The Fortnightly Rant

by a corrupt police state, for the benefit of a few stupendously rich oligarchs who are in league with the Mafia. And Cuba's prolonged reliance on antiquated cars in a city is solely a consequence of their Marxist command economy. The 47-year-old trade embargo against Cuba is ironclad.

During the dramatic climax of his rant, Santelli turned his back to the camera and yelled, “I'm as mad as Hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore.”

The furor over the Ames/Livene piece, brief as it was, may have been the reason Santelli “bailed out” of a scheduled appearance on Jon Stewart's “The Daily Show.” Or, perhaps Santelli simply came to realize that in a verbal duel, his bludgeon would be no match for Stewart's rapier.

Whatever the reason, it was a lose-lose situation for CNBC, which certainly lost big time in public relations. At least a part of the blame for Santelli's failure was that the event was held in the presence of taxes on imported British tea. Colonial tea smugglers resented the lost profits.

On the other hand, the night Adam Sam and the Sons of Liberty threw all that tea in the harbor, they did massacre as Mohawks. So if some well-connected, pro-business Republicans want to pretend they're just plain folks, there’s plenty of precedent.

Hidden in Plain (Web)Site

This being the age of Google, some skeptical souls immediately began to investigate all this du- bious spontaneity. Playboy.com, forever a leader in the political expose business, published a piece on February 27 by Mark Ames and Yasha Levine, titled “Is Rick Santelli High on Koch?”

Ames and Levine claimed that Santelli's rant was the opening salvo of a coordinated campaign involving a Republican “new me- dia” expert named Eric Odom, an organization calling itself FreedomWorks, and the Koch Family Foundations.

Ames and Levine also published an expose of December 16, 1973 has always enjoyed a towering status in our national myth. That has made it an irresistible symbol for disgruntled citizens of every political stripe. Appropriation of it, for one cause or another, has become so common as to make it a cliché. Because it is so familiar, some of the less convenient facts about it are now forgotten or overlooked. Those now using the tea party to protest against higher taxes, for instance, seem to have forgotten that the original event was held to protest the levying of taxes on imported British tea. Colonial tea smugglers resented the lost profits.

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Just When You Thought It Couldn't Get Any Weirder …

For nearly thirty years, Senator Judd Gregg’s career in the U.S. Senate warmed for another decade Daniel Webster’s old seat in the Senate war for another decade or two.

Then came February of 2009, and, for a month, he was the center of a whirlwind of weirdness. Another one rises over who will run the Census. Suddenly a bombshell bursts: Gregg bails out! Heads are scratched from Coos to the sea.

Then, finally, on the 27th, the Associated Press (AP) delivers the kicker: Gregg “steered taxpayer money to his home state’s operation there.” In return, he “collected at least $240,017 to $651,801 from his investments there.”

The AP story was careful to note that “[u]nder new Senate ethics rules, Gregg had to certify that federal aid he directed to specific projects was not intended merely to enrich him or immediate family, including siblings. Senators are also supposed to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest, though the Senate Ethics Committee seldom investigates or disciplines senators when questions are raised about their activities.” That disclaimer didn’t do much to quench Gregg’s ire. The next day the Manchester Union Leader wrote that he “strongly denied a media report suggesting that he helped bring $66 million in federal funding to the Pease International Tradeport and New Hampshire Air National Guard operation there in order to enhance his personal investments at the real estate facility.”

Emphasis added. Furthermore, he said that “any suggestion that his investment led to his withdrawal is a false, scurrilous statement.”

“The scandal is not that people do things that are illegal. The scandal is that the things people are doing are legal.”—Michael Kinsley

Some Investment Advice

With the average Individual Retirement Account losing half its value over the past sixteen months, it’s no wonder people everywhere are asking, “where can I find an investment vehicle that won’t go to hell on me?” They’re not asking us, mind you. But here’s our best advice any way: Toys—“R”-Us.™ Not the company’s stock, but the stock on their shelves.

The Boston Globe reported on March 5 that mint-condition vintage 1959 Barbie dolls are now worth $27,450. Assuming that’s true, anyone who coughed up $111 for 37 Barbie dolls in 1959 could sell them today for a cool $1,015,650. Money-Zine.com’s ROI calculator says that’s a return on investment of 914,900 percent. Even Bernie Maddoff didn’t dare promise that.

The best investment of the past half-century: a $3 toy.

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Gundalow’s A-Comin’!

