

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Damned If You Do ...

Well, now — isn't this a bizarre yet familiar situation? A guy six thousand miles from here, who by all rights ought to be examining eyeballs in utter obscurity, has decided to play an ugly tune on his crazyphone; and we're supposed to dance to it.

Arms Dealer to the World

We don't really have any right to be surprised we're in this position. A hundred years ago we were the hog butcher to the world; now we're its arms dealer.

Our terms are simple: if we like you our exports don't explode until you want them to; if we don't like you they explode on arrival.

Bitter Amusement

There's not much to laugh about in this situation, so we'd better not blow this opportunity. And we dare not delay; what little humor there is in this situation is not very likely to last.

Our Brave Allies the Who?

Our Nobel Peace Prize-winning President Barack Obama appears to be convinced that Syrian government forces used chemical weapons against Syrian civilians, that President Bashar al-Assad must be held responsible, and that, ergo, something must be blown up.

Inconveniently for him, some time ago the world established a thing called the United Nations, located right here in our own United States, to tamp down the random blowing up of things. President Obama can't get the UN Security Council to approve an attack on Syria because Russia has a veto. Adding insult to injury, a UN spokesman, assessing the current risk to global peace and security, had the gall to invoke the

Vietnam War.

Obama tried to get the belligerent British bulldog on board for the battle, but even that was a no go. Prime Minister David Cameron called on Parliament to authorize a strike on Syria but learned he didn't have the votes. Then, in a remarkable display of something or other — we forget what it's called — he threw up his hands and said, "OK, the nays win."

Surely it's time to re-think the problem when your most gung-ho potential allies are the French, formerly known as Socialistic, cheese-eating surrender monkeys.

We happened to briefly discuss this situation with one of Daniel Street's leading philosophers. "Who's next?" he asked. "The Italians?"

Well, We Would Hope So

A lot of people seemed surprised last Saturday, when the White House announced that the President would at least make an effort to sign up Congress as an ally.

Well, we would hope so. In 2007, in the *Boston Globe*, asked whether a President could bomb Iran without Congressional authorization, then-Candidate Obama replied, "the president does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation."

On the other hand, Obama said Saturday, "I believe I have the authority to carry out this military action without specific congressional authorization."

That's him all over — the most enigmatic President we've had since "Silent Cal" Coolidge.



The Fun Side of War

It may be louché to say it but the best part of this otherwise-dismal situation is the target-rich environment it provides for Republicans taking potshots at other Republicans. Speaker of the House John Boehner [R-OH] and Majority Leader Eric Cantor [R-VA] both sided with the President on Tuesday, laying themselves open to attack from the Rand Paul wing of the party. He's no officeholder, but Matt Drudge probably spoke for any number of disaffected Tea Party types when he Tweeted, "It's now Authoritarian vs. Libertarian. Since Democrats vs. Republicans has been obliterated, no real difference between parties...."

The National Federation of Republican Assemblies tried for a Kumbaya moment with a headline, "Experts Disagree on Syria but Agree Obama is Wrong."

Another Slam Dunk?

Secretary of State John Kerry has been auditioning for the lead in a Colin Powell biopic boldly declaring his "high confidence" in the Administration's alleged evidence of Assad's villainy.

Where Kerry stands regarding "boots on the ground" — forgive our use of that obnoxious cliché — is not so clear. In his statements on Tuesday, he seemed to be for ruling out that option before he was against it.

Who's Calling Our Shots?

According to news reports President Obama was almost ready to fire up the Tomahawks until last Friday evening, when he decided to call for a vote in Congress. Whether and when the missiles fly is now anybody's guess. Let's hope, before they do, that someone checks out a story reported on August 29th by the apparently credible Minneapolis-based outfit

MintPress News.

"Syrians In Ghouta Claim Saudi-Supplied Rebels Behind Chemical Attack," the headline reads. "Rebels and local residents in Ghouta accuse Saudi Prince Bandar bin Sultan of providing chemical weapons to an al-Qaeda linked rebel group."

The report said the casualties resulted from untrained rebels mishandling the munitions.

Giving Credit Where It's Due

Republicans frequently accuse non-Republicans of "blaming everything on Bush." In a way, they're right: we blame him for two bad wars, a wrecked economy, a bloated national debt, intensified political acrimony, and generalized global disdain.

But we'll give George W. credit for this: his bungling in Afghanistan and his bogus war against Iraq have really raised the burden of proof for military adventurism.

The Alleged News

Are You Ready For Some Helicopters?

A hundred people spent two and a half hours in a stifling room on August 26th, asking members of the Pease Airport Noise Compatibility Committee [NCC] to veto Seacoast Helicopters's proposed flight school and air charter business.

Already dismayed by the prospect of unrestricted helicopter flights originating at Pease, they were further appalled to learn that neither the Noise Compatibility Committee nor the Board of Directors of the Pease Development Authority [PDA] had the power to reject the plan.

If the PDA did try to stop the proposal, the people assembled were told, then the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] — the 800-pound gorilla, conspicuously absent from the room — would

inevitably demand the repayment of untold millions of dollars worth of Federal grant money.

Three days later a divided PDA Board wielded its rubber-stamp and "approved" Seacoast Helicopters' plan. During that meeting, some members of the Board and staff expressed their own disapproval — of the public's objections to the proposal.

Noise Compatibility Hearing

The Monday evening hearing of the oxymoronically-named Noise Compatibility Committee was opened by Airport Operations Supervisor Andrew Pomeroy. It was being held, he said, so that Seacoast Helicopter LLC could present a summary of its intended operations, and, concurrently, so that the NCC could accept public comments and concerns about

the intended operations. In retrospect, it must be said that Pomeroy's remarks were free from any suggestion that either the NCC or the PDA Board would be able to do anything consequential about those comments and concerns.

Pomeroy put in a perfunctory plug for the Pease noise complaint phone line [436-6333], but Tom Sacramone, the first audience member to speak, was not mollified.

"I have been on the call list for PDA noise line so much that I'm sure they're getting tired of hearing from me," he said, "and mostly it's been because of helicopters." But that has done him no good.

"I call up, there's nobody to talk to. You get an answering machine. Nobody calls back. If they do it's two, three weeks later. And then I

tell them 'use my cell phone,' and I get a call on my home phone. This PDA noise line does not work."

The next speaker was Malcolm McNeil, a Durham attorney. Because he was appearing on behalf of the Town of Newington, and thus representing hundreds of people, McNeil asked for an exception to the three-minute limit on remarks. His request was initially denied.

After a dozen voices were raised, offering to give up their time to him, McNeil — who has been representing Newington on Pease noise issues for twenty years — was allowed to continue for up to ten minutes.

McNeil Proposes

McNeil began by laying out the basis for his concerns:

"Helicopters are readily distin-

guishable from the fixed-wing aircraft which have been the subject of various studies here at Pease. Helicopters fly different routes, have greater maneuverability in the areas that they can traverse, are able to hover, and have a distinguishable noise characteristic that tends to last longer than the Stage Three and Stage Four aircraft that customarily utilize Pease.

"The PDA itself appears to recognize the uniqueness in its own zoning ordinance where a special exception is required for a heliport in the business/commercial zone. Helicopters can not only fly over your house, but they can stay over your house. They can land in local locations other than Pease. They can affect environmentally sensitive areas. They can affect the

quality of life in a different manner than the fixed-wing aircraft that we have become accustomed to, and they can have an adverse effect on economic interests, sleeping, and noise vibration in houses. These issues, in my opinion, have never been exhaustively reviewed by any prior PDA noise studies.”

McNeil then observed that the FAA’s official position is that those concerns ought to be addressed.

“The FAA itself in its report to Congress on December 2004, indicated, ‘helicopter operators and communities should develop voluntary agreements to mitigate helicopter noise.’ And in a very recent report in Los Angeles it was stated as follows: ‘in the FAA’s experience, the most satisfactorily and widely accepted noise abatement measures are those that are

collectively discussed by the engaged stakeholders and the FAA at the local level and are supported by local consensus.’

