

The Fortnightly Rant

A Sickening Situation

Thank God for good old American self-esteem. Without that, the World Health Organization's ranking of our health care system behind 36 other countries — including Costa Rica, whose annual income per capita is \$5,800 — might be kind of embarrassing.

The U.S. health care system really is outstanding in many ways. Only in America, for example, would eighteen year-old Jessica Terry of Sammamish, Washington, be able to diagnose her own illness.

Jessica had been pestering her doctors for a decade about her chronic abdominal pain. One day last January, while scrutinizing slides of her own intestinal tissue in her advanced placement high school science class, she spotted tell-tale granulomas her pathologist had missed. Thanks to Jessica's all-American self-reliance, her Crohn's disease was finally diagnosed.

Despite such heart-warming anecdotal successes, which are no doubt suppressed by the liberal/socialist media, some Americans are still not satisfied. Well, actually, most of them.

The Disgruntled Majority

According to a recent poll by the non-profit Employee Benefit Research Institute, "between 68 percent and 88 percent of Americans either strongly or somewhat support [major] health reform ideas."

Another survey, a compilation of half a dozen polls taken in 2007, showed that between 55 and 65 percent of Americans supported single-payer national health insurance, sometimes called "Medicare for All."

This broad level of support for "the public option" exists, and appears to be growing, despite an unrelenting barrage of disinformation characterizing it as risky

and unworkable — the moral equivalent of Stalinist collective farming.

In a stunning coincidence, much of this propaganda is being generated by private corporations that are making vast sums of money under the current system. Conveniently for them, it's not necessary to carpet-bomb the nation with cheaply-printed pamphlets — they have television networks at their disposal which just happen to make vast sums of money advertising expensive pharmaceuticals.

James Ridgeway, who writes for *Mother Jones*, sums up what's at stake here: "on a level playing field, the government would probably drive private insurers out of business, because it can deliver health care more effectively and efficiently than any profit-driven corporation."

Down to Business

So what we will get is what the health insurance racket and their employees friends in Congress want us to have. The Senate Finance Committee held a hearing last month on health care reform. As Chuck Idelson, a spokesman for the California Nurses Association put it,¹ senators were hearing "from businesses, insurers and even the Heritage Foundation, but not from the people who actually provide health care to patients." Not that doctors and nurses weren't present. They just couldn't get on the agenda. When they rose to speak anyway, they were thrown out.

Follow the Money

Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) later spoke to the health care providers he had thrown out of his hearing, and "told them that he might drop criminal charges" against them. So much for the First Amendment.

1) As quoted by Patricia Murphy on May 12 at PoliticsDaily.com.



Baucus has received \$3,902,785 in ~~bricks~~ campaign contributions from the health care racket industry during his career.² But it wouldn't be fair to single out Baucus. OpenSecrets.org reports that between 1990 and 2008, the health care industry has risen from being the 76th most generous contributor to Congress to the 37th. Since 1990, health services companies, HMOs, health professionals, hospitals, nursing homes, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and health products corporations have donated \$806,763,591 to the best Congress money can buy — an average of \$1,507,969.32 for each member of Congress.

Meanwhile, doctors at Harvard have charged, in a letter to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, that seven major health care insurance companies are so concerned about people's health

2) Reported by Kevin Zeese on May 10 at OpEdNews.com.

that they have almost \$4.5 billion invested in tobacco companies.

The Libertarian Prescription

The health care dilemma is somewhat distressing, but fortunately the libertarians at the Ludwig von Mises Institute have a solution.

As outlined by Hans-Hermann Hoppe, this Four-Step Health-Care Solution boils down to "the elimination of all existing government controls." Specifically, it includes eliminating "licensing requirements for medical schools, hospitals, pharmacies, and medical doctors and other health care personnel. Their supply would almost instantly increase, prices would fall, and a greater variety of health care services would appear on the market."

The health insurance industry would be completely deregulated, and all subsidies to the sick or unhealthy would be eliminated — Republican Nirvana!

Also eliminated under the

Hoppe plan would be "all government restrictions on the production and sale of pharmaceutical products and medical devices." So maybe there's hope for Zicam, the cold remedy that nukes your sense of smell.

Let's Be Unreasonable

The centerpiece of President Barack Obama's health care reform plan would be a public health insurance plan, available to anyone not satisfied with his private plan. Obama outlined his proposal on June 3. The following day, the Associated Press quoted the response of one Senator to the President's proposal:

"We were making great progress up until yesterday. The President laid down a fairly significant partisan marker when he said the proposal has to have a public plan." And who was that unmasked Senator? New Hampshire's own Judd Gregg.

Perhaps he prefers the Hoppe plan.

News Briefs:

Jail to the Chief's Minion!

Well, finally! Someone who was involved in the 2000 Presidential election has gone to jail. Mary B. McCarty, 54, a former Palm Beach County Commissioner, will spend the next 42 months in the can.

During the 2000 charade, McCarty permitted GOP lawyers to use her office in their successful bid to pervert democracy. Sadly, though, that's not why she's going to the Big House. According to news reports, during the period while she was selling out democracy, she was also on the take from people and corporations doing business with the county.

In addition to giving up her freedom for three and a half years, Mary McCarty will have to pay a fine of \$100,000. She and her husband Kevin also forfeited \$275,000 in ill-gotten gains to the gummint. Mr. McCarty was a bond underwriter for the financial services company Raymond James and for Bear Stearns. His wife conveniently voted in ways that benefitted his employers.

Among other things, the McCartys accepted "significant and material undisclosed gifts and gratuities" from Ocean Properties, according to the *Palm Beach Daily News* website. Ocean Prop-

erties wanted, and got, a contract to develop a convention center hotel. In exchange, the McCartys got "free lodging or 'grossly discounted room rates not available to the general public' for their stay at Sunset Key Guest Cottages in Key West and other Ocean Properties hotels."

Sadly, the Palm Beach paper didn't bother to specify whether or not the culprits ever enjoyed the hospitality at Wentworth by the Sea.

At her sentencing, McCarty tearfully told the court, "I never thought of myself as a criminal, but I am one."

Hey — maybe that's all Karl Rove and Dick "Still Dick" Cheney need to gain a little self-awareness: a jail sentence.

Worth a try.

Republican Gets Good News

Speaking of Republican County Commissioners, one in Michigan got some good news recently.

On April 18 Oakland County Commissioner Kim Capello happened to be innocently walking one Sheila Grogan home from a bar called The Grapevine. According to a statement he later made to Detroit's WXYZ-TV, he had "started out with good in-

tentions." When Novi, Michigan police arrived on the scene about 2:00 a.m., though, they found Capello and Grogan on or leaning against a brick wall, naked, engaged in some form of sex.

No doubt the subsequent charge of indecent exposure was bad news for Capello. Perhaps it was even worse for his wife, Jodi. But the good news for Capello is that his guilty plea got him probation; he will not suffer the inconvenience of 93 days in the slammer, a penalty which is ap-



News Briefs

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parently reserved for lesser citizens.

**James Von Brunn:
Former Granite Stater**

The archived website of James von Brunn, the octogenarian charged with killing a guard at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on June 10, suggests that in addition to being a virulently anti-Semitic crazy person, von Brunn is a full-blown member of The Greatest Generation® by virtue of PT Boat service in WW II ("The Big One"), a member of the high-IQ society Mensa, and the holder of a Bachelor of Science in ... *ta daa* — Journalism! He's now in competition with Benito Mussolini for Worst Ex-Journalist Ever.

