

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Another Layer of Lies

The Roman Republic stood for 500 years before lapsing into dictatorship. The United States of America, in half that time, has gone from George Washington's first inaugural address to Donald Trump losing a battle of wits with Kim Jong Un as Congress tries to kill off constituents by depriving them of healthcare.

How the hell did that happen?

Gradually and then suddenly, over the past seventy years—which happens to be the period covered by the new documentary series, “The Vietnam War.”

That half-forgotten war is our Rosetta Stone: one can read on it the story of our republic's precipitous decline.

This new series might seem at first to be a chance to gain a better understanding of that sorry period. It fails, though, to break through the cramped boundaries of the Official Narrative. In fact it never had a chance.

Author! Authoress!! Sponsor!!!

As we all know, Ken Burns and Lynn Novick were long ago granted tenure as America's Videographer Laureates. They earned this exalted position by toiling in the vineyards of PBS. PBS receives 12 percent of its funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting [CPB]. CPB, in turn, is funded by Congress. Each link in that chain provides some measure of distance, but there is still a hand at one end and a neck inside the other. The neck always knows that a hard yank could come at any time.

Congress, of course, also funded the Vietnam War—until it didn't: a reversal that still provides one of this topic's most obdurate points of contention. Other entities which paid for the right to jerk on that chain, including noted truth-seekers such as David H. Koch and the Bank of America, have their own reasons for

keeping civic dialogue civil.

It was inevitable that our storytellers of record would eventually find themselves in an unenviable position familiar to every American President from FDR through George W. Bush: contemplating Vietnam and asking, what the hell do I do about that? It's not as if they could ignore forever the most formative event in U.S. history since WW II. Ten years ago they saw the 50th anniversary coming and started doing the best they could.

In interviews, the filmmakers have been candid about the trepidation they felt over this volatile topic. In the work they produced, though, they've been equivocal.

“There is no simple or single truth to be extracted from the Vietnam War,” they wrote. “Many questions remain unanswerable.” In other words, they punted.

In their version of events, the war was a tragic mistake made by honest people doing the best they could in difficult circumstances. That's one way to look at it, but it's not very helpful and largely not true.

Déjà Vu

Though we have not seen them refer to it, Burns and Novick were surely aware of what happened to Stanley Karnow. He wrote the script for “Vietnam: A Television History,” the first multi-part Vietnam documentary, which aired on PBS in 1983. His straightforward, accurate, honest work was attacked for its alleged left-wing bias, errors, and distortions.

The source of this critique was Accuracy in Media [AIM], a tax dodge which diverts money from the U.S. Treasury to Right Wing propagandists. Thanks to like-minded executives appointed by the Reagan Administration, PBS, in 1985, aired a two-hour rebuttal to Karnow's documentary. According to “Television's Vietnam: The Real



Story,” narrated by Charlton Heston, America's involvement in Vietnam was a noble cause in which our brave soldiers won every battle, only to be stabbed in the back by hippies, draft dodgers, the lying media, and gutless politicians.

The Vietnam War, With the Bark On

French missionaries began what they called a *mission civilisatrice* in Vietnam in the 17th century. By the mid-19th century, a few hundred thousand Vietnamese had converted to Catholicism. Many of the millions who had not converted found those who had annoying. Naturally the French felt responsible. Rather than withdrawing, though, they instead provided soldiers to protect the converts, and forts to protect the soldiers. One thing led to another, as such things have a way of doing.

By the end of WW II, French colonialists had, for all practical purposes, been treating “French” Indochina as a slave labor camp for nearly

a century. The expense of maintaining this *mission civilisatrice* was defrayed by selling opium to the despairing masses. Ho Chi Minh was just one of many Vietnamese who took exception to this arrangement. When an opium purchasing agent for the Vietnamese stiffed a tribe of Meo poppy growers in Laos, they happily helped Ho's Viet Minh haul artillery to the hilltops surrounding Dien Bien Phu.

By the time this charming French enterprise went bust, Truman and Eisenhower had been propping it up for a decade, acting like Lillian Hellman, of whom Mary McCarthy famously said, “every word she writes is a lie, including ‘and’ and ‘the.’”

Anyone assuming our skirts must have been cleaner than those of the French could learn a lot from reading Alfred W. McCoy's *The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia*. McCoy, a respected academician, concludes that the three top figures in our Sai-

gon puppet government were running competing heroin rings while their country collapsed.

Important, If True

“To see what is in front of one's nose needs a constant struggle,” George Orwell wrote, just about the time Harry S Truman started lying about Vietnam.

To that we would only add that the biggest obstacle to a clear view of how governments and the world at large work is that most people are decent and therefore reluctant to believe that things could possibly be as awful as they appear. They're probably worse, but try getting anyone to sponsor that story.

Political lies were not invented by American politicians in the wake of WW II, but the Cold War proved to be a perfect hot house for their propagation. Paranoid Right Wingers cowed Democrats into senseless fights that could not be won—or even ended.

The Alleged News®

World Almost Ends, We Almost Miss It

Nine days ago Puerto Rico was hit by its second major hurricane in less than three weeks. The island has been knocked flat. Its 3.4 million inhabitants, all U.S. citizens, will be without electricity for months. As many as 1.5 million are said to be without potable water.

Two days later, the President of the United States took a break from taunting Kim Jong Un to tell the owners of NFL football teams what to say when a player kneels to protest racism during the national anthem: “Get that son of a bitch off the field right now. Out! He's fired. He's fired!”

It's enough to make a person wonder, is the world coming to an end?

The *Washington Post* didn't help

the situation any when it published a piece about David Meade, a self-described Christian numerologist who is now slightly famous, thanks in large part to the *Post*. Apparently Meade convinced a lot of people that the world was ending September 23rd.

Apparently this information has been sitting there in the Bible, in plain sight, at Luke 21:25 to 26, for a couple of thousand years. Apparently no one had ever noticed it before. Work on that comprehension, people.

Fortunately we've been so distracted by the concatenation of genuine catastrophes that we didn't find out about this fake one until the day after it didn't happen.

The *Post*, of course, is read only by sophisticated types who don't be-

lieve in mumbo-jumbo—not of the Domsday Christian variety, anyway. Out in Orange County, Calif. it's a different story. They still believe in Richard Nixon, Duke Cunningham, and Jesus—in about that order.

People there were going about their business as usual on September 21st when their regularly-scheduled programming on HGTV was interrupted by the familiar tone of an Emergency Alert, followed by a man's voice saying things like, “Realize this: in the last days, extremely violent times will come.”

The *Orange County Register* reported a few days later that what had sounded like an Emergency Alert warning about the impending end of the world was actually a broadcast from Pastor Chuck Swindoll in Plano, Texas, delivering a sermon titled,

“Depravity on Parade.”

Get Smart

Shortly after our last bilious screed began littering the fine dining establishments of this literate, temperate paradise, the Senate approved a \$700 billion Defense Department budget.

President Trump—prudently assuring that the Joint Chiefs had enough cash on hand to back up his September 19th threat (from the podium of the United Nations, an international body whose primary function is to avert human extinction by nuclear holocaust) to “totally destroy North Korea”—had asked for a budget increase of \$54 billion.

The Senate, as is its wont, calmly considered that proposal and rendered its prudent judgment: whereas the President is a male Re-

publican Caucasian, and the funds in question would create jobs in the military-industrial sector while bolstering our ability to create world peace by killing people, it would see the President's bid of \$54 billion, and raise it another \$26 billion.

Something about the resulting \$700-billion figure dislodged a synapse—a recurring problem around here, we fear.

We could not rest until we had an answer—did the Pentagon ever find that missing \$2.3 trillion-with-a-T that Donald Rumsfeld talked about on [a little ominous background music, please] September 10, 2001?

Soon enough we had dredged up a reassuring answer: that money

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from page one

wasn't missing at all—it just couldn't be accounted for. Totally different problem, and quite routine for the Pentagon. Nothing to worry about.

Alex Emmons, an impudent young man who writes for the on-line journal *The Intercept*, had the gall to suggest that the money might better be spent elsewhere.

"... with \$80 billion a year, you could make public colleges and universities in the U.S. tuition-free. In fact, Sanders's proposal was only estimated to cost the federal government \$47 billion per year. If the additional military spending over the next 10 years instead went to pay off student debt, it could come close to wiping it out entirely."

