

The Fortnightly Rant

Leave It To the Experts

During the month of September it became increasingly clear that dubious financial practices had not disappeared entirely when Enron and its accounting firm Arthur Anderson went “poof” in 2001, leaving a smoking crater where billions of dollars and thousands of jobs had once been.

The nation's pulse—which is to say, the Dow-Jones Industrial Average—was faltering. It had dropped some 3,000 points from its peak a year earlier.

The peculiar fact that the total value of the stock market at its peak had been, on paper, nearly three times higher than it was just twelve years earlier, seemed to trouble no one in particular. After all, the market was intrinsically good. Whole new markets, for derivatives like credit default swaps, had been created; so of course there was more wealth around.

It would be absurd to think that, just because markets are the perfect mechanism to determine the value of things, the value of things should be getting lower instead of higher.

Something had to be done.

Enter Secretary of the Treasury Henry “Hank” Paulson, just the man to do it. Brought up in a faith-based family that believed in prayer as the remedy for disease, he began learning the ways of government relatively early. While other men his age frittered their lives away slogging through mud in far-off jungles, Paulson was making something of himself, as the Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense. From the Pentagon, he went straight to the White House, where he worked under John Ehrlichman, during Wa-

tergate. Unlike Erlichman, Paulson was neither suspected, nor found guilty of anything, sparing him from the incarceration that marred his boss's resumé.

After you've worked at the the White House, it's hard to go higher. But Paulson found a way: he took a position at the investment banking firm of Goldman Sachs.

Goldman Sachs has earned a formidable reputation in its 140 years on Wall Street. In the late 19th century, it practically invented what is called “commercial paper.” The term refers to short-term loans made between large banks and corporations. The loans were unsecured. No collateral was required; a company's reputation served that function instead. Before the credit crunch began last fall, the value of commercial paper changing hands in the U.S. had reached two trillion dollars—a week.

The firm was also deeply involved in the eventual establishment of a credit rating system for commercial paper. The direct stimulus was the bankruptcy of the Penn Central Railroad in 1970. Creditors were left holding \$80 million worth of the railroad's newly-worthless commercial paper—which had been issued by Goldman Sachs.

By the time George W. Bush tapped Paulson to head up the Treasury Department in 2006, he was head of the firm, making as much as \$27 million a year, and worth a cool \$700 million. Not without effort, of course. He was particularly active in developing trade with China. Paulson was also deeply involved in working with regulators such as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).



In 2004, investment banks were chafing at the looming threat of regulation of their foreign operations by the European Union (EU). Thanks to resistance from the Bush administration and CEOs such as Paulson, a compromise was struck: the EU would back off on its regulatory requirements, if the SEC would shoulder that burden.

Going directly from success to success, Paulson and investment bankers then sat down with the SEC, chaired at the time by William H. Donaldson. (Though also a Yale grad, and a member of Skull and Bones, Donaldson's era was fifteen years earlier than George W. Bush's.)

Arguing that regulation was stifling their growth and creativity, the investment banks convinced the regulators to allow them to “regulate” themselves, using their own computer models to determine their levels of risk. At the same time, the SEC agreed to lift the “net capital rule,” which had limited the amount of debt an investment bank could carry

in relation to its reserves. Bear Stearns, for example, expanded considerably, owing at one point as much as \$33 for every dollar it held.

For safety's sake, the SEC would “supervise” the four trillion dollar investment banking industry by having seven people run their eyes over data supplied by the firms. That works out to about \$571 billion dollars per pair of eyes.

Things went swimmingly for more than four years. Stocks kept rising and rising. Wall Street bonuses got higher and higher. It seemed like the sky was the limit. Life was good.

And the crash, when it came, was especially thrilling—especially for those ordinary Americans who had recently left the hubbub of the work for the bland land of retirement. First their 401(k) accounts and their homes lost a third of their value. Then Hank from the Investment Bank showed up at their door and asked them to co-sign for their fair share of a \$700 billion loan.

Of course, that's not strictly true. If a guy in a sharp suit showed up at, say, a retired auto-worker's house, and said “Lend me \$7,000—I'll tell you what I spend it on later,” he might not fare too well. Besides, that's what Congress is for.

But Congress is tougher than the SEC. Before they'd agreed to the \$700 billion bailout, they made Hank promise: no golden parachutes for the guys who ran the firms into the ground. (See the Dater cartoon on page three.)

Now, after shelling out hundreds of billions to save the handful of paper-shuffling outfits that got us into this mess, the allegedly responsible parties are balking at spending a fraction of that amount to salvage the automobile industry.

“The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness.”

—John Kenneth Galbraith

News Briefs:

Iraqi Loafer-Launcher Leaps Into History

Iraqi journalist Muntadhar al-Zaidi earned a place in history during a press conference in Baghdad Sunday—as well as a broken arm, broken ribs, internal bleeding, and an eye injury.

With just 37 days left to masquerade as President, George W. Bush had returned to the scene of his greatest failure, to sign what amounts to a timeline for withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. Mr. Bush had previously said on many occasions that a timeline for withdrawal would lead to catastrophe. None of the ~~hundreds~~ journalists accompanying the alleged president appear to have asked the obvious question, “Does this not constitute a tacit admission that the disaster

is already in effect?”

In keeping with a tradition of nearly eight years' standing, the day before Mr. Bush made much of signing the new security agreement, evidence surfaced from another quarter indicating that its provisions would not be honored.

The security agreement calls for U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraqi cities by next June. On Saturday, General Ray Odierno, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, told a Reuters reporter in Balad that U.S. troops would likely stay in Iraqi cities after next June, because they would be “supporting Iraqi forces rather than serving as combat troops.”

Americans appear to have lost

much of their interest in ending the occupation of Iraq, in direct correlation to the precipitous drop in their net worth. Many Iraqis, on the other hand, followers of the Firebrand Cleric™ Muktada al-Sadr in particular, seem more inclined to believe Gen. Odierno than George W. Bush, and are not happy about the new security agreement. Their resentment appears to stem from having been invaded, then occupied for more than five years, and witnessing at least 100,000 of their fellow citizens being slaughtered in the wreckage of an ancient civilization. You never know what's going to tick some people off.

Certainly these complaints were on the mind of Muntadhar

al-Zaidi when he launched his loafers at Bush.

“This is the gift from the Iraqis,” al-Zaidi said as he threw his first shoe, “This is the farewell kiss, you dog.” Mr. Bush did a creditable job, it must be said, of dodging the flying footwear.

As he reared back for his final fling, al-Zaidi yelled, “This is from the widows, the orphans and those killed in Iraq.” Bush ducked again, and the shoe hit an American flag on a standard behind him.

Curiously, Secret Service personnel were nowhere in sight during the incident. Iraqi journalists appear to have tackled al-Zaidi and brought him to the floor. An Iraqi security detail

then grabbed him, took him out of the room, and gave him a discreet beating well out of sight of the news cameras.

The official White House transcript of the press conference summarized the event as an “Audience interruption.” It also demonstrated that having shoes thrown at him didn't knock Mr. Bush off his stride. His arrogance and bluster were undiminished.

Responding to a question, which the White House claims was inaudible, from a reporter identified only as Jennifer, Mr. Bush said, “So what if a guy threw a shoe at me?” Asked in



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a follow-up if he considered his Iraq trip a “victory lap,” he said no, then delivered one of his patented rambling *non sequiturs*:

“[L]et me talk about the guy throwing the shoe. It is one way to gain attention. It’s like going to a political rally and having people yell at you. It’s like driving down the street and have people not gesturing with all five fingers. It’s a way for people to, you know, draw—I don’t know what the guy’s cause is. But one thing is for certain—he caused you to ask me a question about it. I didn’t feel the least bit threatened by it. These journalists here were very apologetic, they were—said, this doesn’t represent the Iraqi people. But that’s what happens in free societies, where people try to draw attention to themselves. And so I guess he was effected (sic), because he caused you to say something about it.”

