

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### Armistice Day Plus 95

Maine and New Hampshire are connected once again, thanks to the New Memorial Bridge; pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists can stroll or ride or drive with ease across the mighty and turbulent Piscataqua.

The bronze eagle and accompanying plaques from the old bridge, salvaged and restored, have now been mounted on the new southern portal — exquisite pieces of artwork bridging our mundane present to more elegant days early in the last century.

Rounding out this profusion of civic propriety one hundred yards southwest of the magnificent old bronze eagle, a new Veterans Memorial Circle has been constructed at no cost to the City of Portsmouth or its resident veterans.

The timing could not be better: just ten days from now we'll observe what used to be called Armistice Day, commemorating the end of the War to End All Wars.

What could possibly be wrong with this picture?

That's the job of the journalist, now, isn't it — looking for flies in the ointment?\*

#### Regarding This Gift Horse ...

The city's newest veterans' memorial was first proposed at a City Council meeting on April 2, 2012. Mayor Eric Spear noted that a letter had been received from Attorney James Nocas, Jr. informing the Council that James and Laurie Teetzel were pledging \$25,000 towards its construction.

Councilor Anthony Coviello moved that the letter be referred to Art-Speak, the City's art commission, for a report back. The

\*The floor of our Mash Notes, Hate Mail, and Other Correspondence Department has been reinforced to accommodate the flood of complaints we expect this piece to generate, so don't hold back.

motion passed by a unanimous voice vote, the entire proceeding taking twenty seconds.†

Nine months later, on January 22, 2013, Assistant City Manager David Allen gave the City Council a six-minute presentation on the preliminary plans for a memorial constructed in part from granite footings from the original bridge, which would be cut, refinished, and made into separate blocks, each honoring a separate branch of the armed services.

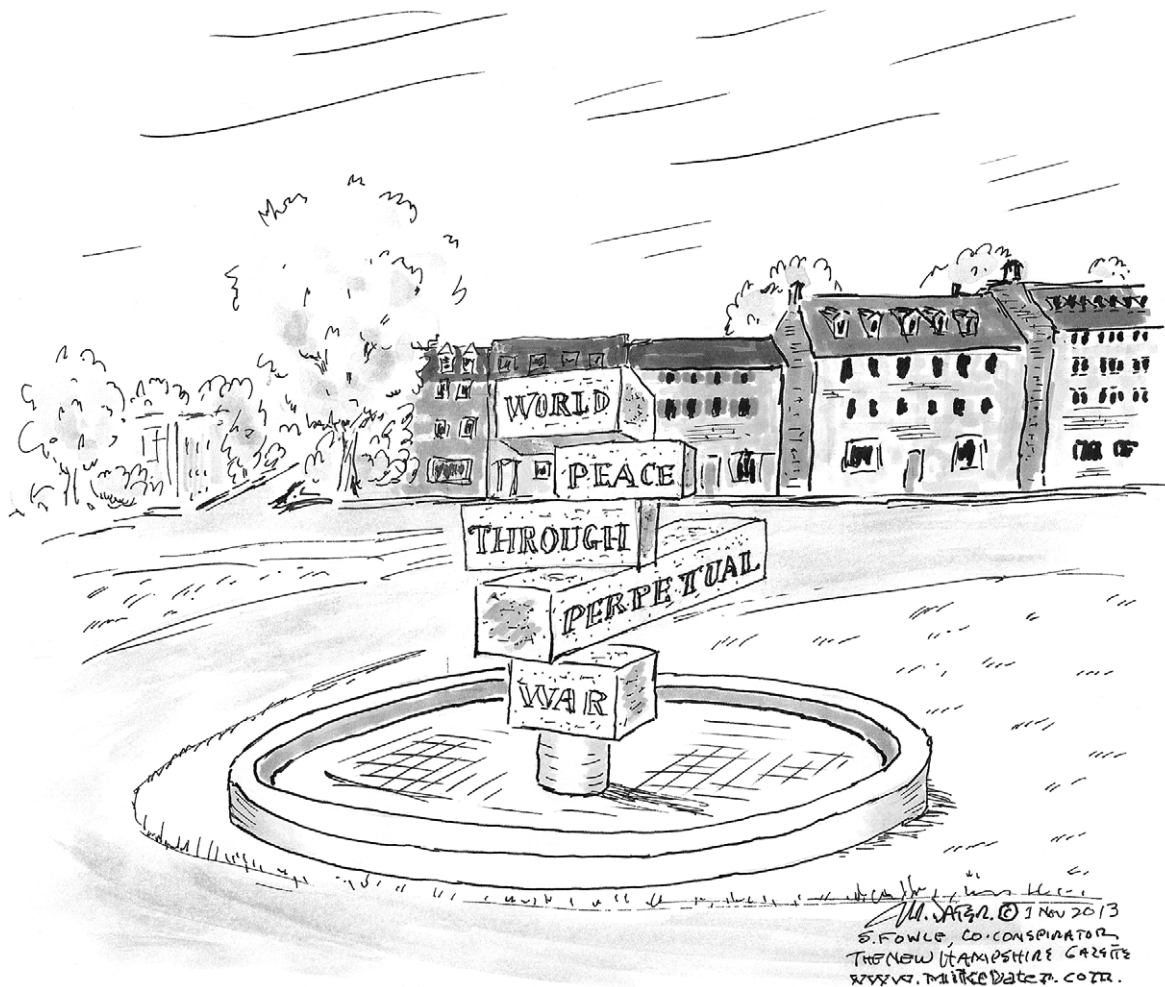
One year after the proposal was first aired, on April 1st of this year, James Teetzel and landscape architect Roberta Woodburn presented a much-modified memorial plan.

Due to a shortage of material the original plan was scrapped. The few blocks available would instead be stacked to create a vertical central feature: a fountain adorned with inspirational wording. Recirculated by a pump, water would pour from an opening in the top and gently cascade down, washing over the surface of the stones. The central fountain would be surrounded by two concentric granite circles, with a flagpole and a bronze medallion for each branch of the armed forces. At some point, though, the fountain fell by the wayside.

#### Our Patron

James Wilcox Teetzel is a mechanical engineer who made good. He holds 18 patents and

† According to the minutes of ArtSpeak, the city's cultural commission, the Teetzels' offer was discussed on July 30, 2012. ArtSpeak would "set up meeting to speak with donor, city reps, and ArtSpeak," at which the commission would "outline the process for public art and funding for outdoor sculpture." The minutes of subsequent ArtSpeak meetings contain no references to the project that we could find.



has 30 more pending, according to the Award-Winning Local Daily. His company, Wilcox Industries, manufactures highly specialized gadgets for use by U.S. Special Forces. He's Newington's Tony Stark, without all the public boozing and womanizing.

If that comparison seems overblown, visit his company's website, *WilcoxInd.com*. It's got videos of parachute drops seen through night-vision goggles, weapons bristling with enigmatic black dingbats, and a soundtrack right out of *Iron Man*, complete with gunfire.

Whatever one thinks of the defense industry in general, Wilcox certainly does a lot of things right. A promotional video on its website says over 90 percent of their workforce comes from the Seacoast, all the company's products are manufactured in the U.S., and

it sells only to the Defense Department and law enforcement.

And sell it does. A few years ago Wilcox landed a \$177 million contract to replace worn night-vision helmet mounts which were used in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ten such devices are offered on the company's website, at unit prices ranging from \$407 to \$1,787.

Morbid curiosity prompted us to look at the Teetzels' political campaign donations. Since 2002, the couple has given to three New Hampshire Republicans, Jeb Bradley, Judd Gregg, and John E. Sununu, as well as California's Duncan Hunter and Maine's Susan Collins, also Republicans. The total: \$23,500.