If a letter by one Gail Chadwick, published in the June 12 issue of the *Washington Post*, is

accurate, von Brunn is also a former resident of Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Von Brunn was in prison for trying to take members of the Federal Reserve hostage, Chadwick writes, when her family bought what had been his house. In it they found "several boxes of anti-Jewish books" which soon went out with the rest of the garbage. The couple "took great pleasure in living there," Chadwick writes, celebrating Passover, exchanging Hanukkah gifts, and raising "two wonderful Jewish children there."

One can only hope that someone will bring this news to Mr. von Brunn's attention.

Criminal Geniuses At Work

Three more-or-less local desperados have achieved some slight measure of national fame for the unexpected nature of their alleged crimes.

The *Portsmouth Herald* reported

on June 11 that a Massachusetts woman is being held on \$1,000 cash bail after she was seen going into a "port-o-potty" on Lafayette Road with a man who had a restraining order against her. That story made the *Boston Herald*.

Meanwhile, David Ponzer, of this town, told a police officer back in January that his son had been driving his Volvo wagon at the time of a hit and run accident a few days earlier. As police later learned, Mr. Pozner's son is an infant. That story made it from *Foster's Daily Democrat* to the Associated Press, and finally, that pinnacle of journalism, Fox-News.com.

Finally — and almost as unlikely as the previous two stories — Christopher Luke Fithian, of Jackson, New Hampshire, has been charged by a grand jury with voting for president twice last November, once in Gorham and again in Jackson.

The Attorney General's office, reports AP, is investigating eight potential cases of voter fraud, out of 711,000 votes cast. If all eight suspects are proven guilty, that will mean that a whopping one out of every 88,875 votes were fraudulent. No wonder Republi-

cans get so exercised about that issue.

RIP

Dick Kemp's Truck Museum

One of New Hampshire's unique and charming treasures will be broken up in 36 days and shipped off to points unknown. There's nothing anyone can do to prevent the loss, except maybe by writing about it.

On July 25, the remains of Dick Kemp's Truck Museum will be sold at auction. The proceeds from the sale of the trucks will pay for the care of Dick's long-widowed mother.

The Museum's best days were about 25 years ago when the covered railroad bridge still crossed the Concoocook River and the great timbers of the old B & M trestle still carried rails overhead, along the north bank of the river on their way to Henniker and Concord.*

Scattered among the timbers of the trestle, and among the weeds, were dozens of trucks —

* A large stone fire-pit, close by the river, also stands on the site of Dick Kemp's Truck Museum. Recently restored, it is where General Benjamin Pierce, President Franklin Pierce's father, roasted a whole ox for an 1825 reunion with eighteen of his Revolutionary War comrades.



big trucks, serious trucks. Some of them were made before the war — the First World War.

The oldest of them, a 1916 Selden, ran on wooden spoked wheels with solid rubber tires, its axles driven by chains with links nearly as big as a man's fist. The newest may have been forty years old in those days.

Macks were most common; Dick was partial to Macks. He even had a rare Mack Jr. But he also had Autocars and Brockways, Diamond Reos and Kenworths, Peterbilts and Sterlings and Whites. Then there were the related items: some kind of massive crane with a thirty or forty-foot boom, a colossal V-shaped snowplow, and a scattering of tracked vehicles, including an old Caterpillar whose name, cast into the radiator housing, was



Our Wandering Photographer failed to ascertain how the Sleep Number Mattress people did on Market Square Day. He reports, though, that Cheryl Pagano at Moe's said the day went about as usual: half the customers of a normal Saturday, and twice the work.

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wavy-shaped like the creature whose name it took.

Recollection says they all ran, though that hardly seems possible. But as a guy who operated construction machinery all his life, Dick was a man who respected functionality.

He was not, though, a fussy restorationist. A white-gloved judge, lost on his way to a *Concours d'Elegance*, would have been horrified to see Dick painting one of his trucks. The purists use spray guns. Dick generally used a three or four-inch house-painting brush.

But that was the kind of man he was. And being that kind of man, he didn't mind when complete strangers wandered through wistfully touching them, or putting their kids behind the wheel for a photo.

Of course it couldn't last forever. In fact, the decline began twenty some-odd years ago, when the old railroad bridge burned down. The trestle was dismantled a few years earlier — or was it later?



On the morning of Sunday, June 7, this pitiful hydrant awoke with no recollection of where it had been the night before, or what it might have been doing. Its only clue: a hat it had no recollection of purchasing.

Like Benjamin Pierce's fire-pit, a couple of trucks will remain on the site as reminders of what once was.

All Hands On Gundalow!

The Gundalow Company is seeking "River Rats" of all ages! River Rats are people who like being on boats, don't mind getting a bit wet now and then, like adventure, and have some energy.

A Saturday program for young River Rats — those ages 9 through 12 — runs from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in June and July. Special activities take place around the Piscataqua waterfront and on the gundalow docked at Prescott Park. Participants will experience a different adventure each week, including tide pool explorations, scavenger hunts, and plankton tows. For more information and registration call (603) 433-9505 or e-mail education@gundalow.org.

For grown-up River Rats, the program goes like this: There is a short list of tasks that need to be done daily on the gundalow. The Gundalow Company is looking for volunteers who might be able to show up once a week, or a couple times a month, to do things like check the bilge to make sure the pumps are working, wash down the deck with salt water (they have a hose and brush system), check the dock-lines and fenders for chafe, check the whaler and bail as needed, and tend to a few other similar things. The whole routine takes around 30 minutes and can be done anytime of the day except 9-1 on the days with programs scheduled.

If this sounds interesting, just call the number listed above.

Keeping the Lights On and the Ink Flowing

The management of the *Boston Globe* — which is to say, *The New*

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Birds, Beasties and Boats: the legacy of Adams Point

A new exhibit has opened at the Discover Portsmouth Center, formerly the Public Library, at 10 Middle Street. Tourists visiting the Seacoast region will surely find "Birds, Beasties and Boats: the legacy of Adams Point" fascinating. Local residents — no matter how long they've lived here — will miss something wonderful if they fail to catch it.