And that is the White House’s own version, surely as coherent as they could possibly make it. Bush’s remark may reveal more

about himself than his assailant (about whom he could have known nothing, of course). In that wad of tortured English, Bush claims (a) that the act was motivated by a mere desire for attention, (b) that he himself was fearless in the face of the assault, and (c) that by asking her foolish question, the reporter was acting as the assailant’s willing accomplice.

Unlike many Americans, al-Zaidi ought to be able to afford health care—provided he survives his current captivity, and can retrieve his footwear. The coach of the Iraqi national football team is said to have offered \$100,000 for them, but a Saudi national is reported to have upped the ante to \$10,000,000. Even if he’s barefoot, he’s got work. A Lebanese television station has offered him a job, saying he would be paid “from the moment the first shoe was thrown.”

Closer to home, we are informed that neighbors of the Bush compound in Kennebunkport are organizing a “Shoes For Bush” protest, to take place in Washington, DC, in front of the

White House, at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 19th.

“Activists and enraged citizens from across the country, who would like to pay ‘a parting tribute’ to President Bush, will be bringing their shoes to hurl at the gates of the White House,” says a release from The Kennebunks Peace Department. An activist from Texas who is supporting the action has offered a U-Haul to take care of the logistics.

Organizer Jamilla El-Shafei is asking for organizers in communities across Maine and New Hampshire to collect shoes and bring them, before January 15th, to a soon-to-be-determined location in Portland. Interested parties they should e-mail Jamilla at jamillaelshafei@gmail.com, or call her on her cell: (603) 969-8426.

[Note: Since the Bill of Rights does not include throwing objects of any kind at the White House, we can neither approve of nor condone this effort. We report on it only to illustrate the depths of contempt to which the present regime has lowered the office of the Presidency.—The Ed.]



“Open - Sort Of,” said the sign outside Paradiza, “Shop by Flashlight.” This novel approach to shopping, temporarily adopted last Friday afternoon, was occasioned by a monstrous ice storm the night before. More people lost power longer than ever before, apparently. At least two people died. One New Hampshire man was overcome by carbon monoxide from an electrical generator, another died when the battery of his oxygen machine quit. The rest of the public suffered varying degrees of inconvenience and financial loss. The full cost probably won’t be known for weeks.

People who have an excess of superfluous footwear, and a desire to show their true feelings about the Bush administration have another option open to them which would likely incur less risk. A blogger who goes by “The Littlest Gator” has suggested this worthy place to ship old shoes:

The George W. Bush Presidential Library
c/o Southern Methodist University
6425 Boaz Lane
Dallas TX 75205

Down the Memory Hole

According to a press release from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, “the Bush White House has been rewriting part of its history.”

University of Illinois researchers Scott Althaus and Kalev Leetaru looked at online archives to compare documents relating to the so-called “Coalition of the Willing”—nations participating in the pre-emptive invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq.

They found “[d]ifferent versions of three releases [that] all appear to be ... originals. But the words are different and so are the facts, depending on when, over a period of several years, you accessed the releases on the White House Web site.”

“[U]pdating lists to keep up with the times is one thing,” the researchers write. “Deleting original documents from the White House archives is another. Backdating later documents and using them to replace the originals goes beyond irresponsible stewardship of the public record. It is rewriting history.”

Of course, given the nature of the true history, it’s easy to see why Bush *et al.* would want to take a mulligan.

“Support the Troops

Use of the phrase “support the troops” has dropped considerably in recent years. And when it was current, it was really code for “buy lots of expensive weapons and authorize the President to invade somebody.”

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As members of Congress considered the \$700 billion bailout bill, they worried that Capitol Hill might be stormed by peasants wielding torches and pitchforks. So, they covered their posteriors by prohibiting the use of bailout money for bonuses to top executives. Oops—that prohibition is “no longer operative,” as Richard Nixon

might say. The Washington Post reported Monday that “at the last minute, the Bush administration insisted on a one-sentence change” that effectively gutted that prohibition. The Post quoted Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) saying “[t]he flimsy executive-compensation restrictions in the original bill are now all but gone.”

Now that Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-CA) has given up his seat on the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and is enjoying a steady diet of baloney sandwiches at the Crowbar Hilton, perhaps the federal government might be able to find the money to fully fund the Veterans Administration.

As it works now, the the VA’s budget for medical care is “discretionary.” In other words, instead of the VA telling Congress how much money it needs to “Support the Troops,” Congress tells the VA each year how much money it’s going to get, and that’s that. They’ve been short-changing the VA since the 1960’s, and it’s still going on today.

On December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, President-Elect Obama

nominated Eric Shinseki to head the VA. A combat-wounded, two-tour Vietnam veteran, Shinseki got canned from his previous job as a General in the U.S. Army for publicly contradicting Defense Secretary “The Donald” Rumsfeld’s loopy assessment of troop requirements in Iraq.

Shinseki’s appointment was a nice slap in the face for the Bush administration, and that’s always nice to see. A more meaningful repudiation would be giving his new Department the funding it requires to do its job.

Naturally, the day Shinseki’s appointment was announced, the Bush administration excreted a press release bragging about big increases in the VA’s budget and other improvements undertaken during Bush #43’s reign. Of

course, when tens of thousands of people suffer traumatic amputations and brain injuries, not to mention four thousand dead in a “discretionary” war, expenses will go up. And as for “implementing and fully funding the largest expansion in the national cemetery system since the Civil War,” well, don’t even get us started.

Lest there be any doubt the VA needs reform, how about this for starters: for the past twelve years—yes, all the way back through Clinton’s second term—the VA has been wrongfully demanding reimbursement of final monthly benefit checks from the widows of deceased veterans.

The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1966 decreed that veterans’ spouses had a right to their spouses’ last month of



We regret to announce that the normally unflappable and always indefatigable Officer Krupke, a stalwart of the South End Precinct of the Flag Police, is currently being treated for a severe case of consternation, incurred in the line of duty. Upon retrieval of evidence from Officer Krupke’s camera, the reason became clear. For reasons which have not yet been determined, the symbol of America’s liberty has been chained to a wall, and resting on a bulkhead door, down there in said officer’s bailiwick, for about a week. The case has been kicked up the chain of command for further analysis, but the facts are so bizarre, persons familiar with the case (who must remain nameless because they have not been cleared to speak with the media) say they doubt that any satisfactory explanation will, or could, ever be found.

benefits. But nobody bothered to reprogram the computers. Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI), chair of the Senate Vetrans Affairs Committee, got on the VA’s case about it earlier this month. Last week VA Secretary James Peake vowed to square it all away soon.

Help a Vet with VASH

Would that one month’s benefits was all America’s vets—or their widows—needed. Here is a way that almost anybody in southern New Hampshire can help some vets in need.

Evonne M. Schneider e-mailed us recently and told us about this. She is a volunteer with the Manchester unit of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), and is a veteran herself.

Evonne volunteered “after being the first recipient of a Section

8 housing certificate” under the VASH program.