In the spring an old newspaper’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of a flat-bottomed, stoutly-built, shallow-drafted, sail- and oar-powered, lateen-rigged cargo vessel peculiar to the Piscataqua River basin, generally known as a gundalow. Specifically, the Captain Edward H. Adams, the only gundalow on earth.

Edward H. Adams (1860 – 1950) was the last man to build and operate a working gundalow. In 1978, the non-profit Piscataqua Gundalow Project was organized to build a new gundalow, which was named in his honor. Its mission was to draw attention to the myriad threats to the environment in which it would travel: Great Bay and the Piscataqua River estuary. On June 13, 1982, it was launched. From 1996 through 2001, Strawbery Banke Museum administered the gundalow. Since then, the Captain Adams has been in the care of The Gundalow Company, which has been adjusting its course to adapt to present conditions. We recently spoke with Executive Director Molly Bolster to learn where the Captain Adams is headed.

The last time we spoke, the Company had taken care of some important maintenance items and was working on a plan to build a second gundalow, one better able to meet Coast Guard requirements.

In these rough economic times, a contemplated capital-raising campaign has been put on hold. Emphasis will be placed instead on re-connecting with the public in general, and with the vessel’s original mission: threats to the estuary. In these days when there’s so much green talk, not many realize that the health of the Great Bay estuary is declining.

“We want people to see the boat and think about eel grass,” Molly said. “When we hold events in different places, we want people to come away caring more about those places and to have a list of things they can to do help protect them.”

The next chance to see the Captain Adams right here in River City will be Saturday, June 6. The gundalow will tie up at the Heritage dock, across Market Street from the Moffat-Ladd House. For more details, watch this paper.

A Different Kind of History

Not all history is as uplifting as that of the gundalow. Take the local Ku Klux Klan, for instance. The Old Berwick Historical Society is hosting a free presentation 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, at the South Berwick Town Hall Auditorium describing how national and regional events led to a 1924 summer rally and cross burning in Sanford, ME. Speakers Joe Doiron and Paul Auger have spent 20 years gathering information from print and eye-witness accounts of KKK activities there. For more information call the Old Berwick Historical Society at (207) 384-0000.

If you’re thinking, “Well, that’s Maine…” think again. Portsmouth had a KKK then, too.

Bill Loeb’s Doing 360 RPM

“Voters in ten New Hampshire towns passed a warrant article on Tuesday instructing state lawmakers to end ‘the Pledge’ and look for alternatives to ever-increasing property taxes. The non-binding ‘Fair Tax Resolution’ received 74% of the vote and will result in a letter being sent to the Governor and state legislators, representing Allenstown, Claremont, Farmington, Kingston, Lebanon, Littleton, New Hampton, North Hampton, Pelham, Rye, and Swanzey.”

Thanks to Alexander Lee for the above item.

News Briefs to page four
Mildred Long Bridges, consid-
er one which would carry no
imported bridge experts from
the Maine and New Hampshire
zation attempting to defend Me-
ber—one which would carry no
Portsmouth to make way for ad-
very large chunks of downtown
would require the “taking”—
it. Another such person agreed
it had. Another such person agreed
Edgar Powers could have
Edgar Powers could have
Years ago my father and I
transformed his ramshackle ga-
rage into a sugarhouse, conver-
ing an old oil tank into an evapo-
ting and convivial gatherings at the
the sugarhouse. That distracted
the annual ritual of the
worry. The annual ritual of the
mortality in the neighborhood,
have suggested that they are
more interested in limiting pub-
lic input than they are collecting
Another such person agreed
and noted that when the official
process of the study commences,
it will be conducted “at break-
neck speed.”
Assuming they are both right,
it will be a challenge, when the
time comes, for the community
to mobilize itself quickly enough
to make its opinions on the
bridge known.

More News Briefs
from page three

To those who have ever spent
a few weeks making maple
syrup, the rare balmy days in
February turn the mind toward
sugar-making. February is typically the
worst storms usually struck,
spreading what’s at stake.

A strange silence seems to sur-
round the Memorial and Sarah
Mildred Long Bridges, consid-
ering what’s at stake.

