

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### The Redacted Truth

For connoisseurs of paranoia, skulduggery, and comeuppance, this has been quite a fortnight, complete with secret rooms, purloined documents, and spies snooping on their own supervisors.

Gorging on a diet this rich is bound to eventually cause regret, but it's impossible to walk away from such a feast. And as taxpayers we're picking up the tab. So let's dig in — after a brief prayer that this war within our alleged intelligence community won't distract its members from their primary mission: protecting us from our myriad enemies — including those they have inadvertently created.

#### Actual News For a Change

This clash of the titans first broke on March 4th, when the McClatchy newspaper chain\* reported that the CIA's Inspector General had asked the Justice Department to investigate "allegations of malfeasance at the spy agency."

"Several knowledgeable people" had told McClatchy that the CIA might have been monitoring computers being used by Senate staffers. If true, that would be awkward on several levels.

First, the CIA is not supposed to spy on anybody in the U.S. Worse, the staffers in question work for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence [SSCI]; it's the SSCI's job to monitor the

\* McClatchy was the only U.S. newspaper chain to consistently report skeptically on the Bush administration's grand plans to bring peace to the Middle East by invading Iraq. Explaining why his organization's work differed from all the others, Washington, D.C. bureau chief John Walcott said, "we sought out the dissidents, and we listened to them, instead of serving as stenographers to high-ranking [Bush administration] officials and Iraqi exiles."

CIA, not the other way around. Finally, such monitoring would violate an explicit agreement between the agency and SSCI.

Naturally this revelation created a furor in the Capitol, mostly directed at the spy agency.

#### He Said

CIA Director John Brennan's reaction, as reported by McClatchy, places him squarely in the school which holds that the best defense is a good offense.

"In a combative statement issued Wednesday evening [March 5th, Brennan] chastised unidentified senators for making 'spurious allegations about CIA actions that are wholly unsupported by the facts.'"

Compared to Rep. Joe Wilson [R-SC] yelling "You lie" at President Obama this reproof was verbose but identical in sentiment.

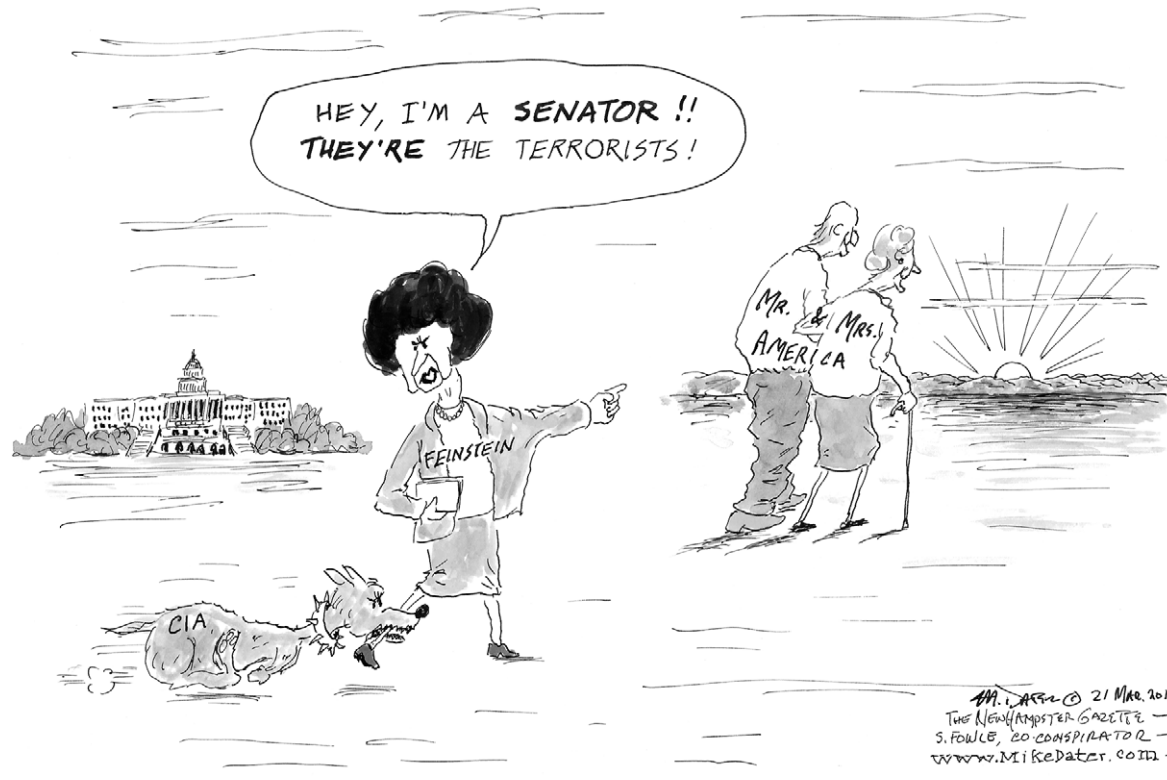
Brennan followed up his accusation with a lofty little lecture on etiquette: "I would encourage others to refrain from outbursts that do a disservice to the important relationship that needs to be maintained between intelligence officials and congressional overseers."