If our tax dollars must go to bombs rather than the education of our citizens, perhaps we should at least make the bombs smarter.

Human Rights Watch report-

ed on Sunday that airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIS near Raqqa in Syria struck a school and a market, killing at least 84 civilians.

"Although ISIS fighters were also at these sites," according to Human Rights Watch, "the high civilian death toll raises concerns that military forces of the US-led coalition failed to take necessary precautions to avoid and minimize civilian casualties, a requirement under international humanitarian law."

Is the Shipyard on the Chopping Block?

The Government Accountability Office issued a report a few weeks ago which said all four U.S. Naval shipyards are obsolete money-sinks.

"The cost of backlogged restoration and maintenance projects ... shipyards has grown by 41 percent over five years ... and will take at least 19 years ... to clear. Similarly, a Navy analysis shows that the average age of shipyard capital equipment now exceeds its expected useful life."

Meanwhile, back at the Senate,



The summer motorcycling season is nearly over. Soon the interminable background noise will abate, or at least become intermittent. While we won't miss those faux-rebels, we will miss the more intriguing machines that show up once in a while. Last Saturday a nice collection of them came together for the annual Welcome East custom bike show, held this year at the Liar's Bench brewery. There were a couple of very nice Beemers, but an original-looking 1944 Indian Chief stole our heart away. Speaking of Indians, the finest bit of artistry we spotted was this 1882 quarter, modified "hobo nickel" style. Chris Tope, of Bellingham, Mass., used this tricked-out two-bit piece as a tank medallion for a 1968 Hodaka Ace 100. He calls this a "Navajo build."

Arizona's John McCain is making noises about starting another round of Base Realignment and Closing.

No doubt Maine and New Hampshire's Congressional delegations will take up arms against this threat to our local economy national security.

Victory at Sanders Poynt!

After a full five years of denying Granite Staters—and, when you think about it, the entire human race, not to mention their canine companions—their Constitutional right to stroll along the strand at Sanders Poynt in Rye, William "Bill" Binnie, failed Senate candidate and proprietor of the pretentious amusement park commonly known as Wentworth by the Sea Country Club has finally deigned to comply with the orders of the Rockingham County Superior Court and restored the public access facility his minions destroyed on his orders back in October of 2012.

Credit for this victory, of course, goes to Rye resident Robert Jesurum, who stood up for his own rights, and the rights of the people,

when the Attorney General of the State of New Hampshire declined to challenge "Bill" Binnie's blatant land grab. Jesurum was obviously quite well served by his attorney, Paul McEachern, and his associate, Jacob Marvelley.

In the photo below, Jesurum enjoys the fruits of his labors.

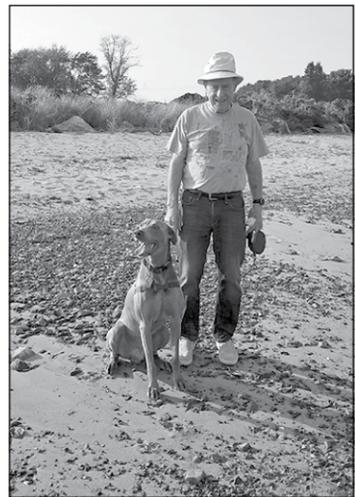


Photo courtesy R. Jesurum.

In an email sent Sunday, September 17th—the Court's deadline for completion of the restoration—Je-

surum wrote:

"First, I must thank all those who have been supporting this battle to reclaim public lands. That is in the plural because much more was at stake than the easement over Sanders Poynt. Because Sanders Poynt is the only public land-side access to miles of publicly owned beach and wetlands. Because Sanders Poynt is one of the few public places in NH accessible for the launching of small boats.

"And thank you to the Leftist Marching Band which came today to celebrate our victory.

"Now, what we need is a real celebration. I would like to suggest Saturday, October 21st, at 1:00 p.m. as the date and time to have a beach party at Little Harbor beach and Sanders Poynt. We would supply food and drinks, hoping that they would be consumed by a crowd of people. All those who treasure our public lands heritage are welcome to the party. I hope that the Coastal Conservation Association of N.H., which has been in court on our side, will be able to participate in this

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grand celebration.

"This date is a suggestion and may be changed according to peoples' availability."

The next day we received an email from New Castle Town Historian Jim Cerny:

"Just read the note on page two of the September 15th edition about Sanders Point (the faux-historic spelling "poynt" always grates on me) and thought you might like a picture of the Leftist Marching Band celebrating there. I chanced to be driving by on Sunday about 1:00 p.m. and there they were! Grabbed my camera and snapped away."



Photo courtesy of Jim Cerny.

In his email Cerny noted, "BTW, the person I was with said he had sent \$100 to Jeserum in appreciation of his fight for the public—I don't know if there has been any crowd funding efforts to help with his considerable legal expenses."

In fact there is such an effort. On September 14th we got word from Don Swanson, of the Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire [CCANH], saying another \$150 had been recently donated, bringing the total to \$10,490.00.

Then, on the 26th, we got another email from Don: "Just picked up mail, 14 new checks totaling \$1,040.00. That now brings us up to \$11,830. Many notes thanking Robert, *The Gazette*, and some for the CCANH."

There is still a long way to go before all those legal expenses are recovered. Those wishing to help may do so online at ccanh.org/sanders-poynt, or mail their personal check to CCA NH, PO Box 4372, Portsmouth, N.H. 03802-4372. Checks should be payable to the "Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire," with "Sander's Poynt Legal Fund" on the memo line. All funds raised go directly to reimbursing Jeserum.

The legal expenses required to obtain justice in this case are appalling, but there is one consolation. The expenses of the arrogant individual who started this fight must have been far higher. Not only did he burn through the billable hours



of his attorneys, but he ginned up a sizeable body of work for his team of landscape architects. This absurd yet serious court battle must have cost him at least a quarter million.

It's not over yet. Jeserum says Rye's town's attorney, Michael Donovan, "has publicly stated that the town of Rye would support the Wentworth if it applied to NHDOT to restrict parking along Wentworth Road near Sanders Poynt."

"Probably, they will use public safety as their rationale, but it is clear to me that the only reason they wish to restrict parking is to prevent use of Little Harbor Beach by any significant numbers."

"That has been their goal from the beginning of this dispute, and the town of Rye is continuing its pandering to WBTSCC."

Those wishing to thwart this scheme could assist by writing to Ms. Victoria Sheehan, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Transportation, John O. Morton Building, PO Box 483, 7 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H.

03302-0483, stating their opposition to the imposition of any new restrictions on parking along Rt. 1B by NHDOT.

Then there is the matter of the Town of Rye's Master Plan. According to a letter from Jeserum, Samuel Winebaum alerted him back in 2011 that when beach access points were listed in the Master Plan, Sanders Poynt and Little Harbor Beach were pointedly omitted. Not long after that the Selectmen allowed Binnie to close off public access.

Jeserum writes, "The Planning Board is holding a special meeting at the Rye Junior High School at 6:00 p.m. on October 12th, to again consider the master plan, and this is a chance to get them to do the right thing for Sanders Poynt. I plan to attend and would welcome all the support I can get."

"Also, in my last letter to the Select Board demanded information as to how many town officials or employees are members of WBTSCC, and if any of those memberships

are subsidized. As usual with my communications to the Selectmen, I have been completely ignored. Do they not have a duty to come clean about gifts they may or may not have received?" The public meeting on Rye's Master Plan will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the 12th of October at the Rye Jr. High.

Robinson Helicopters Crash

A pilot was injured on Wednesday afternoon, September 20th, at the Long Beach Airport in California, when the Robinson R22 helicopter he was attempting to land flipped over on its side. The machine "sustained substantial damage," according to news reports, but did not burst into flames. The pilot was taken to the hospital for treatment. Apparently he is expected to survive.

Four days later and 130 miles to the northwest, two people were injured at the Santa Barbara Airport when the Robinson R22 they were in lost its battle with gravity and crashed, landing on its side. Once again, the occupants were spared a fiery death.



