

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Indoctrination Nation

The local exhaust pipes of a national, billionaire-funded propaganda machine were exposed in greater detail than ever recently. Local operatives funded by the Koch brothers were shown to have repeatedly denied the source of much of their funding and to have represented themselves falsely in the State House.

Faced with clear evidence of fraud committed for the profit of out-of-state billionaires, New Hampshire's responsible and objective corporate media responded with a collective shrug.

The Insurance Model

Every homeowner understands: however modest your home, it's your biggest investment. Insurance isn't cheap, but 96 percent of American homeowners wisely find the money for it.

In the 1970s, America's plutocrats began to apply a variation of the insurance model to protect not just their then-current holdings, but their future ability to pocket an ever-larger share of capitalism's bounty. It worked brilliantly.

The dawn of the 1970s was the high-water mark for America's middle class; in retrospect, a golden age. Union membership was high and income inequality was low; single-earner households were common and comfortable.

But Lewis Powell saw the times differently. A corporate lawyer and tobacco lobbyist who soon became a Supreme Court Justice, Powell warned, in a confidential 1971 memo to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, that "the American economic system is under broad attack."

"Favorite current targets are proposals for tax incentives ... usually described in the media as 'tax breaks,' 'loopholes' or 'tax benefits' for the benefit of business [which] would benefit 'only the rich, the owners of big companies.'" Sadly, he noted, "businessmen have not been trained or equipped to conduct guerrilla warfare with those who propagandize against the system."

But Powell didn't just sound the alarm, he offered a solution, a strategy for defending capitalism, capitalists, and their sacred tax breaks. It involved a coordinated national campaign in which "national television networks should be monitored [and] textbooks should be kept under constant surveillance."

The fight could then be taken to the en-

emy through pro-business "publications, ... articles, ... speeches, ... media programs, ... advertising, ... briefs filed in courts, and ... appearances before legislative committees."

The campaign would require a cadre of full-time culture warriors, and infrastructure to support them. A pattern quickly developed: dream up some highfalutin names, write some big checks, hire a bunch of keyboard commandos, and set them to cranking out verbiage that justifies whatever policies will generate the most profit for the nation's plutocrats. Thus were born scores of nationally-known "think tanks," whose crackpot schemes like privatization, deregulation, and trickle-down economics dominate political discussion today.

The program cost millions, but it was a terrific investment. The middle class has been successfully hollowed out, and nearly all of the economic gains of the last thirty years have gone to the already-wealthy who picked up the tab for Powell's scheme.

Bad Bartlett

What Granite State Progress and the Center for Media and Democracy revealed in their sixty-page report last month is that two small-bore, supposedly local think tanks, which have been dispensing Right Wing corporate propaganda for years now, are better understood as camouflaged local franchises of a national, corporate brand, identical to and linked with others that are busily undermining democracy in all fifty states.

"Bad Bartlett: The Josiah Bartlett Center and *NHWatchdog* Answer the Call of the Koch Brothers," [<http://goo.gl/rf2TIU>] lays out not just how those two mini-think tanks are funded, but the lengths to which they have gone to disguise and deny that funding.

Who's Your Daddy?

As recently as April of 2012 Charlie Arlinghaus, President of the Josiah Bartlett Center, flatly denied receiving funding from the Koch brothers. But Donors Capitol Fund, a recipient of Koch largesse, dispensed some \$425,000 to the Bartlett Center between 2008 and 2010. *NHWatchdog.org*, an offshoot of the Bartlett Center, is funded by the Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity, which is itself funded by Donors Trust, another Koch beneficiary.

Arlinghaus and his sidekick, Grant



Bosse, the "investigative reporter" for the Bartlett Center-supported *NHWatchdog*, apparently presume that the simple ruse of using a cutoff man is sufficient to throw real journalists off their funding trail.

"Move Along, Nothing to See Here"

Apparently they're right. Kevin Landrigan, the normally-astute political reporter for the *Nashua Telegraph*, seemed unperurbed by the revelations during a conference call with Granite State Progress.

"We've always identified the Josiah Bartlett Center ... as very conservative organization ... this notion that they were independent and unbiased — who thought that?"

In paragraph 14 of a *Telegraph* article, Landrigan wrote that Granite State Progress had "unearthed some financial details"

backing up its charges, then quoted Arlinghaus saying "he was unaware of where the Donors Capital Fund got its support."

Radio Silence

During the same conference call James Pindell, WMUR's political reporter, wanted to know where's the illegal beef.

"If you think they are doing something illegal, then why are we having a press call about it? If then aren't doing something illegal then why aren't you changing the law to ... tighten the [lobbying laws]?" Relentless Googling turns up no evidence of Pindell having reported on the funding revelations, though.

New Hampshire Public Radio's Josh Rogers also took part in the conference call. Again, as far as we've been able to determine, no reportage has resulted.

The Alleged News

Economic Theory Put to Test, Found Wanting, Left in Place

Congress shocked the nation last week by actually passing a budget deal. Granted it was a chintzy deal that completely stifles the long-term unemployed, demands nothing of the big bankers who put them out of work, and is good only for two years. But look on the bright side: the government won't shut down on January 15th. So we've got that going for us, which is nice.

Passing a budget has become an ordeal because hard-line Democrats refuse to go along with the

majority in their party and acquiesce to Republican demands. Republicans can hardly be blamed — it's not their fault that they have strong convictions.

What's faintly perplexing is that the outcomes of Republican policies never seem to produce the results they promise. Take privatization for instance.

According to GOP dogma, since the Government is constitutionally incapable of efficiency, it should farm out as much work as possible to private contractors,

thus saving tons of the taxpayers' money.

Spoilsports at the Project on Government Oversight [POGO] decided to look at real numbers and see if the policy works.

POGO compared the amounts spent by the Defense Department on contracted employees and its own civilian workforce and found that "contractor employees cost 2.94 times more than an average [Pentagon] civilian employee performing the same job.

"In fact, although the number

of employees in both workforces is relatively balanced, spending on the workforces is not: [Pentagon] service contracts cost \$253.8 billion and [the Pentagon's] civilian workforce cost \$72 billion (base) or \$108 (base plus overhead) in FY 2010."

Put another way, while contract employees make up just 22 percent of the Pentagon's total workforce, including uniformed military personnel, they account for more than half of its workforce spending.

These results are so shocking they may not even register with Congressional decision-makers. At least, such was the fate of a 2011 POGO report on the same topic, which found that contract employees at that time were costing the government about twice as much as federal employees.

Sportin' With the Troops

Most of the country — OK, the third of the country that ac-

The Alleged News

from page one

tually pays attention — had been desperately hoping that Congress would finally pass some kind of budget deal — almost any kind of deal. Which made it the perfect time for Congress to indulge in a little low-down deal-making.

The one thing on which our two political parties have agreed, at least since the unpleasantness of the Sixties, Seventies, and early Eighties, is that we all “support the troops” — or, at least, the defense budget that keeps them deployed in various war zones around the planet.

Even so, in these times of runaway government spending we all must make sacrifices, even if government spending is actually shrinking. And who is better pre-

pared to sacrifice some green than those who have demonstrated their abilities along those lines with their very own red, whether Type A or B or O?

A fact sheet released by the budget committee headed by Sen. Paul Ryan, as quoted by *Stars & Stripes*, explained that “[f]or younger military retirees, we trim their cost-of-living adjustment [COLA] just a bit.”

“Just a bit” translates to a one percent cut in pension benefits for retired military service members. *Stars & Stripes* calculates that the average retired enlisted person will involuntarily donate \$83,000 to the budget cutters. Retiring officers will be required to donate \$124,000.

