly run out of Dayton, TN on a rail by its pious Christian inhabitants.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Governor Henry Mathews of West Virginia pleads for U.S. Marines to suppress the B &amp; O railroad strike.</p> |
| 8:54      9:15<br>2:37      2:48                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       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| SUNDAY, JULY 19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        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                               | Wednesday, JULY 22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      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                                                                                                                   | SATURDAY, JULY 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   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| <p><b>2011</b>—Wendi Murdoch deftly deflects a pie aimed at her husband Rupert, as he's being grilled about phone-hacking by Parliament.</p> <p><b>2010</b>—Terrified by a malignantly-edited YouTube clip, Sec. of Ag. Tom Vilsack has USDA employee Shirley Sherrod pulled over by the side of the road and fired.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Deputy Chairman of the British Conservative party Lord Jeffrey Archer is convicted of perjury and sentenced to 4 years.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—Dining with reporters in the Capitol, Sen. Howell Heflin (D-AL) pulls what he thinks is a hankie from his pocket, and wipes his nose with a pair of panties.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—South Africa's government admits it paid Zulus to undermine the African National Congress.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Concord, N.H. teacher Christa McAuliffe is chosen to be first "Teacher in Space."</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Sandinistas march triumphantly into Managua.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—John Fairfax completes the first solo cross-Atlantic row.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A two-kiloton nuclear warhead carried by an air-to-air missile explodes 18,000 feet above five Air Force volunteers at Yucca Flats.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—German U-boats quit the U.S. Atlantic coast due to effective counter-measures.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—At the first Women's Rights convention held at Seneca Falls, NY, "Bloomers" are introduced.</p> | <p><b>2002</b>—The FBI arrests three former NASA interns for stealing a 600 lb. safe holding moon rocks.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—A review finds that U.S. air strikes in Afghanistan have killed as many as 400 civilians.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Lori Klausutis, 28, a Congressional aide, is found dead in the Fort Walton Beach office of Rep. Joe Scarborough (R-FL).</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Pres. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush calls for a manned mission to Mars. His farcical notion is quickly laughed off.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Mel Fisher begins hauling \$400,000,000 worth of gold off the ocean floor near Key West, FL, where it had lain for 363 years.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Famed runner and fitness guru Jim Fixx, age 52, dies of a heart attack while jogging.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Martial artist and fitness fanatic Bruce Lee, age 32, dies in Hong Kong.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Neil Armstrong takes a walk on the moon.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—A scheduled election intended to reunify Vietnam is blocked by the South. The Eisenhower administration concurs.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Harry Truman kicks off the U.S.'s first peacetime draft.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—German generals try but fail to kill Hitler with a bomb.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—The B &amp; O Railroad strike spreads to Maryland, where workers threaten to blow up bridges and run trains into rivers.</p>                    | <p><b>2007</b>—George W. Bush invokes the 25th Amendment, making Dick "Dick" Cheney President while Bush's colon is inspected.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Long-time Texas voter Dick "Dick" Cheney registers in Wyoming to evade election laws.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The FBI and ATF are cleared of wrongdoing in the 1993 Waco, TX siege which left 80 religious fanatics dead.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—AT&amp;T gives the GOP \$400,000 for its 1972 convention — and dodges an anti-trust beef.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Geneva Accords free Vietnam from French colonial rule; the U.S. steps in to preserve disorder.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—A Canadian Pacific DC-10 leaves Vancouver for Anchorage with 37 on board and disappears.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Tuffi, a young elephant, becomes agitated while riding an elevated train, breaks through a window, and falls into a river in Germany. She survives.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—A burning dirigible crashes through the glass skylight of a Chicago bank killing 13.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—The German sub <i>U-156</i> lands a few shells on the beach at Orleans, MA while shelling and sinking the tug <i>Perrin Amboy</i> — the first time the U.S. mainland has been attacked since 1812.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Pittsburgh militia bayonet and shoot railroad strikers (20 die). Surviving strikers burn 39 buildings and wreck 104 locomotives.</p>                    | <p><b>2003</b>—In Mosul, Iraq, U.S. troops kill the Hussein brothers.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—"I know what I believe," says G.W. Bush. "I will continue to articulate what I believe and what I believe — I believe what I believe is right."