Nobody cares anymore about the repetitive clattering noise pollution emitted by red Robinson helicopters, frequently spotted carting gawking tourists through our skies. At least, that's the story from the guy who's been making money from that noxious trade. Recently the Award-Winning Local Daily repeated that self-serving nonsense. More than two dozen people showed up for the Pease Development Authority's latest Noise Compatibility Commission and told its members something completely different.

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Protection From Corporate Carelessness

To the Editor:
The credit agency Equifax announced that the names, addresses, social security numbers and drivers licenses of 143 million U.S. individuals were stolen. Someone with that information could take out a credit card or home or car loan in your name. In order to protect yourself you need to put a lock on your credit score. If you lock your credit score no one can take out a credit card or loan in your name. To unlock your credit you simply enter a pin number.

For the last 18 months Maine's residents have been able to lock and unlock their credit scores for free due to legislation passed by the State. New Hampshire residents have to pay for this protection. We should not have to pay the three credit agencies for the right to lock their credit because one of them allowed everyone's personal information to be stolen.

Call your Governor, State Senator and Representative and demand we follow Maine's lead on this issue. Call your U.S. Senators and Congresswoman and demand Congress make this a national right. Since Equifax put us in jeopardy, demand it pay the charges by the other credit agencies to lock our credit scores.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:

Thanks for sending along such a reasoned, concise summary of this latest example of corporate carelessness. If we'd taken a whack at it we would have ended up with a lengthy manifesto calling for some kind of uprising.

The Editor

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Trump Goes Nuclear

To the Editor:

The Obama Administration finally took a major step on no-first-strike nuclear attacks. In contrast, President Trump tweeted that America "must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capacity ...", and even more robustly that "we will outmatch other nations at every pass and outlast them." That we have the nukes to exterminate every person on earth 100

times over doesn't seem to vex him!?

America already possesses more nuclear weapons than any other country—4,480 warheads, with Russia a close second. In a bipartisan 71-26 vote, U.S. and Russia are set to reduce their stockpiles early in 2018.

But wait. Trump called it a "bad deal" for America, and will probably be the spoiler, which could touch off a serious new nuclear arms race.

There's no need for overkill regarding weaponry, nor for a plan, as proposed, to build new delivery systems costing hundreds of billion dollars. That would ultimately make us less safe.

All former administrations have at least paid lip service to nuclear containment and/or disarmament. Not Trump.

Nuclear weapons are grotesquely distinctive. A typical warhead of 300 kilotons detonated above a city would kill every living thing within a one mile radius. People within three miles wouldn't fare much better. For many cities this would amount to one million dead and an additional two million seriously injured. This is just from a single warhead.

Loco? Unhinged? Reasonless?

Welcome please to the blasphemy known as the age of the Trump presidency.

Mike Kulla

Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Mike:

We'll say this for the Grand Yam: he's got us thinking about the sheer lunacy of our nuclear arsenal in a way we have not for decades.

The Editor

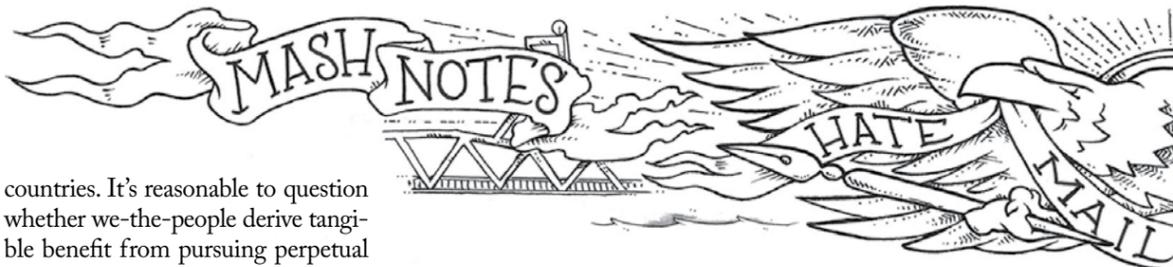
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God Bless Slumerica

To the Editor:

America is getting shabbier by the day, but once again, Congress will likely fail to act in a responsible way to reverse its slide. Washington collects an enormous pile of tax revenue from us annually, money meant to pay for running the country, but both sides of the aisle appear hell-bent on co-opting it to serve other purposes.

To that end, it's fair to ask if we really need a military presence in over 100



countries. It's reasonable to question whether we—the-people derive tangible benefit from pursuing perpetual warfare in the Middle East at a time when our highway systems, airports, schools, and public transportation are crumbling. And, we might also question why Congress continues to hobble America's access to healthcare while passing out billions in corporate welfare to banks, drug companies, and the health-insurance industry.

Here in New Hampshire, we know moose are unpredictable, messy, easily distracted, and prone to making bad decisions. Turns out our political leadership isn't any better! The only reason moose are dying off from winter-tick infestation is because they lack the basic instinct to groom themselves. By the same token, the only reason America's infrastructure is crumbling is because today's crop of pay-for-play politicians lack the technical know-how and integrity to preserve and regenerate the commons. It's unfortunate, because promoting and serving the interests of the public sector is their primary reason for being!

Now that the 2018 campaign is underway (or under foot), we're already hearing a lot of malarkey about quick schemes to fix infrastructure and put Americans back to work. Not good enough! Band-aide solutions dreamed up by lobbyists and lawyers offer no remedy. We need to start electing technocrats who believe in science and have the requisite knowledge and skills to solve complex problems over the long haul. And, we need to nail any candidate to the wall who won't swear on his mother's grave he'll fight to bring America's tax dollars back home to work for us! That's not isolationism, it's just simple common sense!

Rick Littlefield

Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

We have always felt that, dollar for dollar, few things bring a better return—

provided the money is honestly spent—than wells drilled in areas where women spend half their waking hours carrying water to their homes. On the other hand, we'd be better off burning the tax dollars we spend blowing people up to guarantee the unfettered movement of capital—which seems to be the true aim of the war against terror.

Here's when the oligarchs will stop spending our tax dollars that way: when we make them. If you'll excuse us, we have to go scrape some 2018 off the ol' editorial shoe.

The Editor

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Winter is Coming

To the Editor:

"This sudden national concern about the chimerical beast called 'voter fraud' is all a piece of performance art, political theater, a production being staged to extend a franchise much like the endless succession of movies based on comic book superheroes" For a brief moment I thought you were were talking about Russiagate, that fictional performance that is still going on and that accuses Putin of using the Jedi mind trick that he learned from the aliens that were captured when their spaceship crashed in the Tunguska region of Russia, in order to change the minds of those millions who really wanted to vote for Hilary Clinton.

You see the problem with the neuroscientists is that they conduct their MRI examinations during the day, but the daytime is not when the fevered amygdalas of the liberals are excited. It is at night time when those liberals, unable to sleep, see images of General Robert E. Lee rising up to lead an army of statues of dead Confederates, and founding fathers—like the army of the dead in "Game of Thrones"—to march on Washington to dismantle the Federal Government in order to

rebirth a nation of true freedom. Then of course the minority views of the liberals will no longer be able to be forced upon the rest of us.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

John:

The liberals of your imagination seem to be awfully clever and powerful beings. Despite being the minority, they are somehow able to force their views upon the rest of us.

Clearly that's something to which you look forward. We're left a little uncertain, though, about how you actually feel about that army of dead Confederates, and their mission of dismantling of the Federal Government. Are you trying to tell us you're un-reconstructed?

The Editor

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Zombies Kill!

To the Editor:

Zombies kill people, yet they are hard to kill and keep coming back!

The same can be said of the Republican effort to undermine our healthcare system. It just keeps coming back. Current estimates are that the newest incarnation will deny healthcare to 34 million citizens! Yet this bill that affects every American is being rushed through with virtually no discussion and no public input. If enacted, tens of thousands of people will die unnecessarily because of lack of medical coverage. In other words it will kill people.

This bad sequel is being brought to you by the same people who fought against Social Security, the 40-hour work week, Medicare, and consumer protection.

Maybe zombies can live forever but the rest of us need a healthcare system that is not built on myths and lies and that will drain the key benefits from the current system.

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

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- Lou Reed (1942-2013) musician, songwriter

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Disclaimer: I have never actually seen a zombie movie, but I have seen lots of efforts from the Republicans to take from the middle class and give to the wealthy.

Fight this awful bill!