Tough Luck, Homeowners

One of the few concessions made by five of the biggest banks



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A winter storm “as of old” — though considerably earlier than might be considered “normal” — bit the region about a week before the Winter Solstice, followed by a lesser storm two days later. Together they left the Athenæum, the City’s Official Christmas Holiday Tree (given this year by Roxy and Jack Hartman), and the Square’s wreath-topped Victorian-era lighting liberally coated with snow, as the peak of the Spending Season approached. Much of the effect was lost the Sunday before the big Annual Inconvenience, thanks to a prolonged stretch of just-above-freezing rain. Not that we’re complaining — we’re grateful to have been spared an Icepocalypse.

whose shenanigans blew up the economy a few years ago was called the National Mortgage Settlement. Under the terms of that settlement, hundreds of thousands of borrowers saw their principal lowered by an average of nearly \$80,000. So far those principal reductions have been tax free.

According to an article at *Al-Jazeera.com*, by adjourning without extending the 2007 Mortgage Debt Forgiveness Relief Act [MDFRA], Congress has left homeowners subject to paying income tax on whatever future mortgage principal reductions they receive, beginning January 1st.

“The average principal reduction ... between March 2012 and July 2013 was \$108,000 per borrower,” *AlJazeera* reported. “Without the MDFRA, the homeowner making \$50,000 per year would have to report an annual income of \$158,000. Using a simple tax calculator, the homeowner would owe \$34,733 to the IRS, or nearly 70 percent of the homeowner’s annual income in a

single tax bill.

“Now that the MDFRA has expired, the only way homeowners can avoid taxation on their mortgage reduction is to prove insolvency to the IRS.”

In other news, Jamie Dimon and Angelo Mozilo are still not in jail.

Yet ...

According to *Salon’s* David Dayen, there’s reason for hope. In an article headlined, “Jamie Dimon’s perp walk: Why it could be this year’s Christmas miracle,” he writes that JPMorgan’s CEO violated a federal statute carrying a prison sentence by violating Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Signed into law eleven years ago, the Act requires CEOs to personally certify, in periodical financial statements, that they have personal knowledge of the corporation’s internal controls, and that they are effective. The penalty for violations is a fine of up to \$5 million, and as much as 20 years in the slammer.

This is not some airy theoretical exercise, like Schrödinger’s cat.

Dayen cites Dimon’s most recent Sarbanes-Oxley certification, dated November 1st, and quotes Dimon saying publicly, one month later, “We have control issues we’ve got to fix. We’re taking an ax to it. We’re going to fix the problems that have been identified.”

Sadly, Dayen is not now camped out in front of the bank’s headquarters on Park Avenue waiting for Dimon’s arrest. In fact, his point seems to be that while Dimon could be in jail today for violating Sarbanes-Oxley, he almost surely never will be. Further, he argues that the much-vaunted teeth in the new Volcker Rule are no sharper than those in Sarbanes.

In other words, *plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose*.

Where’s That \$100 Billion?

Another little thing Congress failed to get done was closing the GRAT loophole.

GRATs, or grantor retained annuity trusts, were invented by lawyer Richard Covey, who, among other things, helps members of the Walton family dodge

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the jack-booted thugs of the IRS. Covey told *Bloomberg.com* reporter Zachary Mider that the GRAT loophole has cost the Treasury about \$100 billion since its inception in 2000.

Sheldon Adelson alone — he of the \$150 million in political contributions during the 2012 Presidential campaign — is said to have given \$7.9 billion to his heirs, and avoided paying \$2.8 billion in gift taxes, just since 2010.

Essentially, it's the old shell game, aka "where's the pea," but with massive amounts of money taking the place of the spherical seed of the pod fruit *Pisum sativum*. Covey told *Bloomberg* that Congress created the huge loophole by accident, while trying to close a smaller one.

Mider notes that the Republican plan for eliminating the GRAT loophole is to eliminate the Gift Tax it's designed to dodge. Democrats, he writes, are loath to take on legislation that would hurt large political donors.

That Old Time Religion

Money, money, money, money ... is that all we ever think about?

Of course not. Let's get spiritual.

It seems the War on Christmas claimed another casualty on December 13th, according to an ABC radio affiliate in Phoenix.

Kristina Vindiola told the station she was standing outside a Wal-Mart, clanging her bell and soliciting donations, when she said "Happy Holidays" to a woman who responded by slugging her.

"She came up to me and said, 'Do you believe in God?'" Vindiola told the station. "And she says, 'You're supposed to say Merry Christmas,' and that's when she hit me."

According to our in-house, non-denominational theologian, the fault for the assault actually lies with Bill O'Reilly, the fictional inspiration for famed real-life newsman Stephen Colbert.

"If O'Reilly had the courage of his alleged convictions he would not be taking half-measures like begging for the right to say "Merry Christmas" without censure. 'Christmas,' after all, is but a euphemism. O'Reilly ought to stand up like a real Christian man and

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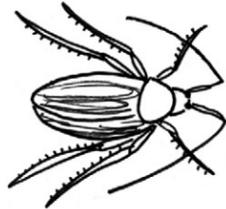
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Stumbling upon JesusAmericanFlag.com, "A website dedicated to 'Passing the Word' in conjunction with American Patriotism," our course was clear: refer the matter to Father Flanagan, Chaplain of the Flag Police. Upon receipt of the case Flanagan, who is of course duly authorized to use the Lord's name in the course of his duties, very nearly uttered it in a less-than-pious manner. He has since bumped the matter upstairs; given the new leadership at the Vatican, it's anyone's guess what the results might be.

hold out for the right to bellow 'Happy Baby Jesus Day!' Instead, O'Reilly hides his religious convictions behind his loofah, and folks like Kristina Vindiola suffer in his stead. Oh, the humanity."

The Problem with Democrats

Apparently some New Hampshire Republicans are trying to induce former Speaker of the New Hampshire House Bill O'Brien to run for Governor.

Democratic Party Chairman Ray Buckley responded to the Republicans' trial balloon with a fund-raising email asking for a "contribution of \$50, \$25, or \$10 right now" to "help us stop" O'Brien.

Stop Bill O'Brien, the closet Free-Stater and blatant blowhard? They should be so lucky as to run against him.

Fight for the First District

When Portsmouthian Dan Innis announced last October he would run for the First Congressional District seat now held by Carol Shea-Porter, the

Award-Winning Local Daily duly noted that "his campaign ... emphasis[ed] his humble upbringing and outsider status."

No kidding. As a Republican, being married to a person of the same sex confers as much outsider status as one person could possibly handle.

The New Hampshire Rebellion

By the time our next paper is published, The New Hampshire Rebellion is supposed to be under way.

"Fifteen years ago, Doris Had-dock, aka 'Granny D,' started a walk," says the website *NHRebellion.org*. "This January, we are going to continue it."

Apparently the brainchild of Lawrence Lessig, a Harvard Law School professor and multi-faceted political activist, this Rebellion aims to "walk 185 miles down the spine of New Hampshire" — this January, to change the way America funds elections.

"Walk with us, if you can, for whatever distance you can, or

help us by volunteering your time or donating to our cause."

Why New Hampshire?

"First, New Hampshire holds the first free presidential primary (Iowa is too addicted to ag subsidies to be called 'free'), and the New Hampshire primary can set the tone for the 2016 election.

"Second, New Hampshire is filled with fiercely independent voters, who are among the most politically astute in the nation (see "First" above).