A study jointly sponsored by
the Maine and New Hampshire
Departments of Transportation
is about to begin which may very
well result in the demolition of
the Memorial Bridge, the only ex-
isting link between Portsmouth
and Kittery that is accessible to
pedestrians, bicyclists, and auto-
mobiles, and 2) the demolition of
the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge,
the only practical means of re-
moving spent nuclear fuel from
the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

If both existing bridges are de-
molished, they could very well be
replaced by a second “high-level”
span across the Piscataqua Riv-
er—one which would carry no
cars, no bicyclists, and no
spent nuclear fuel.

What such a bridge probably
would do is require the “taking”—
eminent domain, anyone?—of
very large chunks of downtown
Portsmouth to make way for ad-
ditional entrances and exit ramps.

We have no idea who is be-
ing chosen to perform this study.
Imported bridge experts from
"away," one suspects. What local
experts are there, except users?

At this point the only organi-
ization attempting to defend Me-
norial Bridge is the History
Society. But that may
change. There have been some
informal discussions of ways
other organizations might join
forces towards the same end. As
they have not been specifically
conducted on the record, we’ll be
a little vague in describing them here.

As we noted here last fortnight,
unofficial, but probably sound
study revealed that bridge users
on both Kittery and Portsmouth
consider the Memorial Bridge in
particular to be a vital transpor-
tation link.

One person who’s been closer
to the relevant officials than we
have suggested that they are
more interested in limiting pub-
lic input than they are collecting
Another such person agreed
and noted that when the official
process of the study commences,
it will be conducted “at break-
neck speed.”

Assuming they are both right,
it will be a challenge, when the
time comes, for the community
to mobilize itself quickly enough
to make its opinions on the
bridge known.
Moving Pictures

New DVDs

by Rodman Philbrick

Here’s a new conspiracy for all you theorists. What if Hollywood somehow engineered the Great Recession, knowing that a financial calamity would put butts in the seats of their ailing theaters? Think about it. During the last great financial calamity the average person went to the movies at least once a week, not only for a communal escape from the grim reality, but because movie houses were warm and the popcorn was cheap. But the per capita, per year average theater attendance has been on the decline since the advent of television, vastly accelerated by DVDs and home theaters. Why? Traipsing all the way to the local cineplex when you can see Brad and Angelina on your very own big screen, eating your very own popcorn, in the cocoon-like privacy of your own home?

Unless, of course, your home happens to be in foreclosure. Or maybe it’s just cheaper to send the kids to the movies instead of flying them to Disneyworld. For whatever reason, and mostly for the kids to the movies instead of playing video games, movie attendance has been on the decline. For whatever reason, and mostly because movie houses were warm and the popcorn was cheap. But because movie houses were warm and the popcorn was cheap. But because movie houses were warm and the popcorn was cheap...it’s just cheaper to send the kids to the movies instead of flying them to Disneyworld. For whatever reason, and mostly because movie houses were warm and the popcorn was cheap. But because movie houses were warm and the popcorn was cheap. But because movie houses were warm and the popcorn was cheap.

The unofficial study noted above is in fact accurate, and probably represents public opinion fairly accurately. But being unofficial, it can probably be bruised aside through some standard bureaucratic maneuver. In about two months, the National Trust for Historic Preservation will announce whether our 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list.

The little old bridge could rate such a distinction, we recommend an article by New Hampshire State Architectural Historian James L. Garvin, titled “Portsmouth’s 1923 Memorial Bridge in Danbury,” and the results of the Portsmouth/Kittery Bridge Survey referred to above, are available on the Gazette’s website at www.nhgazette.com/bridge, along with links to more than 100 other articles on the bridges, going back to 1999.

Progress in Kittery! In our January 29 paper, we announced our campaign to re-establish our distribution network in Kittery. Our motivation was twofold. First, we ought to be there, anywhere, that same day. This would show the world that we were completely dedicated to producing, using, and selling the best local foods. Second, it would also be a great marketing tool for us, and a way to show our support for local products. Now, we are happy to announce that we have heard from several local residents who have been interested in helping us to get our product into the hands of more people.

For those of you not familiar with Mr. Burke, he’s the poet/novelist who created Dave Robicheaux, a character famous for struggling with his inner demons while solving crimes. Casting Tommy Lee Jones as Robicheaux was an inspired piece of producing, and Jones, as you might expect, delivers an interesting performance as a police detective attempting to solve the murder of a local prostitute. Okay, In the Electric Mist gets all weird about racism and the Civil War—Robicheaux has ghostly visions that include Levoon Helm as General John Bell Hood—but if you stick with it the story will stick with you, in an interesting way.