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

It is perhaps no coincidence that the deeper one's faith, the more likely one is to be a Republican. (That spiffy new factoid was custom-made to fit this reply; nothing's too good for readers of this rag.)

Despite rapidly mounting evidence that the universe is utterly indifferent to man's fate, some believe with all their heart that it was created by an omnipotent, anthropomorphic, benevolent God—who will one day smite all the non-believers that He created in His own image.

These are the folks who believe that one of these days, Congress will outlaw abortion. With faith like that, the Republican drive to kill Obamacare may outlive us all.

The Editor

Who is in Charge of Tax Reform?

To the Editor:

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin is a near billionaire. After becoming Secretary he married a Scottish actress whose family is rich enough to have a castle as a vacation home. She tweeted about how expensive her clothes, shoes and accessories were while getting off a government plane they had used to see the eclipse.

Maybe Mr. Mnuchin or his wife thought it was below them to sit with the riff raff in first class cabins of commercial airplanes. In any case he asked the Defense Department to supply him with a jet and crew to fly him and his bride to and around Europe

for their honeymoon. This would have cost the taxpayers \$25,000 an hour. His request was denied.

Secretary Mnuchin is Trump's pick to craft his "tax reform" bill. Anyone so rich who thinks robbing the tax payers is a right is not going to alter taxes to benefit the middle class. Do not trust this swamp creature. Trump claims his tax cuts will create millions of new jobs. That is the same lie George Bush and the GOP used when they cut taxes on the rich and corporations. How did that work out?

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:

It now appears unlikely that the Republicans will succeed in their effort to convert Obamacare into the Federalist ideal: 50 separate Death Panels, one for each state. That means they'll have more time and energy to devote to tax reform.

We're a bit shocked that you don't have more faith in Mr. Mnuchin. To set your mind at ease, perhaps you should watch more Fox News. It seems to have done wonders for a lot of people.

The Editor

Hail Gorsuch!

To the Editor:

During the short period of time that Justice Neil Gorsuch has been on the Supreme Court he has been ignored by mainstream media. Recently he ignited the fire of liberty and broke 40 years of precedent when he refused to join the SCOTUS "cert pool," which was established in 1973 during the Burger Court, purportedly to review the near 8,000 petitions received each term. In current practice, the petitions are apportioned among the Court's law clerks, who then determine if the court should docket the case or deny it.

The obvious problem here is that [this] process gives unconstitutional

power to the law clerks, instead of [to] the Justices. It may also open the door for third parties to unfairly influence a case using the clerks as conspirators.

That is *not* how the Supreme Court was designed to operate. Justice Gorsuch should be applauded for broadcasting this unlawful action and saying. It is *not* okay to pass off judgments to the discretion of legal clerks.

Rep. Dick Marple Merrimack #24
Hooksett, N.H.

Dick:

What on earth is is happening to us? Once again, as with jury nullification, we find ourselves agreeing with you. You're right about the harm that can be done by unelected—and unappointed—clerks at work in the bowels of the Supreme Court. It was one of those miserable %\$#@ who first bestowed personhood on corporations! But Justice Gorsuch as some kind of hero? Not hardly!

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell revealed himself as a partisan stooge of the oligarchy—and a racist thug to boot—when he deprived President Barack Obama of his Constitutional right to appoint a Justice to the Supreme Court. Where was Justice Gorsuch last week? Down in Kentucky, campaigning for McConnell—and making clear his utter contempt for the people and the Constitution.

Any good Gorsuch does will be by accident. His presence on the court is in itself an insult to the Constitution.

The Editor

Change Hurricane Naming Systems

To the Editor:

Since we are still talking about statues, monuments and storms, I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to propose a change to how we name our most destructive storms.

Northeastern University in Boston requires all International Business majors to take a class on Global Climate Change (which is very heavy on the science related to climate change)

during their junior year. While taking the class three years ago, my daughter had been assigned to a group whose task it was to address the policy makers and their fossil fuel industry corporate donors who deny climate change.

Her group received accolades from the NEU faculty for a short video and associated petition they incorporated in their presentation which called for the World Meteorological Organization to name extreme storms after some of the most notorious climate change deniers.

I'm happy and proud to say that both my adult children share my fighting spirit and sense of justice and I found the idea of my daughter's team to be an excellent one as I've always thought it extremely unfair to stigmatize people, many who are friends and family members, by naming destructive and deadly hurricanes after them.

The idea is to, instead of naming extreme storms after innocents such as Andrew, Katrina, Ivan, Irene, Sandy, Harvey or Irma, name them after those who refuse to acknowledge that climate change is real and who are not willing to take on the fossil fuel industry and transform our energy system away from fossil fuel and into energy efficiency and sustainable energy. Some of the names suggested for extreme storms in the video were Marco Rubio, Rick Perry, James Inhofe, David Vitter and Paul Ryan. I'd recommend updating the list by adding the names of Donald J. Trump, Scott Pruitt, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott, Rush Limbaugh, Fox News and the Koch Brothers.

Imagine the impact that would be had if all we heard for a solid week leading up to a Category 5 hurricane was, "Florida Governor Rick Scott is expected to move up the Eastern Seaboard and destroy everything in his path."

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:

Sorry, can't type. Laughing too hard.

The Editor

He Should Speak Only For Himself

To the Editor:

Once again, Donald Trump has clearly demonstrated that he completely lacks the character, temperament, wisdom, and humanity expected of a person in his position and is unfit to lead our nation. In an angry, racially divisive and vulgar speech, before an almost exclusively white audience in the deep south, Mr. Trump attacked mostly black National Football League [NFL] players for peacefully and lawfully exercising their Constitutional, First Amendment right of free speech. In so doing, Mr. Trump also demonstrated his total lack of understanding of our Constitution and violated his oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution.

In his hateful speech, Mr. Trump was much more aggressive and harsh in his criticism of these NFL athletes for exercising their Constitutional rights than he was toward the violent White Nationalists in Charlottesville, or toward Vladimir Putin for his attack on and interference in our recent election. His public use of profanity demeans the office of the Presidency and is a disgrace to our country.

By his words and actions, Mr. Trump damages the image, credibility and standing of the United States across the globe. While we have men and women fighting to protect our Constitution, and spread democracy to other nations, Mr. Trump sends a message that directly conflicts with our most cherished values and traditions, values and traditions that thousands have died to defend. The hypocrisy of Mr. Trump's message does not go unnoticed by our enemies, who will use Mr. Trump's words to their own advantage.

If Mr. Trump cannot understand that when he now speaks, he speaks for the entire nation, regardless of their color, ethnicity, political party, gender or sexual orientation, he should return to private life where he can speak only for himself.

During the 2016 presidential campaign, Mr. Trump asked an audience of African Americans to vote for him.

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Hypocrisy Incorporated

by William Marvel

I just returned from a longer-than-usual visit to my wife's home town in Kansas. Sojourns in that pervasively Christian climate usually provoke me to lament that so many people of apparent good sense believe so literally in a myth, but not this time. Recent events left me reflecting instead on the relative ideological tolerance even among the most fundamentalist of those prairie believers, at least when judged against the ostensibly liberal, inclusive society in which I live.

No visit to Jesusland passes without some revelation of my disdain for the metaphysical fantasy underlying daily life there, and this trip was no exception. Still, I've never been made to feel unwelcome. In fact I seem to be regarded with reciprocal amusement and heartfelt concern for my impending damnation. "We'll get you to heaven somehow, Bill," a Liberty University alumnus once assured me, dropping a hand on my shoulder as though secretly convinced of the hopelessness of my case.

Those pious plainmen's solicitous attitude toward open disbelievers

like me, and even toward more beligerent doubters, at least comports with their preaching. Compare that to the subtly oppressive political and social atmosphere flourishing here just now. Authoritarians-in-liberal-clothing prevail in the Puritan diaspora, pretending to revere diversity but demanding uniformity in political opinion: everyone is welcome regardless of geographic or ethnic origins, but woe to whomever should voice disagreement with the dogma. Hell hath no fury like that of a liberal scorned, as letters to my local newspaper confirm in the reflexive and sometimes virulent rebuke of dissent.