#### She Said

Not exactly chastened, Senator Dianne Feinstein [D-CA], the Chairman of the SSCI, seemed to take Brennan's admonition as both an affront and a challenge. On March 11th, from the well of the Senate, in front of God and C-SPAN, she delivered a forty-minute speech describing the unsavory condition of Brennan's dirty laundry in considerable detail.

#### Torture? What Torture?

This *contretemps* had its origins in a now-forgotten period of American history: the Presi-



dential administration of George W. Bush. Republicans grow testy when reminded of it, perhaps realizing subconsciously that it did not exactly perform as advertised. Democrats are afraid to bring it up for fear of... well, for fear. Like other things we could mention, though, the Bush administration did happen.

During Bush's tenure, Americans were kidnapping people in various places around the world, putting bags over their heads, drugging them, flying them to obscure hellholes, and torturing them in front of video cameras.

#### You Don't Say

The members of the SSCI first learned of the then four-year old program in 2006 — a couple of hours ahead of the rest of the world.

Upon reflection, the Agency doing the torturing seems to have realized that, in another context in which the tables were turned, those tapes might be seen not as a reminder of good times but as evidence of a crime. So it had those

tapes destroyed.

When the SSCI first learned of their destruction in 2007 — only hours ahead of the rest of the world — it decided to investigate.

#### Let's Make a Deal

One can only imagine the horse trading it took to negotiate a secure computer system in a secure facility where the CIA could provide, and Senate staffers could rummage through, top documents that were not just Top Secret due to national security, but potentially damaging to bureaucratic careers. In a variant of the "good defense" strategy, the CIA flooded the SSCI staffers with waves of documents, eventually numbering above six million.

Among the provisions the SSCI demanded was one barring the CIA from monitoring which of those documents Senate staffers were actually examining. Predictably, that was one temptation the CIA could not resist.

#### Uh, Woops

Further undermining Feinstein's confidence in the good

faith of the CIA, one of the documents proved to be an internal review of the torture "detention and interrogation" program. Inconveniently for Brennan and the CIA, that review directly contradicted official statements the CIA had made to the SSCI.

#### Stop! Thief!

If all this were not enough, CIA acting General Counsel Robert Eatlinger has gone to the Justice Department and accused the Senate staffers of pilfering documents. Feinstein pointed out during her diatribe that for most of the torture program's existence, Eatlinger was its head lawyer. Noting Brennan's supervisory role over the program would have been superfluous.

#### For Their Eyes Only

In December, 2012, the SSCI completed its 6,300 page report on the torture program. The nation awaits the release of a declassified version, but the CIA and the White House are stalling. Apparently they've decided we can't handle even the redacted truth.

## The Alleged News

### The Temp is Too Damned Low

Winter officially ended yesterday. If you think that means it's over, call us and ask about our special deal on bridges.

Any qualified meteorologist asked to quantify what we have been enduring since last November would, we suspect, tell us that it has been X.x or Y.y or Z.z degrees colder than average. Such authoritative information we are quite sure would be simultaneously accurate and meaningless.