#### What's Right With This Picture?

A successful businessman has put up his own money to grace a piece of city property with a memorial to those who serve our

country. What's wrong with that?

Let's look at it another way: a man who has not served in uniform but derives his considerable income from martial conflict and who supports only politicians from a bellicose political party, pays a tiny fraction of his income to honor the worker/soldiers who risk their lives, using tools that he provides for a profit, to defend a political and economic system in which the middle class has been treading water since 1980.

Perhaps the proper question is, what's right with this picture?

To which we'd say, this: Teetzel has given us a perfect meta-monument. Its surface honors those who put their lives at risk for their country, while the circumstances of its creation reflect a political and economic system which hardly seems to deserve the sacrifices it demands.

## The Alleged News

### The American Nightmare

Dare to float a proposal in today's marketplace of ideas that contradicts Republican dogma and you will be accused of waging class warfare. There's a reason for that — it's called projection.

As their approval ratings crater and journalists debate how many election cycles the Party can withstand before it succumbs to the inevitable and retreats to a redoubt in the Old Confederacy, the GOP is doing to America what Sherman did to Georgia: waging one last, savage campaign to destroy what's left of the middle class. And they'll call it saving the nation.

#### Disservice With a Smile

The Federal minimum wage law is now 75 years old. Adjusted

for inflation, the minimum wage today — \$7.25 an hour — is the same as it was 63 years ago.

That's a dismal picture but it could be worse — and it was, during the Reagan and Bush #43 Administrations.

For nearly thirty years, from the mid-1950s until 1980, the minimum wage ran about \$2 inflation-adjusted dollars higher than its current value. The nation never had it so good.

Then, during the administration of the affable old Gipper, inflation steadily lowered the value of the dollar. With no statutory increase, minimum wage workers watched their pay drop by one-third.

A slightly less-dramatic erosion occurred under the admin-

istration of Bush the Lesser, until Congress passed a three-stage increase in 2007. Eighty-two House Republicans voted for the bill, which just goes to show how long five years can be in politics. These days they'd be drummed out of the party as Socialists.

#### Want SNAP With Those Fries?

Late last month labor activists released a tape recording of a McDonald's corporate help line instructing a ten-year company employee how to apply for food stamps, heating assistance, and Medicaid.

A study released October 15th by the Labor Center at UC Berkeley showed that "more than half (52 percent) of the families of front-line fast-food workers

are enrolled in one or more public programs, compared to 25 percent of the workforce as a whole," and "the cost of public assistance to families of workers in the fast-food industry is nearly \$7 billion per year."

#### The GOP's Mandatory Diet

Apparently we can expect people relying on food stamps, aka the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), to become more svelte soon — as of today, their benefits are being cut by 13 percent. Among those affected, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: 900,000 veterans, 5,000 of them in New Hampshire.

Those benefits had been increased in 2009 as part of Presi-

dent Obama's soul-destroying stimulus package but, like George W. Bush's tax cuts, they came with an expiration date. Unlike Bush's temporary tax cuts, which Congressional Republicans wanted to live forever, the food stamp increase *must DIE!*

#### Not Dead Enough Yet

It's not enough that Obama's food stamp increase will end — Republicans want to cut the program by another \$40 billion over the next decade. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analyzed the effects this would "deny SNAP to approximately 3.8 million low-income people in

**The Alleged News**  
*from page one*

2014 and to an average of nearly 3 million people each year over the coming decade.”

**The Gold Ratio**

A person working at McDonald’s forty hours a week and making the federal minimum wage rakes in a handsome \$14,500 a year. Thanks to its policy of paying workers such lousy wages, McDonald’s recorded a \$1.5 billion profit in the 3rd quarter.

For managing the company so wisely, McDonald’s CEO Don Thompson is handsomely rewarded — he was paid \$13.8 million in 2012. The math says Thompson makes 951 times as much his minimum wage, SNAP-reliant employees.

The Securities and Exchange Commission [SEC] voted in September to propose a rule requiring “public companies to disclose the ratio of the compensation of its chief executive officer [to that of] its employees.”

Aware of the sensitive feelings of our corporate overlords, the SEC rule “would not prescribe a specific methodology for companies to use in calculating a ‘pay ratio.’ Instead, companies would have the flexibility to determine the median annual total compensation of its employees in a way that best suits its particular circumstances” — so that its marketing geniuses could spin the results in the least-damaging way possible.

Dissenting Republican Commissioner Michael Piowar, quoted by Reuters, said of the vote, “Proponents have acknowledged the sole objective of the pay ratio is to shame CEOs, but the shame from this rule should not be put on CEOs — it should be put on the five of us. Shame on us for putting special interests ahead of investors.”

**Taxes Are For Little People**

On October 22nd, *USA Today* reported that American corporate CEOs scored an average pay raise of 8.5 percent last year. A report



published two days in the same paper helped explain why: 57 companies in the S&P — nearly one in nine — “have found ways to pay effective tax rates of zero.”

Meanwhile, down amongst the proles, CNN reported on October 23rd that “34 percent [of Americans] plan to work until they’re at least 80 — that’s up from 25 percent in 2011 and 30 percent last year. An even larger percentage, 37 percent, said they’ll never retire and plan either to work until they get too sick or die ....”

**The Grand Sellout**

For the past thirty-five years Republicans have droned on about Federal deficit spending, even as they demanded more tax cuts for the wealthy and waged wars on credit. During the last four or five years that drone has been overlaid with the shrieking of Tea Party hysterics. The late and unlamented government shutdown represented the breaking of that budget fever. Unfortunately it seems to be a chronic ailment; like malaria, it will return.

According to Standard & Poor’s, the shutdown sucked \$24 billion out of the U.S. economy and cost 120,000 people their jobs — but that was just the shutdown. A report by Macroeconomic Advisers for the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, gauging the cumulative effects of Congressional battles over the budget since 2010, estimates the cost at \$700 billion.

By carefully ignoring the real causes of our economic woes, Republicans have diverted attention to Social Security, pronounced it guilty, and maneuvered it into the general vicinity of the chopping block. Soon a House/Senate conference committee will sit down and pretend they can come up with a budget agreement by mid-December. In the meantime, they are whetting their ax and eyeing what’s left of the nation’s safety net.

At least one member of that committee knows what’s going on: Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). Last May he said of the latest report from the Social Security

trustees, “[this] confirms what many of us have known, that Social Security is not ‘going broke,’ that it can pay every benefit owed to every eligible American for the next 20 years, and that after 2033 there is enough in reserve to pay three-quarters of future benefits.

“Our job now is to make sure Social Security is strong not just for 20 years but for generations to come. The best way to do that is not to cut Social Security cost-of-living adjustments as Republicans and President Obama have proposed, but to do what Obama called for as a candidate in 2008. We must lift the cap on Social Security payroll taxes and make the wealthy contribute the same percentage of their income as other workers. Today, someone making \$10 million a year contributes the same amount of money as someone making \$113,700. That is absurd.”

In 1954, Dwight Eisenhower wrote to his brother Edgar, “Should any political party attempt to abolish Social Security,



The restored bronze plaque and eagle from the original Memorial Bridge have now been installed on its replacement. Shown here: fitting adjustments being made in the early hours of Monday morning, October 28th. Photo courtesy of Stephan Smith, Piscataqua Productions.

**Gary Blake**  
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unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes you can do these things. Among them are H. L. Hunt (you possibly know his background), a few other Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional politician or business man from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid."