Captain Edward Adams and his son Cass of Durham, NH created a folk art legacy in wood. They built and sailed the last Piscataqua gundalows and, worried about water pollution and the destruction of natural habitat, whittled not only ship models but carved the birds, fish and other creatures of the estuary. The Portsmouth Historical Society is showing more than 100 carved and painted works in collaboration with The Gundalow Company, whose ship *The Captain Edward H. Adams* continues the tradition of environmental education. The exhibit will be open



Bird carvings by Cass Adams at the Discover Portsmouth Center.

through August 31 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Several informative talks are scheduled as well:

Saturday, June 20, 11 a.m. there will be a book signing with Jeff Bolster, author, *Cross-Grained & Wily Waters*;

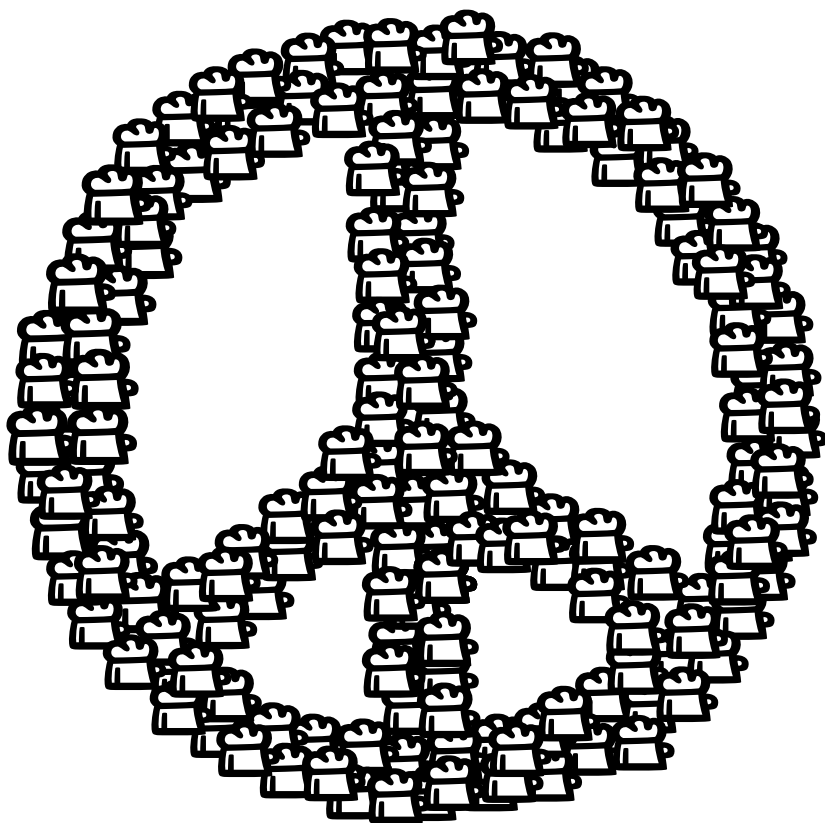
Saturday, July 11, 11 a.m. a gallery talk will be given by Dwight Wilder on the Adams family;

Saturday, July 18, 11 a.m. a

gallery talk and carving demonstration will be given by Fred Dolan;

Wednesday, July 29 at 5:30 p.m. a lecture will be given by Ron Bourgeault on Bellamy Eagles; and

Saturday, August 15 at 11 a.m. a gallery talk will be given by Nate Hazen on Piscataqua gundalows.



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



Moving Pictures

The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Denzel Washington, John Travolta; **Screenplay:** Brian Koppelman, based on the novel by John Godey; **Director:** Tony Scott; **Rating:** [R]

Denzel Washington must have a portrait aging in an attic somewhere. Even padded and costumed to look like a paunchy schlub, he doesn't remotely resemble a dude in his mid-fifties. Maybe it's all that clean living as a devout Pentecostal, or maybe it's just the gift of youthful DNA. Whatever the source, Mr. Washington's inability to look shopworn and overweight could be to blame for his less-than-riveting performance in the remake of *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3*. Or maybe it's just this reviewer's twisted view that he'd have been better cast in the villain role occupied by John Travolta.

Okay, back to the boarding platform. For those who haven't seen the 1974 original, a closely coordinated team of bad guys hi-

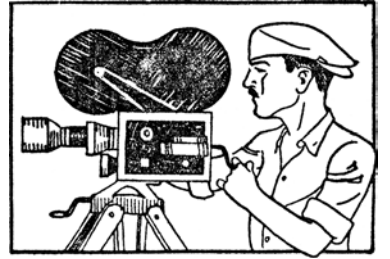
jacks a subway car deep beneath the streets of New York, and demands that the city pay a million-dollar ransom in sixty minutes, or they'll begin executing the passengers. Their only contact with the surface world is a disgruntled transit cop (Walter Matthau) who has to kick shins to get the city bureaucracy moving and make the pay-off. The bad guys are lead by a heartless mercenary (Robert Shaw) who goes by the code name "Mr. Blue." Indeed, all the bad guys have taken color names, a neat little ploy reprised by Tarantino in *Reservoir Dogs*. The original movie, based on a tick-tock heist thriller by John Godey, managed to get the gritty feel and smell of New York in the mid 1970's, when the wheels seemed to be coming off the city. A crucial action sequence was devoted to a desperate race through the decaying streets to deliver the unmarked bills. The plot twist that keeps the viewer interested is this: how do the bad guys, surrounded by cops at either end of the tunnel, expect to make their getaway?

For the remake, the story remains essentially the same, but louder. This works better for Travolta as the baddest of the bad guys. He's brutal, possibly demented, and unlike the original Robert Shaw villain, he seems to loathe the city and long for his own violent death, or a better haircut, whichever comes first. This isn't the wise-cracking Travolta of, say, *Get Shorty* or *Broken Arrow*, this is a terminally bitter man who expects the worst of humanity, and does all he can to make it happen. He's death seeking vengeance on life itself.

Washington's role has been curiously amended, and not necessarily for the better. Instead of being a disgruntled transit cop, sneered at by the street level detectives, he's a sad little bureaucrat facing corruption charges, who has been demoted to dispatcher pending investigation. Travolta, sensing this, circles for the psychological kill, forcing Washington's character to publically confess to a crime he may or may not have committed. It's a long, long way from

Training Day and to be even remotely convincing in the role, the mighty Denzel has no choice but to squelch his own very powerful leading man personality and become a loser whose only chance of redemption is to find a way to save the innocent, even if he may lose his own life in the process. He has to become, in effect, the anti-Denzel, and while that may be the ultimate challenge for a skilled actor, it proves to be less than compelling for the audience. What could have been a perfect part for Wallace Shawn is pretty much wasted on the man who saved the world in *Déjà Vu*, or an innocent child in *Man On Fire*. It's like watching John Wayne play Mortimer Snerd.

Not to say that either of the leads are terrible. This is Denzel Washington and John Travolta, and they can hold your attention even in the most underwritten roles. But despite a couple of the highest paid screenwriters in Hollywood (David Koepp is uncredited but wrote a number of drafts) *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3* can't even solve the helicopter



problem. To wit, why is a substantial part of the plot devoted to the problem of transporting ten million in cash (the price of inflation since 1974) through traffic-clogged streets, when a helicopter could have made the delivery in minutes? The "duh" moment is acknowledged by the mayor (James Gandolfini) with a snort and an eyeroll, but really the whole sequence plays as a ridiculous excuse for a number of perfectly senseless collisions at virtually every intersection in Manhattan.

The new *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3* is loud and bright enough to keep you awake for the duration — lots of jerky in your face close-ups and hip-hop noise as an imitation of life — but if you want to know why the original is still much the best, fire up your DVD player and revisit 1974. And watch out for that third rail.

More News Briefs

from page three

York Times — recently slashed wages for *Globe* employees by 23 percent across the board. They are now trying to find a way to renege on a prior commitment to lifetime employment guarantees for 190 people.

Those guarantees of lifetime employment were concessions made by the Taylor family during

earlier labor negotiations, before they sold the *Globe* to the Sulzbergers, the family that controls the *Times*.