This still being a free country — at least on paper, which is where we hang out — we have endeavored to quantify this past winter in a way that makes sense on a human scale. We began by concocting a graph of the daily temperatures in Portsmouth be-

tween November 1 and March 21st. We then marked each day when the temperature was significantly below average. It was a somewhat subjective method, we'll admit; feel free to dismiss our results and request a refund of the cover price.

What we found was that 68 days of the 141 in that period fit our dismal description. If all of those bitterly cold days had come in uninterrupted succession instead of arriving on the installment plan, the ensuing cold snap would have lasted for 48 percent of the winter.

Depending upon one's religion, this savage season could be either a) the result of the destabilization of normal weather patterns result-

ing from anthropogenic global warming, or b) perfectly normal.

#### Nothing to Worry About

Historically, frigid winds have blown across the Antarctic and then hit ice-free areas of the Southern Ocean called polynyas. Exposed to that frigid air, some of the exposed water would freeze, while denser, brinier water sank. That process drove what oceanographers call the Atlantic Bottom Water — currents of cold, briny water that flow north along the sea floor, carrying nutrients and oxygen from the South Polar region towards the equator.

Two years ago oceanographers reported that Antarctic Bottom Water, or ABW, "has been disappearing at an average rate of about

8 million metric tons per second over the past few decades, equivalent to about 50 times the average flow of the Mississippi River."

The lead author of the 2012 study said, "[i]n every oceanographic survey repeated around the Southern Ocean since about the 1980s, [ABW] has been shrinking at a similar mean rate, giving us confidence that this surprisingly large contraction is robust."

Great — there's nothing like having confidence in news that's terrifying.

A newer study, just released, ups the ante by suggesting that climate change is the culprit behind the dwindling of the ABW.

On March 2nd, researchers re-

ported in the journal *Nature Climate Change* that melting glaciers and increased precipitation have freshened — that is, desalinated — the waters around Antarctica. Scientist Casimir de Lavergne, quoted in *Scientific American*, explained, "the change in salinity of the surface water makes them so light that even very strong cooling is not sufficient to make them dense enough to sink."

#### Polar Opposite

Meanwhile, at the other end of the planet, a report published March 16 says that glaciers in the northeast region of Greenland — previously considered to

## The Alleged News

to page two

**The Alleged News**

*from page one*

be stable — have “started rapidly losing ice due to a rise in air and ocean temperatures caused in part by climate change.”

The leader of the study said, “It is surprising to see ice loss in one of the coldest regions on the planet.”

**Seriously, Though**

Although we are free to do so, we will not make an unsubstantiated leap from these two studies to a Gulf Stream shutdown and global snowball scenario, as scripted by Roland “The Day After Tomorrow” Emmerich.

Instead, we’ll cut directly to a NASA-funded report recently accepted for publication in the journal *Ecological Economics*. Author Safa Motesharrei, of the National Science Foundation-supported National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center, and a team of natural and social scientists, have apparently concluded that human civilization is almost certainly doomed unless we manage to do something humans have never shown any aptitude for.

After offering up an impressive array of “advanced, sophisticated,

complex, and creative civilizations” \* that proved to be “both fragile and impermanent,” the authors describe experiments based on “a simple mathematical model to explore the essential dynamics of interaction between population and natural resources.

“It allow[ed] for the two features that seem to appear across societies that have collapsed: the stretching of resources due to the strain placed on the ecological carrying capacity, and the division of society into Elites (rich) and Commoners (poor).”

The bad news: under conditions of economic stratification, “collapse is difficult to avoid.”

The good news: “Collapse [of our global civilization] can be avoided, and population can reach a steady state at the maximum carrying capacity, if the rate of depletion of nature is reduced to a sustainable level, and if resources are distributed equitably.”

Alas, that won’t be easy — particularly since, according to Na-

\* The Romans, of course, but also the Minoans, the Mycenaean, the Sumerians, the Akkadians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Achaemenids, the Seleucids, the Parthians, the Sassanids, the Umayyads, the Abbasids, the Hittites, the Harappans, the Guptas, &c., &c.