In this parody of intellectual freedom, reactions to Supreme Court rulings provide a conspicuous weathervane for progressive inconsistency. When the court decreed 5-4 that corporations are essentially people, leftists condemned its hidebound conservatism, insisting that the question should be decided by popular vote. Soon afterward the same court effectively legalized gay marriage 5-4, and rejoicing liberals praised the enlightened sagacity of the justices—whose decision also subverted any decision by popular vote.

Nouveau Puritans depend on the commerce clause of the Constitution to force Christian business owners to violate their own religious beliefs, but dismiss the First Amendment in order to silence groups they find offensive. They passionately despise "haters," who include just about anyone resisting their pseudo-religious radical doctrine. They excoriate climate deniers for rejecting the persuasive evidence of human agency in global warming, yet stubbornly refuse to concede facts that disturb their own prejudices—denying that counter-demonstrators at Charlottesville and elsewhere included armed agitators looking to incite violence; denying that left-wing mobs threaten a reign of terror on any who disagree; denying that, in showing off their alleged virtue by attacking conservative demonstrators, such mobs are weakening free expression for all of us.

Overshadowed but unimpeded by recent hurricanes, the Taliban-like campaign to destroy offensive statuary proceeds stealthily from the eradication of Confederate memory to the demonization of all conservative thought. The Confederate flag was just the first target, followed by the statues. Then, in Stalinist imita-

tion, came the demand to rename streets, and now army posts. Next we can expect vilification and effective proscription of political arguments contrary to the radical agenda.

As though anxious to illustrate the absurd extremes toward which such hysterical purges inevitably tend, ESPN recently reassigned Robert Lee, an announcer of Chinese heritage, to a less conspicuous role. It was really his own fault, because he should already have appealed to the People's Revolutionary Committee on Acceptable Nomenclature for a new name.

Were their clamor a sincere expression of moral outrage, anti-Confederate crusaders would simultaneously assail still-worse episodes of racial domination and genocide in our past. Statues of many Union generals and most frontier soldiers memorialize warriors in what became a concerted effort to exterminate North America's native tribes; as a newspaper editor, even the author of *The Wizard of Oz*, called for outright genocide. Most Spanish-American War monuments also commemorate the brutal suppression of the popular revolt against our colonial rule in the Philippines, in which U.S. soldiers

slaughtered thousands of unarmed Filipinos, including women and children.

Those monuments are not targeted, nor are Frank Baum's Oz books proposed for the bonfire, thus betraying the cynical, partisan duplicity behind this carefully orchestrated outrage. American Indians and Filipinos do not constitute a voting bloc populous enough to attract the interest of Democratic Party recruiters. Neither are they numerous enough to arouse the avarice of moralizing corporate managers who, in their zealous appeal to the lucrative Millennial market, now openly fire employees for holding unorthodox political opinions.

The hypocrisy of our headlong descent into fanatical liberalism might be comic were it not so deadly a betrayal of the genuine liberal principles that served as a beacon of reason in our country's darkest hours. On the streets or online, no faction has any right to call itself tolerant that imposes its will on others by mob violence, economic intimidation, or social ostracism. Such self-righteousness does not simply aggravate the perilous polarization of our society; it lies at the very root of it.

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

rhetorically asking, "what do you have to lose." Now they know what they have to lose; their Constitutional right of free speech.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

It's not just African Americans whom Trump would deprive of their right to free speech. His attempt to enforce universal adherence to ritual "patriotic" conduct is pure fascism. Under fascism, no one has rights.

The Editor

—==—

The Wizard of Flaws

To the Editor:

Any time Donald Trump spots a crack in America's social unity, count on him to jam in a chisel and start pounding. It happened in Alabama, and will continue throughout his reign because it's what he does. Like a rampaging honey badger, his mission is to agitate and promote political mayhem.

Mayhem among the masses, it turns out, is prized greatly in the world of high finance where wealthy folks devote large amounts of time

and expendable income to tearing down America's public sector. They do it to kill regulation, reduce tax liability, and pilfer as much wealth as possible from the public commons. These are the "millionaires and billionaires" who drive Bernie Sanders nuts—and the one-per-centers who generously fund PBS while never missing an opportunity to sponsor downward mobility on Main Street.

It's crucial to remember that Donald Trump is a theatrical figure with a rich legacy as a New York City huckster and con-artist. He's

very good at distraction, and the political train wrecks he's created thus far have proven so spectacular that we-the-people—and the media—can't seem to avert our eyes. As a result, we fail to stay on top of things percolating in the political swamps of Washington that really matter. Things like the Republican push to cancel the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau's prohibition on forced arbitration—a rule change that will allow giants like Equifax and Wells Fargo to rip off customers with impunity.

It's the U.S. congress and the bag men who fill their coffers who most deserve our attention as the 2018 elections pull into view, not Trump. If you've got a pitchfork in the shed, now might be a good time to get it!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

Excellent advice—we should take it ourselves!

Wait a minute—what's that? Squirrel!

The Editor

—==—

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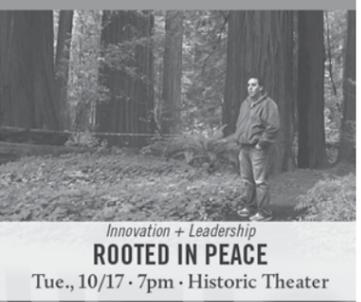
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A TRUE SPAT-UPON VETERAN STORY

By Bill Ehrhart

Since September 17th, when the Series began, a lot of Americans have been watching the long-awaited *The Vietnam War* documentary by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick.

I knew the 18-hour program would have a lot of material that would not please me.

After all, Bank of America and David Koch are not going to underwrite an exposé of U.S. imperialism. But I had hoped they would at least avoid perpetuating some of the more egregiously false popular myths about that war.

One of the most pervasive is the myth that returning soldiers were accosted by antiwar demonstrators, spit on, called “baby killer,” and otherwise abused.

That does not accord with my

own experiences. I returned to the U.S. from Asia twice in full military uniform, March 1968 and June 1969, both times passing through San Francisco airport—the heart of hippiedom—on my way home to Philadelphia. No one ever accosted me.

After May 1970 and the killings at Kent State, I joined the antiwar movement, but I did not spit on myself or call myself “baby killer.” Moreover, I never saw anyone else around me abusing soldiers or veterans.

Vietnam War veteran Jerry Lembcke confirms my anecdotal evidence in his book *The Spitting Image: Myth, Memory, and the Legacy of Vietnam* (NYU Press, 2000), which thoroughly debunks this mythology of abuse.

Yet you will see and hear in the Burns/Novick documentary a

prominent veteran claiming to have been assaulted by antiwar demonstrators at an airport while a former antiwar demonstrator tearfully apologizes for having verbally abused returning veterans. Evidence that it happened? None. We’re just supposed to take their word for it.

I, however, do have a true “spat-upon veteran story.” One that I can prove with documentary evidence. It goes like this:

The day after I came home from Vietnam in early March 1968, I took the money I’d saved in those 13 months and went to West German Motors in Ft. Washington, PA, and bought a brand new Volkswagen VW Beetle. Red with black interior.

Only I didn’t buy it. I had to give the money to my father, and he bought it because I was not legally old enough to buy a car. The owner’s card remained in my father’s name

for the next year and a half until I turned 21, which was the age of majority then in Pennsylvania.

The day after that, I went to McKeever Insurance, in my hometown of Perkasio, Pa., to get insurance for my car. But Mrs. McKeever told me I couldn’t get a policy in my name. I would have to be carried on my parents’ policy as a dependent child.

Understand what I’m saying here: I had just spent 13 months fighting in Vietnam. I was a combat-wounded Marine Corps sergeant, but the state of Pennsylvania recognized me only as a child dependent on my parents.

Let me say that again: I had just spent 13 months fighting in Vietnam. I was a combat-wounded Marine Corps sergeant, but the state of Pennsylvania recognized me only as a dependent child.

Indeed, I could not even legally buy a beer in my own hometown.

You want to talk spat-upon? I sure as hell was spit on when I came home, but it wasn’t the antiwar people who did the spitting.

I begged Lynn Novick of Florentine Films to get this story on film and into their documentary, but you will not see this true story among the many stories in the documentary. Instead, you will see and hear the same old tired—and completely undocumented and unfounded—claptrap we’ve been hearing since Ronald Reagan proclaimed that the American War in Vietnam “was, in truth, a noble cause.”