The Sulzbergers appear to be preparing to sell the *Globe*, for which they paid \$1.1 billion in 1993. But selling a business that is losing a million dollars a week is tough. Cutting everybody's pay — except management's — by 23 percent should help. Throwing The *Globe* 190 over the side

of their still-sinking ship should further improve their odds.

Selling the *Globe* would be very advantageous for the Sulzbergers, because they have enough trouble at home in New York. To keep their own lights on and their ink flowing, they recently had to borrow a quarter of a billion dollars from Carlos Slim, a Mexican multimillionaire who owns more than 6 percent of *Times* stock.

Yesterday, *Boston Herald* col-

umnist Howie Carr offered to pay two dollars for the *Globe*. The Sulzbergers can probably do better than that, but perhaps not by a whole lot.

We offer this little slice-of-newspaper life to establish, in case the reader was unaware, that times have been better for the newspaper racket.

Our own situation is not nearly as dire as that of the *Times* or *Globe*. We don't have the crush-

ing burden of debt that they do. Also, not having been in the habit of paying our staff much, if anything, we don't have to pay a lot of legal staff to figure out how we can legally feed them to the sharks. But, all kidding aside, unless we do something to alter the current trends, we may not be much better off.

We have five more papers to go in to complete our 253rd year. If we are able, we will begin our

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When "the Army we had" was sent to war, they got plenty of lip service about "support." Well, some of them are back now. And a few of them could use a hand.

The Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (VASH) program provides permanent housing and ongoing case management treatment services for homeless veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management.

VASH cannot provide furniture, household appliances, pots and pans, or other household goods. VASH can accept these items, and distribute them to veterans who need them.

Call or e-mail Tracy Noonan, VASH Program Manager, at (603) 657-5612 or tracy.noonan@va.gov

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Northcountry Chronicle

Arsenic and Old Soldiers

by William Marvel

Scientists at the University of Massachusetts recently developed a means of testing arsenic content on the surface of the ground, and in an interesting collateral discovery they determined that the soil in "Civil War cemeteries" provides some of the most potent quantities of the poison. Apparently the embalming fluid of that era consisted chiefly of arsenic, which permeates the vicinity of the grave.

Presumably the reference to "Civil War cemeteries" did not include most of the national cemeteries spawned by that war. The dead who lie at Gettysburg, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Andersonville, and scores of other sites associated with the Civil War were usually buried on the battlefields where they fell, or near the hospitals or prison camps where they perished, and almost always without benefit of embalming. Campaigns conducted during the warmest months left hundreds or thousands of corpses that required immediate interment, and usually only the wealthiest families bore the expense and trouble of having their

soldiers' bodies prepared for the long journey home.

Many letters survive from commanding officers or chaplains who inform the survivors of a deceased soldier that it would be best to leave the dead man lying where he was. Sometimes the letters employ sentimental allusions to the sacred soil for which the soldiers were fighting, but more often the advice hints awkwardly and indirectly at the inevitable circumstance of decomposition. No bodies could be recovered before late autumn, the officer might say, and even then they would be transported only if they were immediately encased in sealed metal coffins. The cost generally exceeded several months of the dead soldier's outstanding pay.

The gruesome implications notwithstanding, parents and widows often opted to bring their menfolk home. An Ohio man who lost two sons in the war had both bodies shipped home for burial, but he could not arrange the return of one of them until April of 1866, three and a half years after the boy had died. Against the more obvious dictates of common sense

he opened the coffin, hoping to detect some recognizable feature, perhaps to satisfy himself that the right body had been sent. "But there was nothing except the shape of the forehead and the hair which was distinguishable," he recorded. "The rest was a mass of matter." No arsenic there, we must presume.

Occasionally embalming would be done at the request of comrades, without consulting the dead man's relatives. This was more common when the soldier died in camp or garrison, rather than on an active campaign. A woman in Stowe, Vt., may have been expecting a letter from her soldier-husband when well-meaning neighbors (at the behest of her husband's equally well-meaning comrades) reined up at her door with the coffin that announced she was a widow. Occasionally the preserved papers of a Civil War soldier will include, among his letters and official documents, a final invoice from the Adams Express Company for the delivery of "one box."

Conway's Civil War soldiers consisted of two distinct classes — those who enlisted early enough to endure the worst of



Burial of the dead on the Antietam battlefield, artist unknown, from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, October 18, 1862.

the war, and those who enlisted very late, for generous bounties. The former mostly came from the hardscrabble farm districts, and the latter from the more prosperous villages. Only one of the late, better-paid volunteers died — of typhoid — and his body was embalmed for burial in the Kearsarge village cemetery. Of those who enlisted early, a great many never returned at all, even in death.

Two brothers-in-law from South Conway, Enoch Haselton and James Hatch, have cenotaphs in the family cemetery on Davis Hill Road, but both are buried elsewhere. Haselton was wounded by the first volley ever fired at his regiment, two weeks after reaching the army, and he died a fortnight later. After the war, government laborers gath-

ered up what was left of him for reinterment at Antietam National Cemetery, a few miles away.

Six months into his enlistment, and shortly after his 18th birthday, Hatch was on his way to a Washington hospital with dysentery. He died before the steamer docked, so his body was hastily buried at the Soldiers Home Cemetery, on Seventh Street. President Lincoln summ-ered at the Soldiers Home, and sometimes prowled the rows of the cemetery. Probably he strolled past Hatch's arsenic-free grave. That would have been as close to greatness as the boy ever came, but his ornate monument in the overgrown cemetery on Davis Hill suggests that his mother would have preferred to bring his body home.

254th year of publication on Friday, September 11.

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For us to be able to go on, we will need to have to have a higher level of support from our readers than they have been in the habit of providing.

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in our pages. It takes time to acquire additional advertising, and every inch of such success takes up space we could use for news. In a paper as small as ours, that is a consideration.*

On the other hand our readers receive a very direct benefit from picking up our paper and reading it. A hard-to-define ben-

* This is not to say we are not interested in new advertisers — we are. We like the reassurance it gives our readers to see that real, live businesses want our readers to know they support us. Any potential advertisers are invited to give us a call at (603) 433-9898.

efit, to be sure. But we have had enough sidewalk conversations with readers to feel confident it exists.

Perhaps it's this simple: these pages are one place in the real, physical world where our readers can go and know that they don't have to defend their psyches from the mental imperialism of The Corporation. Or maybe it's just the odd laugh now and then.

Either way, to keep this thing going, we really are going to need to see a significant increase in the level of reader support. For-

tunately, we already have a perfectly functioning method of accommodating that support — our Supporting Subscriber program. You, the readers, fill out the form below with your name and mailing address and mail it to us with your check for the extravagant sum of \$25 — a whopping 6.84 cents per day. We continue publishing the paper and distributing it to 150 or so places in Portsmouth and the surrounding towns of the Piscataqua region.

You pick up your copy once per fortnight. As the expiration of

your subscription approaches, we begin mailing your paper with a large, red message stamped on the front: "Your subscription is EXPIRING!" Naturally, you hasten to renew.

How many Supporting Subscribers do we need? That's hard to say. Much will depend on how well our advertising holds up in the coming months.

We can say this: if more people subscribe than we need, we can always make the paper better. But if enough people don't, we may not have a paper at all.

