

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### What Ever Happened to Progress?

On Monday, in thousands of locations all across the nation, people gathered to remember and honor the life and the works of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. — his early life and works, anyway.

It is no great challenge these days to applaud the end of legally-sanctioned racial discrimination. The further into the past that odious practice recedes, the more difficult it becomes to comprehend its enormity.

King's later goals, still unrealized and still challenging, are all too often overlooked.

In 1952, when King preached here as a visiting, unknown divinity student at the People's Baptist Church, Jim Crow laws were in effect all across the South dictating where people could sit, stand, and eat based on the color of their skin.

Eleven years later King stood before a quarter of a million people assembled in the nation's capitol, calling for freedom to ring — even from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.

That March on Washington created the conditions that allowed the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 — two lethal blows for the South's Jim Crow laws.

#### Turning Point

In the spring of 1967, though racial prejudice was still endemic and King was still working to attain racial equality, he had broadened the scope of his efforts.

Those who had been freed from Jim Crow laws — as well as the disadvantaged whites to whom they had not been applied — were being oppressed by the Vietnam War, which had derailed

President Johnson's campaign against poverty.

In a speech titled "Beyond Vietnam," King called for an end to the bombing of North Vietnam, a unilateral cease-fire, recognition of the National Liberation Front, and announcement of a date by which all American troops would be out of Vietnam.

Once we got beyond Vietnam, he said, we could achieve a "true revolution of values" which would "cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand, we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."

That speech and his broader campaign for economic justice challenged not just the nation's political leaders and power brokers, but even King's own allies within the civil rights movement. They feared a broader struggle would jeopardize progress in racial equality.

Understanding, though, that economic injustice was an equal-opportunity oppressor, King forged ahead. He spent the early months of 1968 assembling a multiracial army of the poor to march on Washington and demand a new economic bill of rights.

Compiled after King's assassination by the Poor Peoples' Campaign, those demands included a



meaningful job at a living wage, a secure and adequate income for all those unable to find or do a job, access to land for economic uses, access to capital for poor people and minorities to promote their own businesses, and the ability for ordinary people to "play a truly significant role" in the government.

#### Not a Memory But a Model

That later dream of Doctor King's, vintage 1968, was alive and well on Monday in Portsmouth.

Former *New York Times* reporter Hedrick Smith, author of *Who Stole the American Dream?*, spoke at what is now the Pearl, the spot where King preached in 1952. Before a packed audience he recalled meeting King for the first time, not as the icon we remem-

ber today, but as a young activist — an agitator — sitting on the ground, a practical and demanding as well as inspiring leader, who today should be a model, not just a memory.

#### Going Backwards Since 1978

Smith spoke mostly about lost ground. In the context of today, the Poor Peoples' demands offer stark proof that in terms of economic justice the nation has been backsliding for years.

Meaningful jobs at a living wage? Harder to find now than in 1968. Secure and adequate income for those unable to work? Dream on, Socialist. Capital for poor people and minorities? Try calling Goldman Sachs. Ordinary people playing a significant role in the government? Sure, provid-

ed they make a five- or six-figure campaign donation.

Smith pegged the turning point as what he called the Bosses Revolt of 1978, when business leaders successfully lobbied a Democratic President and Congress to grant them a wish list of tax cuts and deregulation. It's been downhill ever since.

#### Must Be Some Way Out of Here

"If you say government doesn't work, you're wrong," Smith said. "Government is working for the people who are paying to make it to work for them."

Despite that grim diagnosis, Smith, like King, was not without hope. His advice: do as King did in the 60s, and the Bosses in 1978: organize and agitate.

It works.

## The Alleged News

### Your Congress At Twerk, Part D'uh

In a radical departure from recent practice, Congress recently a) showed up for work and, b) for the first time since a black man was inaugurated President, actually passed an omnibus budget bill.

Both parties made concessions. Republicans agreed to one Democratic demand: continue to fund Obamacare — which, since it is the law of the land, both parties were obliged to do anyway.

In a typically Congressional *quid pro quo*, Democrats agreed in turn to a whole series of non-negotiable Republican demands.

Funding for the EPA was cut 1.7 percent so that the environment can continue degrading naturally without undue govern-

ment interference. Progress on that front is already being made in Charleston, WV, where hundreds of thousands of people recently went without water for more than a week.

Funding for the IRS was cut, further facilitating future tax avoidance schemes thus helping to stop the rapid shrinking of the budget deficit. Coincidentally, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on January 13th that an FBI investigation of the IRS failed to find "the kind of political bias or 'enemy hunting' that would amount to a violation of criminal law." Presumably, where the FBI failed, Rep. Darrell Issa's [R-CA] House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will succeed.

Funding for the SEC was cut, to give Wall Street bankers a fighting chance against its jack-booted regulators.

Funding for embassy security was cut by \$224 million, providing Republicans with future opportunities to blame Democrats for letting Ambassadors get killed by mobs.

Finally, 1.3 million long-term unemployed people, and the 2.3 million children dependent on them, were thrown under the omnibus. Republicans apparently think this "tough love" approach will induce the chronically slothful to get up off their taxpayer-funded couches, load their Glockes, and go gunning for the one-third of a job that is available to them.

None of the above shenanigans would surprise Mark Twain, who lived through — and in fact named — the period of U.S. history most analogous to our own: the Gilded Age.

"It could probably be shown by facts and figures," he wrote, "that there is no distinctly native criminal class except Congress."

#### Justice is Served

D.M., a sharp-eyed subscriber from Cleveland, sent us a clipping from the January, 2014 issue of *The International Musician*, published by the American Federation of Musicians. It notes that "Craig Sanborn, the owner of a New Hampshire gunpowder plant, was sentenced to 10 to 20 years in prison for manslaughter

in the deaths of two workers from a 2010 explosion."

We bring this up, and we're sure D.M. sent it, because *International Musician* included a few relevant details about the case that we did not see in other news outlets:

"Company owners and executives whose violations of workplace safety standards cause death or serious injury rarely face criminal charges and convictions. According to the AFL-CIO's 2013 *Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect* report, although there have been 390,000 worker deaths since 1970, only 84 criminal cases have been prosecuted against employ-

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

ers for willfull, serious OSHA law violations. The defendants found guilty only served a total of 89 months.”

Nice to see New Hampshire buck *that* trend.

Meanwhile, on Monday, four people were killed and another 18 seriously injured in two explosions at industrial plants in Oklahoma and Nebraska.

**The Downtown Eye of Sauron**  
In 1989, the old Indian Head Bank in Market Square installed a free-standing sign in the middle of the sidewalk in front of its building on Pleasant Street. Made primarily of stainless steel, it stood a little higher than a person's head and justified its existence by displaying the time and temperature. The bank apparently neglected to get a permit before erecting the

sign, but was able to obtain one after the fact.

Shortly after the turn of this century Fleet Bank took over the building and replaced the shiny obstruction to pedestrian traffic with a towering green eyesore. Three times the height of its predecessor, the new sign was topped by an internally-illuminated mini-billboard as big as a full sheet of plywood.

Thirteen years ago, in January of 2001, this newspaper began to relentlessly draw unflattering attention to the new sign. Nine months later it was removed.