Oh, for the good old days ....  
**Hello? Department of Justice?**

Charlie Pierce, who blogs at *Esquire.com/blogs/politics*, frequently quotes little bits from James Madison. On Tuesday he unearthed this gem: "A political system that does not provide for a peaceable and authoritative termination of occurring controversies, would not be more than the shadow of a government; the object and end of a real government being, the substitution of law and order, for uncertainty, confusion, and violence."

So do we have a government, or just the shadow of one? According to Madison, that depends on whether we have a way to induce Republicans peaceably and

authoritatively to cut the &#@\$ and allow the government to do its job.

Marc Belisle, who calls himself a "writer, progressive activist, English writing teacher and an opinionated smart-aleck," believes that Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 2384 provides the means to terminate the present controversy.

Under the heading, "Seditious Conspiracy," it reads in part, "If two or more persons ... conspire to ... by force ... prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States ... they shall each be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both."

Arguing that "extortion falls under the legal definition of 'force,'" Belisle has created an online petition ([petitions.moveon.org/sign/arrest-and-try-house](http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/arrest-and-try-house)) to arrest and try the House's GOP leadership for seditious conspiracy.

"The House GOP leadership's use of the Hastert Rule and H. Res 368 to shut down the government and threaten the U.S. economy with default is an attempt to extort the United States government into altering or abolishing the Affordable Care Act, and thus, is self-evidently a seditious



Half a mile north of Portsmouth's new Veterans Memorial Circle, in Kittery's John Paul Jones Park is one of the nation's most striking, controversial, and thought-provoking war memorials: Bashka Paeff's Sacrifices of War.



conspiracy. Arrest the perpetrators in Congress immediately and bring them to justice."

To be delivered to the House of Representatives, the Senate, and President Barack Obama, the petition currently has 55,045 signatures. Correction: 55,046.

**Sacrifices of War**

With so much local attention devoted to memorials right now, and Veterans Day coming soon, we'd be remiss not to mention the remarkable Maine Sailors and Soldiers Memorial in John Paul Jones Park in Kittery.

As Jennifer Wingate notes in a 2008 article in *Woman's Art Journal*, the monument is "[d]ifficult to view properly from the road," but "comes into better focus from within the confines of the grassy common." Those who park and approach the Memorial will be well rewarded; full of grace and dignity, it is also full of surprises.

Completed in 1926, just six years after the Palmer Raids rounded up thousands of suspected Bolsheviks for deportation,

including seven in Portsmouth, the state-funded monument was created by Bashka Paeff, a young, Russian-born woman. Some memorials openly glorify war, others strive to express respect for the honor of those who have served. This one does neither. Depicting a mother attempting to shield her child from its chaos and destruction, with two drowned men at her feet, it prompts a question that is too rarely asked: to what purpose do we put those noble sacrifices made on our behalf?

**R.I.P. Col. Robert Rheault**

Col. Robert Rheault died in Owls Head, ME on October 16th at the age of 87. He commanded the U.S. Army's Fifth Special Forces Group in Vietnam for three months in 1969. He was relieved of command and court martialed following the "termination with extreme prejudice" of Chu Van Thai Khac, a Cambodian double agent. Charges were later dropped because the CIA refused to provide witnesses. Rheault then retired from the Army with

23 years of service. He became an instructor and, eventually, acting president of the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School in Rockland, ME, where he developed a program to work with veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

In his obituary in the *Boston Globe*, his son Robert said, "Time and again we find that our nation's warriors come back and become advocates for peace."

**Support the Troops, Texas Style**

Meanwhile, in Texas, KRIS-TV asked Rep. Blake Farenthold, a Republican representing the 27th Congressional District, how he would justify the recent government shutdown to retired veterans who were on the verge of losing their disability checks.

Farenthold explained, "I feel like my mandate when I was elected was to go reduce the size of government, lower taxes, and increase freedom, and freedom isn't free, and sometimes you have to make a small sacrifice to move forward with what you're after."



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







## White Mountains Not For Sale

To the Editor:

The proposed Northern Pass Project has had me concerned all along because its design calls for placing a 180 mile scar, comprised of steel towers up to 155 feet tall, bearing high-powered transmission lines, across the face of New Hampshire, including an 11-mile stretch through our beloved New Hampshire White Mountain National Forest. However, I vowed to reserve judgment on which views I would be willing to compromise until I hiked to the summit of all 48 of the 4,000' plus peaks in New Hampshire to provide witness.

I truly recognize that we must, for vital national security and environmental protection reasons, wean ourselves of our long, dangerous addiction to fossil fuels, especially those obtained from oil-rich Middle Eastern countries ruled by tyrannical dictators and monarchs. Admittedly the only way to achieve this critical goal is via the development of diverse, affordable alternative renewable energy sources, to include hydro-electric power. However, I would find it bitterly repugnant to support these Northern Pass executives who refuse to compromise a piece of their bottom-line for the common good. They need to consider burying the entire 180 miles of transmission line, so as to eliminate the visual impact on New Hampshire's natural beauty and mitigate damage to its ecosystem.

After six years of frequent hiking trips up North with family members, several good friends, and my loyal Rat Terrier, and having overcome all weather conditions, challenging water crossings, dangerous rock and flume slides and open ledges, I finally fulfilled the promise to myself of standing on all 48 of New Hampshire's tallest summits and taking in all the breath-taking scenery that these mountains provide. Having done so, I can now say with deep conviction that there is no energy source or corporate profits worth compromising a single New Hampshire White Mountain National Forest view.

It would behoove all the smartly dressed Northern Pass executives who wish to "borrow" and alter our publically-owned resources, to put on a backpack and pair of hiking boots to hike the Whites so they can feel the same sense of awe and decreased sense of self-importance and materialistic desire.

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, NH

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## Jim Splaine for Council

To the Editor:

Portsmouth has been through a lot of changes these last few years. I live in New Castle, but Portsmouth, which I represented in the New Hampshire State Senate for 14 years, and where I spend a lot of my time and have a lot of friends, has always been part of my neighborhood too.

What Portsmouth needs is someone who has been involved in politics long enough to know how to bring people together to get things done for the common good of all. One of those is my friend Jim Splaine, and the city I so love now has the opportunity to put him to work for that common good. Jim uniquely showed his ability to bring people together around an important cause by his leadership as a state legislator in

passing the New Hampshire gay marriage law four years ago, and helping to defeat efforts to repeal it since then.

It was an issue of great concern to me. He and I worked together through the years fighting for gay equality. While in the Senate, I helped lead the effort in the late 1990s to end discrimination in services, housing and employment. Ours was just the 11th state to adopt such a law, and even today only half the states have such protections.

When Jim Splaine decided to introduce a gay marriage bill in 2009, he met much resistance, even from supporters of equality who felt that the time wasn't right yet. But he spent months forging ahead, putting together a coalition bridging parties and political views to do the right thing.

Passage of the bill he sponsored surprised a lot of people, and it wouldn't have gotten to Governor's Lynch's desk for his signature without Jim first introducing the bill at a time that many thought it couldn't be done, and bringing people together to do what some felt was impossible back then. Many other leaders like Sen. Martha Fuller Clark, Speaker Terie Norelli, and area legislators helped lead the effort, and Jim was in the front of making it happen sooner rather than later.

Marriage equality and the fight for diversity is important to me. Part of that comes from the fact that my brother has been in a committed relationship for over 30 years, and discrimination against my brother is unacceptable to me. To me, the cause is personal. Jim and I worked together to end what had been legal discrimination based on perceived sexual orientation and because of those efforts our state has been one of the leaders in this national human rights cause — and that fight is not yet done.

## Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,

Jim is an outstanding public servant, who knows how to work well with all, and gets things done. I ask my friends to vote for Jim Splaine as one of nine choices for City Council on November 5th.

Portsmouth has a lot of issues, like too-tall buildings and out-of-match development, and having proven politicians who can bring people to work together on important matters is vital.

Thanks Jim, for running!

Burt Cohen

New Castle, NH

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## Fight Voter Suppression

To the Editor:

There are other elections in Portsmouth on November 5 besides City Council, School Board, and Police and Fire Commissions. I refer to the elections for Ward Moderator, Clerk, Selectmen and Registrar, as well as for Registrar at Large. These are the officials who actually conduct our elections.

These are the only partisan races where candidates are identified as either Democrats or Republicans. I urge the voters of Portsmouth to vote for the Democratic candidates.

Party identification is important now because the Republican Party nationally for the last few years has been carrying out a campaign of voter suppression, making it harder for people to vote. On the other hand, we Democrats encourage people to register to vote and participate in our democracy.

Below are the Democratic candidates. They are all good people committed to continuing Portsmouth's tradition of clean, fair and accurate elections. I ask that you vote for them.

Registrar at Large: Barbara Ward.

Ward 1: Moderator: Petra Pantelakos-Barstow; Clerk: Joseph

Pantelakos; Selectmen: Nancy Brown, Joann R. Wyckoff, John Pennington; Registrar: Penny Reynolds.

Ward 2: Moderator: Susan Denenberg; Clerk: Rebecca McBeath; Selectmen: Diane Stradling, Leslie McCarthy, William McClure; Registrar: Candace Thayer.

Ward 3: Moderator: Raymond F. Mullaly; Clerk: Catherine Blanchard Cosgrove; Selectmen: Shirley Mullaly, Deborah DiFranco, Jennifer Fahey; Registrar: Angelynne Hinson.

Ward 4: Moderator: Gerald W. R. Ward; Clerk: Rahul Sivaprasad; Selectmen: Sharon Nichols, Patricia Rowe, Matthew Hancock; Registrar: Marcia Main.

Ward 5: Moderator: Susan Hubbard; Clerk: Marsha Robinson; Selectmen: Nancy Grossman, Mary Lou McElwain, Brian Wazlaw; Registrar: Sherwood R. Spelke.

Larry Drake

Chair, Portsmouth Democratic Committee

Portsmouth, NH

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## Republicans Show True Colors

To the Editor:

Republicans like to brag about how they are "fiscally conservative," support "job creators," and generally are good stewards of the economy. Let's see how these boasts stack up with the recent Federal government shutdown.

To review, Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives shut down the government for 16 days last month in a futile effort to block implementation of the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare").

According to the ratings agency, Standard and Poor's, the shutdown cost the national economy \$24 billion. Another organization, Moody's Analytics, estimated the

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# And Other Correspondence

lost economic growth at \$23 billion.

Congressional Republicans have thus demonstrated that they are absolutely irresponsible and cannot be trusted to govern effectively. I just wonder, after all is said and done, why would anyone ever vote for a Republican again?

Joan Jacobs  
Portsmouth, NH

## LFOD Alliance on Schoolcraft

To the Editor:

Last month's decision by the New Hampshire Executive Council to deny a pardon for Thomas Schoolcraft, who was convicted of committing a series of burglaries nine years ago at the age of 19, reveals a fundamental divide among New Hampshire citizens. The central issue raised by our citizens revolved around how society defines the purpose of rehabilitation.

After serving ten months in jail, Schoolcraft went on to earn a college degree and become a Cheshire County corrections officer. Currently working towards his Master's Degree in Criminology, Schoolcraft sought a pardon to become a state corrections officer.

In the New Hampshire Executive Council's refusal to grant him a pardon, however, many Live Free or Die Alliance (LFDA) members rhetorically questioned the need to continue to "punish" Schoolcraft given the improvements he has made in his life. As one gentleman remarked, "If prison is to punish people and the person serves his time, why are they then punished afterwards?"

Some of the citizens noted that the Schoolcraft story represents an ideal case for rehabilitation. "The system worked," said one respondent. "Now we're going to punish him again." Others expressed the

belief that people deserve second chances. In serving his time, one gentleman indicated Schoolcraft "paid in full his debt to society."

Among those who agreed with the New Hampshire Executive Council's decision, the specific nature of the crime was cited as a plausible reason for refusal. "If he had only done one theft and got caught ... maybe a pardon, but this person committed nine crimes," cited one individual.

Schoolcraft's age at the time he committed these crimes, however, seemed to somewhat complicate the issue for many citizens. "I can relate to making a ton of mistakes in my youth," added one commentator, "but typically I didn't keep making the same mistake over and over again."

Some argued that a 19-year-old individual is not an adult and should be held to different standards. "Your brain doesn't even reach its full development before your mid-late 20s," said one respondent. But other members strongly disagreed. "He was not a 'kid' when he was 19 — he was a grown man making selfish decisions," said one gentleman.

Finally, there were those who saw merit to both sides of the argument, including one gentleman who noted the need for legislators to revisit the law itself. "There's a huge difference between whether Mr. Schoolcraft should be free to be a Corrections Officer and whether the means should be via Executive Branch and granting of pardons," he remarked. Honestly, it sounds like we need to ease up our laws on the books, which is the Legislature's job."

In presenting this question on September 5th, LFDA received 337 responses within two days, including 88 specific respondents and 216 concurrences. Of these, 49 percent disagreed with

the New Hampshire Executive Council's refusal, 29 percent agreed, 16 percent did not take a clear position, while 2 percent saw both sides of the issue.

The LFDA presents this report as a summary of citizen testimony as opposed to a scientific poll or survey. As New Hampshire's Virtual Town Hall, the nonprofit, nonpartisan LFDA, now numbering over 20,000, provides objective information about state issues, promotes the civil exchange of opinions, and communicates citizen views to elected officials. To learn more about this issue or the LFDA, visit [www.lfda.org](http://www.lfda.org).

Rob Levey, Editor, Live Free or Die Alliance ([www.lfda.org](http://www.lfda.org))

## Republican Tantrum

To the Editor:

Hundreds of thousands of workers furloughed, businesses losing millions of dollars, life-saving clinical trials and research delayed, world financial community losing trust in the U.S. ... the cost of the most recent tantrum by the extreme wing of the Republican party is still being tallied and won't be known for months. It is estimated that the government shutdown and threat of default has cost the US economy \$24 billion, cutting 0.6 percent off the GDP while bringing the world economy to the brink of collapse.

Perhaps more importantly, this legislative act of attempted terrorism was a mortal threat to our democracy and representative form of government. However they feel about the Affordable Care Act, every American should be outraged by this scheme to circumvent the Constitution so that an incompetent, irresponsible and irrational minority can undo a law passed and upheld by Constitutional processes.

It is up to the voters to change this dysfunctional Congress. It is up to the voters to elect leaders who, rather than "no government"

or "big government," believe in *good* government. It is up to the voters to elect responsible, competent representatives who are able to work collaboratively, negotiate, make compromises and find solutions that support growth and prosperity for the country.

Responsible, sane and sensible voters know that as well as a stable and dependable democracy, it is diversity and the resulting creativity and innovation that keeps us competitive in the world. They realize that intolerance of ideas that differ from ones own and temper tantrums when you don't get your way don't work in a grown up world.

Fellow voters, let's elect a Congress that is capable of doing the job we are paying them for — governing the country!

Cynthia Muse  
Rye, NH

## Kochs — Jekylls Or Hydes?

To the Editor:

Why are two old, rich, white guys spending millions to prevent working poor families and young adults from getting healthcare?