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Our Socialist Armed Forces

To The Editor:

I'm tired of hearing the epithet "socialism" bandied about in an attempt to frighten folks who might otherwise agree that as citizens of the richest country on earth we all deserve the best basic health care available. Whether you label it a "public option" or "single payer," we are the only western, industrialised nation that does not provide its taxpayers with universal health care.

If you are truthfully concerned about (and against) socialism, perhaps we should condemn and disavow all other socialist-type, publicly-funded services that we enjoy and support through communal subsidy. Our public schools, armed forces, fire and highway departments and libraries are all socialist in nature yet they are not being demonised or threatened with privatisation.

In fact, we already have taxpayer financed health care in America. Every member of Congress has publicly-funded medical care, paid for by you and me. Many of these so-called "representatives of the people" would prefer that we pay our own medical costs through private, for-profit corporations. In return these same legislators take hundreds of millions of dollars in "contributions" from lobbyists connected directly to the very corporations that benefit from their decisions to keep control of

health care in their hands.

Are these politicians our "public servants" or are they our lords and masters? How rotten does it have to get before the public can smell the rat?

Charles B. Carr
New Boston NH

Charles:

It's odd, isn't it? After you've been force-fed a steady diet of lies long enough, the truth can sound pretty strange when you hear it.

The Editor

We All Win With

Employee Free Choice Act

To the Editor:

The Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) will benefit all of us, even if we do not have the opportunity to join a union. Currently the Congress is debating the EFCA and we all need to support its passage. It was the unions of this country that fought for good wages, benefits and job protection. Those of us, who do not belong to a union and did not have to fight for those perks, are still benefiting from higher wages and better working conditions. We should not stand by now and watch wages and benefits be reduced to hard working Americans, after decades of barely keeping up with, or even falling behind inflation.

The EFCA makes it easier for employees to form unions. If a majority of employees at a work site sign a union card, a union must be recognized. If employees in addition request a secret ballot vote, that too is allowed. Instead of the current process, which allows employers to influence, and often to threaten employees by suggesting firings and plant closings if a union is formed, the new process would give the employees more power to determine their own fate.

A recent barrage of advertisements funded by employer and business groups try to tell us that

they know better what is best for America's employees.

We do not agree. That is why the Portsmouth Democrats are proud to stand with the unions at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, unions in New Hampshire and throughout the country who are supporting the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. That is also why our group has written to our U.S. Senators and members of Congress from New Hampshire asking them to also support this bill.

We ask all like-minded residents of New Hampshire, whether you belong to a union or not, to call your representatives in Washington and ask them to support the EFCA. The phone numbers are listed below:

Senator Judd Gregg, (202) 224-3324

Senator Jeanne Shaheen, (202) 224-2841

Congresswomen Carol Shea-Porter, (202) 225-5456

Congressman Paul Hodes, (202) 225-5206

Peter Somssich, Chairman, for the Portsmouth Democrats Executive Committee
Portsmouth, NH

What Rule of Law?

To the Editor:

How can President Obama ask the other countries of the world to live by the rule of law when we have so little rule of law in our own nation?

The claim that we are governed by the rule of laws is a cruel hoax. We are governed by the rules of the oligarchy of the of the bankers, the multibillionaires, the corporate CEOs and the hedge fund operators who have a financial stranglehold on our Congress, and often the president. This oligarchy is a greater threat to our nation than any foreign government or terrorist organization.

Like the 1920s robber barons, they have the power to manipu-

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

late the world's markets with free trade, and they create the laws that allow them to make their billions and deny any rule or union that prevents them from making more. Their offshore tax havens and their tax cuts allow them to live in the ultimate luxury, which is paid for by the labor and taxes of the working class, which struggles to survive on stagnant wages, forced to "race to the bottom," by the loss of jobs and better opportunities.

There is no rule of law when the greed of this oligarchy can devastate world financial markets and impose widespread depression and misery with nine percent unemployment, loss of homes, cars, businesses, savings and pensions.

There is no rule of law when the oil industry can drag us into senseless wars of occupation in the Middle East to gain more control of the World's oil reserves at the expense of the death of millions, the destruction of cities and infrastructure that support the lives of others who are already dying from suicide bombs and the diseases spread by polluted water.

There is no rule of law when the billionaires of the health insurance industry can control the Congress members who should be creating the comprehensive national health care insurance for all who need it while allowing others to keep the insurance they have.

We need this viable national health insurance to compete with the countries that supplement their industries with free health insurance for their employees.

There is no rule of law when the billionaires can buy the all the news media outlets, except Public Broadcasting and the few independent newspapers, and re-

place the real editors and journalists with talking heads who feed us with the pap of entertainment news and endless commercials.

No one man, even with all the power of the presidency, can make a change from this rule of greed and avarice to the rule of law without the help of a Congress that is free from the control and corruption of corporate money. We the people can change this with a national campaign finance system that will eliminate the oligarchy's ability to control the nation's legislature through lobbying. This will not be simple or easy but it will be the first and important step to correct and reform the top-down system that denies the just and equal benefits of our economy.

There are no bleacher seats or skyboxes in the game of citizenship. Join and support the people who are exposing the corruption and trying to change the direction of our government. Click on truthout.org, truthdig.net and watch "Now" and "Bill Moyer's Journal" Friday at 9:30 and 10 p.m. on WBGH public TV.

Wilbur N. Rhodes
Kittery, ME

Wilbur:

You nailed it again.

The Editor

Getting Some of Our Tax Money Back

To the Editor:

At last, New Hampshire is starting to get some of its tax money back from the federal government. In 2005, the year before Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter assumed office, for every \$1.00 of taxes paid by New Hampshire citizens, the federal government spent only 71 cents here. We were being short-changed. Some states made a profit, however. New Mexico re-

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And Other Correspondence

ceived \$2.03 for every tax dollar; Mississippi obtained \$2.02, and Alaska was given \$1.84. Moreover, unlike New Hampshire, 32 of the 50 states got more tax money back than they contributed. We were fourth from the bottom in terms of a return on our taxes.

Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter has been working hard to eliminate that inequity. She requested and received funding for the following New Hampshire projects in the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Portsmouth Harbor and Piscataqua River Army Corps of Engineers Investigation — \$78,000. The feasibility study will investigate widening the existing uppermost turning basin from approximately 850 feet to at least 1,000 feet.

Hampton Harbor Section 107 Authorization. This project involves maintenance dredging of the federal entrance channel to Hampton Harbor and the beneficial use of the dredged material to restore the adjacent state beaches in Hampton and Seabrook. The Army Corps of Engineers will assign funding.

The Portsmouth, Rochester, and Dover Police Departments will receive a total of \$545,000 for training, equipment, and digital radio encryption. A total of \$200,000 will support permanent protection of wildlife habitat, farmland, scenic views and forestland along and bordering the federally designated Wild and Scenic Lamprey River in Epping, Durham, and Lee. The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership has been assigned \$3,000,000 for land protection and other conservation measures for Great Bay. The Town of Tamworth will be given \$450,000 for its Chocorua Village Safety Proj-

ect.

The UNH Center on Inclusive Education has been awarded \$319,000 to support education, training, and technical assistance for students with autism spectrum disorders. The Bi-State Primary Care Association has received \$105,000 to recruit doctors and dentists and \$110,000 to treat uninsured patients.