Due to the natural order of the banking world, in which only the greediest survive, Bank of America now owns the building. In the back of that building, facing a parking lot which might, someday, make a good spot for a small parking garage, there is a little lobby housing an ATM. On the



Every night, from sundown to sunup, the Bank of America commits visual assault on whoever passes by the vicinity of Penhallow and Daniel streets. Blasting out lumens with indiscriminate force, the light seen in the lower left of the photo above is presumably intended to protect users of the bank's ATM from thieves and muggers. We do not presume to be lighting engineers, but we strongly suspect the same protection could be provided through less objectionable means.



exterior wall near the door to the ATM is a blinding light which is the visual equivalent of an 80-cubic-inch Harley-Davidson engine running at full throttle without any mufflers.

We hope and suspect that the vast majority of our readers patronize local banks, rather than the Bank of America, so a direct appeal to them may be fruitless. We are nothing, though, if not optimistic.

Now that this subject has been broached, perhaps it will somehow come to the attention of the management of the bank. If so, we hope they will use the precedent provided by the Fleet Bank as a guide and give all of our eyes a break.

**It's a Gas, Gas, Gas**

A company called Sea-3 Inc., a subsidiary of Trammo, Inc., has been getting some probably-unwelcome ink in the *Portsmouth Herald* lately. We say probably

unwelcome because, generally speaking, when you're a dinky local outlet for the 24th-largest privately-held company in the U.S., and selling petroleum products wholesale is your game, the only publicity you really want is what you get from compliant local media for making penny ante contributions to local charities.

Sea-3 used to import liquified petroleum gas, aka propane, from Algeria by the shipload and send it out to its customers by rail. Plummeting prices due to a glut of product have, according to the *Herald*, gutted Sea-3's sales and, therefore, its profits.

The Award-Winning Local Daily [AWLD] reported last September 12th that the company wanted to "construct additional facilities on its lot at 109 Shattuck Way to provide for an increase in off-loading capacity," in the hope of exporting domestic propane, extracted by fracking

from the Marcellus Shale, to Europe via ship.\*

As if to justify the prevailing trend of corporate fear of untrammelled reportage, on November 18th the AWLD headlined, "Sea-3 propane proposal sparking fear in region." In point of fact, though, Sea-3 is not really the cause of concern. If that company would be content to simply hoard and admire several huge tanks of chilled propane, no one would probably mind. It's when they move the stuff in and out of town that makes people nervous — and we're not talking the river leg of the journey.

**No Way To Run a Railroad ...**

It's not paranoid to worry about a trainload of volatile liquid rolling

\*We once heard of a watermelon wholesaler who was going broke buying melons at the farm for \$1, trucking them to town, then selling them for \$1. He planned to get profitable by buying a bigger truck and increasing his volume. It's possible the story is apocryphal.

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along Pan Am Railways' wiggling, wobbly tracks every day of the week — it's just common sense; especially since the destruction by fire of Lac Megantic, Quebec last July, with a loss of more than forty lives.

*ValleyPost.org's* Eesha Williams wrote about Pan Am's track maintenance practices in 2007, "Pan Am's track in the [Pioneer] Valley is in such bad repair that its trains typically average five to 10 miles per hour. When Pan Am workers want to stretch their legs they will sometimes get off the train they're on and walk alongside it as it travels up and down the Valley."

On tracks in such condition, derailments are bound to occur. After one such derailment in Deerfield, MA, emergency workers responded to the accident in case hazardous material was released. Town officials later billed Pan Am to recover \$6,915 in costs. Pan Am responded, according to the *ValleyPost*, "It is Pan Am's position that it is not liable to the Town or Fire Districts for

costs associated with emergency response actions as there was no release of hazardous materials warranting such response action."

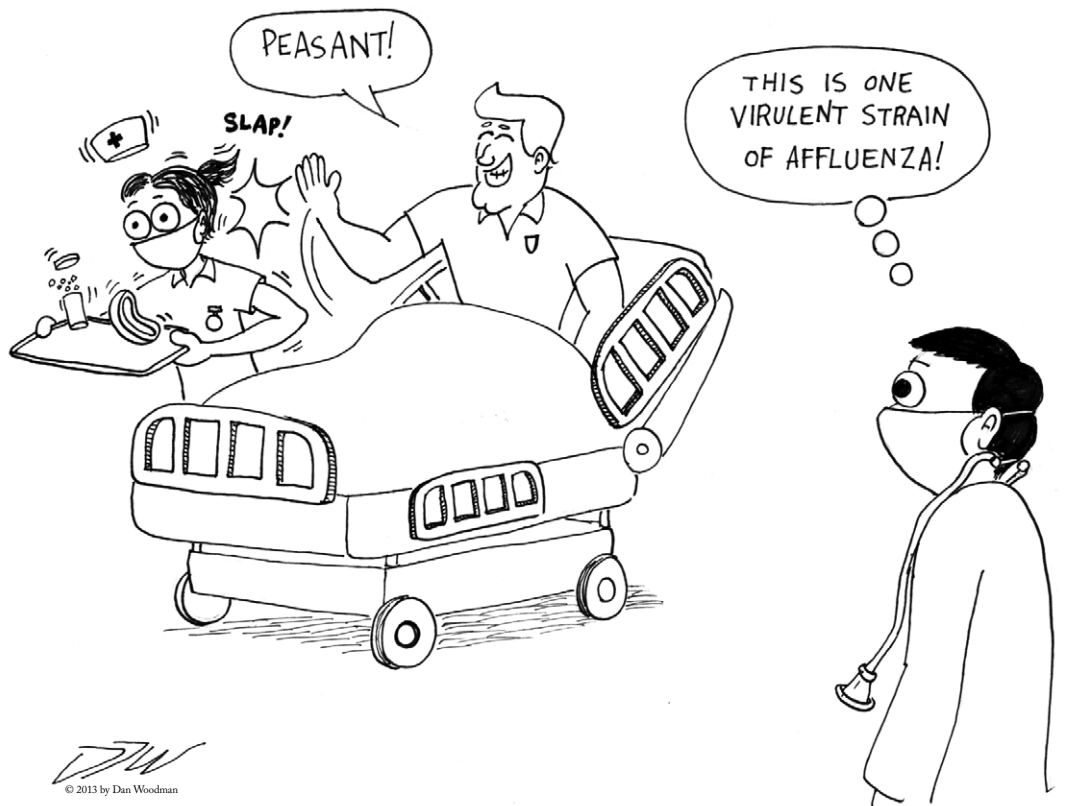
#### ... Or an Airline

In the 1930s the name Pan Am was associated with glamorous people criss-crossing the Caribbean and South America in exotic Sikorsky flying boats. That Pan Am went bankrupt in 1991, though. Since then the name has been slapped on a number of enterprises, none odder than Timothy Mellon's railroad.

In the spring of 1998, Mellon bought the bankrupt Pan Am for \$28.5 million. Mellon, the grandson of Herbert Hoover's Treasury Secretary, Andrew W. Mellon, already owned a railroad freight line, then known as Guilford Transportation.

Mellon's revived Pan Am flew from 1998 to 2004, operating most of that time from the Pease Tradeport. *Boston Magazine* called the effort "a paltry schedule of flights to third-string airports."

After some complicated name-



shuffling in 2004, Mellon ended up owning Pan Am Railways and Boston Maine Airways. In 2008 the Department of Transportation shut down Mellon's airline named after a railroad because it was "not financially fit and [did] not possess the managerial competence to conduct any air transportation operations and [had] failed to comply with the regulations governing its operations."