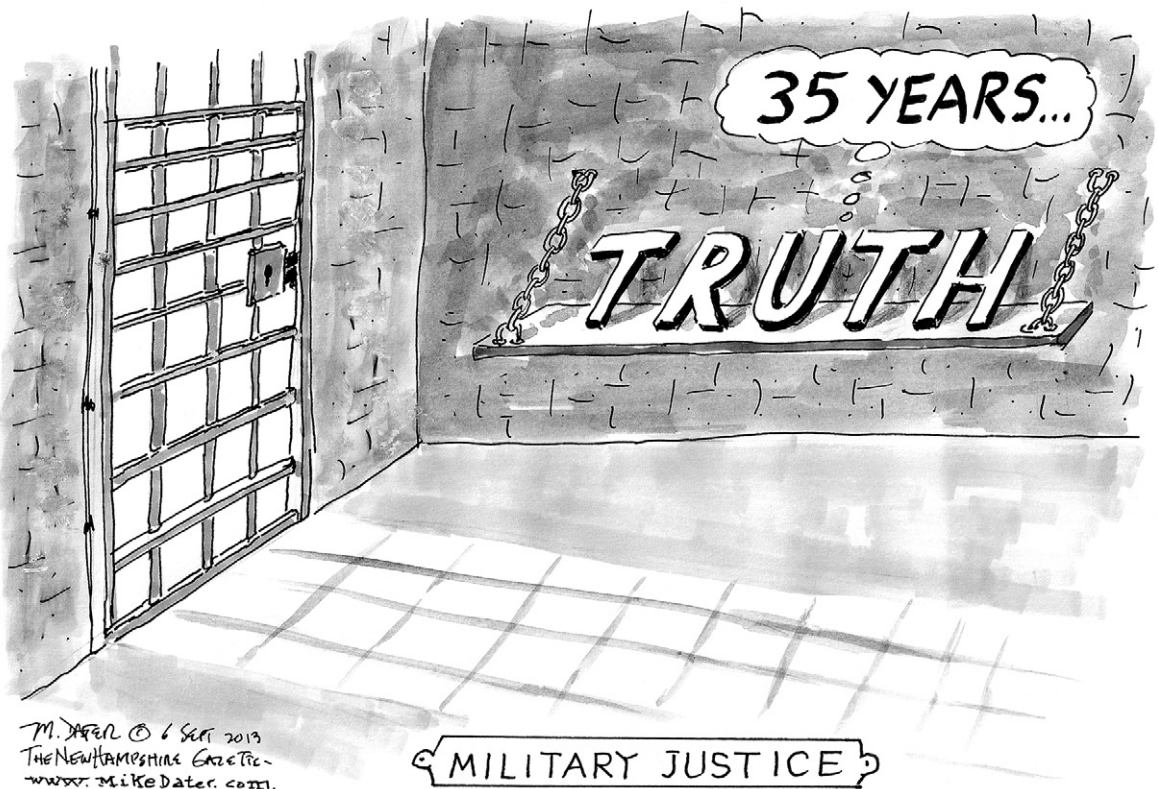
“The FAA recommends — these are their words — ‘engagement of a robust local process and is prepared to support such a process to pursue noise remedies that reduce helicopter noise, are responsive to community quality of life issues, and economic issues.’”

McNeil proposed that such voluntary agreements be included in the applicant’s lease to reduce the impact to particularly sensitive locations and at certain times. An enthusiastic round of applause left no doubt his proposal would have passed, had it been up for a vote.

Portsmouth City Manager John Bohenko, a member of the PDA Board, expressed concern about helicopters hovering over historic



The Flag Police were on patrol down near the docks on Friday evening, August 30th, when they came upon Mike Smith, the gentleman wearing the “No Obama Care” T-shirt, holding court near the corner of Market and Bow streets. A self-proclaimed “small-l libertarian,” Smith says President Obama falls “somewhere between a crony capitalist and a Marxist” on the political spectrum. Friendly but determined, Smith exercised his First Amendment with such vigor that the Flag Police didn’t even think to cite him for displaying the flag upside down.



and scenic areas. A single scenic aerial tour, he said, could spoil a pleasant experience for thousands on the ground. He said he would base his Thursday morning vote on what he heard that Monday evening.

One of the few attendees to speak in favor of the proposal was Greg Harville — no surprise since he represents the New England Helicopter Council, which is committed to “promoting the safe use of rotorcraft in its full variety of applications.”

As his three minutes ran out, Harville pleaded to be allowed one last sentence: “I think you would be well served to at least consider working with these folks and coming up with a plan that works for all, because they actually could choose to do this elsewhere, and they could ...” The remainder of that was inaudible, drowned out by applause and calls of “Good!” and “Go ahead!”

A Barrage of Resistance

At a time when the public seems so divided on so many things, the Noise Compatability hearing was

a rare display of unity: for more than two hours, members of the public spoke — often heatedly — against Seacoast Helicopters’s proposal.

Timing was everything for Gail Mapel, a New Castle resident. She said it would be “much more difficult to curtail activity after the fact than it would have been to prohibit it in the first place,” and that notice of the impending decision had been inadequate. When she urged that the application be rejected, or at least delayed, the room applauded.

Bill St. Laurent, a member of the Noise Committee, said he agreed with the cautions expressed by Bohenko and McNeil. “When the Air Force was here,” he noted, “nobody complained. This was wonderful. But these people are making money, and they’re right above us, and their profits are disturbing us. So that makes a big difference.”

A Rye resident was concerned about the Rent-a-Chopper aspect of the proposed business. “You’re going to rent [helicopters] to peo-

ple, and make sure these people pass a written test,” said Barbara Brabson. “I’ve seen people rent cars, and they look pretty sober — sober at first. They get up there on their own and you don’t have any control over what they do.”

Michael Frandzel of Portsmouth was also concerned about helicopter rentals. “We have no control over the people [helicopters will be] rented to ... Bruce [Cultrera] talks about ‘avoiding noise sensitive areas.’

“Frankly,” Frandzel said, “I think my house is a noise sensitive area — when I’m there, I’d really like it quiet if possible,” prompting laughs from the audience.

His skepticism towards a chart purporting to show the relative levels of noise created by various machines drew more laughs. “It looks like your helicopters are quieter than a lawnmower flying at 1,000 feet — I didn’t know anybody who flies a lawnmower that high”

The Awful Truth

Laughter turned to dismay at the midpoint of the evening.

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David McGuckin, a New Castle Selectman, asked Bohenko a procedural question: would the full Board's vote on Thursday be a yes-or-no decision? Bohenko deferred to PDA Executive Director David Mullen. "The decision on Thursday is whether or not Bruce's company passes minimum standards," Mullen said. "The question as to whether or not he can fly is an FAA regulation. We have no authority over it. If it meets the standards — which it does — he has the ability to utilize the aircraft and the airport."

A third of the audience asked all at once, "So why are we here?" and "What's the meeting for?"

One man identified himself as a resident of Portsmouth and asked Bohenko, "Sir, what's the purpose of this meeting?"

Bohenko in turn asked Mullen, "If the vote is not to go forward, if the vote is 'No,' what then happens?"

"The issue on Thursday," Mullen replied, "is does he meet the minimum standards as described

in our [inaudible] regulations. And — he does. So the question of whether he meets the standards — you just affirm the point by your vote on Thursday. You really can't say no to helicopter operations at this airport. It's an FAA requirement."

"Oh, my God," a woman said. "Regardless of what we say, or anything else," said the man from Portsmouth. "It's done deal."

Someone asked, to a round of applause, "Who do we sue?"

Legal Limits

Lynn Hinchee, General Counsel for the PDA stepped in and reiterated Mullen's point. "We can not make a rule or a regulation regarding limiting this operation."