"Third, New Hampshire is one of the only states that has an express right of the people to revolution [True fact. — The Ed.]

The Rebellion's ultimate goal is not to freeze to death, but to inspire "citizens in New Hampshire — whether conservative, or liberal, whether Independent, Republican, or Democrat — to help us to get every presidential candidate at every event in New Hampshire to answer one simple question: How are YOU going to end the corruption in Washington?"

6/29/31

Getting a Leg Up on the Competition

A Great Moment in Gender Equality

There are large glasses and there are small glasses but when the local Moose Lodge held an outing, even the largest glass could not keep local contender Mildred Cuddeback from entering the famed beer drinking contest, where (much to the surprise of onlookers) she took home the blue ribbon.

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The Minimum Wage Crisis

To the Editor:

Americans do not want to work for the minimum wage. Who does? Recent demonstrations at McDonald's restaurants demanding \$15 an hour wages are understandable. American people need more money to exist. Making a minimum wage only means you are living in poverty and need government and charitable assistance in order to survive.

Minimum wage was never meant for the long haul. Such wages were intended for part-time help, students working through school or older Americans who needed something to do a few hours a week. The sad case is that miserable Americans stand in line for these jobs. The jobs that provide higher pay are saturated with several hundred people already in line for the first vacancy.

What happened to all those nice jobs back there somewhere in our history? We started taking them for granted. Just like our freedom, Social Security and Medicare, we thought they would always be here. We wanted more. We weren't happy that corporations were breaking their necks to pay strong hourly wages, hospitalization and gold-lined retirement plans. Therefore unions organized, collected fees from everyone and strong-armed the owners. Owners gave and gave and then started giving up. Grab a ladder and peer into Mexico if you want to see where they are today.

We got lazy. Why work hard? If we sit home with some aches and pains the government will give us food stamps and supplemental income. Lawyers started seeing the client potential of Medicaid disability claims and another industry was born.

Competition has flooded the country. Nigerians, Asians, Hispanics &c. are everywhere in America and millions more are coming. They are driving taxis, working farms, building restaurants and standing in line for any job that pays a few dollars. Many Americans seem to be standing back as if trying to believe this really can't be happening. It's happening. This is not the America we grew up watching on black and white television. Everything has changed. We have to change our attitude in this country and we need to do it fast. We must give corporations an incentive to come back to America. We must be willing to work. Corporations will be fair but we have to be fair. We have to get out of the Lyndon Johnson handout dependency mode and start practicing Kennedy's line "... ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Glen Mollette
Newburgh, IN

Glen:

What a stunning display of fantasy, self-loathing, historical misinterpretation, and bigotry. "Please, my corporate overlord, may I have some more porridge?"

And you call yourself a man of the cloth — what a shepherd you are! "Submit, my flock, to the fleecing you are about to receive."

Good Lord, man, pull yourself together!

The Editor

§

Obamacare Hurts People

To the Editor:

Almost daily we find another way that Obamacare hurts people.

Because of Obamacare, millions fewer people will be insured in January 2014 than in January 2013. (About 6 million policies have been cancelled. About 1.1 million Obamacare exchange sign-ups.) Next year it is expected that 80 million existing policies will be cancelled. (And President Obama knew this in 2010.)

Many previously insured people with cancer or other terrible disease struggle to find new doctors and/or treatments. Some face agonizing choices of foregoing treatments or impoverishing their family.

Obamacare exchange users may get nasty surprises. Obamacare insurance has high deductibles and limited access to doctors, hospitals, drugs, etc. Treatments outside one's home area (e.g., while vacationing or at top hospitals like the Mayo Clinic) often aren't covered. Patients may be forced to less effective drugs or pay the full price (not counted towards their deductible). Obamacare will drive more people into bankruptcy than ever before.

Healthcare.gov's slowness and outages are just its obvious problems. Policies for people who think they have signed-up have been erased, altered, or not delivered to insurance companies. People are being incorrectly charged or not charged, meaning they probably aren't insured. There will be many nasty surprises when people need medical care.

Healthcare.gov contains very personal information and is a rich target for identity theft. But its security problems are extensive and may not be fixable. Poorly trained and inadequately vetted Obamacare "Navigators" access people's personal information. Some Navigators encourage people to submit fraudulent applications. Many people will suffer.

Obamacare upended our whole healthcare system and harmed many millions of Americans just

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

to insure a few previously uninsured Americans (5-10 percent of our population). This wasn't necessary.

But Obamacare's real objective is not to insure people; it is to increase the size of government and its control of our lives. Progressives feel that the suffering and early deaths that Obamacare causes is worth it as long as Democrats increase their control of government and people. As George Maloof tells us, "the end justifies the means."

Most Americans know that "the end justifies the means" is immoral and un-American.

It is time that Americans reject big government and its "solutions" like Obamacare. Americans must reject the people, Democrats, who justify hurting people because it helps them achieve their big government utopia where Democrat "Masterminds" determine how people should live, for their own good of course.

Americans need to elect Conservatives if they wish to return our country to the path of freedom, opportunity, and prosperity which will make our nation and the world a better place for ourselves and future generations.

Don Ewing
Meredith, NH

Don:

You must be happy as a pig in ... a pigpen.

Since the Affordable Care Act attempts to improve a ludicrously convoluted and deeply flawed health care delivery system, it's got about a billion facets. You're in the enviable position of being able to grab any number of them at random and respond with, shall we say, creative criticisms. You might consider getting down on your knees and saying, without irony, "Thanks, Obama."

Your attribution of millions of policy cancellations to Obamacare,

rather than the normal policies of treatment-denying, for-profit insurance companies, is a case in point. If you think we're accepting any of your alleged facts as accurate, you must think we haven't noticed the spurious factoids in your earlier letters.

Always good to hear from you, though.

The Editor

§

It's a Staple

To the Editor and Staff:

You guys and ladies are a staple of the march of life in this household.

Thanks for helping to hold the powerful accountable and helping us laugh in the face of the greed and mendacity and folly that seek to stymie progress these days.

By the way, thanks for a great talk by William Marvel [at River-Run Books] on the Civil War last summer.

Hold forth in 2014!

M.T.

Exeter, NH

§

A Letter From Jesus?

To the Editor:

I sometimes hear voices that tell me I'm Jesus. Of course, that doesn't mean I am Jesus. But it doesn't mean I'm insane.

Not everyone who hears voices is insane. Some people hear angels or spirit guides speak to them. Some people truly hear the physically deceased speak to them from the other side. And some people have auditory delusions as a symptom of mental illness, or they hear demons. I, myself, have a history of severe mental illness, yet I also have heard all the aforementioned types of voices at times. These days I struggle mostly with depression, which can be disabling, yet my discernment has grown about my genuinely psychic self. Therefore, it seems possible that the voices which tell me

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And Other Correspondence

I'm Jesus could be telling me the truth.

Of course, the possibility is unlikely. Yet it's still a possibility. I realize how crazy that sounds, especially coming from someone like me. Aside from being blasphemous and offensive ...

"You are an angel," a voice said to me just now, while composing this letter, "and we love you. You are the Truth."

But can someone with a mental illness be an angel, be the Truth? Even if I am an angel, even if I am the Truth, that would neither confirm nor deny that I'm Jesus. For whatever it's worth, I don't see consistent evidence of these things in my life, only inconsistent evidence at best. Just the same, I realize that having my doubts about these matters of spiritual identity neither confirms nor denies any truth hidden in God's mysterious ways.

A truth hidden in plain sight? Perhaps. A truth stranger than fiction? Possibly. An unfolding truth that only the pure in heart can see? Maybe. Belief is what it comes down to, I believe.