In case you don't know the Koch brothers, Charles and David, here is the scoop. The billionaire brothers inherited Koch Industries, the second largest family owned business in America with annual revenues of approximately \$100 billion. They are major contributors to the Tea Party and several right wing organizations. They are extreme libertarians, in favor of abolishing the FBI, Social Security, public schools, and all government regulations. The last desire is easiest to understand since Koch Industries is among the top 10 air polluters in America. It is also no surprise that the brothers are climate change deniers and unabashed Obama haters. Their father, Fred, founded the John Birch Society.

Are the Koch brothers Jekylls or Hydes, good guys, evil guys or



both?

On one hand the brothers support the arts and charities to the tune of multiple millions — American Ballet Theatre, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and NOVA to name a few.

On the other hand, the brothers are spending millions, nationally, to prevent the working poor from getting health care through expanded Medicaid. These families need Medicaid because they make less than \$32,499, which is 138 percent of the poverty level income for a family of four, and are not provided coverage by their employer or cannot afford the premium.

Additionally, the brothers are running dishonest TV ads in major cities trying to convince uninsured young adults to not sign up for health coverage. This is an attempt to sabotage the Affordable Care Act by limiting the number of "healthy" individuals from being included in the coverage pool.

I have to wonder if the Kochs are spending charitable millions to polish their image to offset the tarnish of prior and future bad acts? Making life more difficult for the disadvantaged, and doing it dishonestly, is an act that no one wants to define their reputation.

Why is it that those individuals who do not need the support of our social safety net are always the

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Northcountry Chronicle

Regret and Remembrance

by William Marvel

New England's autumn has a decidedly bittersweet edge, with a hint of doom hovering behind its brilliant colors — especially for those who dread the long Yankee winters. That may contribute to the allure of old cemeteries at the height of fall foliage, where we can speculate on the hidden meaning of epitaphs and the relationships that once existed between those who now lie beneath the sod. There is a touch of comfort in the discovery that James and Polly Merrill, a West Side couple in their early 80s, died within four days of each other in 1862; there is a lingering sadness in the graves of Otis and Sarah Hatch, lost in the woods of South Conway, where she lived alone for half a century after his death.

Usually every headstone speaks a host of secrets, most of which are safe forever, but now and then one surfaces. Such is the case with Edwin and Bessie Shackford, who lie together beneath last summer's geraniums in

the Eaton Village Cemetery. According to his gravestone, Edwin died at 37, on September 30, 1913. According to the *North Conway Reporter* of October 2, 1913, he was shot to death as he lay in bed, asleep, and a few days later Bessie confessed to the murder.

The *Reporter* took a typically self-righteous view of the case, noting that during her confession “the cold blooded woman” broke down only once. She implicated the hired hand, Wilbur Bean, and the two of them were lodged in the Ossipee jail together. “The defense will plead insanity,” the newspaper continued, lamenting the virtual homelessness of the four small Shackford children.

Wilbur Bean apparently went free, suggesting that he may have taken no part in the crime, but among Bessie's descendants the belief persists that she covered for him. A fictionalized account of the murder insinuated that the motive involved money hidden in the clock, but the real reason for the killing remains unknown, even within the family.

The *Reporter* seemed to sus-

pect something akin to a virus in the air. On Thanksgiving Day that year, up at a lumber camp in the Crawford Notch settlement called Bemis, a Mrs. Addie F. Robinson shot a Finnish logger to death in what she claimed was self-defense. The *Reporter* editor seemed to dismiss that as an excuse, observing that “murders are coming thick and fast in Carroll County.”

After so long without a homicide, suddenly there had been two within two months, and both with women at the trigger. A later generation might have wondered whether there had not been some abuse involved, and especially in the case of Mrs. Robinson, who may have been the victim of an attempted sexual assault. She, at least, was released eventually, but in December Mrs. Shackford waived her right to trial. The life sentence she drew implies sufficient evidence of premeditation that she could otherwise have gone to the gallows, and soon after her 27th birthday she entered the state prison.

By 1930 Bessie was the only



MRS. BESSIE L. SHACKFORD

woman among 134 prisoners at Concord, working in the kitchen. At Christmas the governor usually issued a pardon or two, but in 1932 Governor John Winant announced that there would be no Christmas pardons that year. Then, at the last minute, he freed Bessie Shackford. Perhaps the surprise pardon had something to do with Governor Winant's executive secretary, Burnham Davis, of Conway: his grandmother was a Shackford, and he surely knew the story. On Christmas Eve the

prison chaplain drove Bessie to a delirious homecoming at her parents' farm in Eaton, where her four children and one grandchild awaited her.

At the time of the murder, Bessie had borne four children within barely six years, and the youngest was only a few months old. If the phenomenon of postpartum depression had even been identified by 1913, it never occurred to the editor of the *Reporter*, but it would go a long way toward explaining behavior so alien to the gentle character described by Bessie's descendants. Severe depression may also account for her attorney's stated intention to plead insanity.

After her release, Bessie lived with her oldest son, becoming known to her grandchildren as a “warm and loving person.” In 1969 she was buried beside the man she claimed to have killed. A stranger contemplating their matching headstones might speculate that the widow mourned her husband for more than 55 years, and that may not be so far from the truth after all.

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

ones who scream the loudest and most vehemently for its destruction?

Dave Potter  
North Hampton, NH

§

**Quality of Life or Development?**  
To the Editor:

This year's election in Portsmouth is turning into an election between preserving the quality of life for residents or supporting more development of properties to increase the number of restaurant seats, condominiums and

hotel rooms.

Most discussions have focused on the issue of whether we have enough parking in downtown Portsmouth. The parking study commissioned and delivered to the city in January, 2012 states: “Compared to the ideal occupancy, these results indicate that for the majority of the time Portsmouth has more than adequate parking supply to satisfy its demand.”

It said this, even though it only looked at the immediate downtown area with regard to park-

ing and was not asked to look at satellite parking or transportation issues. That is why it is no surprise to me that our current city council was not willing to move ahead with a solution.

Parking is not the problem but in fact a symptom of what is going on. We need a comprehensive transportation plan to deal with parking and economic development, but it must put the needs of residents first, e.g. by creating a truly good city transportation system that residents and seniors

want to use.

In addition, the restaurant and hotel businesses in Portsmouth must admit that they are not paying their fair share of the burden of operating their businesses; and residents no longer want to subsidize them, when they receive very little back in return.

The population of Portsmouth has been flat for at least the past 10 years, so residents are not the ones pushing up the demand for city services like parking, fire protection, police services, city licens-

ing or water and sewer demands. The primary driver of these services has been a push by for-profit businesses who wish to have as much of their expenses (e.g. parking, water & sewer costs etc.) paid for by taxpayers, while keeping profits to themselves (no income tax, very little reimbursement to cities from Concord).

We all greatly enjoy the many offerings of restaurants and entertainment that our city offers us, however businesses came to Portsmouth because many resi-

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Lobbyists Hope To Rebrand Themselves

by Jim Hightower

Here's a scary number to ponder: 12,407. That's how many registered lobbyists there are in Washington — the bulk of whom are paid handsomely to carry water for avaricious corporations.

And that doesn't count the untold number of influence peddlers who do not stoop to register, for they don't consider themselves to

be mere lobbyists, even though they are paid extravagant salaries by elite lobbying firms. Rather than lobby, they "advise." These are longtime Washington insiders who act as sherpas, guiding corporate favor-seekers through the labyrinth of congressional backrooms and executive-branch offices to reach the peaks of legislative and regulatory power.