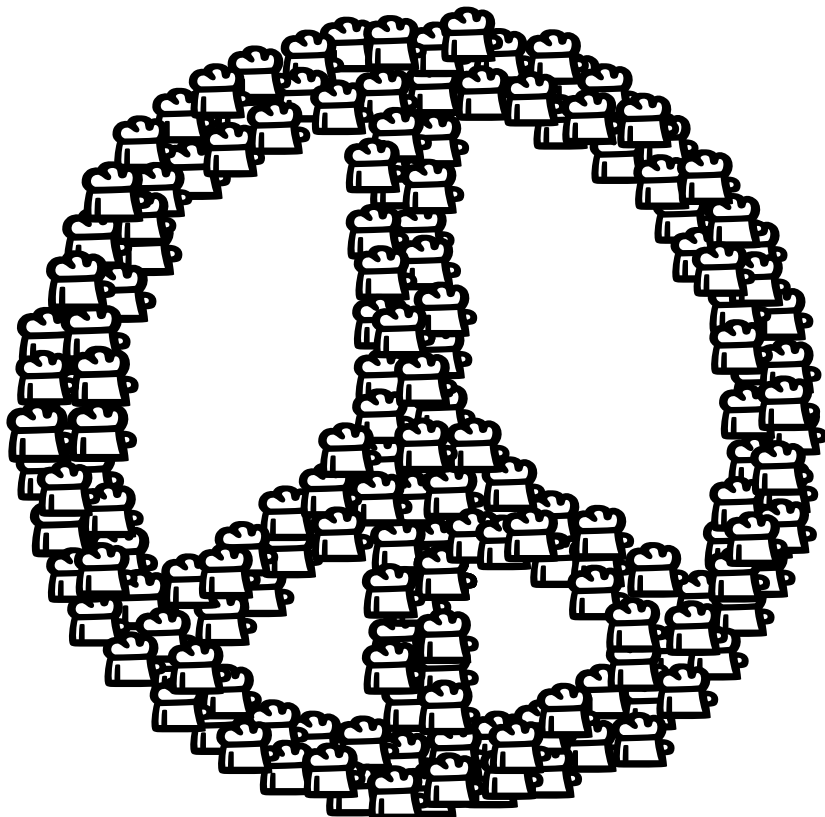
“The current venture with Manchester Housing is issuing 35 housing vouchers this year. Next year we hope that will double to 70. VASH not only provides housing, but also provides intense case management to those of us who are in need of mental health counseling, etc. It is a five year program and commitment to the Manchester area, which will enable those of us in the program to obtain employment, and more permanent housing.”

Sounds good so far—and is. But there’s a wrinkle.

“I encountered several barriers

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“WHEN THE POWER OF LOVE OVERCOMES THE LOVE OF POWER, THE WORLD WILL FINALLY KNOW PEACE.” -- JIMI HENDRIX



Northcountry Chronicle

Insurance Racketeers

by William Marvel

A full-page ad for Anthem health insurance appeared in my local paper last Monday, just as that company drove me to peak frustration. The ad included an idyllic photo of a sedan traveling a country road, but I imagined it as a carload of federal marshals on their way to arrest Anthem executives for conspiracy to defraud their customers.

For six years my family was insured by Anthem—or at least for six years we paid increasingly excessive premiums to Anthem. Whether we were actually insured is debatable. Their premiums finally became so onerous that we decided to sharply reduce my wife’s coverage and remove me altogether, since I am eligible for care by the Veterans Administration.

The change in coverage was supposed to take effect on July 1, and in June we each had one last doctor’s visit. Anthem paid \$12 for mine, besides my \$20 co-payment. At first they also paid the \$122 allowed for my wife’s

annual physical, but then they took it back on the claim that her coverage had stopped. After several hours’ worth of document research and telephone arguments with Anthem they re-paid the \$122 bill, but within 48 hours they took it back again.

Keep in mind that Anthem paid my bill and never tried to claim that I was not covered, yet I was merely a passenger on my wife’s policy. If I was covered, then she also had to have been covered.

Obviously the company cannot be relied on for self-correction, so why argue further with them? I’m sending this issue to the state Insurance Commissioner as a formal complaint. I’m also toying with the idea of a small-claims suit to recover not only the money Anthem owes the clinic, but compensation for the considerable time my wife spent trying to make the company do what it was overpaid to do in the first place.

If Anthem representatives ever admit that they owe the local clinic \$122 for my wife’s physi-

cal, they will doubtless insist that it was all a “mistake.” I have, however, spoken with doctors who believe instead that insurance companies like Anthem routinely refuse to pay portions of medical bills for which they are really responsible, in the hope that the customers will ultimately tire of the time-consuming administrative battle and pay the disputed portion themselves. I have spoken with medical-office staff who believe the same thing. I have, of course, also encountered insurance-company customers who believe that their companies pull this scam, and I assure you that I believe it myself.

After deducting the 50-million-or-so Americans who have no health insurance, there would be about 100 million American families who are covered. If their carriers skim just \$122 a year from each of them, that amounts to more than \$12 billion in avoided responsibilities. With \$12 billion here and \$12 billion there, pretty soon the insurance companies would be raking in some serious money, in addition

to their more legitimate profits.

Let’s face it: the health-insurance industry is just as dysfunctional and dishonest as the mortgage and securities rackets. Health insurance is, itself, substantially to blame for the skyrocketing costs of medical care, for if people had always had to pay for their own doctors and hospitalization the market would never have borne such increases. Hospital administrators like ours would never be able to demand \$400,000 annual compensation packages, and hospitals like ours would have to charge each patient the same reasonable amount for every procedure, rather than gouging the uninsured patient several times the standard fee they quote to someone who is insured.

The solution to this intolerable situation was, once again, successfully squelched by insurance-industry lobbying during the last presidential election—with the predictable aid of McCarthyite Neanderthals who lurk in the shadows, anxious to denounce “communism” or “socialism.” The



insurance companies that bleed us dry managed, again, to kill the eminently sensible idea of single-payer health coverage. Only national health care will put parasitical insurance syndicates out of business, eliminating their massive administrative expenses as well as removing the opportunity for more underhanded exploitation of the public.

We are told (usually by those who support trillions of dollars for pointless wars, or to bail out corrupt and ill-managed corporations) that providing the American people with basic health care is just too expensive. As most of us suspect, though, the real problem is that, for a select and powerful few, denying the right of good health to the average citizen is simply too profitable.

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while trying to obtain furniture and household items, as my four children and I recently moved into my apartment,” Evonne wrote.

“Social workers at the VA in Manchester, and the VASH coordinator, Tracey Noonan, are not allowed to solicit donations, used furniture, or even a truck to move donated items. That is how

I became a volunteer in this position, to help those who are soon following in my footsteps.

“I am trying to reach out to Veterans Organizations and I am desperately asking for help. We are not asking for new furniture, just items people may have buried in the basement, old dishes, pots and pans, the recliner that has been tossed into the garage, curtains, and anyone who has a pick up truck to help move these items into apartments.

“Please feel free to contact me via email (Evonne.Schneider@va.gov), or on my cell phone at (603) 682-7671. You may also contact Tracey Noonan at (603) 657-5612. I do not have my own office here at the VAMC, I am working out of the volunteer office. I apologize that I do not currently have a work extension.”

We can bring this to our readers attention because the Manchester Veterans Council allowed Veterans for Peace (VfP) to speak last Veterans Day. Evonne was there, and heard Will Thomas speak about VfP’s commitment to help homeless vets.

The Perfect Christmas Tree Is Green
by Hilary Niles

Worried about the economy? The environment? Go green by buying a local Christmas tree.

Christmas tree farming is a legitimate local agricultural enterprise. Selling Christmas trees isn’t just about chopping them down—it’s also about growing them! Just think of all the carbon dioxide that’s consumed and saved from the atmosphere by tree farms, and think of all the oxygen they give back. And for every tree that’s cut down at a tree farm, up to three seedlings are planted in its place.

Sustainable tree production helps keep soils and water healthy, keeps land in current use, maintains open space, and provides important year-round habitat to wildlife such as deer, turkey, fox and countless species of birds.

How do we know if a farm is operating sustainably? We can simply ask, because we’re lucky enough to live in a place where Christmas tree farms are family owned and operated.