Alex J. Boros
Rochester, NH

Alex:

We deny any expertise whatsoever in theology beyond a solid understanding that "even the Devil can quote scripture," but we do concur with your final statement.

The Editor

§

The Loud Minority

To the Editor:

President Richard Nixon spoke of a "silent majority" in his 1969 speech to gather support for escalating the Vietnam War. Nixon claimed this "silent majority" to be an unspecified large majority of Americans who approved of U.S. involvement in Vietnam despite their never having expressed their

opinions publically about the war. Meanwhile, there was a "loud minority" which was extremely vocal in its protest of the war. History quickly proved Nixon's assumption to be incorrect as the "loud minority" was extremely indicative of the "silent majority."

The dynamics have changed as America now has a very "loud minority," that is in denial over being completely out of step with the "silent majority." Evidence of this claim can be found in the results of the last several years of elections (all levels) held in New Hampshire Seacoast municipalities.

Our local daily newspaper and other area papers frequently play host to the opinion pieces and letters of this vocal group. I applaud these individuals for taking full advantage of their 1st Amendment Rights. After all, I truly believe that our freedom to do so is one of the great benefits of being an American! However, I often find myself questioning, particularly over the last five years or so, why the "loud minority" wastes so much of its energy parroting irrelevant talking points, disseminated by the right wing media to discredit, divide and distract? Quite reflective of the major political party they support, these individuals seldom offer any original thoughts or ideas that are intended to solve problems, promote democracy or strive for that elusive more perfect union.

For the "loud minority" to stand a chance at persuading the "silent majority," I would advise giving up on trying to "take back America" or making President Obama a two-term-president. Furthermore, instead of the standard, nauseating laundry list of divisive talking points about Benghazi, "Fast and Furious," Solyndra, IRS Investigations, NSA spying, repealing

Obamacare, "Obama's Socialist agenda," or "Iran's nukes," I'd recommend, for starters, concentrating more on ideas and solutions for achieving national energy independence, real healthcare reform for all Americans and an end to income inequality.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, NH

Wayne:

Your letter makes us think you may have read Rick Perlstein's magnificent Nixonland. If you haven't, you might want to. The man more or less created the political landscape we live in today.

The Editor

§

Divided Gov't Doesn't Work

To the Editor:

There was a time when the conventional wisdom was that divided government was a good thing. A president of one party needed to be balanced by a legislature of the opposite party. But times have changed and the idea of balance has been replaced by the desire for destruction.

Divided government worked when there were moderates in the legislature, compromise was not a dirty word and a willingness to cooperate did not get you a Right Wing primary challenge. Certain government traditions were also non-partisan: the farm and transportation bills, public safety initiatives, NASA funding. Is there anything left that can gain consensus?

The political environment has changed so severely that what worked before does not work anymore. The stated goal of Republicans to obstruct, destroy and delegitimize government is financially inefficient and operationally ineffective, but politically successful.

Replacing a shared effort to make government work for everyone's benefit with a strategy to throw a monkey wrench into the gears is a perverse idea, even more

vicious when the villains claim, "we told you government doesn't work."

The idea that a divided government acts as a governor on the plans of the President has been replaced with the reality of a seized engine. America deserves better. Throw out the Republican saboteurs in 2014.

Dave Potter
North Hampton, NH

Dave:

You know you're not in Kansas anymore when the core message of those who claim to be "more patriotic than thou" is that the government — elected according to the Constitution written by the ever-revered Founding Fathers — is the enemy. We're still looking for some distinction between that view, and treason.

The Editor

§

A Happy Re-Upper

To Ye Olde Editor:

Enclosed, please find a check for \$35

\$25 of it is for the renewal fee to ensure the continued fortnightly arrival of your fine publication in my mailbox.

\$10 is to assist with other sundries and supplies you need to assure the proper motivation of the staff who make it possible, particularly the expert Origami Brigade who meet the Post Office's stringent requirements.

Happy Holidays.
J.H.
Greenland, NH

J:

Always a pleasure to hear from someone who appreciates the fine work of our Origami Brigade.

Ye Olde Editor

§

Honor the Hero

To the Editor:

Although enforcement of his decision is pending appeal, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Leon's order that the NSA stop collecting "bulk telephony data" on Americans' phone calls indicates



that we can be a nation ruled by law, rather than by personal dictates, as is North Korea. There, a man-child can have anyone executed, and all are afraid to protest. Here, citizens can take their grievance that a government spy agency violated our privacy rights to court, and justice can prevail.

Amassing information about everyone's communication, all the time, through telephone, internet, and email creates a vast potential for corruption, intimidation and general mischief from even the most stalwart of government stewards. If you need an example, consider three words: J. Edgar Hoover. He collected files on everyone in Washington, and nearly everyone was afraid of what he could reveal. NSA's files are ever so much larger, and its ability to mine databases, more powerful. Responsible oversight has failed; the FISA court does not protect us.

How were challengers, Larry Klayman and Charles Strange, able to verify NSA's abuses? Until recently, all claims of uncontrolled spying were denied. But one brave whistleblower, Edward Snowden, revealed NSA malpractice. And how has Mr. Snowden been thanked for his courage? Our government indicted him for treason when he should be honored as a national hero. Without courageous individuals, our nation of

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Northcountry Chronicle

Suspect Thy Neighbor

by William Marvel

The scent of the McCarthy era still hung heavy in the air around 1960, as my class approached the end of its grammar-school experience at Pine Tree Elementary. The school had only three teachers, each of whom taught two grades, so I can't remember whether it was during the fifth or sixth grade that we came under the tutelage of one who regularly enlightened us about the evils of communism. From the comfort of home she had somehow accumulated a wealth of knowledge about life under the hammer and sickle. I particularly remember her reminder that, if we children lived in the Soviet bloc, we would be expected to report regularly to the police on the activities and conversations of our friends, neighbors, and family. Whether her description bore any relation to reality or not, I credit her with germinating my aversion to the universal snooping of such a tattletale society.

That nevertheless seems to be precisely the society we have created over the past dozen years, and we congratulate ourselves on having developed it. Ever suspicious to the mortal dangers of the differences between people, a majority seemingly agrees that safety and security trump liberty and tolerance. Electronic signs loom over the highways into Baltimore and Washington, offering tip hotlines for would-be agents to call in anything they deem suspicious — no matter how minor, or how stupid. Metro loudspeakers blare similar messages to all the Winston Smiths shuffling in to work, maintaining a perpetual atmosphere of latent hysteria.

The same obsession with security quickly spread through the heartland. International terrorism initiated it, working its magic admirably in a population that insisted it would not be cowed — but was. Paranoia abetted its introduction into the realm of local law enforcement. No intrusion

seems excessive any longer when imposed by police in pursuit of a criminal investigation (or even a non-criminal one), and few dare question official procedure, however pointless it may seem. Those who are not with the authorities must, of course, be against them.

The prevalence of that attitude, complicated by sympathy for the family, has probably discouraged most critical comment on the official handling of the Abigail Hernandez disappearance. Anyone who has raised a daughter should be able to fathom the special chill that accompanies news of a missing girl, and appreciate extra efforts in the search for her, but the conduct of this case seems extraordinary by any standard. I would surely welcome all the attention were my daughter the subject of the search, but I'm still surprised by it, considering how many thousands of children are missing nationwide.