Today's lobbying corps, you see, is no longer the domain of com-

mon hustlers, but of credentialed and well-connected professionals, including more than 400 former US Senators and House members, plus more than 5,000 former legislative staffers — all cashing in on the connections and insider knowledge they gained at taxpayer expense. Lobbying is now a \$3.3 billion-a-year influence industry — an unelected, private government of, by, and for special interests. And get this — it even

has its own lobbying group, the American League of Lobbyists, which lobbies for lobbyists!

As you might imagine, having such a powerful presence has given many within LobbyWorld an elevated sense of their own worthiness, so they now want to drop the tacky label of "lobbyist." Instead, the League of Lobbyists is asking its members to suggest a more prestigious (and less pejorative) brand name. Reportedly,

an early favorite is "Government Relations Professional." But that's too ponderous. I think any new phrase needs to spell out a zippy acronym — like SLICK, CREEP, or LEECH — that really defines their work.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, a lobbyist, by any other name, would smell the same.

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dents and visitors like the feel and ambience of our city. People do not move to Portsmouth because it has more restaurant seats than residents or more hotels than we really need.

No, we moved to Portsmouth, and many come to Portsmouth because it has history, a casual walkable charm and a great location. The hospitality industry is the beneficiary of these attractions and not the attraction itself to residents and visitors.

That is why this year I'll be voting for candidates who are putting the needs of residents first, but also recognize the value of our hospitality industry and are willing to encourage them to pay their fair share of the burdens they impose on our city and its residents.

Peter Somssich  
Portsmouth, NH  
§  
**Fact or Fiction?**

To the Editor:

Too many of our elected representatives, both from the Right and the Left, make inflammatory statements without producing any factual data to support what they are saying. What those on the Right, both in government and their big money supporters, have been saying about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) reflects this lack of fact based argumentation.

Extreme examples of nasty, hysteria-inducing claims with no fact support are the despicable ad showing an evil Uncle Sam figure about to perform a gynecological exam on a young woman, and the repeated statements from elected representatives that the ACA is socialized medicine or a government take-over of health care. Not true!

Under socialized medicine the government owns the hospitals and employs and pays the doctors, nurses, technicians and support staff from administrators through janitors. We have one bit of socialized medicine in the U.S. — the VA system. The current major government involvement in health care is Medicare, which is an insurance plan administered by the government, with medical care provided by independent doctors and hospitals. Medicare is extremely popular with its enrollees.

The ACA expands the number of people covered, not by government insurance, but by existing private insurance companies, who will contract with existing hospitals and doctors to provide the same kind of services that they do now. So the ACA provides commercial insurance health care coverage for millions more people and puts in place rules to make

sure coverage is effective as possible — no excluding people with pre-existing conditions, no annual or life-time caps. It requires coverage for a variety of preventive care, reduces drug costs for senior citizens and more.

Another claim made by the Right but unsupported with any evidence is that the ACA is a job killer. They support this claim by referencing the shift to part-time employment. However, this trend began as a result of the recession, long before the ACA became law, and this trend has reversed this year as the recovery continues. Studies by a number of economists find no support for the allegation that the ACA is having any significant effect on jobs but that does not stop the right from saying it repeatedly as if it were a fact while providing no support for the assertion.

There are other claims about the ACA that are not fact-based, but probably the most outlandish is that the ACA provides for death panels and rationing of health care through the Individual Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). In reality the IPAB is set up to make recommendations to help control Medicare's overall costs. It has no function to make decisions about individuals' health care. The ACA law specifically bars the IPAB

from any recommendation to ration health care or restrict benefits.

Statements like this, masquerading as reality, hurt our democracy in two major ways. First they distort public information and understanding of reality when an informed public is essential to a functioning democracy. Second, they make it much harder for our elected representatives to work together to find reasonable solutions to our very real problems.

Robert Wilkinson  
Portsmouth, NH  
§  
**A Party With Faulty Wiring**  
To the Editor:

They act as if they are from an unknown, undiscovered planet that produces beings that are void of empathy; in my opinion, that would be that part of Congress responsible for having the U.S. government shut down. Out of this group, some are claiming to be born-again Christians. It seems these types of born-again Christians are takers rather than givers; helping the poor and needy does not seem to be any part of their agenda. However, giving tax breaks to the wealthy while demonizing the Affordable Care Act has been front and center in the Tea Party's efforts to push back on the majority voice in this country. They

behave as if they should punish the voters that voted President Obama in for a second term; that punishment came in the forms of sequestration, the government shutdown, and the threat not to raise the debt ceiling. Not only is this behavior destroying the heart of the Republican Party, it could have pushed the U.S. government into total chaos. It is my notion that the Tea Party (The Selfish Party) may have faulty wiring. Its members lack the capacity to have feelings for others of lesser means; if that is so, sensible Republicans are needed to rise up with courage to bring our great nation back to that time when we believed in reasonable compromise.

Alfred Waddell  
West Dennis, MA  
Alfred:

The longer we ponder the crazy state of things these days the more we come to believe that your hypothesis is correct.

Recent scientific studies have shown that people put in positions of power show lower levels of empathy and are also more inclined to cheat.

Others show that our minds — all of us, not just the Right Wing — often make decisions on a gut level without any conscious input. Then we come up with rationalizations to support them.