She cited, as an example of the extent of the Noise Compatability Committee's powers, a voluntary agreement by Los Angeles helicopter operators not to fly over the Hollywood Bowl during concerts. No one seemed impressed.

Genesis

Barbara Wheatcraft, a resident of the Sherburne neighborhood,



The 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington was observed with style, spirit, and substance on Wednesday, August 28th, in an event sponsored by the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail. Celebrants marched from Discover Portsmouth to the African Burying Ground, accompanied by the Leftist Marching Band. Robert H. Thompson, the Phelps Minister for Phillips Church at Phillips Exeter Academy and the day's keynote speaker, recalled how far the nation has come in fifty years, and the hope he felt when President Barack Obama was elected. That hope — for a post-racial America — may have been a little premature, he said, but it was not misplaced.

identified the moment when the outcome of the helicopter noise question was actually decided.

"This brings back memories for me, of sitting in the base movie theater when the city was trying to decide whether or not to take a public benefit transfer of this airport We sold our soul to the FAA for a dollar."

The PDA Board Disposes

Judging from the more sparsely-attended Board meeting on August 29th, it seems to be a *faux pas* for the powerless to speak up. Chairman Arthur H. Nickless, Jr., seemed particularly disgruntled. "Shame on those who know better," he said, "who went out there and told people if they came here they could somehow stop this."

Board member Peter Loughlin offered an amendment intended to generate voluntary noise-mitigating regulations. It was defeated on the grounds that it was contrary to FAA dictates.

Rubber stamp or not, the Seacoast Helicopters' proposal passed

— with three votes against: Bohenko, Loughlin, and Newington's representative, Margaret Lamson.

Democracy-Free Zone

The outcome of the helicopter vote wasn't just a foregone conclusion — it was also the fruit of a seed planted by the organizers of the PDA more than twenty years ago. A 2011 story in *Foster's Daily Democrat* spotted the disconnection between the public and the PDA. The Tradeport's organizers, it said, "had wanted it to run like a business, independently of politics."

Governed partly by appointed, business-oriented Board members and partly by faceless Federal bureaucrats, Pease is a hybrid: part Libertarian paradise, part Stalin-esque gulag.

Pease Gets The Perfect Paper

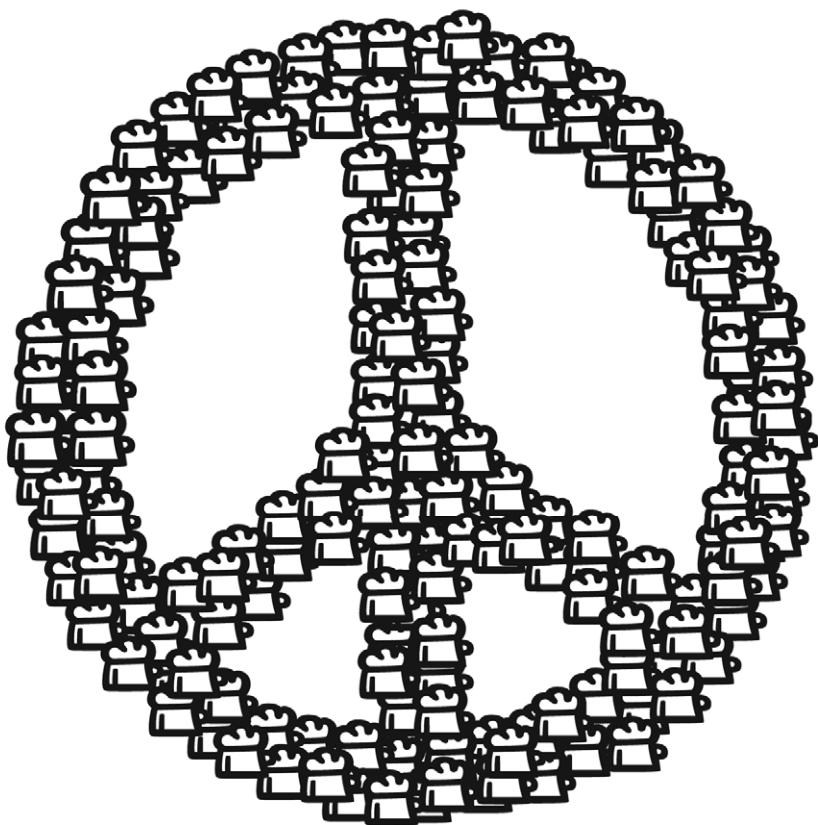
Coincident with the approval of Seacoast Helicopters, Rupert Murdoch's local feifdom Seacoast Media Group, the publisher of the Award-Winning Local Daily

[AWLD], has just introduced a new publication called the *Pease Quarterly*. It is the very model of a paper generated by a corporation: geared to extract marketing dollars from other corporations, its coverage area is confined to a peculiar No Man's Land where the law is made by a handful of appointees carefully — and intentionally — insulated from the will of the people.

This Just In

On Wednesday, Seacoast Media Group announced that it has been sold, along with the rest of Dow Jones Local Media Group, to the Fortress Investment Group. How appropriate.

Fortress is a private equity management firm with about \$55 billion in assets. It's the principal owner of GateHouse Media, which owns about 500 papers and will now manage the AWLD. GateHouse is known for skirt-ing bankruptcy, shaving costs and handing out generous bonuses to shareholders.



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THE WORLD WILL FINALLY KNOW PEACE." -- JIMI HENDRIX





Helicopters at Pease

To the Editor:

I have just read your ridiculous tirade about the proposed new helicopter training school to be located at Pease.

Get a life and be realistic!!!!

It will *not* be operating in any-way close to the *absurd* depiction that you had on the front page of your rag.

Flight training in the helicopters (or in training airplanes) is *never* done over the center of a city such as Portsmouth ... it will *always* be done in *unpopulated*/minimally populated areas. I have been a flight instructor for almost 40 years and can speak with knowledge of how instructors think and operate when in the training environment.

We need businesses to be developed in this area ... and this would be an outstanding addition to the businesses in the area ... and it will make good use of the underused airfield at Pease.

Keith Lauder
Hampton, NH
Keith:

You do your best to make flight training sound innocuous, but it was made quite clear at the public meetings which we attended that Seacoast Helicopters's flight training will have a significant impact on the residents of the Sherburne Road/Pannaway Manor neighborhood, which is located one-third of a mile from the helipad.

Most of the homes in that area were standing before the Air Force

came in and built Pease, by the way — and many still belong to the same families that built them.

And you say nothing about the air charter and sightseeing services which will be offered. Downtown Portsmouth is situated directly between the airport and our scenic coastline. Overflights are inevitable. And the more successful the company is, the more obnoxious it will be.

The Editor

§

Government as Enemy

To the Editor:

One recurring theme of the Far Right is that government is intrusive, takes away our freedoms, and is an inefficient bureaucracy. I'm older than average and certainly can remember some examples of government interference. For instance, the EPA stopped the fire that was burning constantly in the Cuyahoga River running through Cleveland. And way back in my younger days in New York City, getting wet in the Hudson River was a bad idea, never mind swallowing the water or eating fish caught there. But for years now, thanks to the EPA, it has been fishable and the New York Parks department sponsors open water races with hundreds of participants.

Don't these government critics want clean water, food that is safe to eat, regulation of electric and gas utilities both for safety and to control the rates we pay; don't they want the National Institutes of Health to continue as the sponsor of much of the medical research in the U.S.?

The list of things the government does that are crucial to our health and welfare is huge. If the Far Right objects to something specific they should go after that specific thing. Instead we have the mindless and gutless sequester which harms seniors (Meals on Wheels), disadvantaged children (Head Start), and other worthwhile programs.

About that inefficient bureaucracy — I've been on Medicare and Social Security for years and over that time I'd have to say dealing with both has been easier than dealing with cable companies.