However much the family may defend the investigation, I am also perplexed and troubled by the in-

formation, instructions, and advice coming from law enforcement sources. Jane Young, of the attorney general's office, shows signs of teasing the press and public, saving little tidbits of information for high-profile press conferences that appear designed to showcase her own and other law enforcement departments. She withholds most information on the grounds that it might compromise the investigation, which sounds about as persuasive as the national-security excuse commonly regurgitated by presidential press secretaries. It is backhandedly suggested that the girl might be in the hands of some hard-core criminals, but in that case the intense publicity Young continually encourages would seem to jeopardize the victim's safety rather than secure it. In light of that contradiction, one pauses to wonder what the motive for the publicity really is.

Nearly three years ago, Jane Young headed the investigation into Krista Dittmeyer's disappearance. She must have felt

rather foolish holding one glittering press conference after another in the parking lot of Mt. Cranmore, only to discover finally that the body was lying in a shallow pond the whole time, not far from where she stood. Perhaps this more spectacular investigation was not intended to bury that embarrassing recollection, but the AG's office often shows great political sensitivity: occupants regularly use it as a springboard to gubernatorial, congressional, and senatorial election.

Investigators wish to mobilize the public in the search, apparently even if it means pitting people against each other. A couple of weeks ago a law enforcement spokesman advised individual citizens what they should do to help in this case, specifically encouraging everyone to watch their neighbors for suspicious activity. In other words, citizens were expected spy on each other. We should be used to it by now, I suppose — and of course it makes us so much safer.

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

law could fall victim to man-child dictators.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA

§

Open Letter to Dave Camp

To the Editor:

This is an open Letter to Rep. Dave Camp [R-MI], Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Dear Chairman:

Income Tax Code regulations have ballooned in excess of 75,000 pages. The IRS has selectively persecuted groups which the administration deems to be political

foes. Everyone knows the Income Tax is broken beyond repair.

During the recent Clean Slate Tour, you said the object of your committee was to begin with a blank page to fix revenue collection. But what we hear out of the Committee does not truly start with a blank page. The FairTax on the other hand, is the only proposal before Congress which truly does away with the Income Tax Code.

The homework on true tax reform has already been done. A group of Texas businessmen decided at lunch one day back in the

mid-nineties to fund an open-ended study of what the best federal tax system might look like. Contracts were let to some of the best economic minds in the land to answer that question. It bears reiteration — no specific preconditions were imposed except for some very general parameters such as growth, fairness, and simplicity. The result was the FairTax, HR25.

In a time when the approval rate of Congress hovers in single digits, Americans understand that their interest is taking a back seat to special interests. That point

seems to me as unarguable as the need to do away with the Income Tax. You have one chance to fix the tax problem, why settle for second best?

David Boone
Houston, MN

David:

According to a statement from Rep. Camp in November, you can thank the Tea Party for derailing his work on ground-up tax reform.

That FairTax proposal you like so much is just a gimmick designed to shield fat cats from taxes by making our system even more regressive.

The Editor

Aw, Shucks ...

To the Editor:

Another end of year and the most important subscription renewal I can think of. And, of course, a little extra to help out. Thanks again for all the great journalism. The happiest of holidays to you and yours

D.M.

Williamsburg, VA

D:

We found what you called "a little extra" to be most generous; thank you very much. And thanks as well for the kind word.

The Editor

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Merry Christmas, Right-Wingers, The Red Pope, And Jesus

by Jim Hightower

Here's a twist on Christmas that would make Jesus weep.

First, a right-wing faction in the US has been wringing its hands over a hokey cultural "crisis" cooked up by the faction itself, namely that liberals, atheists, humanists, and — God Forbid — Marxists are waging a "War on Christmas." The infidels are not

accused of lobbing bombs in this war, but Words of Mass Destruction. Specifically, the right-wing purists wail that unholy lefties are perverting the season by saying "Happy Holidays," instead of "Merry Christmas."

Second, some ultra conservative members of this same faction have launched their own war — against Jesus! How twisted is this? They say no one should mess with the word "Christmas," yet they're

messing with the guy Christmas is supposed to be about.

Okay, technically they're not going directly at Jesus, but at a key part of his message — and, in particular, at a key messenger of Christianity: Pope Francis! They've decided that the Pope is a "Marxist," pointing out that Francis speaks often about "the structural causes of poverty," the "idolatry of money," and the "new tyranny" of unfettered capitalism.

Obviously, say the Pontiff's pious critics, that's commie talk.

The clincher for them was when Francis wrote an official Papal document in which he asked in outrage: "How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points?" See, cried the carpers, that's proof that Francis is the Red Pope!

But wait — that was a very

good question he asked, one ripe with the moral wrath that Jesus himself frequently showed toward the callous rich and their "love of money." Indeed, the Pope's words ring with the deep ethics you find in Jesus' sermon on the Mount. Was he a commie, too?

Could it be that the carpers are the ones lacking in real Christmas spirit?

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Seacoast Anti-Pollution League Comments on the NRC's Plan for Seabrook's Nuke Waste

To the Editor:

It might interest your readers to see what SAPL just submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC], commenting on their court-ordered "Waste Confidence Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement" on highly radioactive spent fuel management.

While the public comment period ended December 20th, the appeals court that threw out the the NRC's previous rule will likely find their current efforts inadequate (and perhaps pathetic, given the seriousness of the issue at hand).

So this issue will likely be tied up in court for additional years, all to the benefit of helping to derail the premature and irresponsible re-licensing of Seabrook for another 20 years till 2050.

Doug Bogen
Comment on NRC Draft Waste Confidence Generic Environmental Impact Statement

On behalf of the Seacoast Anti-Pollution League (SAPL) and its 200 members living within 20 miles of the Seabrook nuclear plant and its waste storage sites, I would like to submit the following comments on your draft

Waste Confidence GEIS.

When our organization was formed over 44 years ago, in response to plans to construct a nuclear plant on the New Hampshire Seacoast, we were told confidently that the nuclear industry could handle this waste and that the government would come up with a permanent solution to isolate it for tens of thousands of years. The NRC's "waste confidence" principle was properly struck down by a federal court because, some 60 years into the commercial atomic age, it is patently obvious that there is no foreseeable "solution" for long-term radioactive waste storage that is scientifically defensible, environmentally responsible and publicly acceptable.

Not only is there no long-term solution for nuclear waste in hand or on the horizon, the shorter-term programs now in place are inadequate from a public safety standpoint, and do not offer the requisite confidence to allow continued generation of radioactive waste. Nothing in the NRC's Draft NUREG-2157 changes these realities.

It is apparent that rather than undertake a thoughtful re-examination of the NRC's radioac-

tive waste policies and priorities — which admittedly might have taken considerable time and effort — the NRC chose to hurriedly slap together a document whose only purpose is to provide a thin veneer of a cover to overturn the agency's court-forced moratorium on reactor licensing and renewal procedures.

The NRC is surely the only regulatory body in the world that would argue that indefinite — essentially permanent — storage of high-level radioactive waste in fuel pools and dry casks provides equal "confidence" that this waste will never cause a threat to public health and safety. By their very nature, neither casks nor fuel pools are designed for permanent storage. The catastrophic events two years ago and ongoing in Fukushima, Japan should make it obvious to even the casual observer that storage in fuel pools in particular is significantly more dangerous, especially when most of those wastes can be safely put in dry casks.

Rather than insist on a robust waste management system intentionally designed to handle conceivable accidents whether through equipment failure, natu-

ral disasters, operator error or any other cause that could release radioactive materials to the environment, the NRC's draft document ultimately relies on the low probability of an accident to justify its position that reactor licensing and relicensing may resume. Low probability is not a substitute for protection, as the world already has learned from Fukushima to Chernobyl to Bhopal and Three Mile Island.