[Bill Ehrhart, a Marine Corps veteran of the American War in Vietnam, is author of numerous books, including *Vietnam-Perkasie: A Combat Marine Memoir*. He appears in the new Burns/Novick documentary.]

Can't America do better than today's ripoff health care system?

by Jim Hightower

Rather than a health care system, our country’s leaders have kept us shackled to a “corporate care” system, allowing insurance giants, drug company gougers, hospital chains, and other profiteers to ration our care based on whether a family can pay whatever outrageous price the corporations demands to maintain their

exorbitant profits.

While the guiding ethic of physicians, nurses, and other caregivers is: “First, do no harm,” the corporate owners of the system impose a contrary ethic: “First, maximize our profits.” Thus, despite Americans spending some \$3.2 trillion a year on health care, more than any other country in the world: 28 million of our people have no health coverage; tens of millions are so underinsured

they can’t use the policy they’re paying for; one out of five adults can’t afford prescription drugs they need; our people are less healthy than other advanced nations (for example, the U.S. ranks 42nd in life expectancy); and CEOs and top shareholders of the system are hauling off multiple-millions of dollars each.

Can’t we do better than that? Of course we can—if we start treating health care as a human right, rather

than a corporate profit center.

And doing this doesn’t require a whole new complex system. Congress can just extend America’s successful Medicare program to every man, woman, and child in our country. This egalitarian “Medicare for All” idea would deliver comprehensive care, be much easier for patients to navigate, and be far cheaper than today’s ripoff system. At last, a hospital stay would not bankrupt a

family, people wouldn’t avoid going to the doctor because they can’t afford it, prescription drugs would be affordable, and workers wouldn’t be stuck in bad jobs just to get basic health coverage.

To learn more about Medicare-for-All, go to www.BernieSanders.com/MedicareForAll.

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Offshore Wind:

Powering our Past, and Future

To the Editor:

There is a revolution taking place just off the Northeast U.S. coast, a key part of a necessary transition away from the fossil fuels that threaten our future climate. The siting and installation of huge offshore wind turbines and other ocean technologies promise to provide the bulk of our power needs in future decades. As with all renewable pow-

er sources, these technologies once installed will harness practically free energy for a resilient, reliable and safe power grid throughout our energy-starved region.

In the 21st century, a growing recognition of the need to get off our fossil fuel addiction as well as rely more on cleaner, highly efficient electrical energy throughout our economy has led to growing demand—and lower costs—for renewable power development. Fortu-

nately, the Northeast, and the Gulf of Maine in particular, turn out to be among the best regions in all of North America for offshore wind development. The U.S. Department of Energy calculates that there is a total potential wind power resource in the Gulf of Maine—from Cape Cod to Eastport, Maine—of more than 200,000 megawatts. That’s more than six times the existing power capacity of all the New England states.

The Portsmouth City Council has a resolution before it that would send a message to Governor Sununu that we want to see this kind of development off our shores, and that he should act quickly to request formation of an intergovernmental task force by Federal authorities, as almost every other eastern coastal state has already done. Dover and Durham councils have already approved similar resolutions, and other Seacoast communities are being

approached for town meeting votes. A Council vote on the resolution is expected on Monday, October 2nd at 7 p.m., so Portsmouth residents and others concerned with climate action and/or sustainable energy are encouraged to come to the meeting and support this first step toward renewing and updating our maritime legacy for a sustainable 21st century.

Doug Bogen, for the Seacoast Anti-Pollution League

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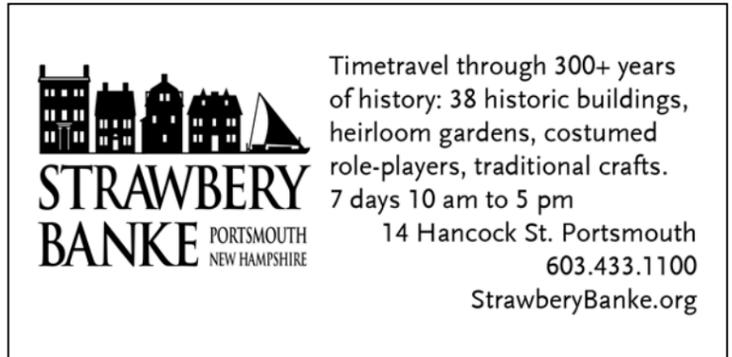


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Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