Robert Wilkinson
Portsmouth, NH

§

Everybody's a Copy Editor

To the Editor:

Never read your paper before. But before you adopt such a smug tone about the AWLD, maybe you can hire a copy editor? It's "champing at the bit."

Jack Beaudoin
Bowdoinham, ME

Jack:

You're absolutely right — about "champing at the bit," anyway.

The Editor

§

Punish Bush & Cheney

To the Editor:

Then-President George W. Bush and his hawk / oil-magnate partner Vice President Dick Cheney, in March, 2003, launched their "shock and awe" destruction of Baghdad, using the ruse of weapons-of-mass-destruction. A year later we saw Bush unfurl his famous banner, "Mission Accomplished," on a military vessel off California. Much later in 2013 we witness spreading war in that U.S.-invaded Middle East with ever more violence including in Iraq's ruins, but I've just heard BBC news announce five-month-high oil prices related to the sad, mad mess in the Middle East. Somewhere, with no guilt impeding him, Dick Cheney is rubbing his hands over that more money, I am willing to bet.

Are Americans following that Inder Comar, a San Francisco attorney, filed suit in March 2013 against Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rice, Wolfowitz and Powell, alleging that the Bush Administration violated both international and domestic law in planning and waging the Iraq War? (See Wit-

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,

nessIraq.com). California media, on Aug. 20, 2013, reported that "in court papers filed today, the United States Department of Justice requested that George W. Bush, Richard Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice and Paul Wolfowitz be granted procedural immunity in a case alleging that they planned and waged the Iraq War in violation of international law."

The architects of a war spreading its flames for more and more war should be excused? As if they are good children at the end of a civilized meal?

Sergeant Bales, Major Hasan, Private Manning, Edward Snowden — murderers and whistleblowers — have had our attention in legal proceedings (Snowden's still pending). All have in common that their lives were drastically impacted by Bush-Cheney's wars. Yet the architects of war should go on into their golden years with no scrutiny and possible legal repercussions for their actions? How just is this to those who are now dead, maimed, or refugee families? A next generation of children have become desperate and with their chances at education minimal or gone. A big "no" to our U.S. Department of Justice. Real justice must prevail.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, NH

§

Controlling Medicare Costs

To the Editor:

The public is more health conscious today than ever, Yet, contradictorily, many of us continue to abuse our bodies with excess intake of dangerous calories, cigarettes smoking and physical inactivity. Add to this the insufficient intake of nutrients such as magnesium, vitamin D, and omega-3s, and it is little wonder

that healthcare expenditures are accelerating and are threatening to bankrupt our country.

While we hear much about the problem there is a lack of consensus on how to solve it, other than through benefit cuts or privatization.

As the country ages, Medicare will eventually overwhelm every other item on the Federal budget. While politicians disregard this issue, no one can argue against the math showing financial distress of unprecedented magnitude.

There are other burdens borne by Medicare, such as rampant fraud. Estimates are that 20 percent of Medicare dollars go to criminals who submit claims for nonexistent or bogus services, e.g., millions of dollars for wheelchairs, canes and other items prescribed by dead doctors. Crackdowns on Medicare fraud, though, catch only a fraction of the perpetrated crimes.

Another 20 percent of Medicare dollars, which the government doesn't like to admit, are paid out at grossly inflated prices and it is mandated by Congress. An example is an oxygen device which delivers oxygen to patients with respiratory illness. Medicare is forced to pay ten times the free market price it would cost to buy the device new!

Perhaps the most expensive overcharge is for prescription drugs. The Medicare Prescription Drug Act was largely written by pharmaceutical companies and passed under intense pressure by them. Medicare will pay out hundreds of billions of dollars for drugs that could be obtained for far less in a competitive-bidding system.

Once a brand drug comes off patent, generic equivalents emerge. They cost far more than they need to. Many examples at-

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And Other Correspondence

test to this, but are beyond the scope of this article.

Controlling overpayments of Medicare dollars is of course desirable, but deep-rooted and powerful interests favor the status quo, at least for now.

We the public need to acknowledge responsibility for our own health care, and the government needs to do its part, such as initiating mandatory warnings on the labels of all dangerous foods. People would be less likely to buy unhealthy foods if they were reminded of their risks. And the government should encourage companies to state truthful claims about healthy food, such as "eating broccoli; reduces cancer risk."

Creating cost-cutting and life-saving ideas are plentiful, few are implemented. Here are two novel ideas.

Low blood levels of vitamin D are associated with increased incidence of virtually every human disease! Incentivising Medicare-eligible individuals to take proper vitamin D supplements for coverage might help Medicare to regain some of its solvency, as it would slash medical costs.

Cigarettes officially kill 443,000 people in the U.S. each year and unofficially more. The fact that 18-year olds are allowed to buy something as addictive as cigarettes is offensive. Even if they stop smoking, the DNA gene damage likely inflicted in their early years predisposes them to lifelong increased cancer risk.

If the Federal government could impose a 3-month moratorium on all tobacco sales, it could help large numbers of smokers to quit. If just one-quarter of all smokers stopped as a result, that alone, might help save Medicare.

I realize this proposal is draconian and would be another government intrusion on individual

liberty. The fact is, however, that smoking-related diseases are responsible for a huge portion of Medicare and Medicaid outlays.

The main reason Medicare is financially strained is that too many aging people are getting sick. These diseases are preventable. It will require a sustained governmental public relation campaign to get America to follow healthy life styles. Congress must do its part by legislating for affordable prescription drugs, devices and services that have been foisted upon us.

Medicare is complex, its problems are massive, the challenge is critical.

Michael Kulla
Pleasant Valley, NY
§

The Republicans' Holy Grail To the Editor:

It is quite apparent to me that the Holy Grail for House Republicans is to keep people from getting health care. They have tried to repeal Obamacare forty times and yet have offered no other solutions for healthcare.

Obama's health reform law, The Affordable Care Act of 2010, was duly passed by Congress, signed by the President, and is ready to be implemented. The individual mandate is an essential piece of the reform which can not and will not be bargained away. Obamacare is the law of the land and the Supreme Court has upheld it. The Republicans have no legitimate way to stop it but they will keep trying. Some U.S. Republicans are considering using a show-down this fall over the country's borrowing limit as leverage to try to delay the law's implementation. Another approach they are considering involves denying funding for Obamacare and threatening a possible government shut down. Does this all sound familiar?

This is what has been implemented by Obamacare so far: \$1.1 billion in rebates to consumers, 3.1 million more young adults insured, and 105 million Americans have received free access to preventative care. For the first time one can not be denied medical insurance for a pre-existing condition.

Major legislative changes have historically caused plenty of opposition: Social Security in 1935, Medicare in 1965, Medicare Prescription Part D in 2007. But compromises were made and negotiations were carried out so as to make these laws work. All the Republicans talk about is repealing Obamacare as if that is the answer to our prayers.

House Republicans are attempting to frighten people and sabotage the law; a law which is already helping tens of millions of Americans and will give millions more the security of quality, affordable health care for the very first time starting in January 2014.

Please go to your Representative's town meeting and make certain that they are not trying to destroy Obamacare.

Sylvia R. Kennedy, M.D.
Exeter, NH
§

Morality in Warfare

To the Editor:

Secretary of State John Kerry recently gave an impassioned speech stating why our country must attack Syria because of alleged chemical weapons use by the Assad regime that killed some 1400 people — many were children. Kerry has called this chemical attack a "crime against humanity" and a "moral obscenity." Has Vietnam War veteran Kerry forgotten about the heinous crimes against humanity that the Pentagon carried out against innocent people with Agent Orange during the Vietnam War? Accord-

ing to the Red Cross of Vietnam our Government's chemical warfare in Vietnam killed 400,000 people and caused birth defects in 500,000 children. Many died from starvation, since crops were targeted. Those exposed to Agent Orange have suffered from miscarriages, cancer, blindness, mental illnesses, birth deformities, and much more. Even now, five decades later, toxic, dioxin-laden Agent Orange is still killing and maiming the Vietnamese. With this history, how can our leaders wag a morality finger at any other nation over chemical warfare use?