Despite that history, we are expected to presume that Mellon's railroad named after an airline is capable of running trainloads of flammable gas over poorly-maintained tracks through downtown Portsmouth every day of the week. For some reason, though, we can't get Johnstown, PA out of our heads.

In 1889, Johnstown was a thriving steel town, population 30,000, on the Little Conemaugh River. Fourteen miles upstream was the privately-owned South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club. On the afternoon of May 31 the South Fork Dam failed and the

town was essentially destroyed, with over 2,200 dead.

As Johnstown's website puts it, "[m]embers were wealthy Pittsburgh steel and coal industrialists, including Andrew Carnegie and Andrew Mellon, who had hired B. Ruff to oversee the repairs to the dam. There is no question about the shoddy condition of the dam, but no successful lawsuits were ever brought against club members for its failure and the resulting deaths downstream."

#### A Note from the Flag Police

A news item clipped from *Military Officer* and sent in by a subscriber prompted us to consult with the Flag Police on a matter of etiquette. At issue is the question of U.S. military veterans saluting the flag. In 2008, Congress authorized U.S. military veterans who are not in uniform to render the hand salute — raising the right arm smartly to the right eyebrow — when the flag is raised, lowered, or passing in a parade, and during the National Anthem. Previously, only active

duty military were so authorized. The article notes that hand salutes coming from veterans in mufti "encourages patriotism."

To that we would add that until about the year 2055, barring radical changes in the way the nation operates, some of those hand salutes will be coming from the last generation of Americans to have served their country in uniform against their will.

#### A Chance to Work for Nothing

We have not had a shakeup in our much-beloved Downtown Distribution crew since George W. Bush was in office. Unfortunately Adam Williams, its most-senior member, has had to turn in his newspaper bag due to scheduling conflicts with something he calls "work." Rather than divide up Adam's spots among the remaining crew — they are mostly along State Street — we thought we'd issue a call for a volunteer. The task takes about half an hour every other Friday. Anyone interested is urged to email the alleged Editor at: [editors@nhgazette.com](mailto:editors@nhgazette.com).



A few years ago a pair of granite benches were installed adjacent to the upper end of the Bridge Street parking lot. Then winter came, and snow, and the sidewalk snowplow. Now the only signs of the benches are the stubs of their granite legs, chiseled-off level with the surface of the concrete in which they were embedded. Some time last summer or fall, four black steel bike racks were installed at that location. The other two still stand straight up, but this pair fell victim to the dreaded sidewalk plow. Perhaps it's time for the city to admit defeat and permanently cede this space to the sidewalk plow.

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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### Useful Idiots

To the Editor:

"But the best is a matter of standards — and I set my own standards. I inherit nothing. I stand at the end of no tradition. I may, perhaps, stand at the beginning of one," are the sentiments of the psychopathic Ayn Rand as spoken by Howard Roark in *The Fountainhead*, words that politicians like Paul Ryan and acolytes in the Tea Party, along with some recent letters in *The Gazette*, put forth as conservative philosophy, when in fact rejection of tradition is not conservative at all.

Since when is feeding the poor, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, and healing the sick anti-American, anti-Christian, and not conservative?

As a conservative who recognizes that many liberal and progressive programs were and are ineffective, counter productive, and wasteful, in no way do I question the motives and intent. But, having imbibed the Kool-Aid fed to them by Limbaugh, Hannity, O'Reilly, and their wealthy sponsors, these pseudo-conservatives reject the true conservatism of those like Robert Taft who recognized the great contribution capitalism made in creating wealth, but who also recognized the need for generosity toward those who were unable to make their own way. In his words: "to eliminate hardship and poverty and even more to assure equality of opportunity for the children of those who do not

receive sufficient income, I believe that a floor under family requirements is necessary."

Furthermore, capitalism — a system wherein those who cannot manage a bank, or build a car, and make those bad bets on Wall Street, are permitted to fail — is not what the corporations and their executives want, at least not when they are going belly up. What they want is just what they got — a massive bailout from the taxpayer and quantitative easing to the tune of eighty-five billion dollars a month which did not trickle down in the form of better jobs with higher wages, but was used to artificially keep interest rates low and created inflated stock prices from leveraged buyouts and stock buybacks that went to the executives in the form of deferred compensation that lessened their tax burden, while jobs continue to be transported out of the United States, or created in other countries.

It seems the wealthy have succeeded in convincing the useful idiots in the Middle Class that it is the poor that are responsible for the deteriorating standard of living that most American are experiencing, while the real redistribution of wealth is from the taxpayers and the truly needy, to those in the upper income brackets.

John Dente  
Wilmington, DE

John:

*It's shocking to realize that by your standards we, too, may be conservative.*

The Editor

§

### Consumption, Not Income, Tax

To the Editor:

There is no such thing as a fair tax. Tax is the government taking by the use of police power what is rightfully ours. Anyone who thinks there is a fair tax believes they are going to be collecting the tax instead of paying it. Think

about it how many definitions of fair there are.

In the last year the IRS harassed groups and individuals and disclosed confidential information about them. This is the perfect opportunity to change the entire way we fund the government. It is time to repeal the 16th Amendment to the Constitution. We do not need this IRS or this tax code. We should take this opportunity and begin to collect the necessary funds to run the government by taxing consumption instead of income.

[Five paragraphs deleted for reasons made clear in our response. — The Ed.]

Moving to a consumption tax will makes of us voluntary taxpayers. We will pay taxes when we choose, as much as we choose, by how we choose to spend. We will be given the greatest gift a free society has to give — anonymity. No government agency should know more about us than we are willing to tell our children.

Marc Abear  
Meredith, NH

Marc:

*You've been sending us letters at a furious pace since October 24th: by our count, 1.84 per day. A. J. Liebling used to say, "I can write better than anybody who can write faster, and I can write faster than anybody who can write better," but you, sir, are no A.J. Liebling.*

*We've had our suspicions how you have managed to do this; now we have evidence that confirms our suspicions.*

*You "wrote," in the first sentence of your second paragraph, "In the last year the IRS harassed groups and individuals and disclosed confidential information about them."*

*In the first sentence of the second paragraph of an article published January 15th at TownHall.com, headlined "The Fair Tax," and written by John Linder, he wrote, "It was disclosed in the last year that the IRS harassed conservative groups and*

## Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,

*disclosed the confidential information of individuals."*

*In the second sentence of the same paragraph, you wrote, "This is the perfect opportunity to change the entire way we fund the government." In the second sentence of his second paragraph, Linder wrote, "It strikes me that this is the perfect opportunity to change the entire way we fund the government."*

*Linder's final paragraph begins, "Moving to a consumption tax will make each of us voluntary taxpayers. We will pay taxes when we choose, as much as we choose, by how we choose to spend ...." Your final paragraph begins, "Moving to a consumption tax will makes of us voluntary taxpayers. We will pay taxes when we choose, as much as we choose, by how we choose to spend."*

*Pardon our prejudices, but we are not shocked to find an extreme Right Wing viewpoint being adamantly put forward by fraudulent means.*

*Going beyond the mere problem of probably-chronic plagiarism, we'd like to note that the idea of making us all "voluntary taxpayers" is the single most absurd idea we have ever heard.*

The Editor

§

### More of the Party Line

To the Editor:

When people hear complaints about the U.S. healthcare system based on the World Health Organization (WHO) rankings, they should understand that the WHO rankings are not what most Americans assume.