These businesses often provide income for local farmers who would otherwise be looking for

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Moving Pictures

Danny Boyle

by Rodman Philbrick

Take a deep breath. That funky smell isn't last week's garbage, it's the odor of PR flacks getting all sweaty about Oscar season. The members of the Academy are already being wooed, spun, or outright bribed to consider the handful of films that are part of this year's buzz. Notable among them is Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire*, now in limited release (Boston) but eventually, one hopes, headed for our own local popcorn palace.

Mr. Boyle, now in his early fifties, first gained this humble reviewer's attention in 1994 with *Shallow Grave*. Young Ewan McGregor got his first lead role as an Edinburgh reporter interviewing prospective roommates. When one of them suddenly dies, McGregor and his pals discover the corpse is in possession of a suitcase full of money. Rather than call the cops, they decide, what the heck, why not dismember the body and keep the dough? Oops. Many plot twists later, this tight little noir thriller ends badly—but in a good way. Think Hitchcock with a burr, and a blonde with a wicked kitchen knife.

Mr. Boyle, now in his early fifties, is from the Irish Catholic

working class, born and raised in Manchester, England. He started out working in regional theatre, eventually took charge of the Royal Court Theatre in what might be described as London's equivalent of Off Broadway. From there he migrated into television, producing shows for Northern Ireland's version of the BBC and eventually directing a couple of *Inspector Morse* episodes. Then along came the aforementioned *Shallow Grave* and suddenly, after decades of slogging in the trenches, Boyle was an overnight success, or at least a bonafide director of feature length films.

Trainspotting was Boyle's second movie, released in 1996. Based on the novel by Irvine Welsh, it follows the jumbled lives of a small gang of Edinburgh smack addicts, lead by Ewan McGregor, and with a notable, maniacally comic performance by Robert Carlyle. *Trainspotting* somehow managed to be hip and lively while still delivering a tale of classic redemption, and it established Danny Boyle as a major director.

A Life Less Ordinary followed in 1997. A wacky romantic comedy about angels interfering in the messy love lives of mere humans, it was in a strange throwback to similar films of the 30's

and 40's, except in Boyle's version the angels are played by Holly Hunter and Delroy Lindo. Their heavenly mission: get Ewan McGregor matched with Cameron Diaz. Although not without its charms—Stanley Tucci and Tony Shalhoub doing their tag team routine—*A Life Less Ordinary* failed to connect with a large audience.

Fingers burned, Boyle took his time before entering door number three, and eventually emerged in 2000 with the adaptation of Alex Garland's cult novel *The Beach*. Leonard DiCaprio, molten with fame from *Titanic*, plays a young American wandering through Southeast Asia, who hears rumors about a near-mythical island where life can begin anew, in paradise. Oh yeah, and with more marijuana than you can shake an AK-47 at. The flaw in the bong of this particular paradise is that it happens to be lead by Tilda Swinton and, oh yeah, the sharks are always biting. *The Beach* was widely panned, and with good reason—Boyle seemed to have lost his ability to keep the narrative going, or at least give the audience a reason to care about a cast of narcissistic posers.

Boyle, to his great credit, has not only the necessary ego of a

filmmaker, but a snarky, self-deprecating sense of humor, and that may explain why he went directly from a movie about beautiful people to the zombie world of *28 Days Later*. Working from a screenplay by Alex Garland (who obviously shares that sense of humor) he imagines a post-apocalyptic London, suddenly emptied of human beings. Or those recognizably human. It seems a virus has swept through the population, spread by close contact—frantic, rabies-like biting—that renders victims dead but still horribly animated in less than five minutes. Shot in digital video, *28 Days Later* puts the zombies right in your face, never plays it campy, and is therefore light years better than anything by George Romero.

How do you clear the palette after a bone-crunching zombie chase? You make *Millions*, an absolutely charming story about a little boy who finds a pile of cash thrown from a train. Unlike, say, the characters in *Shallow Grave*, seven-year-old Damian is inspired by visions of saints to do good deeds. The fun begins when the stash is intercepted by Damian's older and much less saintly brother, who has plans of his own. There are miracles involved, but nothing maudlin or sentimental,



and if *Millions* failed to attract a huge audience, it succeeded in becoming an instant classic about the dreams and schemes of childhood.

About Boyle's next film, the less said the better. *Sunshine* is one of those sci-fi flicks that takes itself far too seriously, and in a tedious way. Lather on the sun block, avoid exposure.

All of which brings us around to *Slumdog Millionaire*, set in Mumbai, about a street kid who is answering all the right questions on India's version of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*? Really, it's an excuse for Boyle to work his magic as he offers tantalizing glimpses of the street kid's amazing life and his antic struggle to not only survive, but overcome adversity, fall in love, and dance his way to happiness, Bollywood style.

Or so we've heard. So far, *Slumdog Millionaire* is just a rumor waiting to be screened locally. How about it, Music Hall, any chance?

work during the cold months. Supporting them is good for the community to help increase the tax base and keep our neighbors employed. Plus, local businesses return more of their dollars to the local economy and give more to the community than chain stores, which is where you'd probably have to buy a fake tree.

That artificial tree would also be hauled long distances. While the shipping and trucking emis-

sions are scary enough, the fake tree is also made at a factory that may not abide by environmentally friendly standards. That's a far cry from the trees that grow naturally on the land. Also, the artificial tree is likely made out of harmful, non-renewable materials such as lead, vinyl and other petroleum products, and when it breaks or gets ratty, there's nowhere to put it but the landfill. Real trees, on the other hand, can

be chopped into wood chips that are used as mulch and/or composted. If you've got an artificial tree, use it as long as you can to keep it out of the waste stream. But if you're still shopping for a tree this year and beyond, go green with a true New Hampshire Christmas tree.

If you're buying from a lot, look for proof that it's locally grown, like a tag from the New Hampshire Christmas Tree Promotion

Board (www.nhchristmastrees.com).

Better yet, visit a local farm to cut your own or have one cut fresh for you. Try: Lasting Legacy Farm in Barrington, (603) 332-6328; Indian Hill Farm in South Hampton, (603) 394-7520; Defiant Lobster Company in Hampton, (603) 926-3910; Tonry Farm in Hampton Falls, (603) 772-6213; and High Meadow Farm in Strafford, (603)

664-2934.

An additional business opportunity for the holidays is tree delivery for elderly, handicapped, or just plain busy folks!

This campaign is a joint initiative of Seacoast Local (www.seacoastlocal.org), Slow Food Seacoast (www.slowfoodseacoast.com), Seacoast Eat Local (www.seacoateatlocal.org), and the Seacoast Growers' Association (www.seacoastgrowers.org).



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Archi's Acres

To the Editor:

I'm writing to ask for help for Archi's Acres, a program in Southern California that trains young Iraq and Afghanistan veterans in organic farming. I met the founders, Colin and Karen Archipley, at a Farmer-Veterans Coalition dinner last month. The Farmer-Veterans Coalition is sponsored by Farms Not Arms. Remember all the hippies who went "back to the land" during the '60's and early '70's? Well, some of them are now leaders in teaching organic farming and other skills, and formed the Farmer-Veterans Coalition to give *real* support to our troops and to pass on their hard-earned skills to a new generation.

Colin Archipley is a former Marine Sergeant who served three tours in Iraq. When he came home and the Marines tried to make him be a recruiter

(which he didn't want to do), his wife Karen threatened to protest outside the recruiting station, causing the Marines to drop the idea. Colin finally got out of the Marines and the two of them decided to start a program to build an alternative and bring their fellow vets into it. So they brought three acres of land, developed an organic farm, and started a program to train new veterans in the skills of organic farming. The farm produces food for market and the long term plan is to make the farm self sustaining via its food sales.