If Obama and Kerry are so concerned about morality in warfare why haven't they had our country endorse the Ottawa Landmine Ban Treaty? Only a handful of mostly despotic countries (including Syria) have not signed onto this treaty.

John Meinhold
Portsmouth, NH
§

Obama Crossing the Rubicon To the Editor:

U.S. Presidents do not have the legal power to declare wars. Barack Obama ignored that Constitutional guarantee in Libya, and is set to begin another war while Congress is not even in session. If we continue to allow Presidents to attack small nations whenever they need a distracting headline, then they are no longer "Presidents," and we are no longer a Republic.

The politicians who want to borrow (or print) more billions to pre-emptively attack Syria are the same politicians who used our foreign aid to pay for the Pakistani and North Korean nuclear weapons. Muslim nations receive five times more U.S. foreign aid than Israel, and North Korea still gets our support for its hereditary dictator. The U.S. has helped every dictator in the world since 1945, including Castro, Pol Pot, and Idi



Amin. We also funded the Taliban both through direct foreign aid and via the Pakistani spy service ... in fact, the GAO reports that the Taliban still receives at least \$500 million a year in pay-offs from U.S. contractors in Afghanistan. If our foreign policy is supposed to get rid of dictators, maybe we should take them off our welfare rolls first.

From 1971-2001, USAID says that U.S. foreign aid to Syria was \$539 million. In recent years, U.S. money has been funneled to the Assad regime through the UN. In June, the UN announced plans to spend \$5.2 billion in aid to Syria in 2013, much of which would go through the regime. And there is always the inscrutable Federal Reserve, which since 1980 has "monetized" (i.e. paid off) billions of dollars worth of foreign bonds held by U.S. banks, making accurate foreign aid totals impossible to obtain (probably even the U.S. State Department doesn't know the amount). While much less than aid to Egypt or Pakistan, our taxes still gave the Syrian dictator dynasty enough support that they could afford to suppress their own nation's economy to control dissent.

Militarily, the U.S. has been allied with the Assads for decades. In 1991 Hafez al-Assad sent 14,500 soldiers and support personnel to attack Saddam Hussein

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Northcountry Chronicle

The Reluctant Tourist, Part 1

by William Marvel

I don't understand vacations. Everyone else seems to live for them, but they make no sense to me. Hard-working people spend thousands of dollars for a week or two at a seaside resort, living in luxury hotels and inviting melanoma with long days of lying listlessly in the sun. Others may hole up in a casino, losing phenomenal sums of money besides their outrageous living expenses. The more inquisitive will endure humiliating intrusions for the privilege of risking their lives flying to foreign countries, where for a few days they will absorb as great a taste of another culture as might be possible for someone who doesn't speak the language. Much of their precious time away from the grind is spent looking for food they can stomach and afford, shopping for overpriced substitutes for the

things they forgot to bring, or lying on the hotel bed, poring over promotional pamphlets for some mutually bearable activity where they can kill another day. The trouble with going away, for me, is that I have to leave behind most of the things I need to do my work, and every day I'm gone I count as a day lost forever. There really isn't anything else I like to do as much. Meanwhile, spending large amounts of money on the temporary luxuries with which most vacationers indulge themselves only makes it that much harder to survive in the poorly compensated career I chose. Bad food and a lack of routine exercise tend to make me a little crabby, as does the inevitable traffic gantlet between here and any distant destination. Then, of course, there are the chickens: they pine for me if I leave home for more than a day or two. I spent long enough working for

other people, doing what I would not otherwise do in order to support myself, that I can understand the common desire to avoid the job. Time off from the workaday world was always as precious to me as it is to anyone else, but not because I wanted to relax. My yearning for time off did not arise from a desire to do nothing, but from an impulse to do something more permanently productive than earning a paycheck. Fortunately, my wife is given to similarly creative impulses. Judging from how long she has kept her day job in the face of far more attractive public-sector emoluments for the same work, she also loves what she does, but even that dream job often grows too demanding of her time, and she craves a break from it. Those breaks rarely involve obsessive musical composition, however, and most of the time she shares

my reluctance to leave home, instead preferring to divide her time between her gardens and piano. Once in a while she hungers for a few hours of maternal companionship, either as the mother or the daughter, and at such times we often compromise to take advantage of our common interests. On Saturday — once I was able to tear her away from the piano — we drove to Dover for a pleasant visit with our graduate student and her new kitten, but while those two nature lovers went to the ocean to swim and botanize I enjoyed some research at the UNH library. All the way to Dover that morning, and all the way back that evening, long streams of cars passed us in the other direction. The northbound lemmings were madly racing each other for a few hours of lassitude at some motel, campground, or barroom.

The equally anxious southbound hordes tailgated and leapfrogged each other all the way down Route 16, hastening back to homes they seem to hate, with all their precious free time exhausted. We just headed home for some dinner, a few more hours of work at the piano and keyboard, and the familiar bed where we sleep better than anywhere else. There is no other place we would rather be, and there is no one else I would rather see. The only incompatibility is that my wife is more gregarious than I, but we have even found a solution to that strange impulse: we simply invite her visitors to come here. In fact, her parents are coming next month, and — like the person who has to choose between burning to death in a penthouse fire or plunging to the pavement — I've begun thinking about a long trip I've been meaning to take.

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

in Desert Storm. In 2001 the Syrian secret police joined with U.S. intelligence agencies in the War on Terror. So the U.S. has been supporting the vicious dictatorship for decades. Now, however, we are also supporting an Al-Qaeda-linked terrorist insurgency. So now we are paying for both sides of the war (as the GAO says that we have done in Afghanistan). What if, instead of paying for both sides of various wars, we just kept all our money at home and left it in the U.S. economy? Our military spending on offensive forces is nearly as much as all the other nations' combined. What if we used some of that money for Swiss-style civil defense to pro-

tect our own children in the event of terrorist or WMD attack? A United States that wasn't involved in Middle Eastern, African, and Central Asian wars would be a more secure United States. Not only would we have fewer enemies, but we wouldn't be bankrupt and vulnerable when there is an unavoidable conflict. Right now our debt is bigger than our GNP ... we can't even afford to pay for the last few wars we fought, let alone start new ones. Thomas Jefferson warned against getting entangled in the wars of other nations. "Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none." But then Thomas Jefferson was a President,

not an Emperor. Bill Walker Plainfield, NH Bill: Just for the record, "Between 1995 and 2008, the United States provided North Korea with over \$1.3 billion in assistance: slightly more than 50 percent for food aid and about 40 percent for energy assistance. Since early 2009, the United States has provided virtually no aid to North Korea ...," according to the Congressional Research Service. The Editor § Why Not Expand Medicaid? To the Editor: Please, somebody help me understand why New Hampshire would not expand Medicaid to

cover 58,000 uninsured citizens. I was part of the near-capacity crowd that filled Representatives Hall for the public hearing held by the commission charged with making a recommendation about the expansion of Medicaid in New Hampshire. Hospitals, doctors, nurses and other providers as well as citizens urged the expansion which is fully funded by the Federal government for the first three years, with a gradual reduction to 90 percent funding beginning in the fourth year. The providers, over and over again, made two important points: 1) Many of the uninsured are already in the system and are receiving very expensive care in emergency rooms, hospi-

tals, rehabilitation centers and by specialists for health problems that could have been prevented if they had had insurance coverage for routine care; and 2) Contrary to popular rhetoric, because of the team approach they are developing, which uses health care workers at all levels, they do have the capacity to provide for those who would enter the system because of the expansion. The only negative voice I heard (I was able to attend only three hours of the four hour session) was State Representative Jack Flanagan, a Republican from Brookline, who was concerned about costs down the road. That argument does not stand up to scrutiny. First, the state can always

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What's In Your Closet, Warren?

by Jim Hightower

Are you one of those people who simply has too much stuff?