The Editor

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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, November 3	Monday, November 4	Tuesday, November 5	Wednesday, November 6	Thursday, November 7	Friday, November 8	Saturday, November 9
<p><b>1986</b>—A Lebanese magazine reports the U.S. government has been selling arms to Iran.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Salvador Allende sworn in as President of Chile.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Richard Nixon announces “Vietnamization” of Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Lyndon Johnson is elected as the peace candidate.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A female dog named Laika, aboard <i>Sputnik 2</i>, becomes the first living thing to orbit Earth.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—The <i>Chicago Daily Tribune</i> mistakenly declares Dewey the winner over Truman in the presidential election.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Bolsheviks take power during the Russian Revolution.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—The U.S. introduces the Income Tax.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—The Colombian province of Panama secedes with quiet backing from Teddy Roosevelt, whose Republican party recently received \$60,000 from the New Panama Canal Company.</p> <p><b>1868</b>—John W. Menard, from Louisiana, is first black elected to Congress.</p> <p><b>1789</b>—George Washington visits Madam Lear, his secretary’s mother, on Hunking Street and attends a ball at the Assembly.</p> <p><b>1755</b>—Massachusetts establishes bounties for Indian scalps, ranging from £50 for male Penobscots over 12 years old, to £20 for female Indians under 12.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—Americans elect Barack Obama President, and Californians restrict the civil rights of gay Californians.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Militant Shi’ite Muslims take 66 Americans hostage in Teheran, spelling the end of the Carter administration.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Lenny Bruce is found guilty of using obscenity during appearances in New York City.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—U.S. B-47 bomber carrying nukes crashes near Abilene, TX. High explosives detonate. Nuclear materials are recovered later.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Soviet troops put down Hungarian revolt.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Asked who shot him, the dying gangster Arnold Rothstein tells police, “My mudder did it.”</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Nellie Rayloe Ross becomes first female governor of a U.S. state, Wyoming.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Howard Carter discovers King Tutankhamen’s tomb.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Disgruntled German sailors take over the port at Kiel, starting the German Revolution.</p> <p><b>1879</b>—James Ritty gets a patent for the first cash register, invented to outfox thieving bartenders.</p> <p><b>1879</b>—Will Rogers is born.</p> <p><b>1798</b>—Vermont elects Matthew Lyon, in jail for sedition, to Congress.</p> <p><b>1791</b>—An Indian force of nearly 2,000 attacks about 1,500 U.S. soldiers and camp followers in the Battle of the Wabash, killing 832.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—A Franklin Co. (OH) official reports that Pres. Bush’s 3,893 vote total in one district is erroneous—only 638 ballots were cast.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—File under “Non-News.” Ronald Reagan announces he has Alzheimer’s.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Dick “Dick” Cheney becomes White House Chief of Staff, Donald Rumsfeld becomes Secretary of Defense, and George H.[H.]W. Bush becomes Director of the CIA. Gerry Ford is allowed to stay on as President.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—Deranged WWII veteran and daily churchgoer Howard Unruh (1921—2009) shoots 16 people, killing 13, in Camden, NJ.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—Parker Brothers introduces the game “Monopoly.”</p> <p><b>1930</b>—Told over the phone by a Swedish newspaper reporter that he’s won the Nobel Prize, Sinclair Lewis, thinking it’s a hoax, imitates the man’s accent.</p> <p><b>1872</b>—In Rochester, NY, Susan B. Anthony is arrested for voting.</p> <p><b>1857</b>—Birth of Ida Tarbell, muckraker.</p> <p><b>1855</b>—Birth of Eugene V. Debs.</p> <p><b>1765</b>—Two Boston gangs, instead of indulging in their usual Guy Fawkes Day dust-up, join to demonstrate against the Stamp Act.</p> <p><b>1605</b>—Had Guy Fawkes not been betrayed and apprehended, Parliament would have been rubble on this day.</p>	<p><b>1984</b>—It’s mourning in America—Reagan defeats Mondale.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—A dam owned and modified by the Toccoa Falls Bible Institute in Georgia fails, killing 39 people.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—The Sex Pistols perform in public for the first time.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The Atomic Energy Commission explodes a 5-megaton nuke—the largest ever exploded in the U.S.—one mile below Amchitka Island in Alaska, about 87 miles from a Soviet naval base in Siberia.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Times Square, five men burn their draft cards, the first such protest of the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Laura Welch—later Bush—runs a stop sign in Midland, TX, with fatal results.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—A three day fire begins in Bel Air, CA, destroying 447 homes including those of Zsa Zsa Gabor and Dick Nixon.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The Zionist Stern Gang assassinates Britain’s Lord Moyne in Cairo. Israel honors the assassins with a stamp in 1982.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Herbert Hoover beats Alfred E. Smith for president.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—An explosion kills 77 coal miners in Spangler, PA.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Shipyard workers revolt in Kiel and Hamburg.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—After three months of fighting in mud, Canadians take Passchendaele, ending the Third Battle of Ypres; Allies gain five miles at a cost of 250,000 casualties.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—Private Jessica Lynch accuses the Pentagon of using her for propaganda purposes.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—“War is not my first choice,” says George W. Bush, “it’s my last choice.” (It’s a lie.)</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The American people vote for a president. Instead, they end up with George W. Bush.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Revolutionary dingbats set off a bomb in the U.S. Capitol, with no apparent help from the FBI.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Richard Nixon kicks George McGovern’s ass.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Richard Nixon tells the press they won’t have him to kick around any more. (It’s a lie.)</p> <p><b>1940</b>—The mile-long Tacoma Narrows bridge wiggles, wobbles, and then falls down. Washington State is unable to collect on its insurance because their agent fraudulently pocketed the premiums.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—3,000 anarchists are held without bail on Ellis Island as the Palmer Raids begin.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—The U.S. denies Colombia’s request to be allowed to place Colombian troops in Panama—a Colombian province—to protect Colombian integrity.</p> <p><b>1879</b>—Birth of Lev Davidovich Bronstein, aka Leon Trotsky.</p> <p><b>1837</b>—Maine-born Elijah P. Lovejoy, an abolitionist editor whose printing press has been thrown in the river twice, is murdered by a mob in Alton, IL.</p>	<p><b>2010</b>—George W. Bush reveals that his mother once showed him a jar containing the fetus of a miscarried sibling and asked him to drive her to the hospital.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—At 2:16 a.m., Fox News “reporter” John Ellis calls Florida in favor of his cousin, George W. Bush.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—Serial philanderer Newt Gingrich and the Republican Party gain control of Congress.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Moscow puts its nuclear forces on high alert and sends flash telegrams to its embassies warning that a nuclear strike on the USSR may come at any time.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Singer Michelle Phillips divorces Dennis Hopper — eight days of marriage was enough.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Socialist Norman Thomas gets 884,885 votes for President.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—Disgruntled corporal A. Hitler, with help from disgruntled general E. von Ludendorff, stages the “Beer Hall Putsch” in Munich.</p> <p><b>1897</b>—Birth of Dorothy Day, anarchist founder of <i>Catholic Worker</i>.</p> <p><b>1876</b>—The editor of <i>The New York Times</i> and the chairman of the Republican National Committee conspire to bribe election officials in Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana to “elect” Hayes president.</p> <p><b>1800</b>—A mysterious fire in the War Office destroys many records after (then-liberal) Republicans demanded an accounting of (conservative) Federalist expenditures.</p>	<p><b>1998</b>—NASDAQ brokers are made to pay bilked customers \$1 billion for rigging the game.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—The Berlin Wall becomes porous.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Due to a computer error, for six minutes the U.S. Air Defense Command mistakenly believes that the U.S.S.R. is attacking the U.S.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—78 Indians occupy Alcatraz.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—<i>Rolling Stone</i> begins publication.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Due to a failure at a single power plant in Ontario the entire northeast is left in the dark.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Dylan Thomas dies in New York at 39.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The first “Liberty Ship,” the <i>Robert E. Peary</i>, is launched.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—German Nazis demonstrate their racial superiority during Kristallnacht by killing 91 Jews.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—In Switzerland, the Army fires on a demonstration against fascism, killing 13.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Charles Justice is executed in Ohio’s electric chair—which he had built himself while an inmate 14 years earlier.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—<i>The New York Herald</i> reports that wild animals, escaped from the Central Park Zoo, have killed 27 people. It’s a hoax.</p> <p><b>1872</b>—600 buildings burn in Boston. The Fire Department is hampered by a lack of horsepower due to an equine virus, aka “the Great Epizootic,” and by looters.</p>
<p>10:26 10:58</p> <p>4:10 4:43</p>	<p>11:09 11:44</p> <p>4:54 5:29</p>	<p>11:55</p> <p>5:39 6:16</p>	<p>12:31 12:43</p> <p>6:27 7:05</p>	<p>1:22 1:34</p> <p>7:18 7:58</p>	<p>2:16 2:30</p> <p>8:12 8:53</p>	<p>3:14 3:31</p> <p>9:12 9:53</p>
Sunday, November 10	Monday, November 11	Tuesday, November 12	Wednesday, November 13	Thursday, November 14	Friday, November 15	Saturday, November 16

**2004**—George W. Bush nominates as his new Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales—who goes on to make his predecessor, John Ashcroft, look good.

**1982**—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a gift to the nation from those it had shunned, opens in Washington, D.C.

**1975**—The *Edmund Fitzgerald* sinks on Lake Superior, taking with her a crew of 29.

**1973**—In Drake, ND the school board fires a teacher and burns the book he assigned, *Slaughterhouse Five*.

**1969**—“Sesame Street” debuts.

**1964**—In Australia, the draft is re-introduced, apparently to protect that part of the British Empire from invasion by Ho’s forces.

**1950**—Flying over Canada, a U.S. Air Force crew in a B-50 experiences engine trouble. They chuck the bomb (minus its plutonium core) which then explodes in Riviere du Loup, Quebec.

**1898**—400 Democratic Party activists in Wilmington, NC murder 40 to 100 blacks, depose the mayor, and establish a new government by force.