Ending radioactive waste generation is the single most important step we can take to minimize the risks surrounding its storage, and the NRC should revise its Waste "Confidence" document to ensure the speediest possible end to that generation. In the interim, NRC must mandate the immediate movement of waste that has been sufficiently cooled out of the pools to dry storage containers, and those should be hardened on-site (HOSS) to improve safety and security.

The approximately 600 tons of highly radioactive spent fuel generated at our local nuclear plant, most of which is still underwater, is expected to end up in casks behind a simple chain-link fence in a former parking lot, across from

the plant's visitors center and no more than 100 yards from the shoreline. With sea level rising and our coastline being increasingly eroded away, this existing arrangement appears woefully inadequate to secure these deadly wastes many decades into the future. Your GEIS and rulemaking should at the very least acknowledge and address these sort of shortcomings in existing waste management.

Millions of people in this country living within close proximity to these radioactive wastes are depending on you to ensure that they are 100 percent safely and securely stored for the indefinite future. That is certainly a daunting task, but it is made all the more uncertain by the false and poorly defended assurances contained in your draft GEIS.

Doug Bogen
Executive Director, Seacoast Anti-Pollution League
Exeter, NH

Doug:
But ... but ... didn't the Department of Energy say 27 years ago they'd bury all that stuff in the Cardigan Pluton, about 60 miles west of here ... ?

The Editor

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote
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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

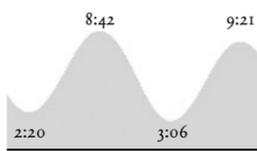
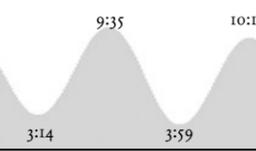
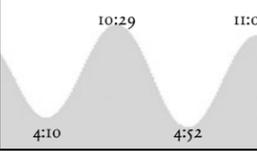
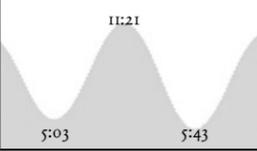
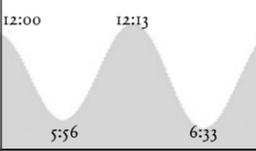
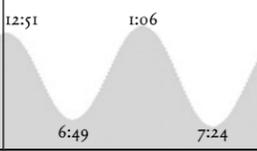
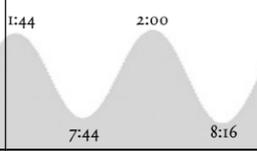
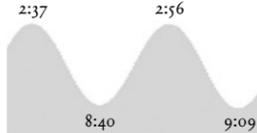
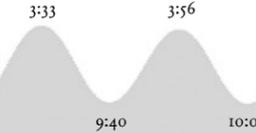
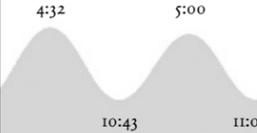
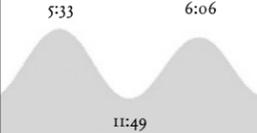
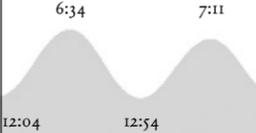
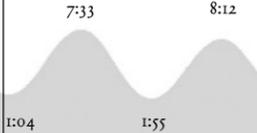
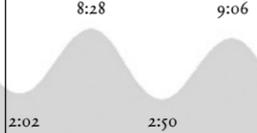
moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