You know who you are, so don't try to deny it. Yeah, you — your closets are jammed floor to ceiling, there's not an inch of empty space on your shelves, you've stuffed all the stuff you can under the bed and couch, and you've already filled two rental spaces

at the U-Store-It Barn. In fact, you've tucked away stuff that you don't even remember you had — like those two railroad lines you forgot you'd bought.

Say what? Yes, choo-choos. I'm not talking about model trains, but actual railroads, with locomotives, freight cars, steel tracks, and engineers. Who has so much stuff that they could forget they've got a couple of real-life, multiple-ton railroads somewhere in their pile?

Billionaire Warren Buffett, for one. The avuncular investment guru, known as the "Oracle of Omaha" for his financial acumen, owns some 80 corporations with more than 2,000 subsidiaries, including everything from jewelry companies to utilities. In 2010, his sprawling Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate picked up another bauble, paying \$43 billion for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. To get the okay of the

Transportation Department for taking over the BNSF, he had to disclose whether he owned any other rail companies. "No," was his unequivocal answer.

But — oops! — a few months ago, Buffett discovered that, actually, he does own a short-line railroad in Iowa and yet another one in Oregon. My bad, he told the regulators, explaining that his closet is so packed with corporate things that he didn't know he had

two trains tucked in there.

Okay, people, the lesson here is clear: Stop stashing, and start disgorging! And here's a fun website to help you — or even Warren Buffett — say no to our culture of stuff: www.StoryOfStuff.org.

§

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§

opt out, so concerns about future cost seem inappropriate. Second, this program would provide more cost effective care to the poor. Third, New Hampshire would gain income from new jobs and healthier people working. Finally, America is the wealthiest nation in the world and New Hampshire is one of the wealthiest states. Shouldn't we be able to take care of the health of our people like the rest of the industrialized countries do, no matter what?

The expansion of Medicaid is good public policy and makes good fiscal sense.

Cynthia Muse
Rye, NH

Cynthia:

Your question was probably rhetorical, but we'll answer anyway: ideology. Thousands must suffer, and we all must pay more, because to do otherwise would offend Republican ideologues.

The Editor

§

Kind to be Cruel?

To the Editor:

"Before repealing Obamacare, don't we need an alternative?" If you are having a heart attack, do you want treatment first or a demand that you lose weight and adopt an exercise program first? Democrat [sic] Senator Max Baucus, an Obamacare author,

calls Obamacare a "train wreck." You, all of us, are on that imminent train wreck. Should we stop the train wreck or debate alternatives while the train crashes?

Americans were better off before Obamacare. Seventeen of every 20 Americans had health insurance and 100 percent could go to a hospital for good and continually improving treatments. The primary problem was the high cost (although it is hard to imagine something more worth our money than improving longevity and quality of life).

Before Obamacare, different states experimented with different approaches to reducing costs while maintaining quality care and encouraging investments and innovations that improve people's lives. Examples: The Indiana Health Savings Account program was wildly popular and successful. Texas efforts, including tort reform, successfully reduced costs and enticed doctors to Texas.

While Obamacare was being considered in Congress, Republicans proposed these successful approaches and others to make healthcare more affordable, e.g., allowing people to fully deduct (from income taxes) health insurance premiums and/or buy insurance from states offering different insurance options and

lower premiums. But Democrats had enough votes in Congress to reject Republican proposals and force government controlled health care, Obamacare, on the American people.

Obamacare creates another huge and expensive government bureaucracy which will control doctors, hospitals, health insurance companies, and whether we can receive the treatments, e.g., hip replacements or expensive cancer drugs, needed to improve our lives. Obamacare will be funded with money immorally borrowed (without their consent) from subsequent generations.

Obamacare costs and regulations are disastrous for middle income Americans, causing job losses, stifling job creation, and turning millions of good full time jobs into part-time jobs. Health insurance premiums are skyrocketing, some good insurance plans are no longer available and many people are losing their coverage.

Doctors are considering early retirement, and becoming a doctor is less enticing to our most talented students.

Obamacare only covers one more person (18 instead of 17) out of every 20 while it harms those previously insured, reduces the availability of quality medical care, and damages our economy

We can learn from Obamacare's harmful effects and from the successful approaches in Indiana, Texas, and elsewhere to improve America's great health care system. The way to start is to stop spending money on Obamacare.

Sign the petition at dontfundit.com. Call or write your Congressmen and demand that they stop funding Obamacare.

Don Ewing
Meredith, NH

Don:

Baucus's "train wreck" remark was a reaction to Kathleen Sibelius's decision to eliminate funding which would have gone towards educating the public about how the Affordable Care Act works — a decision that had been forced on her by budget-slashing Republicans out to destroy Obamacare.

Question: If things could not be taken out of context, would Republicans have anything to say?

The Editor

§

Save the Durham Pool

To the Editor:

I write to oppose UNH's goal of downsizing the Durham outdoor swimming pool to expand their student exercise workout facility, and support the families who use this pool with their kids. This is a David and Goliath story where UNH is Goliath, with all the le-

verage that states have over their municipalities. The main questions seem to be, should UNH be expending scarce dollars to complete this project, and is it really a hardship for students to either wait for an exercise time or reschedule it? I'm all for student fitness, but couldn't they get up earlier or find a less-busy time to exercise?

The typical student has changed significantly in the last dozen years. Fewer students are able to pay the increased costs of college, and this trend has increased since the steep recession in 2008. College tuition has increased three times higher than other commodities and services partly because of increased amenities for students. Fee increases have followed suit and student loan debt has gone higher and higher.

While I sympathize with the severe budget position UNH has been left with following the short-sighted cuts voted in during the prior budget session before the last election, isn't that even more reason to pull back on the expensive increase in amenities that UNH students have enjoyed over the past years, and let the younger kids swim? After all, the younger kids need exercise too.

Jim Jelmsberg
Durham, NH

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

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

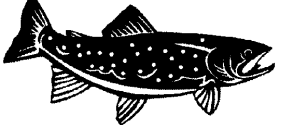
The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork.