The vets served by this program need it desperately. Some of them have had trouble making it in the civilian world after serving in Iraq. The military offers them big bonuses—thousands of dollars—to reenlist, and even though they may not want to, some vets have gotten so desperate they have actually considered it. This farm offers them an alternative, one that gives hope to our vets and develops for our country an alternative model for how we all can live.

Please see the letter below from Linda Poniktera, a marketing professional who contributes her time and talents to helping worthy non-profits succeed. This project is certainly among the very worthy. For more information, please contact Linda direct-

ly at the email or phone given. yours in peace,
Mike Wong
Veterans for Peace,
San Francisco

Friends Of The Farm Campaign
Dear Veterans Supporter,
During the holidays our thoughts naturally turn to those in need. For veterans in transition back to civilian life and work, the holidays are often times of enormous struggle. This year, however, there is new hope for veterans in that struggle through a program called Archi's Acres Veterans Sustainable Agricultural Training (VSAT). Please take a look at this innovative program (<http://archisacres.com/veterans.html>) which is helping veterans in transition right now—in very concrete ways. This progressive small scale organic farm training program was started by Sergeant Colin Archipley, a former Marine who served three tours of duty in Iraq, and his wife Karen. Sergeant Archipley's infantry position gave him the teaching experience and tools necessary to instill confidence and work side-by-side with fellow veterans who are returning to the workforce. Now men and women have the opportunity to get a fresh start through this structured program geared to support the unique challenges faced by veterans in transition. To hear a Fox News 5 interview with Sergeant Archipley and one of the veterans served by VSAT go here (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il8X6a1V9GY>).

Archi's Acres VSAT is the first organic farm training program started by a veteran to serve veterans, and the Archipley's took the initiative to start this truly remarkable program at their own cost. Their hard work and perseverance got this program up and running in less than a year, receiving veterans referred to them through the San Diego VA Healthcare System's Com-

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL**,

pensated Work Therapy, which screens and compensates the veterans attending the program. Anyone in farming will tell you that this is a remarkable achievement! The farm's early success is evidence of the Archipley's commitment to veterans and if things go well Archi's Acres will serve as a model for other programs. In fact, folks from around the world who are interested in starting similar programs are already consulting with the Archipley's to learn from their success. Programs already helping to ensure that Archi's Acres hits its goals for veterans transition support include: the VA's Compensated Work Therapy/Veterans Industries (VI/CWT) program; the Farmer-Veterans Coalition, sponsored by Farms Not Arms; and, Innovative Growing Solutions.

That's the good news. Near term, however, there are urgent challenges facing Archi's Acres and its veterans' programs. This is where we need your help. While the goal of Archi's Acres farm training program is to become self-sustaining by the end of 2009 this Friends of the Farm campaign is helping raise \$20,000 so that Archi's Acres can get through this winter and sustain its program foundation over the next 12 months. The priorities needs include roughly \$3,500 to recover veterans' salaries paid by the Archipley's to keep veterans' in the program after VA program funds were depleted; roughly \$5,500 for property taxes and utilities; \$10,000 for a down payment on a windmill that will significantly reduce utility bills. Donations received in excess of these needs will be used to sustain the veterans training programs by enabling Archi's Acres to cover annual farming costs, farm infrastructure investments

and related veterans training program expenses.

If you are in a position to support these needs, your contribution may be made through PayPal by clicking the donation button at bottom of this page on the Internet: (<http://archisacres.com/index.html>).

You may also send a check or money order made payable to "Archi's Acres" to 10085 W. Lilac Rd, Escondido, CA 92026. Please note that approval of Section 501(c) (3) tax-exempt status for Archi's Acres is pending, and that donations are not tax deductible at this time. You may contact me for any questions at linda.poniktera@earthlink.net or (619) 987-7200. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely, Linda A. Poniktera

Marple Praises Democrat!

To the Editor:

Representative David Campbell, (D) Nashua is to be commended for introducing his proposed legislation, which will prohibit the mixing of ethanol with gasoline for sale in New Hampshire.

As David says, corn is for eating and nutrition, not to be wasted by converting corn into ethanol. Just imagine the energy costs of such a conversion. What a waste! Then the energy cost and expense mixing it with our gasoline and forcing us to pay more at the pumps for the conversion cost. It has been proven that such a mixture not only costs us more but delivers us fewer miles per gallon. That unnecessary expense is nonsense of the first degree!

David, thank you for bringing this costly bureaucratic experiment in compelled performance to the public's attention. If I was still one of your colleagues, I would request to co-sponsor your bill.

The Press Room

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And Other Correspondence

It is hoped that all readers will join with me in supporting you and demanding that bi-partisan efforts be made to Governor Lynch to see that your efforts are rewarded with his signature.
Sincerely, Dick Marple
Hooksett, New Hampshire

Perry Thanks Supporters
To the Editor:
To those who supported my reelection as one of your representatives in House Dist. 3, and who placed your confidence in the Democratic Party in last month's general election ... a hearty thank you.

Our nation faces environmental and economic maladies of massive proportion delivered to our doors here in New Hampshire by the anti-tax, anti-government, anti-regulation, free-wheeling, Wild West advocates within and without Washington. Whether changes in our climate are cyclic or man-caused, serious consequences accumulate. Tens of thousands of business failures and an unemployment rate of 11 percent are expected in the next year. In 2005, David Walker, then Comptroller-General of the United States, warned of an unsustainable national debt of \$53 Trillion. In 2006, two British economists, writing for the *London Telegraph*, estimated U.S. debt at a staggering \$65.9 Trillion.

At the height of the carnage in Iraq, a child died every ten minutes. In America, a child dies every six hours from abuse or neglect, 13 million live in poverty, 2 million have parents in prison, and in New Hampshire, 21,000 are without health insurance.
The Bush years will become known as the Dark Ages of Modern America.
Let the next eight years be remembered as the era of children

and families; the dawn of the Green Revolution; the period of exportation of good will, not weapons or toxic investments; the years of sweeping change benefiting the middle class; the transition from hate and fear to the bright lights of hope and renewal.
Bob Perry
Strafford, NH

Evan-Jellicles
To the Editor:
William Marvel's comic column about some evangelizing and irritating relatives brought to mind my January 2007 Letter to Editors that responded to one praising evangelicals. Following is my view of evan-jellicles" that used the first two lines of T.S. Eliot's poem describing "Jellicle Cats," then continued:

Evan-jellicles are black and white, Evan-jellicles are rather small;
Evan-jellicles are always Right Evan-jellicles know it All.
Evan-jellicles have pulpiteers who steer them in the Right direction,
Evan-jellicles have politicians who pander to them to win election.
Evan-jellicles can hardly wait for the world to see things their way,
Evan-jellicles back the savage State of Israel to speed Armageddon and make their day.
Evan-jellicles also back the Bush boy even though he's a chronic liar,
Evan-jellicles have no reason to doubt he'll set the world on fire.
Marjorie Gallace
Camden, ME

Against the International Baccalaureate
To the Editor:
Families and companies all around the country are cutting expenses in these tough econom-

ic times. Surprisingly, many state governments are doing the same. I guess they figured out that spending like there's no tomorrow gets us in a financial mess.
I'm wondering if our local school district will be doing the same.
Taxes have increased dramatically in Bedford and now many residents are cutting their expenses. It would only be reasonable for our school district to do the same.

Next year Bedford implements a new program in the high school called The International Baccalaureate Program. This program comes at an extremely high cost to the tax payers and may benefit a small number of students.
Some schools report an annual expenditure of over \$100,000 for this program while other schools have reported over \$500,000 as their annual expense which includes hiring additional staff like an IB Coordinator.
The Bow school district is considering this program right now, and hosted a meeting with the parents and taxpayers to determine whether or not they should go forward and adopt the program. The community was invited and many expressed genuine concerns on whether or not this program was a good idea for the students given it's high cost and controversial political nature.