The Manchester Community Health Center will obtain \$333,000 for facilities and equipment. The New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness has been granted \$261,250 for construction of homes for veterans. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation will receive \$1,900,000 for work on a Lowell-Nashua-Manchester rail corridor and \$475,000 for state-wide buses and bus facilities.

The nature of these projects shows that the money is being well spent to solve pressing problems. Thanks to Congresswoman Shea-Porter we are both getting a better return on our tax dollar and making New Hampshire a better place in which to live.

Representative Susan R. Keper, District 15
Hampton, NH

Dear Susan:

We're grateful to you for making this point. It had been on our to-do list, but you beat us to it.

The Editor

"You Brought Them Into the World"

To the Editors:

Whenever the "Anti-Pregnancy Patrol" and "Anti-Choice" leagues complain about those on welfare and in our prisons and how we'd be better off without them, or that they should have never been born, why not use the rejoinder, "You brought them into the world!"

It's time they accepted full responsibility for their actions against Population Control and preserving the life of the mother.

After all their "no limits on children" and "pregnancy must result in birth" stances do not always result in such stellar humans as their demigods George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Rush Limbaugh, Newt Gingrich, ... or even their god, Ronald Reagan.

Maybe, out of respect, "Well, there you go again. After all you ..."

Chris Lane Gray
Monticello, AR

Actually Supporting the Troops

To the Editor:

As the wife of a former American Army officer, Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter has taken a particular interest in the problems faced by our servicemen and women. Recently, she introduced legislation in the House to further protect the health and lives of our troops. Working together with Congressman Tim Bishop, Shea-Porter sponsored the Military Personnel War Zone Toxic Exposure Prevention Act.

According to FOXNews.com, "the waste pit at the 15-square-mile Joint Base Balad in Iraq has burned unexploded ordnance, petroleum products, plastics, rubber, paint and solvents and medical waste, including amputated limbs, according to a 2006 memo from a top U.S. military official." Paul Rieckhoff, Director of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, noted, "veterans have heard time and again about their fellow troops falling ill after serving near burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The bill sponsored by Bishop and Shea-Porter prohibits the disposal of waste by the Armed Forces in a manner that would produce dangerous levels of toxins.



In addition, Congresswoman Shea-Porter introduced a second piece of legislation, The Safety in Defense Contracting Act, that punishes defense contractors for causing serious injury to or death of government personnel. According to WMUR.com, "the bill was prompted by incidents in which at least three service members were electrocuted while showering at U.S. facilities in Iraq." Shea-Porter's bill prevents contractors found guilty of causing serious injury or death from receiving additional government contracts for five years.

Not all injuries or deaths occur on the battlefield. I am pleased that Congresswoman Shea-Porter is working to eliminate those due to carelessness or incompetence that should never have occurred in the first place.

Hiram Connell
Somersworth, NH 03878

Still Cuttin'

[Note on a renewal form: "I cut this with my handy dandy Gazette paper cutter!" — Norman Racicot, Orlando, FL.]

From the Left Coast

[Note on a renewal form: Please send the Gazette to another Californian. Your publication & the Rachel Maddow Show are our only sources of "truth, justice, and the American Way" on this Coast." — Ellen Tanzillo, Atwater, CA.]

SummerFilm

The Music Hall

SUGAR

JUNE 21 @ 4&7:30, JUNE 22, 23 @ 7:30

Miguel is a promising young Dominican pitcher with a chance to get to the American minor leagues and a dream to go even further with hope of bringing his family back home out of poverty. (R, 120 mins, US, 2008)

Show and Tell Follows JUNE 23 Screening

THE WILD BUNCH

JUNE 24 @ 7

The aging gunmen (William Holden, Robert Ryan, and Ernest Borgnine) of Sam Peckinpah's masterpiece break the very laws of honor which bind them in this bloody and meditative tale of the American West. (R, 145 mins, US, 1969)

Thu 6/25 HD Event

National Theatre of London HD Broadcast Series: Phedre

Fri 6/26 Live Event

Spanish Harlem Orchestra

STATE OF PLAY

SAT ONLY JUNE 27 @ 7:30

Director Kevin Macdonald moves from documentaries and The Last King of Scotland to this gripping political thriller. The all-star cast features Russell Crowe, Ben Affleck, Helen Mirren & Jeff Daniels. (PG13, 127 mins, US, 2009)

EXAMINED LIFE

JUNE 28 @ 4&7:30, JUNE 29, 30 @ 7:30

"Philosophy is in the streets." Filmmaker Astra Taylor accompanies some of today's most influential thinkers on a series of unique excursions through places and spaces that hold particular resonance for them and their ideas. (NR, 88 mins, US, 2008)

GONE WITH THE WIND

JULY 1 @ 6:30

Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress and Supporting Actress along with countless other awards and nominations. Vivien Leigh, Leslie Howard, Olivia de Havilland and Clark Gable star in Victor Fleming's Civil War classic. (NR, 238 mins, US, 1939)

ANVIL

JULY 2, 3, 4 @ 7:30

Perseverance & passion are the themes of the year's most critically acclaimed documentary. Once on the cusp of fame & fortune, success has eluded Anvil for over 30 years. Their last-ditch effort brings Spinal Tap antics and teary-eyed doubt. (NR, 90 mins, US, 2008)

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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

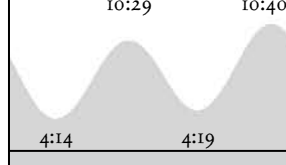
trucks.)
The moon's meddling creates a roving hydraulic conflict as incoming sea and outgoing river collide. The skirmish line moves from the mouth of the river, past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on towards Great