The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

Sunday, September 8	Monday, September 9	Tuesday, September 10	Wednesday, September 11	Thursday, September 12	Friday, September 13	Saturday, September 14
2005—Dr. Ben Marble achieves the new American Dream, telling Dick “Dick” Cheney, live on CNN, “Go f_ k yourself, Mr. Cheney.” 2005—A memorial tribute to former Quebec premier Lucien Bouchard, being broadcast on a Canadian radio station, is cut short when the station is informed he is not dead. 2002—<i>The N.Y. Times</i> publishes an erroneous story about aluminum tubes based on a false leak from the Bush Administration. Later that day the story is cited by four Administration officials as proof that Iraq has nuclear ambitions. 1978—The Shah of Iran uses U.S.-made tanks and helicopter gunships to put down the Black Friday riots in Tehran; 89 die. Six months later the Ayatollah's in charge. 1974—President Gerald Ford pardons ex-President Richard Nixon for any crimes he “committed or may have committed” as president. 1974—Evel Knievel rides a rocket-powered motorcycle partway across the Snake River Canyon. 1972—In exchange for a \$200,000 contribution from Ray A. Kroc to R. Nixon's reelection campaign, the Federal Price Commission gives McDonalds permission, which it had denied on May 21, to raise the price of a quarter pounder. 1965—Farmworkers begin a strike against grape growers.	2009—As Barack Obama addresses Congress on health care, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) yells at the President, “You lie.” 2008—Lehman Bros., the nation's fourth largest investment bank, loses 45 percent of its value. 2007—Frances Townsend, a Bush Administration advisor, calls Osama bin Laden “impotent.” 2005—“You know,” says Glenn Beck, “it took me about a year to start hating the 9/11 victims families ... When I see a 9/11 victim family on television ... I'm just, like ‘Oh, shut up.’” 2002—In Beverly Hills, filmmaker Bart Sibrel calls Buzz Aldrin “a coward, a liar, and a thief.” Aldrin lays out Sibrel with one punch. 1999—Louis T. “Moondog” Hardin, American composer, street musician, and blind, Viking-helmet-wearing eccentric, dies at 83 in Germany. 1971—A four-day riot begins at Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, NY. Prisoners take nine guards hostage. 1966—San Francisco's hippie paper <i>Oracle</i> begins publication. 1950—The Hank McCune Show introduces TV's “laugh track.” 1942—A Japanese floatplane launched off the coast of Oregon from the submarine <i>I-25</i> drops two 170-lb. incendiary bombs into the Siskiyou National Forest.	2008—Lehman Brothers executives tell investors and analysts the firm has all the capital it needs. 2001—Donald Rumsfeld says the Defense Department can't account for about \$2.3 trillion dollars. 1998—President Clinton vows to his Cabinet officers that he's done messing around with interns. 1977—One-legged Tunisian pimp Hamida Djandoubi is the last man to die by a French guillotine. 1945—In Fruita, CO, Lloyd Willeson chops the head off “Mike,” a young rooster who goes on to have an 18-month career as “The Headless Wonder Chicken.” 1939—B&M Railroad Engineer John Beattie and Fireman Charles Towle are killed when the Piscataqua Bridge, damaged during construction of the Mildred Long Bridge, drops their locomotive into the river. 1939—<i>HMS Oxley</i> becomes the first British sub sunk in WW II—by <i>HMS Triton</i>. 1913—The “Lincoln Highway” opens — the first paved coast-to-coast road in the U.S. 1897—Strikers at a Lattimer, PA, coal mine refuse to disperse, so a sheriff's posse opens fire. Nineteen die and 36 are wounded, most of them shot in the back. 1857—Mormons murder 120 Arkansans <i>en route</i> to California at Mountain Meadows, UT.	2007—Russia explodes the “Father of All Bombs,” which is said to be four times as powerful as the U.S.'s “Mother of All Bombs” 2001—Four American airliners are hijacked and crashed; thousands die. George Bush scurries to safety, Donald Rumsfeld looks for excuses to attack Iraq, and Dick “Dick” Cheney authorizes the shooting down of civilian airliners. 1973—Duly elected President of Chile, Salvador Allende, is overthrown by CIA-backed thugs. 1973—Development of a Ford Pinto/Cessna Skymaster hybrid ends when two die in a fiery crash after it falls apart in mid-air. 1966—“Free” elections are held in South Vietnam, all but assuring a peaceful future. 1942—Wheeler Lipes, a 22-year old dropout, successfully removes the inflamed appendix of a shipmate aboard the submerged <i>U.S.S. Seadragon</i>. The Navy's Surgeon General rewards him with the threat of a court martial. 1942—After its pilot parachutes to safety, a burning airplane crashes into the Curtiss-Wright airplane factory in Buffalo, NY, killing 12 and injuring 35. 1911—The central span of the rebuilt Quebec Bridge, which had collapsed four years earlier, falls into the river as it's being hoisted into place. Thirteen workers die.	2008—Treasury Sec. Hank Paulson tells Merrill Lynch and Lehman Bros. the Fed can't save them. 1994—After an evening spent drinking alcohol and smoking crack with his brother, Frank E. Corder dies at about 1:49 a.m., crash-landing a stolen Cessna on the South Lawn of the White House. 1990—Charles Walker's heart beats for five minutes after Illinois begins killing him, because a lethal injection tube is kinked. 1977—Steven Biko dies while in the custody of South African police. 1972—Wm. “Hopalong Cassidy” Boyd heads for the last roundup. 1970—Timothy Leary busts out of prison with help from the Weather Underground. 1909—Emiliano Zapata, 30, is elected to head the town council of Anenecuceno, Mexico. 1880—H.L. Mencken, newspaperman, is born in Baltimore. 1860—American adventurer William Walker, former dictator of Nicaragua deposed by Cornelius Vanderbilt and captured by the British, is executed by a Honduran firing squad. 1818—Birth of Richard J. Gatling, inventor of the hand-cranked machine gun. 1798—Ben Franklin's grandson, newspaper editor Benjamin Franklin Bache, is busted for sedition.	2005—Two weeks after the catastrophe, George W. Bush admits the Federal response to Hurricane Katrina was less than ideal. 1981—William Loeb, alleged newspaperman, goes to his eternal torment at the age of 75. 1971—To restore order at New York's Attica state prison, five hundred state troopers fire 2,200 rounds in nine minutes. The dead include 29 prisoners and ten guards. 1948—Rollie Free sets a speed record for bikes at Bonneville going 150 mph on a Vincent Black Shadow wearing just a Speedo. 1940—A Luftwaffe plane drops six bombs on Buckingham Palace. 1913—Mary, an elephant who had killed her untrained trainer the day before, is hanged from a railroad crane in Erwin, TN. 1909—George Bushor, a one-armed aeronaut descending via parachute from a balloon 2,000 feet above Pine Island Park in Manchester, NH, plunges the last 200 feet into a pond and lives. 1859—Sen. David Broderick (D-CA) is fatally shot in the chest by his duelling opponent, California's Chief Justice David Terry. 1848—Phineas Gage, a Lebanon, NH native working in Vermont for a railroad company, loses a good chunk of his brain when an iron bar is blasted through it, but he lives 12 more pretty good years.	2008—Lehman Brothers CEO Richard Fuld gets punched in the face by a complete stranger. 2005—At the UN, during the World Summit, the Leader of the Free World passes a note to Secretary of State C. Rice saying, “I think I may need a bathroom break. Is that possible?” 2001—Standing in rubble created in part by his own failure, George W. Bush declares that America's “responsibility to history” is to “rid the world of evil.” 1978—Jimmy Carter endangers the nation by permitting a 28 year-old State of Emergency to expire. 1964—At the White House, arch-propagandist Walt Disney is awarded the Medal of Freedom. 1938—The <i>Graf Zeppelin II</i>, world's largest airship, first flies. 1899—Henry Bliss becomes the first person in the U.S. to be killed by an automobile. 1874—In a bloody coup d'etat, the White Leagues take over the Louisiana state government. 1847—Marines under Gen. Winfield “Old Fuss and Feathers” Scott take the Halls of Montezuma. 1836—Aaron Burr, the first vice President to shoot a man, dies in Port Richmond, NY. 1814—Francis Scott Key is inspired to write <i>The Star Spangled Banner</i>, cribbing the tune from <i>To Anacreon in Heaven</i>, a British drinking song.
1:27 1:45 7:31 7:56	2:08 2:26 8:12 8:41	2:53 3:11 8:56 9:30	3:43 4:03 9:45 10:25	4:39 5:01 10:40 11:25	5:42 6:05 11:42	6:49 7:12 12:30 12:47