The WHO rankings are based on criteria which are intended to justify big-government controlled, essentially Socialist, healthcare, so that politicians and bureaucrats can justify increasing taxes, allocating healthcare, and controlling citizens' everyday lives.

The complainers don't mention it, but in the one WHO criterion

that most Americans would consider most relevant, "Responsiveness," the U.S. healthcare system is rated best. Responsiveness measures how quickly the healthcare system responds to your problem, i.e., how quickly you can see a doctor and get treated.

Even using the WHO's criteria which give greater weight to factors other than "responsiveness," the U.S. ranks 15th. But because the U.S. spends the most on healthcare, the WHO drops our ranking to 37th.

The U.S. healthcare system is unjustifiably downgraded because most insurance policies require co-pays and/or deductibles and because of the total cost of our healthcare system. But with 85-90 percent of Americans covered by insurance and with hospitals required to treat people regardless of ability to pay, American healthcare is available to all and affordable by most.

The WHO unjustifiably downgrades the U.S. healthcare system for things that our healthcare system doesn't control, e.g., murders, accidental deaths, and the results of perhaps the most unhealthy lifestyle in the developed world. Use of such criteria is only relevant for justifying increased government controls over our lives ... so we live "healthier."

Do we really want bureaucrats controlling what we must and cannot eat or drink, requiring specific amounts of exercise, and preventing behaviors the bureaucrats consider risky (perhaps skiing, motorcycling, fireworks, hunting, driving over 55, &c.)? Think of the U.S.'s experiment with Prohibition and apply that to every aspect of your life that a bureaucrat decides is relevant to your health.

The WHO ranks Columbia, Morocco and Saudi Arabia above

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## And Other Correspondence

the U.S., but the world's rich come here, not there. Canada is ranked above the U.S., but many Canadians come here for healthcare, often so they can get treatment before they die.

Because the WHO's criteria have been hotly disputed, the WHO has not rated national healthcare systems since 2000. Nothing should be based on the WHO's healthcare rankings.

Americans who cite the WHO report to denigrate our healthcare system and justify government control of healthcare such as Obamacare are either ignorant of the WHO's criteria and objectives or supporters of socialized medicine, increased taxes, and the loss of personal freedom that results from increased government controls of how we live our lives.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, NH  
Don

*As Hannibal, Missouri's most eminent philosopher noted, "facts are stubborn, but statistics are more pliable." A huge amount of money goes into our healthcare system. Some of goes to effective healthcare. A huge amount is wasted in various ways; the most egregious being that which is spent denying health care. End of story.*

The Editor

§

### A Comment on a Comment

To the Editor:

Upon reading Michael Kulla's letter in the *New Hampshire Gazette* of January 10th, I'm moved to address your editorial comment to him.

The first section of his letter paraphrases old clichés of male vs. female. I was slightly offended, especially with his use of the term "diffuse consciousness." What the heck is that?

I couldn't help thinking it was a clever pejorative phrase for "fuzzy

thinking." As I read on, I became more forgiving — after all, he's a man attempting to explain women, so one has to admire his courage.

Where my point of view collides with his is in the assertion of "wheels" vs. "growing things...." My tomboy interests, to the delight of my Dad, were in building things, fishing, hunting, and long explorations in the woods. Dolls were boring. My favorite literature in my teens was science fiction. Throughout my eight decades, I have yin'd and yang'd among several archetypal male and female occupations/hobbies.

Mr. Kulla redeems himself in his paragraph that recognizes, "each has aspects of the other that can emerge in varying forms and degrees over the life span." Amen! This happily married grandmother/artist is living proof of that.

Thank you, Mr. Kulla, for your analysis and your conclusions! You are no chauvinist.

Nancy D. Johnson  
Durham, NH

§

### Afghanistan, Iraq, &c.

To the Editor:

We need to pull our troops out of Afghanistan and take a completely different approach to the Middle East. Four thousand, four hundred and eighty six American soldiers were killed in Iraq between 2003 and 2012. Plus there were approximately 174,000 civilian and combatant deaths. These are horrendous numbers of death not counting the thousands who are still trying to recuperate physically and mentally from Iraq.

News of hard-won Fallujah being recaptured by al-Qaeda-linked forces touches the nerve of service members who fought there. The average American watching the news shakes his head at the hardships of the Iraqi people. Tragedy

is written everywhere.

We left Iraq celebrating about the good we did. We claimed victory in helping Iraq progress to a better government and a safer place to live.

We turned our attention to Afghanistan and for a moment we listened to our President say, "Osama bin Laden is dead and the Taliban is on the run." That sounded good but soon wore off. Recent months of Iraq and Afghanistan terrorist activity only underscores they didn't run too far. They have hidden in the rocks and caves of those Middle East countries, resurfacing to fight even though the war might kill their own fathers, wives, mothers and children. They do not care.

Our political leaders have decided to keep our military presence in Afghanistan for at least another ten years. You can count on it being longer.

Many government leaders will now wish we had stayed in Iraq and we will be back there supplying weapons and military leadership.

And what about Syria? It's a miracle we don't have 50,000 soldiers in Syria.

The big problem is we are going to crash in America trying to police the world.

Egypt, Iran and Yemen are other hot spots of severe concern. How far can we go?

It's time to pull our troops out of Afghanistan and take a more realistic approach to the Middle East. We can supply military leadership and organizers along with weapons, supplies and food better than we can send fifty to a hundred thousand soldiers in each country.

By the way, each of these countries is wealthy in oil. They can afford to pay us for our help even if it takes them fifty years. And then we can try to repay China for all the money we've borrowed from them.

Glenn Mollette  
Newburgh, IN

Glenn:

*So President Obama gets a mention in your discussion of our misguided wars, but not the guy who started them? Interesting.*

*Afghanistan's oil reserves are negligible, by the way.*

The Editor

§

### How Far "Right" is Right?

To the Editor:

How far to the "Right", in thinking, is right? How far to the "Right", or the "Left" for that matter, can one's philosophy be before you are in another dimension?

Reflecting on 2013 makes one wonder why the far "Right" is so out of step with the thinking of this century. Are they at all aware of the social dynamics that are shaping society and how different they are in thought, behavior and attitude from the emerging generation that will soon be leading our country? Do they understand why they cling to the past, dislike the present, and are afraid of the future?

When your insulated circle of family and friends thinks the same as you, the realization that you are out of sync with the majority cannot be easily accepted. It challenges everything you have believed in, threatens your very identity, and subjects you to enormous group pressure to conform. You become very angry because you are very frightened and the fear can easily overwhelm reason.

The way to relieve this frustration is not to become more extreme, misremember the past, seek scapegoats now, and more vigorously resist change. Backing away from reality will not help shape the future. Obstructing change will not help to design its direction. Rejecting attitudes will not help to modify them.

It is not the fans screaming from the sidelines that advance



the ball it is the teamwork of the players on the field that achieve the result. You need to be in the game to affect its outcome.

Today Ronald Reagan could not win a Republican primary, Social Security and Medicare would not pass through the Congress, and the "War on Poverty" would never be started. What happened to the reasonable, practical, country-first approach to governance?

I think the "Right" has gone too far to the right. If we went back in time as far as they have gone to the right we would all be speaking Greek.