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, December 30	Monday, December 31	Tuesday, January 1	Wednesday, January 2	Thursday, January 3	Friday, January 4	Saturday, January 5
<p>2006—Saddam Hussein's inelegant demise is captured by cellphone.</p> <p>2003—Bulldog U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald is appointed to investigate the Valerie Plame leak.</p> <p>1995—In Brookline, MA, John Salvi lives out his "pro-life" creed by killing two health care workers.</p> <p>1978—The House Select Committee on Assassinations concludes that conspirators "probably" helped kill JFK and MLK.</p> <p>1971—Dan Ellsberg is indicted for releasing the Pentagon Papers.</p> <p>1970—Paul McCartney sues the other three Beatles.</p> <p>1952—The Tuskegee Institute reports the end of the first lynching-free year since 1881.</p> <p>1936—The GM sit-down strike spreads from Cleveland to Flint.</p> <p>1935—Italian bombers, two piloted by sons of Il Duce, drop mustard gas on a Red Cross unit in Ethiopia.</p> <p>1924—Edwin Hubble announces that there are other galaxies.</p> <p>1922—The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is established.</p> <p>1912—Lee Humiston, riding an Excelsior, becomes the first man to achieve 100 mph on a motorcycle.</p> <p>1905—Idaho's former Governor Frank Steunenberg is assassinated with a bomb.</p> <p>1903—At 3:15 p.m. an electric light starts a fire in Chicago's new, "fireproof" Iroquois Theater. By 3:30, 600 people are dead.</p>	<p>1997—Quaker Oats pays \$1.8 million to settle a lawsuit sparked by their secret feeding of radioactive oatmeal to retarded kids.</p> <p>1995—Bill and Monica enjoy their third tryst in a White House study.</p> <p>1990—Football coach George Allen dies of ventricular fibrillation, possibly caused six weeks earlier when his players dumped cold Gatorade on his head.</p> <p>1970—Congress repeals the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.</p> <p>1970—Associated Milk Producers, Inc. gets lower milk import quotas in exchange for a promised \$2 million bribe to the Nixon reelection campaign.</p> <p>1969—Brothers Dwight and Karl Armstrong steal a twin-engine Cessna in a failed attempt to bomb the Badger Army ammunition plant in Wisconsin.</p> <p>1929—"I see nothing in the present situation that is either menacing or warrants pessimism," says Treasury Secretary Andrew W. Mellon.</p> <p>1904—At midnight in Times Square, the first ball drops to mark the New Year.</p> <p>1901—End of the worst year for lynching in the 20th century; score: 105 blacks, 25 whites.</p> <p>1879—Edison demonstrates the electric light bulb.</p> <p>1761—Lydia (Hall) Fowle, wife of Daniel Fowle, dies in Portsmouth, aged 36.</p>	<p>2006—Speaking to amputee veterans of his Iraq War, George W. Bush says "I have an injury myself [from] combat with a cedar. I eventually won. The cedar gave me a little scratch."</p> <p>1996—An undertaker in the mortuary of the Hinchingsbroke Hospital in Cambridgeshire, England is surprised to hear Daphne Banks snoring—ten hours after she had been declared dead.</p> <p>1984—Ma Bell is broken up into 22 smaller units. It seemed like a good idea at the time.</p> <p>1975—Nixon cronies H.R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman, John N. Mitchell and Robert C. Mardian are convicted in the Watergate cover-up trial.</p> <p>1971—From a makeshift broadcast studio in a Saigon brothel, Dave Rabbit's pirate station Radio First Termer goes on the air.</p> <p>1959—Batista flees, and Fidel Castro takes over in Cuba.</p> <p>1863—Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves—in the states of the Confederacy.</p> <p>1781—Mutinous Pennsylvania troops at Morristown, NJ, seeking back pay, seize artillery, and march off to confront Congress.</p> <p>1300—Pope Boniface VIII's Jubilee is such a popular success that dozens must be executed to bring the mob under control.</p>	<p>2008—For the first time, the price of oil hits \$100 a barrel.</p> <p>1996—At Bill Clinton's invitation, Monica Lewinski drops by the Oval Office. They violate his marriage vows in the bathroom.</p> <p>1970—The Supreme Court nixes Gen. Hershey's effort to reclassify draft protesters 1-A.</p> <p>1967—In Florida, 72 men are arrested, thwarting an invasion of Haiti which had been financed by CBS in exchange for exclusive rights to film the landing.</p> <p>1946—King Zog of Albania, the only head of state to have fired back at a would-be assassin, abdicates.</p> <p>1923—Interior Sec. Albert Fall resigns as evidence of his corruption mounts. President Harding offers him a spot on the Supreme Court.</p> <p>1920—U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer has thousands of alleged subversives arrested.</p> <p>1905—The Russian fleet surrenders to Japan at Port Arthur.</p> <p>1905—The International Workers of the World, a.k.a. IWW or Wobblies, "organize" in Chicago.</p> <p>1904—Birth of Sally Rand, fan dancer <i>extraordinaire</i>.</p> <p>1882—The Standard Oil Co. is re-organized as a trust, allowing John D. Rockefeller to keep control of 90 percent of the nation's oil supply despite laws to the contrary.</p> <p>1872—Brigham Young is arrested for having 24 wives too many.</p>	<p>2006—Hotshot Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleads guilty to 3 felony counts for defrauding Indian tribes and bribing officials.</p> <p>1990—Manuel "The Pineapple" Noriega, formerly the Panamanian Strongman™, surrenders to the forces of <i>El Jefe</i>, George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush.</p> <p>1967—Jack Ruby dies in prison while awaiting retrial.</p> <p>1966—Announcing his candidacy for the Governorship of California, Ronald Reagan erroneously asserts unemployment there is 40% higher than the national average.</p> <p>1961—In Idaho, three military technicians are killed in a steam explosion of a nuclear reactor.</p> <p>1955—The U.S. government announces that over 3,000 federal employees have been sacked to quell Joe McCarthy's fears.</p> <p>1943—Ball turret gunner Alan Magee escapes from a doomed B-17 without a parachute, falls 22,000 feet, and crashes through the roof of a St. Nazaire railroad station. He lives to be 84.</p> <p>1924—Grave robber/archaeologist Howard Carter gloms onto Tutankhamen's gold coffin.</p> <p>1892—J.R.R. Tolkien is born in Orange Free State, Africa.</p> <p>1891—L. Frank Baum, writing in the Aberdeen (SD) <i>Saturday Pioneer</i>, calls for the "total extermination" of Native Americans.</p>	<p>2008—Five Iranian small boats approach three Navy warships in the Gulf of Hormuz. The Navy mistakes a crazed ham radio operator's "You will explode" for a real threat.</p> <p>1987—Tom Stevens becomes the 1st man to bike round the world.</p> <p>1971—In Vietnam, soldier George Mellendorf mails a letter to the White House complaining of slow mail delivery. It arrives in 1978.</p> <p>1965—The Free Speech Movement holds its first legal rally.</p> <p>1965—The Sam Rayburn Office Building in D.C. is completed; the cost overrun is somewhat more than four thousand percent.</p> <p>1960—An automobile provides an answer of sorts to Albert Camus's big question.</p> <p>1958—Sputnik burns up on re-entry.</p> <p>1955—U.S. agrees to pay Japan for nuking the Marshall Islands.</p> <p>1945—An anti-draft revolt begins in Raguse, Italy.</p> <p>1933—Farmers in Primghar, IA, throw a rope around a banker's neck and threaten to lynch him unless he promises to end foreclosures.</p> <p>1903—Looking to fraudulently undercut his competitor Westinghouse, Thomas Edison films the public electrocution of Topsy the elephant at Coney Island.</p> <p>41 BC—The Roman Emperor Caligula is murdered by his own troops, angry over unpaid wages.</p>	<p>1996—Tenor Richard Versalle, as Vitek in Janáček's <i>The Makropulos Case</i>, delivers the line "you can only live so long," suffers a heart attack, falls to the stage, and dies.</p> <p>1987—President Reagan produces the first trillion dollar budget. It includes a \$107 billion deficit.</p> <p>1970—Mine Workers Union presidential candidate Joe Yablonski is killed on orders of incumbent president "Tough" Tony Boyle.</p> <p>1968—Dr. Spock is indicted for expressing concern about the health of his former patients now in uniform.</p> <p>1942—Mutual Broadcasting's John B. Hughes begins an anti-Japanese-American radio campaign that results in the establishment of U.S. concentration camps.</p> <p>1937—The Abraham Lincoln Brigade is formed to fight fascism—"prematurely," some say.</p> <p>1914—Henry Ford establishes the 8 hour day and \$5/day pay.</p> <p>1895—Stepping onstage in response to cries of "Author, author," after the first performance of his play <i>Guy Rovernille</i>, Henry James finds himself jeered off.</p> <p>1825—Young Alexander Dumas, <i>père</i>, fights his first duel during which his pants fall down.</p> <p>1781—Former American General Benedict Arnold assists the British in the burning and plundering of Richmond, VA.</p>
 <p>2:20 8:42 9:21 3:06</p>	 <p>3:14 9:35 10:16 3:59</p>	 <p>4:10 10:29 11:08 4:52</p>	 <p>5:03 11:21 5:43</p>	 <p>5:56 12:00 12:13 6:33</p>	 <p>6:49 12:51 1:06 7:24</p>	 <p>7:44 1:44 2:00 8:16</p>