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 sterns 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, June 21	Monday, June 22	Tuesday, June 23	Wednesday, June 24	Thursday, June 25	Friday, June 26	Saturday, June 27
<p>2005—Edgar Ray Killen, 80, is found guilty of manslaughter in the case of Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney (see 1964). 2004—Mike Melvill becomes the world's first non-governmental astronaut by piloting <i>SpaceShipOne</i> to an altitude of 100 kilometers. 1994—As Jose Martin and his wife are driving near Madrid, a 3 pound meteorite crashes through their windshield, bends the steering wheel, and lands in the back seat. She is unscathed, he gets a broken finger. 1989—The U.S. Supreme Court rules flag-burning a legal form of political protest. 1977—Nixon aide H.R. Haldeman moves into the Crowbar Hilton. 1964—Civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney are murdered by the KKK in Mississippi. 1932—A split decision gives the Heavyweight title to Jack Sharkey, inspiring Max Schmeling's manager to issue his own judgment: "We was robbed!" 1877—The Molly Maguires, fourteen coal miners arrested by a private detective agency and prosecuted by private attorneys for the coal companies, are hanged by Pennsylvania officials, private executors being apparently unavailable. Pardons for two arrive minutes too late.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:29 10:40  4:14 4:19 5:08 5:13 6:01 6:07 6:53 7:01 7:44 7:56 8:36 8:53 9:28 9:51</p>	<p>2005—The House of Representatives passes a Flag Protection Amendment.[®] 2002—Enron execs admit they hid \$1.5 billion in illegal profits gouged from California ratepayers. 1977—John Mitchell, once the U.S.'s No. 1 lawyer, begins serving 19 months in an Alabama prison. 1970—The 24th Amendment gives 18 year olds the vote. 1969—In Ohio, the Cuyahoga River burns for 20 minutes. 1964—The U.S. Supreme Court rules the Post Office can't ban Henry Miller's <i>Tropic of Cancer</i>. 1959—U.S. launches its tenth Vanguard missile. It is the eighth failure for the rocket. 1944—FDR signs the GI Bill of Rights. 1942—Congress adopts the Flag Code, replacing the embarrassingly Nazi-like Flag Salute with FDR's hand-on-heart. 1941—Germany invades the USSR. 1922—During a coal-miner's strike in Herrin, Illinois, 36 workers are killed. 1898—Marines land in Cuba. 1893—<i>HMS Camperdown</i> accidentally rams and sinks <i>HMS Victoria</i>, flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet. Lost are 358 sailors including the fleet commander. 1622—The Catholic church founds the College of Propaganda.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:23 11:33 12:16</p>	<p>2008—NASA's James Hansen reminds Congress of the seriousness of the threat of global warming. 2005—Roller coaster safety expert Richard H. Brown, 64, dies of injuries received in a fall in his own driveway. 1995—During a soundcheck, Dan Rather joins R.E.M. in "What's the Frequency, Ken?" 1988—NASA's James Hansen warns Congress of the seriousness of the threat of global warming. 1973—Dwight Eliot Stone becomes the last American drafted prior to the expiration of the Selective Services Act. 1972—With his own damned tape recorder running, Richard Nixon tells H.R. Haldeman to order the CIA to block an FBI investigation of Watergate. 1950—A Douglas DC-4 and all 58 aboard disappear without a trace over Lake Michigan. 1947—The Senate overrides Truman's veto of the anti-labor Taft-Hartley Act. 1937—Having been shot in the jaw and seen the Communists suppress anarchists, George Orwell and his wife flee Spain. 1917—After Babe Ruth is thrown out for punching an umpire, Ernie Shore takes his place and shuts out 26 batters. 1888—Frederick Douglass is nominated for President.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:16</p>	<p>1994—Air Force Lt. Col Arthur Holland, hot-dogging during airshow practice maneuvers, crashes a B-52 at Fairchild AFB in Washington State. 1982—On a British Airways 747 en route from Malaysia to Australia, all four engines fail after flying through a cloud of volcanic ash. After fourteen minutes of gliding, pilots are able to re-start the engines and land successfully. 1971—Nixon's Special Counsel Charles Colson circulates the first White House Enemies List. 1970—The Senate repeals the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. 1970—Staging fails on the Kittery side of the Piscataqua River Bridge project. Four men fall 75 feet to their deaths, seven others are injured. 1968—General Earle G. Wheeler, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, tells an audience in Long Island, "The enemy has lost whatever chance he had of taking South Vietnam by military force." 1968—The National Guard is called out to defend the nation's capitol from the people. 1947—Private pilot Kenneth Arnold reports "flying saucers" over Washington state. 1902—Deadline looming, Joseph Conrad upsets an oil lamp and accidentally burns the second installment of <i>The End of the Tether</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:26 1:09</p>	<p>2003—Lester G. Maddox, high-school dropout, bigot, proprietor of the Pickrick Cafeteria, and Democratic Governor of Georgia (1967-1971) succumbs to his own inherent loathsomeness. 1996—A bomb kills 19 U.S. servicemen in Saudi Arabia. 1973—John Dean spills the Watergate beans to the Senate. 1962—Supreme Court ends prayer in schools. 1950—The Korean War begins. 1940—France surrenders to Germany. 1906—At Madison Square Garden, designed by Architect Stanford White, White is shot dead by Harry Thaw, with whose wife White had been taking liberties. 1899—Four Denver dailies run a hoax cooked up by idle reporters: Chinese authorities were taking bids from American companies to demolish the Great Wall and build a road in its place. The story is reprinted as fact by papers as far off as Europe. 1876—Lakota, Arapahoe, and Cheyenne warriors wipe out General George Armstrong Custer, his brothers Thomas and Boston, and the rest of the Seventh Cavalry at Little Big Horn. 1798—Congress passes the second of the Alien and Sedition Acts, authorizing deportation of potentially dangerous aliens.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:20 2:02</p>	<p>2006—Customs officials in Palm Beach, FL confiscate Viagra from Rush Limbaugh's luggage, since the prescription was not in his name. He was returning from the Dominican Republic, a popular sex tourism destination. 2002—A federal appeals court in San Francisco declares the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional because of the words "under God." 1987—Denying R. Reagan is senile, Sen. Alan Simpson says, "I even saw him do a cowboy doodle the other day. He used to do that when he was in his prime." 1985—At Jack Russell stadium in Clearwater, Fla, organist Wilbur Snapp plays "Three Blind Mice" after a dubious call by ump Keith O'Connor. O'Connor ejects Snapp. 1954—Emperor Bao Dai appoints Ngo Dinh Diem premier of South Vietnam. 1947—Mayor James Michael Curley starts running Boston from a federal prison cell after his conviction for mail fraud. 1918—In Canton, Ohio, Eugene V. Debs is arrested for making an anti-war speech. 1917—A miner's strike begins in Bisbee, Arizona. 1863—Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton promises a Medal of Honor to every soldier in the 27th Maine who extends his enlistment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:14 2:55</p>	<p>2006—Gutless pinko bastards in the Senate fail by one vote to pass a Flag Protection Amendment.[®] 2003—On the first day they can, more than 735,000 people sign up for the "Do Not Call" list. 2000—"Until I'm the president," says George W. Bush, "it's going to be hard for me to verify that I think I'll be more effective." 1989—A federal appeals court reverses Reagan crony Lyn Nofziger's conviction for illegal lobbying, on the grounds that, in this case, ignorance of the law was an excuse. 1986—The Intergovernmental Court of Justice rules the U.S. was out of line in funding the Contras. 1954—CIA-sponsored rebels in Guatemala overthrow the elected government. 1925—Emma Goldman marries James Colton, an elderly anarchist, on her 56th birthday to obtain a British passport. 1919—Emma Goldman turns 50 in prison. 1918—Emma Goldman turns 49 in prison. 1905—On the Black Sea, sailors on the Russian battleship <i>Potemkin</i> mutiny. 1905—The International Workers of the World forms in Chicago. 1898—Joshua Slocum sails his boat <i>Spray</i> into Newport Harbor, having single-handedly circumnavigated the globe.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:09 3:50</p>