A still image from PortsmouthWebCam.com, showing the tanker Seapride alliding with the north pier of the New Memorial Bridge.

feez Ahmed’s reporting on the study in *The Guardian*, though “some members of society might raise the alarm that the system is moving towards an impending collapse and therefore advocate structural changes to society in order to avoid it, Elites and their supporters, who [oppose] making these changes, [can] point to the long sustainable trajectory ‘so far’ in support of doing nothing.”

**Breaking In Our New Bridge**

The 600-foot tanker *Seapride* allided† with the north pier of the New Memorial Bridge Friday morning, March 7th. The bridge was not structurally damaged, but one five-ton fender was knocked off the supporting pier and fell to the river bottom; two other fenders were damaged. The missing fender was retrieved by divers the next morning.

The double-hulled *Seapride* had offloaded ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel at the Sprague Oil terminal

† Allided — maritime lawyer-speak for “moving vessel ran into stationary object.”

and was headed to Portland, ME. Scraped but not seriously damaged, it continued on to its destination. Coast Guard officials boarded her *en route* to interview the crew.

A .gif of the incident, made up from still shots taken by *PortsmouthWebCam.com*, can be seen online at [NHGazette.com/?p=5803](http://NHGazette.com/?p=5803). Viewing it, one thing stands out: the bright yellow glare of the rising sun being reflected from the ship’s superstructure. It was either that, or the tanker was on fire and nobody noticed.

The original Memorial Bridge was hit only once in its 90 years of service, according to NHDOT spokesman Bill Boynton, but this was the second time in just under a year that a cargo ship unintentionally made contact with a Piscataqua River bridge. Last April 1st, the *Harbour Feature*, also a tanker, came loose from its moorings at the State Pier and allided with the Mildred Long Bridge. If our institutional memory serves,

the courtroom phase of the lawsuit over that incident will begin some time this spring.

A decade or so ago a small cruise ship got caught unawares upstream of the Sarah Mildred Long bridge. An outgoing current pinned the ship to the bridge.

This was back in the days when the much-missed *Wanamaker*, a luxuriously-built steam-driven tugboat converted to a restaurant, was docked long-term at Harbor Place. It took Moran’s tugs several hours to free the ship, providing rich entertainment for those enjoying cocktail hour aboard the *Wanamaker*.

These things happen, as *ShipwreckLog.com* shows. On March 7th, the cement tanker-barge *Aviso* hit the deck of a bridge on the Old Rhine River in the Netherlands. On March 5th, the tanker *Ginaldag* allided with a lock wall in the Kiel Canal in Germany. And on February 25th, the bulk carrier *Hanze Gotebord* ran aground off Portsmouth, VA.

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**Welcome to Fort Prescott**

The Prescott Park Arts Festival announced recently — apparently with pride — that Wilcox Industries is now its “mainstage sponsor” for the 2014 season.

It’s an edgy combination: family-friendly entertainment being staged on city property, funded by a purveyor of night vision equipment for snipers.

The big show this summer will be “Shrek the Musical.” We can’t help but wonder: in this production, will the big guy’s skin be rendered in the traditional green? Or will the makeup artists work up a customized “jungle camouflage” look?

Wilcox Industries is, of course, the same Newington-based defense contractor that was allowed by the City Council to make over the little traffic circle at the south end of the new bridge. It’s officially called the Memorial Park. One critic of the design — such people do exist — refers to it as “Six Flags Over Portsmouth.”

Oh, well ... in a world where the most-prestigious Peace Prize was funded by the inventor of modern explosives, what else can we expect?