Miracle At Santa Anna didn’t exactly kill at the box-office, but that doesn’t mean that this Spike Lee joint isn’t worth an evening’s rental. Based on the fine novel by James McBride (who also wrote the screenplay), Miracle At Santa Anna was inspired by a real event perpetrated by the Nazi’s in the darkest days of WWII. Four soldiers from the Negro 92nd Division—this was, of course, before the military was integrated—are trapped behind the lines in a small Tuscan village during the Allied invasion of Italy. What happens there, and how it will have repercussions fifty years later, makes for a less-than-perfect film that is nevertheless worth watching. Perfection being hard to come by, as you may have noticed lately.

Speaking of leading with your chin—that was the conversation, wasn’t it?—how about famous leading chin Bruce Campbell in My Name Is Bruce. Campbell, star of the low budget Evil Dead series, plays himself, as an actor kidnapped by a small, inbred community (no, not Hollywood itself) threatened by an evil monster. They think Campbell’s zombie-stomping, on-screen persona is real, and that he can actually help save them. Comedy horror at its worst—that is to say, best, because in the comedy horror genre worst is always best, right? Or is Bruce Campbell part of the great conspiracy to waste money by making intentionally bad movies, thereby raising movie attendance by causing the Great Recession?

To heck with those 3-D glasses. Put on your foil hat.

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It's President Obama Now — Get Over It

To the Editor:

Some people still cannot get over the fact that President Obama now governs our country. They would rather see their fellow Americans lose their jobs, lose their retirement and lose hope, than to allow President Obama to succeed. Why do such people hate President Obama and Republicans so? Some of these Americans claim they are patriotic, scared of what President Obama may do, and only try to offer constructive suggestions. While many of us were often scared by government policies of the past eight years, these people seemed not concerned. It seems to me, however, that many of these people are in fact racists, bigots or just political fanatics (our American Taliban).

Our country currently faces huge challenges in the areas of our economy, our health-care system, energy dependence, our environment and our international reputation. Most of these challenges are ignored or made worse during the past eight years by President Bush and the Republicans in Washington. Most of the ideas such as American Social Security in the stock market, deregulating businesses, selling our nation's resources to friendly businesses and wars of 100 or more years of war have now been rejected by the voters. Now the same Republican Party is asking us to listen to their ad

Moss Notes, HATE MAIL,

Bush Budget Gimmicks

To the Editor:

I want to remind everyone that President Obama inherited, through the Bush boy said:

The Fortnightly Queen, From: Reader

"First they ignore you, then they fight you, then you win."
—Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

We later read in the Herald's police session reminded us of the British Prime Minister being questioned by Parliament, but without the accents—and, at times, the civility.

To the Editor:

Victory for a Change of American business that have through the archives and found a print of the article the gentle lady maybe I should share this with you.

Please renew my subscription.

Bill Duncan

New Castle, NH

We actually have a president and a Congress who are on record, that for the nation to do well, the bottom 95 percent have to do well.

It's a shame and a pity—and a tragedy that the Clinton people but enrich corporate America business that have done so well, the bottom 95 percent have to do well.

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It's a shame and a pity—and a tragedy that the Clinton people but enrich corporate America business that have done so well, the bottom 95 percent have to do well.
I’ll keep on rockin’ in the boat steer- ing Right for the rockies and the vote my cringing crew in Congress will I guarantee stay on board with me; cutting taxes for the rich cutting programs for the poor who should be happy with my faithful promise: you get a pit in the sky when you die

Some may say I was born heart- less but I always do what’s Right: the rest is the Right kind of govern- ment. But I always do what’s Right: and see the nation crumbling, and complaints about it, that’s class warfare.

The Editor

Al Gail Bailout #4, How Many More?

To the Editor:

Now we see that Al Gail’s financial situation has not stabilized with over $150 billion of taxpayer money, and they want another $30 billion because of ongoing loan default payments. I’m wondering what default payments have given Al Gail a $61 billion deficit? Are the payments for the Credit Default Swaps (CDS) that were sold as loan default insurance? I understand that lots of CDS’s were sold to buy who were not even carrying the loans being insured. In fact, such phony CDS accounts for far more debt than govern- mental debt that is being insured (54.6 trillion according to Fortune magazine). So payment to CDS holders is ac- tually transferring taxpayer bail- out money into the hands of the very speculators who caused our economy to collapse.