Dave Potter  
North Hampton, NH

§

### Mule-Skinner Equality Now!

To the Editor:

On behalf of Granite State Carriage Association ("GSCA"), I submit these comments relative to Senate Bill 251, relating to use of New Hampshire Trail system by horses and other equines. SB 251 was sponsored by Senator Andy Sanborn and is supported by Senator David Boutin. The bill will be introduced on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 to the Executive Departments and Administrative Committee. While GSCA is in favor of the bill, it is our position that as currently written it excludes other members of the equine family (such as mules and donkeys) and does not extend to

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Northcountry Chronicle

The Guilt Trip

by William Marvel

To put it mildly, I'm afraid of flying. I can count on my fingers the number of times I've flown since leaving the army. I've seen as much of the world as I want to, and everyone who matters to me lives in New Hampshire, so why risk my life in the air and submit to the indignities imposed on passengers? I thought I had persuaded my wife of all that, but I underestimated the power of parental guilt.

Her parents, a hardworking woman and the man who creeps along behind her, spend every spare moment visiting relatives. At every graduation and wedding they announce how many of the planet's hungry mouths they are responsible for. To inflate their sense of accomplishment they include all six sons-in-law and the spouses of their grandchildren — all of whom are continually pressured to get married and have

more babies, which are apparently the only things they can produce. Every family member has a number, in order of birth or matrimonial naturalization after the patriarch, who is Number 1. My wife is Number 8; I fruitlessly contend that the count should begin with zero, making her Number 7. I also have a number, just like Auschwitz prisoners, but I don't know or care what it is.

I avoid these clan gatherings out of exasperation with the relentless fundamentalist indoctrination of the children and because each reunion becomes a campaign to drag everyone to the next one. I suppose it might seem entertaining if I lived in Kansas or Nebraska, where there's nothing to do, especially if I had never toyed with independent philosophical thought. For those with lives of their own, 1800 miles away, all that importuning becomes decidedly annoying. Firm resistance is the best strategy, since any weak-

ness will be ruthlessly exploited, and my wife is especially susceptible.

In September we endured several days with my in-laws (I speak mainly of my father-in-law when I say "endure") to attend the ridiculously extravagant wedding of Number 17, sometimes known as Baird. The theme throughout that long weekend was the "next" wedding, of the grandson known as Number 15, whose bride would become Number 56 (or so). It was to take place in Kansas, so poor Grandpa could see all of his children together again, just one more time — if only the baby daughter would come from New Hampshire.

It worked like a charm. I had already reported that we had to spend more money this year than we took in, and had been complaining stridently about how little time the baby daughter has been spending at home with her husband, but it was all to no avail.

She squandered much of our meager vacation time and several hundred more dollars in order to fly to the nuptials of Number 15 and Number 56 — during the worst weather of the year, and from the most dangerous airport in America. As though to increase the odds of tragedy and maximize my anxiety, she took along Number 22 — my favorite in the entire tribe.

It was the trip from hell, at least for me. They departed in the midst of a blizzard and sub-zero temperatures, and when their flight was more than an hour late I started looking for news of plane crashes: turns out they had been kept sitting on the runway for an hour and three-quarters before takeoff, probably to let the wings ice up. Southwest managed to lose my wife's bag, with all her clothes for the wedding, which reminded me that mechanics and pilots can be just as incompetent as baggage handlers.

After she had replaced everything and was returning home, they found the bag. Again Number 8 and Number 22 took off in a snowstorm (just like Knute Rockne), after sitting on the runway an hour and a half. Again they arrived late, missing the next ice storm only because it, too, was late. I got to act as chauffeur down and back, but while driving home through freezing rain I thought the ordeal was finally over. I was especially encouraged that evening, when Number 8 agreed to read *Elmer Gantry* as our next breakfast-table book. Then I heard about the 60th wedding anniversary, for which pressure has already begun: it would be so nice if poor Grandpa could see his whole family together again, just one more time. If there really were a god, my prayers for a precision-guided tornado would have been answered by now.

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

equine-drawn vehicles, therefore SB 251 needs to be modified to include these users.

As you are no doubt aware, The New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development ("DRED") recently proposed rules changes to amend and/or clarify, (among other rules) Res 7300, pertaining to the statewide trail system on properties managed by DRED. The horse community in general objected to some of the proposed provisions. After several public hearings and written commentary, much cooperative work was undertaken between equine owners/users and The Division of Parks and Rec-

reation and the Trails Bureau to come up with mutually acceptable language for the proposed rules changes. Unfortunately, the administrators of the trials are reluctant to give to carriage drivers the same broad use of the trails as afforded to horseback riders due to provisions of the current statute. New Hampshire RSA 216-F:2 Use of Statewide Trail System, while including "horseback riders," neglects to specifically include carriage drivers in its list of uses.

Senator Sanborn introduced SB 251 to assist in clarifying the rights and responsibilities of equine use of the New Hamp-

shire trail system. Unfortunately, he also used the term "horseback riders" rather than "equine users" and thus inadvertently excluded the carriage driving segment of the horse community. The term "horseback riders" also excludes other equines such as mules and donkeys.

We ask your assistance is getting word out to your respective communities about this important bill and the need for citizens to contact their local senators and representatives to urge thoughtful consideration to the bill and modifications necessary to assure that the statewide trail system is accessible to all users.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me, or Connie Moses, President of GSCA, cmoses@metrocast.net (603) 490-9694 if you are in need of additional information.

Renee Wormell, Director, Granite State Carriage Association

Another Big Brother Scheme

To the Editor:  
Knock, knock. Who's there? Big brother — and he wants to use license plate readers throughout the state of New Hampshire.

Today's license plate reader [LPR] could turn into tomorrow's individually issued robot, to

keep watch over you. Anyone see the movie "Minority Report"?

LPRs are an invasion of privacy and recipe for disastrous waste of taxpayer money. After the expensive program launched in Boston, it was shut down when challenged over privacy concerns and because a police department released approximately 68,000 license plate numbers that tripped LPR alarms to a newspaper in error. Taxpayers would be paying for the government to track themselves and store the information. A quick search on the internet and one can find many reasons why this is bad — invasive, wasteful spending, strain on police resources, and

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The Millionaires' Congress vs. The People

by Jim Hightower

The rich truly are different from you and me — they tend to become Congress critters. You don't find many plumbers, mine workers, dirt farmers, Walmart associates, beauty parlor operators, taxi drivers, or other "get-the-job-done" Americans among the 535 members of the U.S. House and Senate. What you do find is an over-supply of lawmakers drawn from a very thin

strata of America's population: Millionaires. The Center for Responsive Politics reports that last year — for the first time in history — more than half of our senators and House members are in the Millionaires Club. Indeed, the average net worth (the value of what they own minus what they owe) for all lawmakers now totals more than \$7 million.

The world in which our "representatives" live is light years from where the majority of people live,

and the divide between the governors and the governees is especially stark for the 40 percent of people whose net worth is zero (or, technically, less than zero, since their income and other assets are far exceeded by their debts). This widening chasm is not just a matter of wealth, but most significantly a literal separation of the privileged few from the experiences, needs, and aspirations of the many who're struggling to make ends meet and worried that

opportunities for their children to get ahead are no longer available to them.

The harsh reality is that most Americans are no longer represented in Washington. Chances are that their own members of Congress don't know any struggling and worried people, share nothing in common with them, and can't relate to their real-life needs. Thus, Congress is content to play ideological games with such basics as health care,

minimum wage, joblessness, food stamps, and Social Security. America's wealth divide has become a chasm, creating a looming social and political crisis for America that undermines any pretense that ours is a democratic society.