<p>2005—Carroll County Sheriff's deputies pull a fragrant Gary Moody, 45, from the tank under a women's outhouse on the Kancamagus Highway in Albany, NH and charge him with criminal trespass. 2004—The U.S. grants "limited sovereignty" to the Iraqi "government," assuring a rapid return to normalcy. U.S. death toll so far: 971. 1994—The U.S. Department of Energy admits that hundreds of U.S. citizens were unwittingly used for radiation experiments during the Cold War. 1975—Rod Serling enters another dimension. 1972—Richard Nixon cleverly announces that no new draftees will be sent to Vietnam, further eroding the anti-war cause, already weakened by the lottery. 1971—The Supreme Court overrules Muhammad Ali's conviction for draft evasion. 1969—At about 1:20 a.m., in NYC, gays and lesbians begin violently resisting a police raid at the Stonewall Inn. 1968—Party animal Lyndon Johnson signs a law converting Memorial and Veterans days into three-day weekends. 1919—The Treaty of Versailles resolves World War I and sets the stage for World War II.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:07 4:46</p>	<p>2006—"It was not always certain," says George W. Bush, "that the U.S. and America would have a close relationship." 1989—The <i>Washington Times</i> reports that high officials in the Reagan & Bush administrations are under investigation for involvement in a homosexual prostitution ring. The story quickly and conveniently evaporates. 1987—"We don't care," declares Reagan administration Attorney General Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese, "about the political or ideological allegiances of a prospective judge." His audience bursts our laughing. 1966—U.S. starts bombing major oil facilities in Hanoi and Haiphong harbor. 1956—The U.S. Federal Highway Act OK's construction of 42,500 miles of highway so the Pentagon can move stuff around in case the Cold War turns hot. 1940—The Smith Act, requiring aliens in the U.S. to register with the government, is enacted. 1897—The Chicago Cubs score a record 36 runs in one game, against Louisville. 1613—A performance of Shakespeare's <i>Henry VIII</i> is interrupted when the Globe Theater burns to the ground.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:07 5:43</p>	<p>2003—The <i>Army Times</i> reports that the Bush administration wants to roll back combat and family-separation pay for troops in combat zones. 2001—Surgeons find a small, hard, black object in Dick Cheney's chest and attach a pacemaker and defibrillator to it. 1980—Jimmy Carter signs a bill creating a U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corporation, supposed to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. 1973—The last man drafted in the U.S. enters the Army. 1971—Richard "I am not a crook" Nixon orders a break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. 1956—Two airliners collide, then crash into the Grand Canyon, killing all 128 on board. 1916—Battle of the Somme begins; 19,240 British soldiers die, 35,493 are missing. 1908—A mysterious 40 megaton explosion flattens a huge area around Tunguska, Siberia. 1882—After reading a poem beginning, "I am going to the Lordy, I am so glad," Charles Guiteau is hanged for the assassination of President Garfield. 1864—Sec. of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase (born in Cornish) resigns, charging that speculators were plotting to prolong the Civil War for monetary gain.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:11 6:42</p>	<p>2002—Two American West pilots, after consuming nearly three gallons of beer, are thrown out of a Miami bar about 4:45 a.m. Slated to pilot Flight 556 to Phoenix, they are busted instead. 1991—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush nominates Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. 1968—South Vietnam officially takes over the Phoenix Program. 1968—A chartered DC-8 carrying 214 American soldiers to Vietnam goes off course, strays into Soviet airspace, and is forced to land in the USSR. 1956—Elvis Presley appears on the Steve Allen Show and sings "Hound Dog" to a basset hound dressed in formal wear. 1917—In Boston, 8,000 march against the war. 1898—"Sergeant," says Cpt. William "Buckey" O'Neill to an NCO urging him to get down, "the Spanish bullet isn't made that will kill me." Seconds later he's shot dead. 1884—Allan Pinkerton, founder of the strike-breaking, union-busting detective agency, dies from an infection of the tongue, following an accidental bite, caused by slipping on a sidewalk. 1870—The U.S. Department of Justice is formed. It lasts approximately 131 years. 1863—The Battle of Gettysburg begins.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:16 7:40</p>	<p>2003—George W. Bush says, "There are some who feel that the conditions are such that they can attack us [in Iraq]. My answer is, bring 'em on." 2001—Recalling who stole the 2000 election for him, George W. Bush flip-flops on oil drilling off the Florida coast. 1982—Vietnam vet Larry Walters, 33, ascends to 16,000 feet in a lawn chair buoyed by 45 helium-filled weather balloons. 1976—The Supreme Court rules there's nothing cruel or unusual about the government killing certain selected people. 1970—Word gets out that South Vietnam is torturing prisoners at Con Son Prison. 1932—One year after predicting that highway speeds of 100 m.p.h. would soon be common, Fred Duesenberg rolls his Duesenberg at high speed. He dies three weeks later. 1894—Attorney General (railroad director) Richard Olney gets an injunction against striking Pullman workers. 1881—In Washington, Charles Guiteau, a Republican of the "Stalwart" faction, shoots President Garfield in the back. 1776—Twelve colonies vote to support the Declaration of Independence at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:19 8:37</p>	<p>1993—In Littleton, NH, native son and punk rocker GG Allin is buried in the St. Rose Cemetery, clad in a leather jacket, dog collar, and jockstrap. 1988—The <i>U.S.S. Vincennes</i> mistakes an Iranian airliner for an F-14 and shoots it down; 290 civilians die. 1960—George Lincoln Rockwell leads an American Nazi Pary rally on the Mall in Washington, DC. It devolves into a riot. 1894—President G. Cleveland sends federal troops to Cleveland, vowing to get the lowliest postcard delivered if it takes the whole U.S. Army to do it. 1890—The 43rd state is admitted to the Union. Idaho's name, once thought to be Shoshoni, is more likely a hoax concocted by one George M. Willing. 1863—Portsmouth-born Benjamin F. Falls captures a flag at Gettysburg; he is later decorated with the Medal of Honor. 1850—Australian newspaper publisher James Harrison dooms New Hampshire's ice-exporting industry by demonstrating the first mechanical refrigeration plant. 1835—In Paterson, NJ, children strike for an 11 hour day and a 6 day work week. 1754—George Washington finds it necessary to surrender Fort Mifflin to the French.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:19 9:31</p>	<p>1992—During a Welcome Home Desert Storm Vets Parade, Vietnam Vets are applauded 17 years after the Fall of Saigon. 1947—Hollister, CA is taken over by a part of "The Greatest Generation" known as The Boozefighters. Three days of debauchery spawn a movie, <i>The Wild One</i>, and a generation of peour accountants. 1924—Thousands of Ku Klux Klansmen meet in New Jersey to burn crosses and celebrate the failure of a Democratic Party campaign plank which would have condemned the Klan. 1911—Nashua registers New Hampshire's highest temperature to date, 106 degrees. 1898—At Hampton Beach, a tornado kills 3 and injures 20. 1894—U.S. troops arrive in Chicago and the Pullman strike turns violent. 1855—Walt Whitman self-publishes <i>Leaves of Grass</i>. 1845—Henry D. Thoreau moves into his cabin on Walden Pond. 1826—At New Harmony, Robert Owen delivers his Declaration of Independence, blasting "a trinity of ... evils"—private property, religion, and marriage. 1813—A few musket-toting Americans aboard the fishing smack <i>Yankee</i>, using a calf, a sheep, and a goose as bait, lure and capture <i>HMS Eagle</i> off NJ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:14 10:21</p>



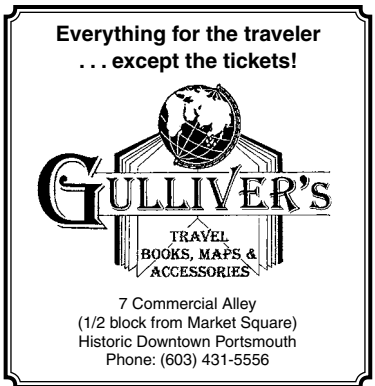
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