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, OCTOBER 1	MONDAY, OCTOBER 2	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7
<p>2013—In the name of fiscal discipline, Republicans shut down the government. Cost to the economy: \$24 billion.</p> <p>2011—The main rotor falls off a Robinson R66 helicopter near Philip, S.D. The pilot dies in the inevitable crash.</p> <p>2003—With Governor Benson's blessing, Free Staters choose New Hampshire as their libertarian paradise.</p> <p>2002—The U.S. Northern Command is established to "Defend America's Homeland"—<i>posse comitatus</i> be damned.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush claims he hasn't made up his mind we're going to war with Iraq.</p> <p>1993—Caving under pressure, the IRS grants tax-free status to the "Church" of Scientology.</p> <p>1973—Despite many failures to meet service requirements, George W.[MD] Bush is discharged honorably from the Texas Air National Guard.</p> <p>1964—Campus cops at U.C. Berkeley arrest Jack Weinberg; big mistake. The Free Speech Movement ensues.</p> <p>1952—The first issue of <i>Mad</i> is unleashed on an unsuspecting world.</p> <p>1917—Arabs led by T.E. Lawrence capture Damascus.</p> <p>1903—Fred Van Wormer's autopsy is halted because he's breathing. Taken back to Sing Sing's electric chair, he is found to have died. He is electrocuted again anyway, just for good measure.</p> <p>1860—San Francisco's Emperor Norton, by decree, bans Congress from meeting in Washington, D.C.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:46 8:59</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:23 2:38</p>	<p>2003—Survey chief David Kay reports that his three-month, \$300 million search for Saddam Hussein's WMD has turned up squat.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush calls Iraq "a threat of unique urgency," because of its WMDs.</p> <p>1990—Three Texans in a Cessna come within 30 feet of clearing Mt. Washington. Their bodies are brought down on the Cog Railway.</p> <p>1980—Senior members of the Reagan campaign team meet in D.C. with a representative of the Ayatollah, who offers to release U.S. hostages.</p> <p>1980—Michael Myers (D-Pa.) becomes the first Rep. expelled in 120 years, for bribe-taking and conspiracy. Why only him? Who knows.</p> <p>1978—With the Yankees and Red Sox tied for the season, a playoff game is held; it's decided by a three-run homer hit by New York's Bucky F. Dent.</p> <p>1967—Thurgood Marshall becomes the first black Supreme Court Justice.</p> <p>1965—In Natchez, Miss., 500 people are sent without trial to the Parchman Penitentiary for protesting the denial of their right to register to vote.</p> <p>1941—On Malta, Major-General Clifford Thomason Beckett of the Royal Artillery tells Major H.S. Fowle he is "not fit to command anything."</p> <p>1919—Woodrow Wilson has a stroke; the U.S. gets a woman president.</p> <p>1918—In the Argonne, the Lost Battalion gets cut off behind German lines; in a week, 3/4 are KIA or WIA.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:32 9:46</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:12 3:27</p>	<p>2009—Combat Outpost Keating, in Nuristan, badly-sited and scheduled for abandonment, is mostly overrun by Taliban fighters who capture weapons and ammunition, leaving eight Americans dead and 27 wounded.</p> <p>2006—Republicans in Congress try to "roll over" \$20 million set aside for a celebration of victory in Iraq.</p> <p>2003—<i>The National Enquirer</i> reports that Rush Limbaugh is being investigated for illegally procuring prescription opioids.</p> <p>1993—Berlin, N.H. native Michael Durant's helicopter is one of two shot down in the First Battle of Mogadishu. He's played by Ron Eldard in <i>Black Hawk Down</i>.</p> <p>1986—A fire breaks out aboard the Soviet missile sub <i>K-219</i>. The Reds blame an alleged collision with the <i>U.S.S. Augusta</i>. The Pentagon blames sloppy Commy work habits.</p> <p>1980—Moral Majority co-founder and U.S. Rep. Bob Bauman (R-Md.) is charged with making sexual solicitations to an under-aged boy.</p> <p>1973—Donald Segretti testifies before the Senate about dirty tricks he used to get Nixon re-elected.</p> <p>1968—Gen. Curtis LeMay, former Strategic Air Command chief and American Independent Party Vice Presidential Candidate, advocates use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam.</p> <p>1955—CIA HQ gets a cable from the Caracas Station: a former SS trooper says Hitler is alive in Argentina.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:14 10:29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:56 4:12</p>	<p>2010—Germany is finally free of its WWI reparations debt.</p> <p>2004—<i>SpaceShipOne</i>, Burt Rutan's tourist rocket, wins the Ansari X Prize by making a second trip above the atmosphere in five days.</p> <p>2002—Knight-Ridder reports that "The White House and the Pentagon ... are pressuring intelligence analysts to highlight information that supports Bush's Iraq policy." Only one paper prints the story.</p> <p>1992—An El Al crash dumps depleted uranium and sarin gas precursors in Amsterdam, killing 47.</p> <p>1986—Dan Rather is attacked on the streets of New York by two men yelling, "What's the frequency, Ken?"</p> <p>1971—Pres. Nguyen Van Thieu, unopposed, is reelected. He says it's "an achievement for democracy" in Nam.</p> <p>1958—At 12:45 a.m., Thomas "Fitz" Fitzpatrick wins a bar bet by landing a "borrowed" Cessna on Amsterdam Ave. and 187th St in Manhattan, just as he had done two years earlier.</p> <p>1957—Two bombs wound 13 GIs in Saigon—the first announced U.S. casualties in Vietnam.</p> <p>1946—On President Truman's orders, the Navy seizes American oil refineries to break a 20-state strike.</p> <p>1918—The world's largest munitions factory explodes in South Amboy, N.J. About 80 die immediately, and thousands are displaced. Among them, 300 more die from the flu, caused by exposure.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:53 11:11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:37 4:55</p>	<p>2003—Timothy Treadwell and girlfriend Amie Huguenard discover the hard way that the grizzly bears they've been associating with in Alaska are not vegetarians.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush tells N.H. Guardsmen that Saddam could inflict "massive and sudden horror" on the U.S. It's not true.</p> <p>2001—Robert Stevens, photo editor of the supermarket tabloid <i>The Sun</i>, dies of anthrax. The terrorist who infected him remains at large.</p> <p>1995—Rush Limbaugh says, "if people are violating the law by doing drugs, they ... ought to be sent up." After his own arrest in 2003 his position becomes more nuanced.</p> <p>1988—In a Vice-Presidential debate, Lloyd Bbentsen informs Dan Quayle he's "no Jack Kennedy."</p> <p>1986—Nicaraguans shoot down a U.S. plane illegally supplying Contras with arms bought with the proceeds of illegal U.S. arms sales to Iran.</p> <p>1969—Undetected by U.S. radar, a Cuban defector lands his MiG-17 at Homestead AFB, where <i>Air Force One</i> is waiting to take Richard Nixon back to Washington.</p> <p>1966—The Fermi nuke plant 30 miles from Detroit partially melts down.</p> <p>1960—Radar alerts NORAD of a massive Soviet ICBM launch heading for the U.S. It's wrong.</p> <p>1871—Ballooning Samuel King takes several passengers on the first aerial traverse of the White Mountains.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:32 11:53</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:17 5:38</p>	<p>2004—The top U.S. arms inspector in Iraq says there is no evidence Saddam Hussein had tried to manufacture any WMDs after 1991.</p> <p>1989—RIP Bette Davis. Years earlier, told she was rumored to have died, she said, "During a newspaper strike? I wouldn't dream of it."</p> <p>1982—A Robinson R22 helicopter sheds parts over Santa Ana, Calif., then crashes, killing the pilot.</p> <p>1976—Cubana Flight 455 is bombed over Barbados, killing 73. Miami resident Luis Posada Carriles is wanted in Cuba and Venezuela for the crime, but the U.S. won't extradite him.</p> <p>1973—Egypt and Syria attack Israel on Yom Kippur. This backfires.</p> <p>1961—President Kennedy recommends that, in case of nuclear war, American families get ready to live for a while in holes in the ground.</p> <p>1917—"In time of war," says Sen. Robert LaFollette, "the citizen must be more alert to his right to control his government."</p> <p>1886—After spotting a 75-foot sea serpent near the mouth of the Piscataqua, its head four feet above the surface, two Kittery men "[ply] their oars lustily for the shore."</p> <p>1856—Portsmouth celebrates the centennial of the founding of <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i>; the railroad lays on extra trains to accommodate the crush of visitors from around New England.</p> <p>1536—William Tyndale is burned for printing a Bible people could read.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:58 6:22</p>	<p>2016—The <i>Washington Post</i> releases a videotape on which the GOP Presidential candidate brags about grabbing women by their genitals. Hours later hacked emails of his opponent's campaign chairman are released.</p> <p>2011—On her 62nd birthday, Wal-Mart heir Alice Walton gets her 2nd DWI; but, no charges were filed. The second wealthiest woman on Earth, she killed a woman in a 1989 car wreck, but no charges were filed.</p> <p>2007—Bangor, Maine celebrates the death of Al Brady, Public Enemy No. 1, in a 1937 shootout downtown.</p> <p>2001—U.S. forces invade Afghanistan. George W.[MD] Bush writes his Poppy, "I feel no sense of the so-called heavy burden of the office."</p> <p>1996—Fox News begins broadcasting mass quantities of insidious howl.</p> <p>1985—Attorney General Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese explains that "Miranda only helps guilty defendants," because "if a person is innocent of a crime, then he is not a suspect."</p> <p>1980—Rep. John Jenrette, Jr. [D-S.C.] is convicted of conspiracy and bribery.</p> <p>1955—Allen Ginsberg reads "Howl" at the Six Gallery in San Francisco.</p> <p>1917—Relief forces reach the Lost Battalion in the Argonne Forest.</p> <p>1756—Daniel Fowle and enslaved pressman Primus X begin printing <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> in Portsmouth. It achieves national seniority in 1839 when the <i>Maryland Gazette</i> folds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:36 12:54</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:40 7:07</p>