**1871**—Newspaperman Henry Morton Stanley, meeting a white man near Lake Tanganyika, says “Dr. Livingston, I presume!”

**1775**—The Continental Congress creates the Marine Corps.

**2000**—Republicans go to court to stop manual recounts in Florida.

**1969**—The *U.S.S. Sand Lance* is launched, the final sub built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

**1959**—“Rocky and His Friends” debut.

**1956**—Soviet forces crush the Hungarian resistance.

**1933**—“The Great Black Blizzard,” the first of the great dust storms, hits the Great Plains.

**1921**—President Warren G. Harding dedicates the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

**1919**—In Centralia, WA, American Legionnaires kidnap, torture, and castrate fellow WW I vet Wesley Everest, who had been thoughtless enough to join the IWW.

**1918**—At 11:11 a.m., the War to End All Wars ends — too late for the 2,738 who die on this day.

**1911**—“The Great Blue Norther” strikes the midwest. In Springfield, MO the temperatures drops from 80 degrees at mid-afternoon to 13 at midnight.

**1889**—Marcel Proust, 18, enlists in the French Army.

**1887**—The anarchist Haymarket Martyrs are hanged in Chicago.

**1880**—Rebellious Australian bushranger Ned Kelly is hanged.

**1831**—Nat Turner, slave, is hanged for rebellion in Virginia.

**1647**—Massachusetts passes the first compulsory education law.

**2001**—Flight 587 falls apart and crashes in NYC, killing 261.

**1980**—New York City Mayor Ed Koch admits he tried marijuana.

**1971**—The Berkeley City Council votes symbolically to provide sanctuary for draft resistors.

**1970**—The Oregon Highway Dept. discovers that half a ton of explosives isn’t enough to dispose of a dead eight ton whale.

**1941**—Abe “Kid Twist” Reles earns the posthumous sobriquet “the canary who sang but couldn’t fly” when he autodefenerates (or is defenestrated) from the sixth floor of a Coney Island hotel while under the protection of six cops.

**1933**—The first photo is taken of the Loch Ness Monster.

**1927**—Stalin reigns alone after Trotsky is expelled from the Communist Party.

**1926**—A feud between rival beer and rum factions in Illinois results in the aerial bombing of a farmhouse by a civilian plane.

**1865**—Former Senator Preston King (R-NY) ties a bag of bullets around his neck and leaps to his death from a ferryboat.

**1815**—Birth of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, suffragette.

**1779**—Twenty slaves petition the New Hampshire legislature to abolish slavery to no avail. Primus Fowle, Daniel Fowle’s enslaved pressman, is not among them.

**2003**—Because he would not remove a monument to the Ten Commandments from his courthouse, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore is himself removed.

**2002**—Iraq agrees to submit to UN Resolution 1441 and allow weapons inspectors into the country. Fat lot of good it did.

**1982**—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, and Robert McNamara are no-shows.

**1974**—Disgruntled Kerr-McGee worker Karen Silkwood conveniently turns up dead.

**1970**—Up to half a million die as a cyclone hits Bangladesh.

**1942**—During the Battle of Guadalcanal the *U.S.S. Juneau* is lost, taking with it all five sons of Thomas and Alleta Sullivan of Waterloo, IA.

**1933**—Hormel workers in Austin, MN invent the sit-down strike.

**1922**—The Supreme Court rules that Japanese persons cannot become naturalized citizens because they are “not Caucasian.”

**1887**—British police charge a demonstration by the unemployed in Trafalgar Square, killing 3 and arresting 300.

**1877**—A locomotive and three freight cars plunge from an open drawbridge into the Piscataqua, just missing three ships; no injuries.

**2002**—Donald Rumsfeld predicts the Iraq War will last “five days or five weeks or five months, but [no] longer than that.”

**2000**—Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris certifies George W. Bush’s dubious electoral lead.

**1957**—In Apalachin, NY, a meeting of important businessmen is interrupted by cops.

**1954**—A campaign to collect 10 million signatures petitioning the Senate not to censure Joe McCarthy begins. It fails by 9 million.

**1927**—Workmen in Pittsburgh’s industrial center, attempting to fix a leak in the world’s largest gasometer with an open flame blowlamp, ignite 5 million cubic feet of natural gas, effectively clearing a one square mile area.

**1916**—“Put out the bloody cigarette!” says H.H. “Saki” Munro to another soldier in a trench. Seconds later a sniper’s bullet extinguishes him.

**1909**—Birth of Joseph R. McCarthy, “... a great American [whose] stature will grow with the passage of time,” according to NH Sen. Styles Bridges.

**1909**—Joshua Slocum, first man to sail around the world alone, disappears near the Orinoco.

**1831**—“Only one man ever understood me,” says Hegel on his deathbed, “and even he didn’t understand me.”

**2006**—Jack Abramoff, former Washington lobbyist, arrives at his new digs in a federal prison near Cumberland, MD.

**1996**—British officials return the Stone of Scone to the Scots, from whom they had stolen it 700 years earlier.

**1995**—In the Oval Office, Monica Lewinski flashes her thong at Bill Clinton. Later, in the private study of the Oval Office, they fool around.

**1967**—“I have never,” declares Gen. Wm. Westmoreland, “been more encouraged in my four years in Vietnam,” eleven weeks before Gen. Giap springs the Tet Offensive on him.

**1929**—Bernard Baruch cables Winston Churchill, “Financial storm definitely passed.”

**1917**—Bolsheviks take Moscow, ending Russian Revolution.

**1908**—Teddy Roosevelt becomes the first sitting President to travel abroad, visiting Panama.

**1887**—F(ranklin) P(ierce) Adams, a namesake of New Hampshire’s only president and the godfather of the newspaper column, is born in Chicago.

**1864**—General William T. Sherman burns Atlanta, inspiring well-known movie.

**1805**—Lewis, Clark, Sacajawea, and the rest of the mob reach the mouth of the Columbia.

**2000**—Bill Clinton finally goes to Vietnam. The visit fails to silence his critics.

**1989**—U.S.-backed pro-government forces in El Salvador murder six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and the housekeeper’s daughter.

**1969**—White House Communications Director Herb Klein says he opposes government intervention in the news but that the networks invite it if they don’t regulate themselves.

**1966**—Strasbourg students blow the student government’s annual budget on a pamphlet, “On the Poverty of Student Life.”

**1907**—The first taxi cab meter goes into service.

**1890**—George Seldes, journalist and media critic, is born. He’ll live to be 105.

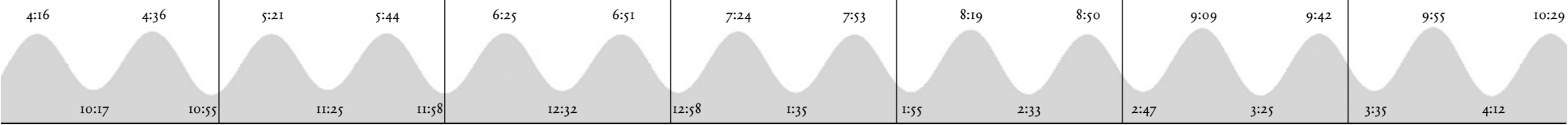
**1849**—Fyodor Dostoevsky is sentenced to death for spreading “impudent words.”

**1811**—An earthquake causes the Mississippi to flow backwards.

**1776**—The American brig-of-war *Andrew Doria* receives the nation’s first salute from a foreign power at Fort Oranje, St. Eustatius.

**1747**—In Boston, hundreds of sailors, laborers, and free blacks rise up in protest against British naval press gangs.

**1665**—The *Oxford Gazette*—the world’s oldest surviving periodical—is founded.



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