</p> <p><b>1991</b>—Milwaukee police arrest Jeffrey Dahmer, the cannibal.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Owen J. Quinn parachutes from the top of the South Tower of New York's World Trade Center.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—More than 600 young Moonies begin a three-day fast on the steps of the U.S. Capitol and pray for Richard Nixon.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Irgun bombs the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—In Chicago, FBI agents shoot John Dillinger in the back.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—A bomb kills 10 and wounds 40 during a Preparedness Day parade in San Francisco. Perjured testimony sends two innocent men to prison for twenty years.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—The excursion steamer <i>Eastland</i> nearly tips over at the dock in Chicago, but it's hushed up to prevent loss of business.</p> <p><b>1905</b>—Henderson's Point vanishes from the Piscataqua, thanks to 60,000 tons of dynamite.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Militiamen shoot their way out of Pittsburgh, killing 20 more strikers on the way.</p> <p><b>1816</b>—Percy Bysshe Shelley registers at a hotel at Mont Blanc, lists his destination as "L'Enfer."</p> <p><b>1620</b>—<i>Mayflower</i> sets sail.</p> | <p><b>2002</b>—Top intelligence officials in Britain warn Tony Blair that the U.S. is "fixing" intelligence to match policy to justify war against Iraq.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—While filming the movie <i>Twilight Zone</i>, Vic Morrow is decapitated by a helicopter blade.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Air Canada Flight 143 runs out of fuel halfway between Montreal and Edmonton. The "Gimli Glider" coasts more than 100 miles to a successful landing.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—The last big U.S. vs. NVA clash ends in futility with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne evacuating Firebase Ripcord; 75 KIA's, 463 WIA's.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—James Brown walks out of LA Mayor Sam Yorty's office when the mayor is late to present him with a proclamation.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Cops raid a blind pig in Detroit, interrupting a welcome home party for two Vietnam veterans. A five day riot ensues, and 43 die.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are created in Bretton Woods, NH. The town's first tax collector was Daniel Fowle.</p> <p><b>1886</b>—Bookie Steve Brodie stages a dubious dive off the Brooklyn Bridge and turns the resulting notoriety into a career of sorts.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—During the railroad strike in Reading, PA, the State Militia shoots ten civilians dead.</p> <p><b>1846</b>—Henry David Thoreau is jailed for refusing to pay a \$1 poll tax to support the Mexican War.</p> | <p><b>2008</b>—A tornado hits 9 towns along a 20-mile path in central NH, killing an Epsom woman.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—A congressional report says the FBI and the CIA disregarded warnings of a possible Al Qaeda attack on the U.S.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—In Iraq, the U.S. displays photos of the corpses of Uday and Qusay Hussein.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—The Pentagon begins its largest, costliest war game ever, "Millennium Challenge," testing D. Rumsfeld's "Transformation" theories. The "Red Force" quickly "sinks" sixteen ships.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—For accepting bribes and kickbacks, James Traficant (D-OH) is booted from the U.S. House of Representatives.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—The Supreme Court votes 8-0 that Richard Nixon must turn over his Oval Office tapes.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—The first U.S. airliner is hijacked to Cuba.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—During the "Kitchen Debate" in Moscow, Nikita Khrushchev mockingly asks Richard Nixon if Americans have machines to push food down their throats.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Hanscomb AFB personnel report a UFO, "grayish with many black spots," over Portsmouth, NH flying at 800 to 1,000 mph.</p> <p><b>1816</b>—In Alfred, ME, for reasons unknown, farmer Daniel Davis shoots Old Bet, an elephant being exhibited by Hackaliah Bailey.</p>                                                      | <p><b>2000</b>—In a touching display of <i>naïveté</i>, George W. Bush announces that he has picked Dick "Dick" Cheney as running mate.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie tells Saddam Hussein that the U.S. won't take sides in an Iraq-Kuwait border dispute.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—U.S. health officials admit blacks were used as guinea pigs in a 40 year syphilis experiment.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Ted Kennedy gets two month suspended sentence for leaving the scene of an accident.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Bob Dylan outrages purists at Newport Folk Festival by playing electric guitar.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—The first bikini is seen at a Paris fashion show. Same day: the first underwater A-Bomb is exploded, at Bikini Atoll.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—Louis Blériot becomes the first man to fly across the English Channel.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—The U.S. invades Puerto Rico.</p> <p><b>1853</b>—Legendary bandit Joaquin Murietta is killed in California. His head is severed, put in a jar of brandy, and displayed until it is finally lost in the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906.</p> <p><b>1826</b>—"Nothing succeeds with me," says Decembrist revolutionary Mikhail Bestuzhev-Ryumin after the hangman's first rope breaks. "Even here I meet with disappointment."</p>                                                                            |
| 1:54      2:27<br>8:09      8:20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       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