Sunday, September 15	Monday, September 16	Tuesday, September 17	Wednesday, September 18	Thursday, September 19	Friday, September 20	Saturday, September 21
2008—Lehman Brothers stock drops 90 percent in one day; the Dow loses 500 points. 2004—D.C. police respond to a 911 call from the bathroom of Rep. Don Sherwood (R-PA), 63, whom the caller, Cynthia Ore, 28, accuses of choking her. 2001—One person in Congress, Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) votes against granting G.W. Bush unlimited military power. 1982—Israeli Defense Forces surround Sabra and Shatila, Palestinian refugee camps in West Beirut, and permit Christian Phalangist militiamen to slaughter perhaps 3,500 civilians. 1980—A B-52 armed with nukes burns for hours at Grand Forks AFB, ND. The fire is put out before anything explodes. 1963—Two Ku Klux Klan members bomb Birmingham's 16th St. Baptist Church, killing 4 girls and injuring 22. One bomber is convicted 14 years later; the delay is caused by J. Edgar “Mary” Hoover's withholding of evidence. 1946—The Dodgers beat the Cubs 2-0 in just 5 innings; game is called on account of gnats. 1940—During the Battle of Britain, RAF pilot Ray Holmes sees a Dornier heading for Buckingham Palace. His Hurricane out of ammo, he rams the Dornier, downing it, and parachutes to safety.	2008—The Federal government bails out insurance giant AIG with a loan of \$85 billion. 2001—Dick “Dick” Cheney accepts Tim Russert's assertion that he would accept Osama bin Laden's head on a platter and admits that the U.S. has no evidence linking Saddam Hussein or Iraq to 9/11. 1975—New Hampshire Democrat John Durkin wins a Senate seat after a marathon nine-month battle following the closest Senate election in history. 1974—President Ford announces a conditional amnesty for Vietnam War deserters. 1968—Richard M. Nixon appears on “Laugh-In” and says, “Sock it to me.” Eventually, they do. 1940—A remarkably prescient draft goes into effect over a year before Pearl Harbor is attacked. 1925—Riley B. “B.B.” King is born in Itta Bena, MS. 1920—A bomb in a horse-drawn wagon explodes in front of the J.P. Morgan building on Wall Street, killing 38 and wounding 400. 1893—Ten thousand people race for 42,000 parcels of land in the Oklahoma Land Rush. 1864—Confederate Cavalry chief Wade Hampton and his men steal 2,500 head of Union Army beef. 1692—Giles Cory, 80, is crushed to death in Salem for refusing to testify in his trial for witchcraft.	2013—<i>Mother Jones</i> releases a video showing Mitt Romney denigrating 47 percent of Americans as leeches. 2011—Hundreds of protestors Occupy Wall Street. 2002—“There's an old saying in Tennessee,” says G.W. Bush, “I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee—that says, fool me once, shame on—shame on you. Fool me ... you can't get fooled again.” 1991—Yale Law Dean Guido Calabresi tells the Senate Judiciary Committee that Clarence Thomas, if confirmed for the Supreme Court, might grow intellectually. 1967—The Mt. Washington cog railway train derails; eight die. 1948—Count Folke Bernadotte, in Jerusalem to mediate the Arab-Israeli conflict for the UN, is assassinated by the Zionist Stern Gang. 1935—Len Koenecke, an outfielder just cut from the Dodgers, charts in a plane, starts a fight with the pilot, and is killed by a blow to the head with a fire extinguisher. 1908—Wilbur Wright crashes a Wright Flyer at Ft. Myer, VA, making Signal Corps Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge the first person to be killed by a powered aircraft. 1862—At Antietam, in Maryland, 113,000 men clash; 3,654 are killed and 17,292 are wounded—bloodiest day in U.S. military history. 1787—Having OK'd the Constitution, its authors head to a tavern.	2001—Five anthrax-laced letters are mailed to news media by a person or persons still un-apprehended. Five people die. 2001—EPA Chief Christine Todd Whitman, acceding to a White House request, says the air at “Ground Zero” is safe to breathe. 1980—The Soviet Union puts the first black person in space: Cuban Arnoldo Tamayo. 1975—The FBI catches “Tanya,” press baron Wm. Randolph Hearst's bank-robbing granddaughter. 1970—RIP Jimi Hendrix. 1968—Mexican troops invade the National University with predictable—i.e., fatal—results. 1931—At Mukden, in Manchuria, Japanese troops dynamite their own railroad and blame it on the Chinese to justify an attack on Chinese Nationalists. 1895—Booker T. Washington, in his “Atlanta Compromise” speech, renounces black agitation for equal rights as “extremist folly.” 1873—The overextended Jay Cooke, who helped finance the Civil War, goes bust on railroads, precipitating the Panic of 1873. 1830—Near Baltimore, <i>Tom Thumb</i>, the first American steam locomotive, racing a horse, springs a leak; the horse wins. 1793—Using secret Masonic rites, G. Washington lays the cornerstone for the U.S. Capitol.	2001—George W. Bush tells CIA chief George Tenet to look for links between S. Hussein and al Qaeda and recommends Dick “Dick” Cheney as a source. 2001—Official start of U.S. war against Afghanistan. 1991—Alpine tourists discover Oetzi the Iceman. 1980—In Arkansas, an Air Force repairman drops a tool that punctures a fuel tank that leaks vapors which explode and hurl a nuclear weapon 600 feet. Only one person is killed. 1961—Betty and Barney Hill of Portsmouth, NH find their trip back home from a vacation takes two hours longer than expected. 1959—Nikita Khrushchev is denied admittance to Disneyland. 1957—First U.S. underground nuclear explosion: Nevada. 1952—The U.S. (with Richard Nixon as Vice President, Joe McCarthy a Senator, and Bill Loeb publishing a newspaper) bars Charlie Chaplin from entering unless he proves he's of sound moral character. 1945—William Joyce, aka “Lord Haw-Haw,” an American-born fascist of Irish descent, is sentenced to death in England for broadcasting German propaganda. 1796—President George Washington burns against any “small, artful, enterprising minority” that might try to control the government.	2006—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez tells the UN General Assembly that he can still smell the sulfur from George W. Bush's visit of the day before. 2001—Before a joint session of Congress, George W. Bush declares “War on Terror.” The idiots listen and take him seriously. 1988—Pandering for votes as usual, Veep George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush visits a flag factory. 1977—The UN admits Vietnam. 1976—<i>Playboy</i> runs Pres. Carter's confession re: lust in his heart. 1958—A deranged woman stabs Martin Luther King while he autographs books in Harlem. 1945—German rocket scientist Werner von Braun begins working for the U.S. 1873—In response to the Panic, the NY Stock Exchange shuts down for ten days. 1830—In Philadelphia, 38 free blacks form the National Negro Convention to abolish slavery. 1797—The frigate <i>Constitution</i> is launched in Boston. 1797—Captain Pigot of <i>HMS Hermoine</i> orders that the bodies of three sailors who died trying to fulfill his orders be thrown overboard. 1378—French cardinals elect Robert of Geneva, aka “The Butcher of Cesena,” to be Pope Clement VII, bringing the current number of Popes to two.	2007—The Nelson Mandela Foundation announces that despite comments by George W. Bush to the contrary, Mr. Mandela is alive. 2004—“Because of activities that could potentially be related to terrorism,” U.S. Homeland Security officials order the singer formerly known as Cat Stevens off a London to New York flight. 2001—George Tenet tells Dick “Dick” Cheney his Iraq/al-Qaeda link appears to be fiction. Cheney continues to repeat it. 1976—Ex-Chilean Ambassador to the U.S., Orlando Letelier, and an assistant are assassinated by car bomb in Washington, D.C. 1956—Anastasio Somoza, dictator of Nicaragua, is fatally shot by Roberto Lopez, a poet. 1938—New England is clobbered by a nameless 183 m.p.h. hurricane that kills up to 700. 1897—The <i>New York Sun</i> publishes an editorial intended to mislead a young woman named Virginia into believing in a mythical “Santa Claus.” 1895—The first U.S. auto manufacturer, Duryea Motor Wagon Company, goes into business. 1814—<i>The Star Spangled Banner</i> is first published. 1797—The crew of <i>HMS Hermoine</i> slaughter eight officers, heave their bodies overboard, and hand the ship over to the Spanish.
7:56 8:18 1:35 1:54	8:59 9:20 2:39 2:58	9:55 10:17 3:37 3:57	10:47 11:10 4:29 4:51	11:35 11:59 5:18 5:41	12:20 6:04 6:29	1:04 12:46 6:48 7:15

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