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8	MONDAY, OCTOBER 9	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14
<p>2006—A Robinson R66 helicopter makes weird noises, spins, then plummets into Lake Tapps, Wash. A lucky passenger survives with injuries.</p> <p>2004—American warplanes miss Abu Musab al Zarqawi but kill 13 people at a wedding instead.</p> <p>1991—Speaker of the House Tom Foley [D-Wash.] announces that the House's sergeant-at-arms will no longer fix traffic tickets for Members.</p> <p>1974—The Franklin National Bank collapses, undermined by Mafioso Michele Sindona, a close buddy of President Nixon's Treasury Secretary David Kennedy.</p> <p>1969—A three-day riot branded "Days of Rage" begins in Chicago.</p> <p>1968—Washington, D.C. riots after police shoot a black man.</p> <p>1967—Ernesto "Che" Guevara is captured by Bolivian troops led by the CIA's Felix Rodriguez.</p> <p>1955—"The nations of the world will have to unite" warns Gen. D. MacArthur, "for the next war will be an interplanetary war."</p> <p>1942—Shot down on a mission for which he volunteered, Capt. Harl Pease, of Plymouth, N.H., is beheaded by his Japanese captors.</p> <p>1918—In the Argonne, ex-pacifist Cpl. Alvin C. York kills 25 German soldiers and captures 132.</p> <p>1871—According to myth, a cow starts a fire that burns Chicago and kills 200. Meanwhile, Peshtigo, Wisc. burns completely and 600 die.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:21 1:38</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:23 7:54</p>	<p>2005—Four die as the Cold River floods Alstead, N.H.</p> <p>2001—Two Democratic Senators receive letters carrying anthrax spores.</p> <p>1998—In "a mockery of the regulatory process" that "brazenly violates existing law," Citicorp and Travelers Group merge into Citigroup, enriching Sandy Weill and Jamie Dimon but costing taxpayers billions.</p> <p>1992—Hearing a loud bang, Michelle Knapp of Peekskill, N.Y. goes outside and finds a hole punched through the trunk of her 1980 Chevy Malibu and a warm 26-pound meteorite lying on the pavement beneath it.</p> <p>1985—"We should declare war on North Vietnam," says Ronald Reagan. "We could pave the whole country and put parking strips on it, and still be home by Christmas."</p> <p>1974—Rep. Wilbur Mills [D-Ark.] is stopped at 2 a.m. for speeding with his headlights off. His passenger, Fanne [sic] Foxe, aka "The Argentine Firecracker," hops into the Tidal Basin.</p> <p>1967—Dr. Ernesto "Che" Guevara taunts a hesitant executioner, saying "Just shoot, you coward. You are only killing a man."</p> <p>1966—Lt. JG William T. Patton, flying a prop-driven Douglas A1 Skyraider, downs a MiG-17 jet fighter over Vietnam.</p> <p>1963—In Italy, a landslide sends 13 billion gallons of water over an 860 foot-tall dam. An 820-foot wave erases five villages and kills 2,000.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:09 2:25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:10 8:44</p>	<p>2002—In an unusually craven display, the U.S. Senate votes 77-23 to let George W.[MD] Bush have his way with Saddam Hussein.</p> <p>1991—Seven of New Hampshire's largest banks, holding 25% of all deposits and 60% of all commercial loans, are closed by regulators.</p> <p>1973—Vice President Spiro "Ted" Agnew resigns in disgrace, pleading <i>nolo</i> to charges he dodged taxes on bribes and kickbacks.</p> <p>1969—Richard Nixon, putting his "madman theory" into practice, orders a gratuitous global nuclear alert for all U.S. military.</p> <p>1957—A fire in a British nuclear facility causes a radiation leak contaminating milk over a 200 mile radius. The contaminated milk is dumped in the Irish Sea.</p> <p>1933—A Boeing 247 airliner is destroyed by a bomb over Indiana. Seven passengers and three crew die in the first such act in history.</p> <p>1911—Jasper "Jack" Daniel, distiller, dies of blood poisoning from an infected toe injured by kicking a safe whose combination he'd forgotten.</p> <p>1888—Two trains leaving an abstinence rally collide in Pa.; 66 die. Newspaper accounts suggest many survivors abandoned their pledges.</p> <p>1871—Octavius Valentine Catto, 32, a teacher at Philadelphia's Institute for Colored Youth, is shot dead by Frank Kelly for having the temerity to vote while black. Kelly is acquitted.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:00 3:16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 9:38</p>	<p>2012—Three die in Blanco, Texas in a Robinson R44 helicopter crash.</p> <p>2003—Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez gives Yankee coach Don Zimmer a shove, knocking the 72-year old Zimmer to the ground.</p> <p>1991—Anita Hill testifies before Congress that her former boss, Supreme Court Justice-to-be Clarence Thomas sexually harassed her.</p> <p>1988—As Pope John Paul II addresses the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Rev. Ian Paisley shouts, "I renounce you as the Antichrist!"</p> <p>1973—Henry Kissinger tells Brent Scowcroft that President Nixon can't take a call from the British Prime Minister because he's too "loaded."</p> <p>1960—Nikita Khrushchev employs footwear to make his point at the podium of the UN.</p> <p>1954—The Viet Minh take over North Vietnam.</p> <p>1945—Mao's Red Army goes to war against Chiang Kai-Shek's kleptocracy.</p> <p>1937—Physicians warn the AMA that Massengill's new miracle drug "Elixir Sulfanilamide" is causing their patients to die in agony.</p> <p>1906—The City of San Francisco decrees that Japanese children must go to segregated schools.</p> <p>1868—Thomas Edison gets his first patent, for an electric voting machine.</p> <p>1809—At Grinder's Stand, a tavern, Meriwether Lewis cuts his wrists and shoots himself twice—according to the official version of events.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:56 4:14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:55 10:37</p>	<p>2004—Computers are stolen from Democratic HQ in Toledo, Ohio.</p> <p>1972—A race riot aboard the <i>U.S.S. Kitty Hawk</i> injures 47.</p> <p>1970—Lieut. William Calley is court-martialed for 102 murders.</p> <p>1969—Navy nurse Susan Schnell drops anti-war leaflets from a plane onto a California military base.</p> <p>1964—JFK's very close friend Mary Pinchot Meyer is murdered under the most mysterious of circumstances.</p> <p>1961—The FBI launches a "Socialist Worker Disruption Program."</p> <p>1960—Otoya Yamaguchi, 17, a right-winger, runs a sword through Inejiro Asanuma, leader of the Socialists, during a televised debate.</p> <p>1945—Corporal Desmond Doss, a medic and conscientious objector, becomes the first non-combatant to receive the Medal of Honor.</p> <p>1943—Combat medic Willi Graf is guillotined by the Wehrmacht for undermining the war effort.</p> <p>1929—Black Diamond, a nine-ton elephant in the Al G. Barnes Circus, breaks from a parade in Corsicana, Texas and kills Eva Speed Donohoo.</p> <p>1923—Thousands of Ku Klux Klansmen hold a rally in Portland, Maine.</p> <p>1917—Passchendaele begins: 13,000 Allied casualties, no advance.</p> <p>1902—Mine owners in Pana, Ill. import strike-breakers. Violence ensues. Fourteen die and 25 are wounded.</p> <p>1492—A lost European begins oppressing native Americans.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:57 5:16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:55 11:41</p>	<p>2004—Andrea Mackris sues her former boss, Bill O'Reilly, for making lewd phone calls. Two weeks later O'Reilly pays her to shut up.</p> <p>2004—George W.[MD] Bush claims during a televised debate, "Gosh, I don't think I ever said I'm not worried about Osama bin Laden. That's kind of one of those exaggerations," directly contradicting his own statement of March 3, 2002 that he's "not that much concerned about him."</p> <p>1991—A lie detector test suggests Anita Hill is telling the truth about Clarence Thomas.</p> <p>1988—Experts call the Shroud of Turin a 13th century fake.</p> <p>1972—Seventy-five years after the land for it was allocated, the Burns Paiute Indian reservation in Oregon is created.</p> <p>1972—A plane carrying a Uruguayan rugby team crashes high in the Andes, leading to culinary experimentation.</p> <p>1967—Two Marines die and 21 are wounded when a Marine pilot accidentally bombs them at Con Thien.</p> <p>1925—Birth of Lenny Bruce.</p> <p>1812—U.S. Gen. Van Rensselaer sends his regulars across the Canadian border. Those who aren't shot are forced to surrender. A troop of U.S. militia then refuses orders to invade.</p> <p>1660—Major General Thomas Harrison goes to his hanging, drawing, and quartering "looking as cheerful as any man could do in that condition," according to diarist Samuel Pepys.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:04 6:25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:02</p>	<p>2012—Felix Baumgartner uses gravity to break the sound barrier.</p> <p>2001—Delta Flight 458 (Atlanta-Newark) is diverted to Charlotte after two praying Orthodox Jews are mistaken for terrorists.</p> <p>2000—A Robinson R22 emitting "a loud popping noise" crashes in residential area of Pembroke Pines, Fla., killing the pilot and a passenger on her first helicopter flight.</p> <p>1982—Ronald Reagan "declares war" on certain substances.</p> <p>1978—Jimmy Carter legalizes home brewing of beer.</p> <p>1968—The Pentagon orders 24,000 troops back to Vietnam for an involuntary second tour.</p> <p>1968—At the Presidio stockade, 27 soldiers are arrested for mutiny.</p> <p>1962—A U-2 flying over Cuba photographs medium-range ballistic missile sites being built.</p> <p>1947—Broken ribs be damned: Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier.</p> <p>1943—Prisoners of Sobibor revolt, killing officers and guards. Half the 600 prisoners escape under fire.</p> <p>1915—Rudolfo Fierro, Pancho Villa's executioner, is thrown from his horse into quicksand. His men let him sink.</p> <p>1912—William Schranck shoots Teddy Roosevelt in the chest, later saying "any man looking for a third term ought to be shot." TR, though bleeding, delivers his speech.</p> <p>1864—The <i>New Orleans Tribune</i>, America's first black daily, begins.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:12 7:33</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:47 1:10</p>

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