The *Concord Monitor* reported in April that Bow had suspended the application after hearing from the "outraged" community.
At www.Cherryhill.com, under the article titled "Debate Heats Up," the Superintendent is recommending phasing out the expensive program. Their annual expense is over \$500,000.00 per year. The article goes on to report only 19 percent of the residents support it.
In an article titled: "Broughton's IB program to end soon," the Wake County School district in North Carolina voted to

also phase out the \$500,000-plus program citing they could offer a quality education without the extravagant price tag.
While this program is sold as one that adds rigor to the curriculum, there are other ways that this can be done without this excessive expense. Many private and public schools do this every-day.
A good alternative would be the AP International Diploma where there are *no* additional charges. The only cost associated would be the cost of the five exams the students take. There are no student registration fees, no school membership fees, and no mandatory AP Coordinator. The only condition is that an American student makes application to at least one foreign university to obtain the APID certificate.

The APID is a globally recognized certificate for students with an international outlook without the controversial political agenda or the extravagant price tag. The APID challenges a student to display exceptional achievement on AP exams across several disciplines.
The Bow Superintendent calling together the community to openly discuss the merits and disadvantages of this program was a great way of getting feedback from those who have children in the school and those who pay the bills. I hope Bedford will take this under consideration when looking at the budget and the current economic situation.
Schools both in NH and out of state are re-examining this



program based on cost and parental concerns over the content. It seems reasonable that Bedford Administrators do the same.
Ann Marie Banfield
Bedford, NH

Tis The Season ...
To the Editor:
With the bombs still bursting in air and the rockets ever present red glare, I thought it was time for my favorite song. Won't you sing along?
Jingo bells, jingo bells, jingo all the way!
Oh what fun it is to bomb a country far away.
Thrashing through Iraq, with Jesus on our side,
Smiting infidels, and laughing on the ride.
The self-righteous sing, might makes it all right.
What fun it is to torture them, with Jesus in our sight.
Ooooh, jingo bells, jingo bells, jingo all the way!
Oh what fun it is to bomb a country far away.
Merry MYTHmas everyone!
Gary Walker
Campton, NH

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current breaks into whitecaps
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Tom D'Evelyn

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

Portsmouth is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River. Depending on which tour boat captain you believe, it’s the second, the third, or the fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country.

The Piscataqua’s remarkable current is caused by the tide which, in turn is

caused by the moon. The other major player is a vast sunken valley, about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon drags roughly seventeen billion gallons of salt water from the ocean, up the river, into Great Bay. (If the moon ever stopped moving that water for us, it could be replaced with 2,125,000 tanker

trucks.)

The moon’s meddling creates a roving hydraulic conflict as incoming sea and outgoing river collide. The skirmish line moves from the mouth of the river, past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on towards Great

Bay. This spectacle can best be seen when the chart below shows the tide rising. A good place to watch is the little deck near the stems of the tugboats, off Ceres Street. Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the salt water that just fought its way upstream goes back to rejoin the ocean. This is when the

Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. A good place to observe this is from Bow Street, up by St. John’s church. Look up the river, from one of the little parking lots between the buildings. (Don’t try to drive or park there, that won’t work.) You’ll see a red buoy, at the upstream end of Badger’s Island,

bobbing around in the current. That buoy weighs several tons, is nine feet wide, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork! The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. Often when the river rests, its tugboats and drawbridges work their hardest. Ships coming in heavily laden with coal,

oil, and salt generally do so at high tide, for maximum clearance under their keels. When they leave empty, riding high in the water, they tend to go at low tide, for maximum clearance under Memorial Bridge.