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erosion of liberty, to name a few. Who knows who could get a hold of this information? Many companies would pay handsomely to know a person's travel habits and whereabouts. Please call your representatives and ask them to vote no on HB 675. "At first the captured plate data was used just to check against lists of cars law enforcement hoped to locate for various reasons," ACLU staff attorney Catherine Crump wrote on the non-profit group's website Wednesday morning. "But increasingly, all of this data is being fed into massive databases that contain the location information of many millions of innocent Americans stretching back for months or even years," she wrote. Carla Mora Plaistow, NH § "Incorrect Facts" To the Editor: I always enjoy reading the Gazette! But, it is important to print the facts! I found at least four errors in the December 27th issue of the paper. The Emancipation Proclamation is one of the most misunderstood documents in U.S. history. It only freed those slaves that were in states of open rebellion ...

not in the entire Confederacy. When John D. Rockefeller created Standard Oil in 1882, it was legal. The Sherman Anti Trust Act was created in 1890. The first Trusts were declared unconstitutional in the very early 1900's. In 1987 the deficit was \$147 billion not \$107 billion. During the Long March of 1864, hundreds of Navajos died, not thousands. I hope you will fact check your statements from now on .... Remember the famous quote from the original TV series Dragnet? "Only the facts ma'am." Lou Mroz Exeter, NH Lou: You are right; the Federal budget deficit in 1987 was \$147 billion. You are also right that hundreds of Navajos, not thousands, died during their 1864 trek to Fort Sumner. You refer to that tragic event as the Long March, however. It is properly called the Long Walk. The Long March refers to the Red Army's journey through China in the mid-1930s. Our January 4 entry on Standard Oil Co. simply noted that in 1882 it was "reorganized as a trust, allowing John D. Rockefeller to keep control of 90 percent of the nation's oil

supply despite laws to the contrary." According to the Constitutional Rights Foundation [crf-usa.org], "By 1880, Standard Oil owned or controlled 90 percent of the U.S. oil refining business.... But in achieving this position, Standard violated its Ohio charter, which prohibited the company from doing business outside the state." We'd call that illegal. As for the Emancipation Proclamation, pedantic hair-splitting over the extent of the territory controlled by the Confederacy in 1863 has fatigued us so that we've removed that entry from the Tidal Guide. PS — You refer in your subject line to "incorrect facts." Is that not an oxymoron? The Editor § Fantastic Cartoons To the Editor: I've been meaning to drop a note. The last two front page cartoons in the paper are so fantastic! The Ball and Chain of the Year and now the downtown hotels. The monstrosities that deface Portsmouth and cause what could have been an avoidable parking dilemma. Those cartoons to me are like David Ortiz hitting one out of the park! I also got a laugh out of the let-

ter from the guy who thinks he's an expert on the minimum wage. Someone get these people a calculator. Every year that the minimum wage doesn't at least keep up with inflation, it's like a pay cut for the worker and a raise for the CEO's. Just take the minimum wage for 1980 and add the inflation rate every year. It has fallen way behind. Proof enough I think that it doesn't actually cause inflation, but suffers from it. Amazing job on the Fortnightly Rants too! I look forward to every one. David Brewster Eliot, ME David: Thank you for the kind words. We hope Mike Dater will accept them in lieu of the higher pay which he deserves. The Editor § We're Giving Up \$50K Per Day To the Editor: \$500,000 and counting — that's the half a million dollars from the Federal government that our state has lost since the first of the year by not expanding Medicaid to provide health insurance coverage to low income New Hampshire adults. As each day goes by we lose another \$50,000

which would not only improve the health and lives of thousands of eligible citizens, but provide jobs and boost the New Hampshire economy. This is money that we already pay in taxes and which will be distributed to other states. New Hampshire receives back from the federal government only 70 percent of the money sent to Washington, while 31 states, including Mississippi at 202 percent and New Mexico at 203 percent, get back more than they send. Some people are concerned that New Hampshire Medicaid would add to the federal debt. There are places to look for debt reduction other than on the backs of the working poor — farm subsidies, subsidies to big oil, waste in the military, and closing tax loopholes, just to name a few. It is investment in the health, well-being and education of all of its citizens that makes a country strong. Expanding Medicaid in New Hampshire is one part of that and makes sense to people who care about our democracy. Please let your Representatives and Senators in Concord know how important this is to our future!! Cynthia Muse Rye, NH

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts." — Mark Twain (1835-1910) from The Innocents Abroad