Bruce Joffe

Piedmont, CA

Presidential Choppers

To the Editor:

Wow! The front page piece on 2/27 [the Bush/Marine One heli- copter deal] is stunning! I think a mass hanging is in order!

I’ve been wondering about the Italian connection for a long time. That the fact that everybody knew the documents were virtually attached? Did small busi- ness get any of those bail-outs? Did Senator Gregg argue against those things that would be—our national treasure?

Now, Republicans are squeal- ing like stuck pigs at the prospect of paying any taxes on their unearned incomes. All those golden parachutes, bonuses, and bail-outs have been class warfare against work hard. It is due time for war reparations.

Bruce Joffe

Piedmont, CA

Bruce: When national policies drive money towards those who already have it, that is sound, prudent fis- cal policy. When people who have been working as hard as they always have, and get dumber and sadder for it, and see the nation crumling, and complaints about it, that’s class warfare.

The Editor

Pols, Puns & Televenegals

To the Editor:

It seems more obvious now than ever that Republican politi- cians and conservative pundits are too much like all those fake televenegals. If you only follow them and do what they do, you will become wealthy and healthy and never have to pay taxes. Or, for that matter, serve in the military against the will of the people.

But just like those poor souls who believed they received a “love offering,” once they stop taking their foul-tasting medicine, they may wonder why they died, or didn’t, and so will the country if it heeds the “Telepol” and “Telepuns.”

Chris Lane Gray

Monticello, Al.

Under-Taxed Cry-Babies

To the Editor:

Republic and Propagandists, following Senator Judd Gregg, have been criticizing non-stop those cheapskates out there “hurt- ing” by touching the TV screen and sending in a “love offering.”

So one might presume that those people who have been getting a $18k gold” (1/15/09). Further, as there’s likely to be a standard. Besides, if we ever get ar- rested, you’ll have to have endorsed this as a precedent.

The Editor

What Depression?

To the Editor:

Yeah, right, we’re in a recess- sion, the economy is collapsing, it’s ’29 all over again,bla-bla- bla. Yawnsville.

Great Depressions are for the little people. How do we know it’s there? All the New York Times’ gilded pages—pages 2, 3. Decisions, decisions, deci- sions—whether to plunk down $3,295 for a Chanel lady’s even- ing dress (9/24/08), or for a Car- tert wristwatch, plunk down a mere $26,600 (1/29/09). For those who are too well off to spend on a Mercedes-Benz, there’s the Chanel “high-proof- ing, chronograph with diamond indicators” for the laughably low price of only $7,950 (2/23/09). So one might presume that the hard times and subprime credit-default-swap/collater- alized-debt-obligation-deriva- tives haven’t wallowed everybody.

For all those genius bankers and hotshot Wall Street hedge fund operators who brought the economic collapse upon the rest of us, they guys ain’t exactly standing in the bread lines. Thanks to their still intact gazillion dollar bonuses and and their platinum-and-diamond parachutes, they’re comfortably holed up in their gated com- munities in Palm Beach, Green- wich, Nantucket, Paradise Island (and a lot of private hide-a-ways you’ve never heard of and never will where they can browse the Times’ gilded pages and send their personal shoppers a-scurrying up and down Fifth Avenue, where if she’s lucky (duh—a per- sonal shopper is always a she), she might still find a couple of Mi- kimoto’s ring-and-earring sets still going begging, specifically their “Dramatic Black South Sea cultured pearls with diamonds in 18k gold” (1/15/09).

She’d better get a-hoppin,’ though, as there’s likely to be a mob trying to be the first to grab them up for the steal they are— the earnings for $22,000 or the ring for $23,000, or if I did the math right, the whole caboodle for a mere $43,000. Hard times, charged times.

Barnabas Unbragh

Portsmouth, NH

Barnabas: Class warfarist peasant …

The Editor

Even on Chestnut black asphalt shows through the snow slave burial ground

Tom D’Evelyn

Friday, March 13, 2009 - The New Hampshire Gazette - Page 7
Admiral Folk's Piscautaquid Tidal Guide (Not for Navigational Purposes)

Admiral Folk's Piscautaquid Tidal Guide is a tidal guide that provides information on the tides in New Hampshire. It is not meant for navigational purposes. The guide includes information on the tides, currents, and other relevant data that can help mariners understand the tidal patterns in the region. The guide is commonly used by fishermen, boaters, and other watercraft operators to plan their activities and ensure safety while navigating the waters.