Sunday, December 21	Monday, December 22	Tuesday, December 23	Wednesday, December 24	Thursday, December 25	Friday, December 26	Saturday, December 27
<p>2006—Saparmurat Niyazov, President for Life of Turkmenistan, dies at 66, leaving a legacy consisting primarily of golden statues of himself.</p> <p>2004—In Fort Valley, Georgia Larry Taylor refuses to give his cell phone to a would-be thief, who then shoots him in the head. Taylor walks two miles to his mother’s home, only to find she has moved to a nursing home. Despite this setback, he survives.</p> <p>2001—“All in all,” says George W. Bush three months after 9/11, “it’s been a fabulous year for Laura and me.”</p> <p>1996—Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA) admits ethics violations, after denying them for two years.</p> <p>1989—Veep Dan Quayle sends 30,000 Xmas cards in which “beacon” is spelled “beakon.”</p> <p>1988—PanAm Flight 103 explodes over Lockerbie, 270 perish.</p> <p>1970—At the White House, Elvis gives Tricky Dick a chrome-plated Colt .45; Dick gives Elvis a Narcotics Bureau badge.</p> <p>1968—The <i>Apollo 8</i> astronauts become the first humans to leave Earth’s gravitational field.</p> <p>1962—The U.S. exchanges \$53 million in medical supplies for 1,113 Bay of Pigs prisoners.</p> <p>1913—<i>The New York World</i> introduces a new feature: they call it a “word-cross” puzzle.</p>	<p>2001—Richard Reid’s attempt to blow up American Airlines Flight 63 with a shoe-bomb fails.</p> <p>1989—RIP Samuel Beckett.</p> <p>1984—Asked for money on New York subway, Bernhard Goetz responds with lead, then leaves for New Hampshire.</p> <p>1974—Congress passes an act to relocate Big Mountain Indians—away from coal deposits.</p> <p>1965—Henry House is the first U.S. soldier court martialled for protesting Vietnam War.</p> <p>1944—In reply to a German demand for surrender, surrounded General Anthony McAuliffe replies, “Nuts.”</p> <p>1937—Hotel clerk and author Nathanael West and his wife Eileen McKenney die in a car wreck during their honeymoon.</p> <p>1891—Edward L. Bernays, inventor of public relations, is born in Austria.</p> <p>1882—Thomas A. Edison creates the first string of electric Xmas tree lights.</p> <p>1849—Stripped to his underwear and tied to a pole, Fyodor Dostoevsky finds his death sentence commuted to four years in Siberia just moments before the executioners’ guns were to fire.</p> <p>1806—William Vernon, prominent slave-trader and overseer of ship construction for the Continental Congress, dies in Newport, RI.</p>	<p>2004—NASA reports that the asteroid Apophis has a 1.6 percent chance of hitting Earth in 2029.</p> <p>1997—Woody Allen, 61, marries his ex-wife’s adopted daughter, Soon-Yi Previn, 27.</p> <p>1994—Crooked FBI agent John Connolly warns Whitey Bulger that arrests are pending for him and his Winter Hill Gang. Whitey takes a powder.</p> <p>1986—The airplane <i>Voyager</i> lands in California, having circumnavigated the world nonstop.</p> <p>1982—The EPA recommends the entire population of Times Beach, Missouri leave town due to dioxin contamination.</p> <p>1972—Survivors of an Andean plane crash are rescued; their diet improves markedly.</p> <p>1953—In Korea, 21 American POWs refuse to go home.</p> <p>1950—U.S. signs mutual defense pact with France, South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.</p> <p>1948—Japan’s General Hideki Tojo is hanged as a war criminal.</p> <p>1947—The transistor is invented in a Bell laboratory.</p> <p>1947—Pres. Harry S Truman pardons 1,523 out of 15,805 WW II draft evaders.</p> <p>1913—Woodrow Wilson signs a bill creating the Federal Reserve.</p> <p>1888—Vincent van Gogh offers a part of his left ear to a prostitute named Rachel. She declines it.</p>	<p>1992—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush pardons “Cap” Weinberger, Bob McFarlane, and 4 other Iran-Contra creeps, coincidentally sparing his own sorry ass.</p> <p>1991—Walter Hudson dies at 46 years, 1,025 lbs.</p> <p>1979—The Soviet Army enters Afghanistan to prop up the Marxist government. Oops.</p> <p>1971—Airliner hit by lighting crashes in the Amazon, killing 91. Juliane Koepecke lives.</p> <p>1970—Nine G.I.’s are killed and nine more are wounded by “friendly fire” in Vietnam.</p> <p>1968—The crew of <i>Apollo 8</i> photographs Earth rising behind moon.</p> <p>1968—The crew of the <i>U.S.S. Pueblo</i> is released by N. Korea.</p> <p>1942—The first V-1 buzz-bomb is launched from Peenemunde, Germany.</p> <p>1913—Thugs hired by copper bosses induce a panic at a school play that kills 72 children.</p> <p>1907—In Philadelphia, I.F. Stone is born; “Jeffersonian Marxist,” real journalist.</p> <p>1906—R.A. Fessenden makes the first audible radio broadcast.</p> <p>1883—Major Henry Rathbone, increasingly deranged since his stabbing by John Wilkes Booth during the Lincoln assassination, murders his wife.</p> <p>1865—Confederate Army veterans form the Ku Klux Klan.</p>	<p>1978—At a Plymouth, Mass. nuclear power plant, four Santa Clauses climb the fence and get arrested.</p> <p>1974—Marshall Fields, wearing Arab garb, crashes his Chevy Impala through the northwest gate of the White House grounds and drives up to the North Portico. Four hours later he surrenders.</p> <p>1956—Birmingham, Ala. anti-segregationist Fred Shuttlesworth’s home is bombed.</p> <p>1950—Students remove the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey’s Coronation Throne and return it to Scotland.</p> <p>1946—Demonstration at White House demands release of WWII conscientious objectors.</p> <p>1945—Four thousand GIs march in Manila, protesting their slow redeployment back to the U.S.</p> <p>1914—German and British troops leave their trenches, sing Christmas carols, shake hands, and exchange cigarettes. After a few days of this, it’s back to business as usual.</p> <p>1868—Despite much opposition, President Johnson grants unconditional pardons to all those involved in the “Southern Rebellion.”</p> <p>1776—2,400 men under George Washington surprise the British and Hessians at Trenton. Another 3,000 get lost on the way.</p> <p>1621—Pilgrims in Mass. outlaw games and confiscate all toys.</p>	<p>2004—A massive tsunami kills 300,000 around the Indian Ocean.</p> <p>1996—JonBenet Ramsey is found murdered and inexplicably gets more press than the other 1,499 kids murdered this year.</p> <p>1991—The Supreme Soviet meets, and dissolves the USSR.</p> <p>1971—Two dozen disgruntled Vietnam Vets occupy the Statue of Liberty.</p> <p>1966—“American troops are the defense, protection and salvation not only of our country, but, I believe, of civilization itself,” says Cardinal Spellman.</p> <p>1966—An apparently confused <i>Time Magazine</i> bestows upon “The Younger Generation” the title “Man of the Year.”</p> <p>1919—Frazee sells Ruth to NY.</p> <p>1917—Pres. Woodrow Wilson orders U.S. railroads seized for the duration of the war.</p> <p>1913—Disgruntled Civil War vet Ambrose Bierce writes his last published lines before disappearing behind Mexican lines.</p> <p>1908—Jack Johnson beats Tommy Burns in 14, becoming the first black heavyweight champ.</p> <p>1862—In the largest hanging in U.S. history, 39 Santee Lakota Sioux meet their ends.</p> <p>1787—An anti-Federalist mob armed with barrel staves attacks and nearly kills Constitution-framer James Wilson.</p>	<p>2007—In Pakistan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is assassinated.</p> <p>2002—Cult quacks at Clonaid claim they’ve cloned a human.</p> <p>1986—In San Diego, on-duty Highway Patrolman Craig Alan Peyer strangles Cara Evelyn Knott.</p> <p>1981—RIP Hoagy Carmichael.</p> <p>1978—After 40 years of dictatorship, Spain becomes a democracy.</p> <p>1947—For the first time ever, it’s Howdy Doody Time.</p> <p>1929—Leon Trotsky goes into exile from the USSR.</p> <p>1914—Rebellious unemployed workers in Alberta win housing for winter.</p> <p>1908—Spenglerites gather atop South Mountain to await the world’s end.</p> <p>1900—Carrie Nation takes her hatchet to a saloon for the first time, at the Carey Hotel, Wichita, Kansas.</p> <p>1827—Georgia passes a law proclaiming “the lands of Georgia belong to her absolutely. The Indians are tenants at her will.” Indulgent legislators wait three whole years before requiring Indians to re-locate west of the Mississippi.</p> <p>1815—U.S. Peace Society is founded in Mass.</p> <p>1763—Fifty armed men enter the workhouse at Lancaster, Pa., hack the last 14 living Conestoga Indians to death, and ride off into the sunset.</p>
<p>6:15 6:49</p>  <p>12:33</p>	<p>7:12 7:51</p>  <p>12:44 1:35</p>	<p>8:06 8:48</p>  <p>1:40 2:31</p>	<p>8:56 9:38</p>  <p>2:33 3:22</p>	<p>9:43 10:24</p>  <p>3:21 4:07</p>	<p>10:25 11:05</p>  <p>4:05 4:49</p>	<p>11:04 11:43</p>  <p>4:46 5:27</p>