Sunday, January 6	Monday, January 7	Tuesday, January 8	Wednesday, January 9	Thursday, January 10	Friday, January 11	Saturday, January 12
<p>2006—George Bush signs a DoD appropriations bill including \$20 million for a celebration of "success" in Iraq and Afghanistan.</p> <p>1986—One dies, 100 are injured in an accident at Kerr-McGee's nuclear fuel plant in Oklahoma.</p> <p>1970—The Supreme Court upholds the suppression of an anti-war underground newspaper at Fort Bragg, NC.</p> <p>1946—Thousands of active-duty GIs in the Philippines attempt to storm Headquarters in protest of slow re-deployment back to the U.S.</p> <p>1944—RIP Ida Tarbell, muckraker, in Bridgeport, CT.</p> <p>1927—Freelance executioner R. Elliot electrocutes three convicts in Charlestown, MA, then three more in Sing Sing, NY.</p> <p>1927—U.S. Marines invade Nicaragua. Again.</p> <p>1920—Birth of future Man-O-God Rev. Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p>1919—Appointed Britain's Foreign Secretary, George Curzon complains bitterly that the supplied inkpots are made of glass and brass rather than crystal and silver.</p> <p>1895—Former Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii is arrested following a failed coup against the government of Sanford Dole.</p> <p>1864—U.S. Army captures 11,000 Navajos, later force-marching them to Ft. Sumner, killing thousands.</p>	<p>1999—Congress begins the impeachment trial of Bill Clinton for threatening the Constitution with a cigar.</p> <p>1998—<i>The Washington Post</i> reports that George H.[H.]W. Bush's repeated denials notwithstanding, the Veep was in fact present at meetings about arms sales to Iran.</p> <p>1980—San Francisco honors the 100th anniversary of the death of Emperor Norton I with a party.</p> <p>1970—Woodstock, NY farmer Max Yasgur is sued by his neighbors for damages resulting from his entertaining over 500,000 guests.</p> <p>1969—<i>Look</i> magazine calls Jimi Hendrix a "menace to public health."</p> <p>1943—Nicola Tesla dies in obscurity in New York City.</p> <p>1929—The comic strip "Buck Rogers" makes its debut.</p> <p>1927—The Harlem Globetrotters play their first game.</p> <p>1920—Five socialists are expelled from the New York Assembly.</p> <p>1903—Birth of Zora Neale Hurston, famous black female writer during Harlem Renaissance, maid in the 1950s.</p> <p>1806—Cherokees in Tennessee and Alabama cede 7,000 square miles of land to whites, in return for which they are not killed.</p> <p>1400—For plotting to kill King Henry IV of England, the Duke of Surry is relieved of his head.</p>	<p>2008—Hillary Clinton wins the New Hampshire primary.</p> <p>2007—The sub <i>U.S.S. Newport News</i> collides with an oil tanker in the straits of Hormuz.</p> <p>2003—"The war on terror involves Saddam Hussein," explains George W. Bush, "because of the nature of Saddam Hussein, the history of Saddam Hussein, and his willingness to terrorize himself."</p> <p>1992—At a formal dinner in Japan, Bush #41 turns his head to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and vomits in his lap.</p> <p>1982—The Reagan White House announces a new policy: granting tax-exempt status to racially-segregated colleges. (It lasts 4 days.)</p> <p>1973—The Watergate Burglar trial begins.</p> <p>1966—In the largest single operation of the Vietnam War, 8,000 U.S. troops seek VC HQ in the Ho Bo Woods. They don't find it.</p> <p>1965—Sen. Everett Dirksen proposes adoption of the marigold as America's national flower.</p> <p>1958—An accident at Chelyabinsk plutonium plant in U.S.S.R. kills hundreds.</p> <p>1956—Hoarooni Indians in the Ecuadorian rainforest register their annoyance with missionaries by spearing five to death.</p> <p>1946—Over 10,000 GIs in Saipan, Guam, and France protest slow re-deployment back to the U.S.</p>	<p>2002—Future Attorney General Alberto Gonzales writes that parts of the Geneva Conventions are "obsolete" and "quaint."</p> <p>1998—Signs of progress in Vietnam: 116,858 South Vietnamese troops deserted this year, up from 113,000 last year. North Vietnamese desertions numbered 20,242.</p> <p>1964—Panama suspends relations with U.S. after U.S. troops kill 21 anti-American protesters.</p> <p>1956—"Dear Abby" begins dispensing advice in newspapers.</p> <p>1952—In Phenix City, AL, anti-vice crusader Hugh Bently's house is destroyed by a bomb.</p> <p>1939—In Missouri, 1,700 tenant farmers and their families stage a sit-down strike in the middle of Highway 60.</p> <p>1913—Richard Milhous Nixon is born in Yorba Linda, CA.</p> <p>1805—Ohio passes "Black laws" prohibiting blacks from giving testimony in court.</p> <p>1793—In Philadelphia, President Washington observes the first hot-air balloon ascension in the U.S.</p> <p>1776—In Philadelphia, <i>Common Sense</i> is published, by Thomas Paine, who eschews all royalties.</p> <p>1766—In Portsmouth, NH, stamp master George Meserve is forced to surrender his commission by "a grand mob," which then raises the first "No Stamp" flag in the colonies.</p>	<p>2006—"You took an oath to defend our flag and our freedom," George W. Bush tells members of the VFW, "and you kept that oath underseas and under fire."</p> <p>2002—George W. Bush denies that he has ever met Ken Lay, his largest campaign donor.</p> <p>1984—Crewmen at Warren AFB, near Cheyenne, WY, responding to a false alarm about an accidental missile launch, park an armored car atop the silo.</p> <p>1967—Lester Maddox, high school dropout turned <i>restauranteur</i> who gave pick-ax handles to customers to prevent integration, becomes Governor of Georgia.</p> <p>1957—Four black churches and homes of two black leaders in Birmingham, AL are bombed.</p> <p>1946—"I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its stupidity," traitorous U.S. Army Chef of Staff Dwight D. Eisenhower reveals in Ottawa, CA.</p> <p>1920—Victor Berger (Socialist-WI) is refused a seat in Congress for opposing WW I.</p> <p>1914—The double murder for which Joe Hill will be hanged is committed in Salt Lake City.</p> <p>1880—The funeral of Emperor Norton I draws 20,000.</p> <p>1855—The last 88 Clackamas Indians sign away the best timberland in Oregon for \$500 and some food.</p>	<p>2008—"There will be a signed peace treaty [between Israel and the Palestinians] by the time I leave office," says George W. Bush.</p> <p>2003—"You can count on this," Donald Rumsfeld tells Saudi Prince Bandar, showing him plans for the Iraq War. "This is going to happen."</p> <p>2002—Joe Foss, 86-year old ex-Governor of South Dakota, is held up for 45 minutes at a Phoenix airport because security personnel think his Medal of Honor might be a weapon.</p> <p>2000—"Rarely is the question asked," says George W. Bush, "is our children learning?"</p> <p>1974—Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Thomas Moorer is reported to have placed spies in the executive branch to obtain secret information on U.S. diplomatic initiatives.</p> <p>1968—London's <i>Daily Mirror</i> reports that Jimi Hendrix has moved into George F. Handel's old digs.</p> <p>1918—Edward Aloysius Murphy Jr., creator of "Murphy's Law," is born.</p> <p>1912—In Lawrence, MA 32,000 women and children strike for bread ... and roses.</p> <p>1908—For refusing to obey the law and register as an Asian, Mohandas Gandhi is jailed in South Africa.</p> <p>1906—Birth of Albert Hofmann, discoverer of LSD.</p>	<p>1991—Congress authorizes the first Bush vs. Hussein War.</p> <p>1984—R. Reagan's Deputy Sec. of Defense W. Paul Thayer resigns after being charged with insider trading. He ends up in the can.</p> <p>1971—Rev. Philip Berrigan is indicted for conspiring to kidnap R. Nixon and bomb federal buildings.</p> <p>1967—Dr. James H. Bedford becomes the first human frozen in hopes of later re-animation.</p> <p>1954—John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State and brother to C.I.A. chief Allen Dulles, announces that the containment of Communism is over and the threat of massive retaliation is here.</p> <p>1951—Wheelchair-bound Albert Guay, convicted of bombing an airliner, rolls to Canadian gallows.</p> <p>1932—Ms. Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-AK) becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.</p> <p>1928—Ruth Snyder becomes the first woman to be photographed dying in the electric chair.</p> <p>1864—Kit Carson and his fellow heroes kill 11 Navajos in Canyon de Chelly, Arizona Territory.</p> <p>1833—A new law makes it illegal for any Indian to remain within the bounds of the state of Florida.</p> <p>1641—In James City, VA, a law is passed providing that, if any Indian commits a crime, the first Indian caught must pay the penalty—with his life, if necessary.</p>
 <p>2:37 8:40 2:56 9:09</p>	 <p>3:33 9:40 3:56 10:05</p>	 <p>4:32 10:43 5:00 11:03</p>	 <p>5:33 11:49 6:06</p>	 <p>6:34 12:04 7:11 12:54</p>	 <p>7:33 1:04 8:12 1:55</p>	 <p>8:28 2:02 9:06 2:50</p>



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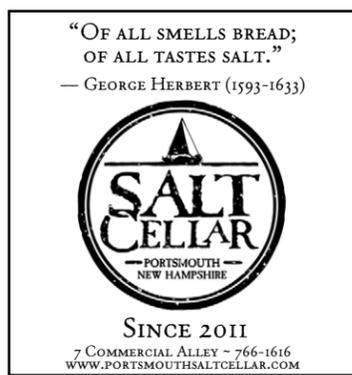
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