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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, January 26	Monday, January 27	Tuesday, January 28	Wednesday, January 29	Thursday, January 30	Friday, January 31	Saturday, February 1
<p><b>2006</b>—The Energy Dept. admits rent-a-cops at the Oak Ridge nuclear site have cheated on antiterrorism drills for up to twenty years.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Gay hustler and accredited White House correspondent Jeff Gannon asks Pres. G.W. Bush how he can work with insane people like Harry Reid and Hillary Clinton.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Federal spending on PR has doubled under George W. Bush, reports <i>USA Today</i>.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Britain's <i>Guardian</i> reports (falsely) that Air Force One was "stripped bare" in "an orgy of pilfering" by outgoing Clinton staffers.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—The same day the Project for a New American Century sends a letter signed by E. Abrams, J. Bolton, W. Kristol, R. Perle, D. Rumsfeld, &amp; P. Wolfowitz to Bill Clinton urging him to overthrow Saddam Hussein, the Pres. denies having sex with "that woman."</p> <p><b>1986</b>—The Chernobyl nuclear power plant goes ballistic.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Ex-Veep Nelson Rockefeller, 70, alone in his townhouse with 26-year old Megan Marshak, dies of a heart attack. Oddly, his corpse is not discovered until an hour later, five blocks north at Rockefeller Center, by a security guard.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—Franco's fascists, aided by a few of Mussolini's, take Barcelona.</p> <p><b>1785</b>—Benjamin Franklin laments selection of the eagle, rather than the turkey, as a national symbol.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—The NSA warns that a malfunctioning, bus-size spy satellite is going to fall out of orbit soon.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney wears a down parka and ski cap to an Auschwitz memorial ceremony.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—<i>Salon</i> reveals that conservative columnist Michael McManus has been paid \$10,000 to promote Bush programs.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—"I know how hard it is for you to put food on your family," says George W. Bush in Nashua.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Gorbachev announces the new policy of <i>glasnost</i>.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Hours before the U.S. and North Vietnam sign a peace treaty in Paris, Col. Wm. B. Nolde becomes the last American killed during the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—G. Gordon Liddy presents a plan to Attorney General John Mitchell to disrupt the Democratic Convention with "mugging squads, kidnapping teams, and prostitutes."</p> <p><b>1967</b>—A fire in the <i>Apollo</i> capsule kills three astronauts.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Martin Luther King's home is bombed for the second time.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—The U.S. breaks in a new nuclear weapon test site in Nevada.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—PNSY launches four Balao-class subs, <i>Razorback</i>, <i>Redfish</i>, <i>Ronquil</i>, and <i>Scabbardfish</i>, in one day. Going on to earn a total of 18 battle stars, all survive the war.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—Paterson, NJ silk workers strike for an 8-hour day.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—George W. Bush delivers his last (!) State of the Union speech, promising a budget that will keep the U.S. "on track for a surplus in 2012."</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Ex-U.S. weapons inspector David Kay tells the Senate pre-war WMD intelligence was "almost all wrong."</p> <p><b>2003</b>—During his State of the Union Address, George W. Bush cites misidentified aluminum tubes, non-existent viruses, fictitious alliances, and imaginary uranium as justifications for war.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—The space shuttle <i>Challenger</i>, launched under dubious conditions to give R. Reagan an applause line in his State of the Union speech, explodes, killing NH teacher Christa McAuliffe.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Called a "crypto-Nazi" on live TV by Gore Vidal, William F. Buckley, Jr. calls Vidal a "queer."</p> <p><b>1958</b>—In Nebraska, Charles Starkweather, 17, and Carol Fugate, 14, kill their 8th through 10th (out of an eventual 11) victims.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Thrill-killer Richard Loeb makes an unwanted sexual advance to a fellow-prisoner and is murdered, prompting reporter Ed Lahey to write this lede for the <i>Chicago Daily News</i>: "... a master of the English language, today ended a sentence with a proposition."</p> <p><b>1887</b>—Newsboys in New York strike for a better deal.</p>	<p><b>2001</b>—"I am mindful not only of preserving executive powers for myself," says George W. Bush, "but for predecessors as well."</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Campaigning for president in Concord, NH, George W. Bush asks, "Will the highways on the Internet become more few?"</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Union Oil drillers, using sub-standard pipe, cause a 200,000 oil spill off Santa Barbara, creating an 800 square mile oil slick and enervating the environmental movement.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—LBJ's pal Bobby Baker is convicted of income tax evasion, theft, and conspiracy to defraud the government.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Kubrick's <i>Dr. Strangelove</i> premiers.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Zeppelins bomb Paris.</p> <p><b>1880</b>—William Claude Dukenfield is born in Philadelphia.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—In Utah, 400 Bannock and Shoshone Indians are massacred in four hours.</p> <p><b>1856</b>—An attack on Seattle by 1,000 Nisqually and Yakama Indians is repulsed by cannon fire from ships in the harbor.</p> <p><b>1834</b>—Striking workers on the Chesapeake Canal riot after their strike is met with violence. President Jackson initiates an American tradition by calling out Federal troops.</p> <p><b>1820</b>—King George III dies in Windsor Castle, insane.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—A U.S. official reports that \$9,000,000,000 is ... well ... sort of ... missing in Iraq.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Arwin Meiwes, the Rotenburg Cannibal, gets 8 1/2 years for manslaughter. After he is incarcerated, he becomes a vegetarian.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—An FB-111A "Aardvark" based at Pease AFB crashes near homes at Mariner's Village, about 1.25 miles northwest of Market Square. One apartment building is destroyed, no one is injured.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The Supreme Court decides that limiting campaign contributions would unfairly restrict the speech of rich people.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Two hundred U.S. colonels in the U.S. MACV staff attend a pool party in Saigon. "Not one ... knew Tet was coming" the next day, an analyst said later.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—A Soviet sub sinks the <i>MV Wilhelm Gustloff</i>. About 9,400 passengers lose their lives.</p> <p><b>1835</b>—Richard Lawrence pulls two pistols on President Andy Jackson, but they both misfire.</p> <p><b>1798</b>—Rep. Matthew Lyon insults Rep. Roger Griswold on the House floor. Griswold calls Lyon a coward. Lyon spits in Griswold's face.</p> <p><b>1661</b>—Oliver Cromwell, dead for two years, is posthumously executed and decapitated. His head goes unburied for 300 years.</p> <p><b>1649</b>—Cromwell and his Roundheads decapitate King Charles I.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—Reacting to 18 gadgets showing an LED-illuminated cartoon figure, Boston transit authorities close I-93 and two bridges.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—At the White House, George W. Bush tells Tony Blair he's going to invade Iraq with or without WMDs, and the diplomacy will have to fit around the military strategy.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—In Detroit, Vietnam Veterans Against the War begin the Winter Soldier hearings, testifying against U.S. policies in Vietnam. Few listen.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The Tet Offensive demonstrates that Robert Strange McNamara has learned nothing since 1963.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—"The war in Vietnam is going well and will succeed," says Robert Strange McNamara, U.S. Secretary of Defense.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—In North Africa, a B-47 crashes on takeoff and burns for seven hours. Luckily the armed nuke on board doesn't go off.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Truman orders the construction of the first H-bomb.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The U.S. Army executes Pvt. Eddie Slovik for desertion.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—Germany becomes the first civilized nation to employ poison gas in warfare.</p> <p><b>1900</b>—William Goebel is sworn in as Governor of Kentucky while lying on his back, having been shot by an assassin the day before. Three days later he dies.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—Canada OK's same-sex marriage; world does not end.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Janet Jackson bares a nipple on TV; world nearly ends.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The space shuttle <i>Columbia</i> disintegrates over Texas.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Richard Nixon meets for twenty minutes with The Rev. Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—In Saigon, General Nguyen Ngoc Loan executes VC Captain Nguyen Van Lem in front of AP photographer and former Marine Eddie Adams who snaps the anti-Iwo Jima Flag Raising photo of the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Indiana governor Matthew E. Welsh declares The Kingsmen's song "Louie Louie," which everyone else finds incomprehensible, to be obscene.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Fleetwood Linley, the last living person to have looked upon the face of the dead Abraham Lincoln, dies aged 75.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Civil rights sit-ins begin in Greensboro, NC.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—An inevitable confluence: the first telecast of an atomic explosion.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Col. Billy Mitchell, the lone U.S. military officer who understands the potential of aircraft in warfare, is court-martialed for criticizing his "superiors."</p> <p><b>1923</b>—In Japan, most of Tokyo and all of Yokohama are destroyed by an earthquake.</p>