Sunday, December 28	Monday, December 29	Tuesday, December 30	Wednesday, December 31	Thursday, January 1	Friday, January 2	Saturday, January 3
<p>2007—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is assassinated.</p> <p>1999—RIP Lone Ranger.</p> <p>1984—RIP “Bloody Sam” Peckinpah.</p> <p>1984—A Soviet missile accidentally launched towards Germany is destroyed in flight.</p> <p>1973—In Akron, the chamber of Commerce denounces the Soap Box Derby due to cheating and fraud.</p> <p>1971—At the White House, 88 Vietnam veterans are arrested for protesting the war.</p> <p>1963—RIP A.J. Liebling.</p> <p>1948—A DC 3 with 32 on board disappears en route from Puerto Rico to Florida.</p> <p>1945—Congress recognizes the “Pledge of Allegiance,” authored by Bostonian Christian Socialist Francis Bellamy.</p> <p>1936—A sit-down strike begins at General Motors’ Fisher Body plant in Cleveland.</p> <p>1917—H.L. Mencken publishes a phony history of the bathtub, now widely accepted as gospel.</p> <p>1895—The Lumiere brothers screen the first commercial film.</p> <p>1879—M. Jolly-Bellin knocks over a lamp and invents dry-cleaning.</p> <p>1869—William Semple patents a chewing gum based on rubber.</p> <p>1832—Vice President John C. Calhoun resigns to fight for “a perfect good”—slavery.</p>	<p>2006—The UK pays the last \$100,000,000 of its WW II debt to the U.S.</p> <p>1989—Vaclav Havel becomes President of Czechoslovakia.</p> <p>1972—An L1011 jumbo jet on a “controlled descent” slams into the Everglades; somehow 75 out of 176 survive.</p> <p>1930—Fred Newton arrives at New Orleans after swimming 1,826 miles down the Mississippi.</p> <p>1916—After being poisoned, stabbed, beaten, shot three times, and thrown unconscious into the freezing Neva River, the Russian Tsarina Alexandra’s favorite faith-healer Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin dies by drowning.</p> <p>1890—At Wounded Knee, the Seventh Cavalry use artillery on the Oglala Sioux, kill 300, and win 18 Medals of Honor.</p> <p>1876—In Ashtabula, Ohio a bridge collapses under a passenger train killing 92.</p> <p>1852—Emma Snodgrass is arrested in Boston for wearing trousers.</p> <p>1837—In Buffalo, NY, Canadian militiamen burn the <i>U.S.S. Carolina</i>, which has been caught running guns to revolutionaries.</p> <p>1835—Cherokees ink the Treaty of New Echota, to their chagrin.</p> <p>1170—In Canterbury Cathedral, four knights attempt to please King Henry II by murdering Archbishop Thomas Becket.</p>	<p>2006—Saddam Hussein’s inelegant hanging is recorded by means of a cellphone.</p> <p>2003—U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald is appointed to investigate the Valerie Plame leak.</p> <p>1995—A “pro-lifer” murders two health care workers in Brookline, Mass.</p> <p>1978—A House Committee concludes conspirators killed JFK and MLK.</p> <p>1972—After losing fifteen B-52’s, Pres. Nixon calls off the “Christmas Bombing” of North Vietnam.</p> <p>1971—Dan Ellsberg is indicted for releasing the Pentagon Papers.</p> <p>1952—The Tuskegee Institute reports this is the first lynching-free year since 1881.</p> <p>1936—The GM sit-down strike spreads from Cleveland to Flint.</p> <p>1935—Italian bombers destroy a Swedish Red Cross unit in Ethiopia.</p> <p>1924—Edwin Hubble announces that there are other galaxies.</p> <p>1922—The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is established.</p> <p>1905—Idaho Governor Frank Steunenberg is removed from office by a bomb.</p> <p>1903—At 3:15 p.m. an electric light starts a fire in Chicago’s new, “fireproof” Iroquois Theater. By 3:30, 600 people are dead.</p> <p>1813—British troops, aided by Iroquois allies, capture Buffalo, NY.</p>	<p>1997—Quaker Oats pays \$1.8 million to settle a lawsuit sparked by their secret feeding of radioactive oatmeal to retarded kids.</p> <p>1990—Football coach George Allen dies of ventricular fibrillation, possibly caused six weeks earlier when his players dumped cold Gatorade on his head.</p> <p>1970—Congress repeals the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.</p> <p>1970—Associated Milk Producers, Inc. gets lower milk import quotas in exchange for a promised \$2 million bribe to the Nixon reelection campaign.</p> <p>1969—Brothers Dwight and Karl Armstrong steal a twin-engine Cessna in a failed attempt to bomb the Badger Army ammunition plant in Wisconsin.</p> <p>1967—U.S. troop levels in Vietnam reach 486,000; 15,000 have died, 60 percent in 1967.</p> <p>1935—<i>Monopoly</i> is patented.</p> <p>1904—At midnight in Times Square, the first ball drops to mark the New Year.</p> <p>1901—End of the worst year for lynching in the 20th century; score: 105 blacks, 25 whites.</p> <p>1879—Edison demonstrates the electric light bulb.</p> <p>1817—Publisher James T. Fields is born in Portsmouth.</p> <p>1761—Lydia (Hall) Fowle, wife of Daniel Fowle, dies in Portsmouth, aged 36.</p>	<p>2006—Speaking to amputee veterans of his Iraq War, George W. Bush says “I have an injury myself [from] combat with a cedar. I eventually won. The cedar gave me a little scratch.”</p> <p>1995—A 60-foot rogue wave, the first to be measured, is noted in the North Sea.</p> <p>1994—The indigenous people of Chiapas, Mexico rise up.</p> <p>1984—Ma Bell breaks up into 22 smaller units. It seemed like a good idea at the time.</p> <p>1975—Nixon cronies H.R. Halde-man, John D. Ehrlichman, John N. Mitchell and Robert C. Mardian are convicted in the Watergate cover-up trial.</p> <p>1971—From a makeshift broadcast studio in a Saigon brothel, Dave Rabbit’s pirate station Radio First Termer goes on the air.</p> <p>1959—Batista flees and Fidel Castro takes over in Cuba.</p> <p>1863—Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves—in the states of the Confederacy.</p> <p>1781—Mutinous Pennsylvania troops at Morristown, New Jersey seeking back pay, seize artillery and march off to confront Congress in Philadelphia.</p> <p>1300—Pope Boniface VIII’s Jubilee is such a popular success, dozens must be executed to bring the mob under control.</p>	<p>1974—President Nixon establishes the 55 m.p.h. speed limit.</p> <p>1970—The Supreme Court nixes Gen. Hershey’s effort to reclassify draft protestors 1-A.</p> <p>1967—In Florida, 72 men are arrested, thwarting an invasion of Haiti which had been financed by CBS in exchange for exclusive rights to film the landing.</p> <p>1946—King Zog of Albania abdicates.</p> <p>1923—With evidence of his corruption mounting, Sec. of the Interior Albert Fall resigns. President Harding then offers his pal a spot on the Supreme Court.</p> <p>1920—U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer has thousands of alleged subversives arrested.</p> <p>1909—Marcel Proust enjoys a memorable cup of tea.</p> <p>1905—The International Workers of the World, a.k.a. IWW or Wobblies, “organize” in Chicago.</p> <p>1905—The Russian fleet surrenders to Japan at Port Arthur.</p> <p>1904—Birth of Sally Rand, fan dancer <i>extraordinaire</i>.</p> <p>1888—Marvin Stone patents the drinking straw.</p> <p>1882—Standard Oil Co., is reorganized as a trust, allowing John D. Rockefeller to keep control of 90 percent of the nation’s oil supply despite anti-monopoly laws.</p> <p>1872—Brigham Young is arrested for having 24 wives too many.</p>	<p>1990—Manuel “The Pineapple” Noriega, former The Panamanian Strongman™, surrenders to the forces of <i>El Jefe</i>, George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush.</p> <p>1967—Jack Ruby dies in prison while awaiting retrial.</p> <p>1961—In Idaho, three military technicians are killed in a steam explosion of a nuclear reactor.</p> <p>1955—The U.S. government announces that over 3,000 federal employees have been sacked to quell Joe McCarthy’s fears.</p> <p>1943—Ball turret gunner Alan Magee escapes from a doomed B-17 without a parachute, falls 22,000 feet, crashes through the roof of a St. Nazaire railroad station, and survives. He lives another 59 years.</p> <p>1924—Grave robber/archaeologist Howard Carter gloms onto Tut-ankhamen’s gold coffin.</p> <p>1892—J.R.R. Tolkien is born in Orange Free State, Africa.</p> <p>1891—L. Frank Baum, writing in the <i>Aberdeen (SD) Saturday Pioneer</i>, calls for the “total extermination” of Native Americans.</p> <p>1867—In San Francisco, Emperor Norton I issues a proclamation abolishing Congress and ordering the Army to clear out the riff-raff and crooks.</p> <p>1825—Robert Owen buys land in Indiana for the New Harmony utopian community.</p>
<p>11:41</p>  <p>5:24 6:03</p>	<p>12:19 12:16</p>  <p>6:00 6:37</p>	<p>12:53 12:50</p>  <p>6:37 7:11</p>	<p>1:27 1:17</p>  <p>7:15 7:43</p>	<p>1:58 2:03</p>  <p>7:53 8:21</p>	<p>2:37 2:47</p>  <p>8:37 9:02</p>	<p>3:19 3:35</p>  <p>9:27 9:47</p>



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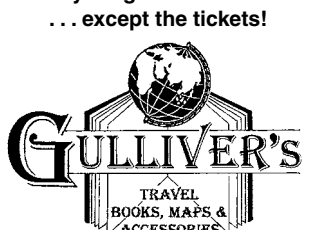
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