<p>6:20 6:58</p> <p>12:44</p>	<p>7:21 8:01</p> <p>12:56 1:46</p>	<p>8:21 9:01</p> <p>1:57 2:45</p>	<p>9:18 9:57</p> <p>2:56 3:41</p>	<p>10:13 10:50</p> <p>3:53 4:33</p>	<p>11:06 11:40</p> <p>4:47 5:24</p>	<p>11:58</p> <p>5:40 6:13</p>
Sunday, February 2	Monday, February 3	Tuesday, February 4	Wednesday, February 5	Thursday, February 6	Friday, February 7	Saturday, February 8
<p><b>2007</b>—Smelly, oily orange snow falls across Siberia.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—George W. Bush reluctantly OK's an investigation of intelligence failures.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—In Dublin, Irish Catholics, irate over "Bloody Sunday," burn the British Embassy.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Capt. Gary Faust bails out after his F-106 goes into a spin over Montana. The pilotless plane straightens out and lands in a cornfield. It's later returned to service.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Australians burn conscription papers in Sydney.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—350 American troops are assigned to "reclaim U.S. military equipment in Vietnam."</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Winnie Ruth Judd, the "trunk murderess," escapes from Arizona State Insane Hospital. For the 5th time.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Steeplejack Frederick R. Law successfully parachutes from the Statue of Liberty's torch.</p> <p><b>1893</b>—The first close-up in motion picture history is shot at the Edison studio in West Orange, NJ, immortalizing a sneeze.</p> <p><b>1882</b>—Birth of James Joyce.</p> <p><b>1870</b>—The "Cardiff Giant," hyped for months as a petrified, ten-foot-tall human, is revealed to be a tobaccoist's hoax.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo legalizes the American seizure of 525,000 square miles of Mexico.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Donald Rumsfeld likens Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez to Adolph Hitler, inspiring Venezuela's VP to compare the U.S. with the Third Reich.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—In Iowa, a plane crash kills Buddy Holly, "The Big Bopper," and Richie Valens.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—In Memphis, the Sun studio simultaneously records Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—J. Fred Muggs, a bad-tempered chimpanzee from Cameroon, becomes the first non-human primate to appear regularly on a television show.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Four U.S. Navy chaplains aboard the U.S. Army transport <i>Dorchester</i> drown after giving their life jackets to others.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—The Arkansas state legislature passes a motion to pray for the soul of newspaperman H.L. Mencken after he calls the state "the apex of moronia."</p> <p><b>1916</b>—In Zurich, Hugo Ball opens Café Voltaire, hotbed of dadaism.</p> <p><b>1811</b>—Future newspaperman and eccentric Horace Greeley is born on a farm in Amherst, NH.</p> <p><b>1793</b>—Shot in the face and bayoneted 13 times by the British at Lexington 17 years before, Samuel Whittemore, a farmer, dies of natural causes at 98.</p> <p><b>1690</b>—America's first paper money is issued, to finance war with Quebec.</p>	<p><b>1996</b>—President Clinton furtively gropes a 22 year-old intern.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—RIP Liberace.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Lockheed Aircraft admits paying \$22 million in bribes to sell its product.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—William Randolph Hearst's granddaughter Patty, 19, is kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—A considerable chunk of Cholon, the Chinese sector of Saigon, is declared a free-fire zone. The South Vietnamese Air Force bombs its own capitol using U.S.-supplied planes.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Neal Cassady, ur-beat, dies alongside railroad tracks in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—In New York, John Giola dances the Charleston for 22 hours and 30 minutes.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—Rosa Parks is born in Tuskegee, AL.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Franz Reichelt, an Austrian tailor, tests his experimental parachute/overcoat from the Eiffel Tower. It is fatally flawed.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—Philippine revolt against U.S. rule begins.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—Adolphe Sax, inventor of the saxophone, dies broke.</p> <p><b>1869</b>—Birth of Bill Haywood, legendary Wobbly.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Delegates from six southern states meet in Montgomery, AL to form the Confederate States of America.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—Astronaut Lisa Marie Nowak is arrested for attempting to kidnap the girlfriend of another astronaut and for suspected misappropriation of NASA diapers.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—A man in a pub in Wales vows to cut off his own testicles if Wales beats England in a rugby match. They do. He does.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Secretary of State Colin Powell tells the UN that Saddam Hussein's Iraq is bristling with WMDs.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush encounters a super-market checkout scanner and confesses he is "amazed."</p> <p><b>1958</b>—The Navy makes its second attempt to launch a Vanguard rocket. Oops.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A B-47 bomber collides with a jet fighter near Tybee Island off the coast of Georgia and jettisons an H-bomb. It's still lost.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Roosevelt attempts to "pack" the Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—Birth of Hank Aaron.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Stephen W. Thompson becomes the first American pilot to down an enemy aircraft.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—William Burroughs is born in St. Louis, MO.</p> <p><b>1897</b>—Marcel Proust meets critic Jean Lorrain for a pistol duel at 3:00 p.m.—the earliest hour decent people are up and about.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Samuel Goodale patents the peep show machine.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—George W. Bush tells the American people that Saddam Hussein's Iraq is full of WMDs.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—U.S. Army Golden Knights parachutist Dana Bowman collides with a partner in mid-air and loses both legs. Nine months later he's back on the team.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The northeastern U.S. is clobbered by a huge blizzard; 29 die, 10,000 are homeless.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Leonard Peltier is arrested because ... because ... well, he's just arrested, that's all.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—New Hampshire's own Alan Shepherd uses a nine iron to whack a golf ball on the moon.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—North Vietnamese forces equipped with 12 Soviet tanks attack and overrun a Special Forces camp at Lang Vei. Of 24 U.S. Green Berets at the camp, 21 are killed, captured, or wounded.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Highest sea wave (non-tsunami) on record is recorded: 110 feet, during a Pacific typhoon.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—A shipyard strike kicks off a General Strike in Seattle. Workers control city for a week. Crime drops dramatically. Union bureaucrats intervene to end it.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Triangle Shirtwaist strike ends, workers accept arbitration.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—Birth of Edward Lansdale, spook.</p> <p><b>1756</b>—Aaron Burr, the first Vice President to shoot a man, is born in Newark, NJ.</p>	<p><b>2012</b>—Flavor-of-the-Month Rick Santorum crushes Mitt Romney in CO, MI, and MN.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—British journalist and Conservative member of Parliament Stephen Milligan is found dead of auto-erotic asphyxiation.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—The IRA attacks 10 Downing St. with mortars.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—"It became necessary to destroy [the Vietnamese village of Ben Tre] in order to save it," U.S.A.F. Major Chester Brown tells reporter Peter Arnett.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—VC attack Camp Holloway near Pleiku killing 9 Americans and wounding 137. The U.S. responds by bombing North Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—U.S. recognizes Emperor Bao Dai's government of Vietnam, putting the itself at odds with the Soviets and Ho Chi Minh.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—In Korea, Maine native Capt. Lewis Millett successfully leads America's last bayonet charge.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—First Negro History Week observed.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, the first man to call himself an anarchist, begins <i>Le Représentant du peuple</i>, the first anarchist paper.</p> <p><b>1821</b>—John Davis becomes first person known to set foot on Antarctica.</p> <p><b>1812</b>—The last, and most destructive, of the three big New Madrid, MO earthquakes causes the Mississippi to briefly reverse direction.</p>	<p><b>2001</b>—Knight-Ridder quotes an Air Force official who says "The public was misinformed" about the alleged Democratic looting of Air Force One. "There was no china or anything like that missing."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Operation Lam Son 719, a U.S.-supported ARVN incursion into Laos, begins. It ends three weeks later, a complete disaster.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The U.S. Military Assistance Command for Vietnam (MACV) is formed in Saigon.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The House Un-American Activities Committee recommends prison camps for Japanese-Americans.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Nevada becomes the first state to kill someone in a gas chamber: Gee Jon, a hit man for the Hop Sing Tong.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—The Japanese make a surprise attack on Port Arthur, Manchuria, beginning the Russo-Japanese War.</p> <p><b>1855</b>—A 100 mile stretch of strange tracks called "The Devil's Footprints" appears in England.</p> <p><b>1692</b>—A Salem, MA doctor says three teenage girls are under Satan's influence, setting off witch trials.</p> <p><b>1587</b>—For conspiring against Elizabeth I, Mary, Queen of Scots, is executed. It takes the drunken executioner three blows of the ax, after the first of which, Mary is said to have said, "Executioner, achieve your work."</p>
<p>12:31 12:49</p> <p>6:32 7:02</p>	<p>1:20 1:40</p> <p>7:24 7:51</p>	<p>2:11 2:34</p> <p>8:18 8:41</p>	<p>3:03 3:30</p> <p>9:14 9:33</p>	<p>3:59 4:30</p> <p>10:13 10:30</p>	<p>4:58 5:35</p> <p>11:17 11:30</p>	<p>6:01 6:42</p> <p>12:22</p>


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