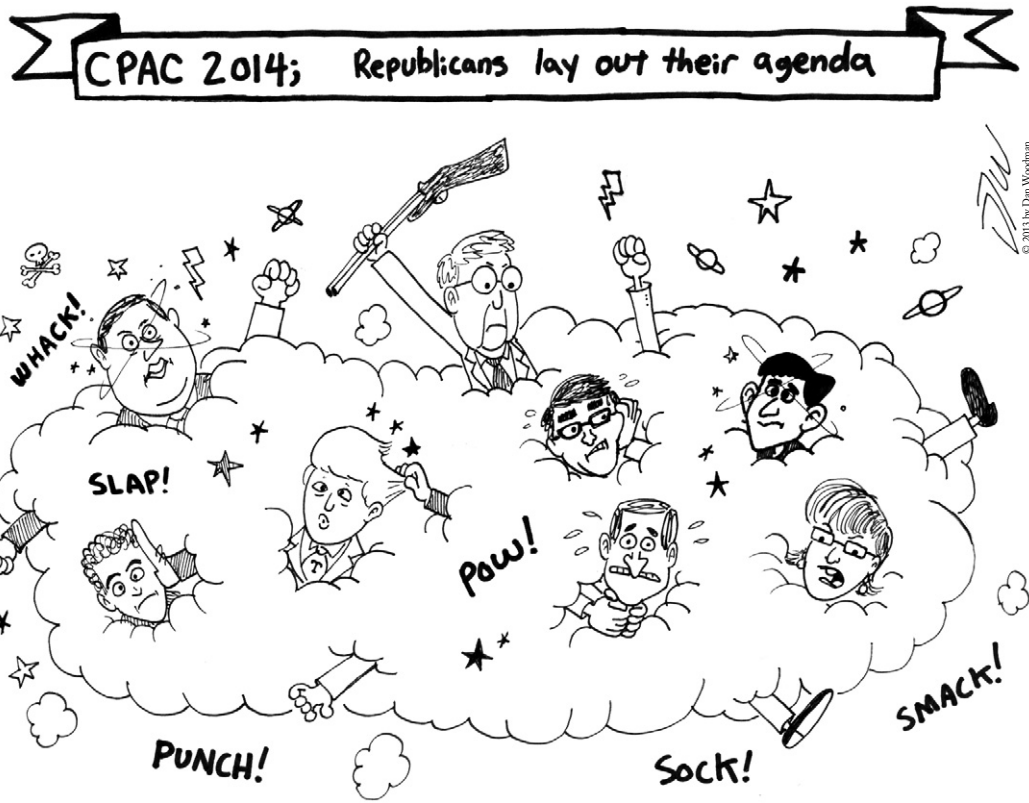
**Let the Games Begin Continue**

Politics never stop in this state, which is one reason we love it. They do ebb and flow, though. Since Congressional elections will be held this fall, the tide is now rising (tide of what, we shall not say; we do aspire to be a family newspaper).

It’s particularly entertaining to observe the political process with one eye on the Award Winning Local Daily. You never know what you’ll find.

On March 9th, the *Portsmouth Herald* ran an op-ed piece about Laurence Lessig’s NHRbellion, which is trying to drive the money changers out of our elections. The piece was notable for the respect it showed towards an activist movement that is challenging the very roots of the status quo, and doubly so because it was written by Howard Altschiller himself, the Executive Editor of the *Herald’s* parent organization, the Seacoast Media Group.

Yet on the same page, directly below Altschiller’s piece, the paper provided a platform — yet again — for Jeff Chidester, a card-carrying member of the Koch Brothers’ local band of use-



ful idiots.

That Sunday, Chidester — not to be confused with the late, great Guy Chichester, the Siren Pole-Topping Scourge of Seabrook Station — was trying to make a particularly difficult case: when it comes to campaign contributions, he maintained, the Koch Brothers are pikers. The big spenders, he said, are unions.

Curiously, this was the same line Kimberly Strassel had taken in her *Wall Street Journal* column just three days earlier, citing as her source a report by the Center for Responsive Politics [CRP].

Chidester ought to choose his sources more critically, particularly when numbers are involved. For example, take Strassel’s prediction for the 2012 Presidential outcome: “at a minimum, Mr. Romney wins 289 electoral votes, a tally that includes Florida, Virginia, Ohio, Colorado, New Hampshire ....” Romney ended up with 206 electoral votes, none of them from the states included in our quote.

Lee Fang, at *RepublicReport.com*,

explains where Strassel went wrong on the Koch brothers: the source she used left out “certain Super PAC spending or most undisclosed dark money spending, the preferred route for the Koch brothers for decades.”

During the last election, Fang wrote, “Koch PAC spent \$4.9 million in disclosed contributions (figures that appear on the chart referenced by Strassel). But they also spent over \$407 million on undisclosed campaign entities, which does not show up in the CRP chart.”

In reality, “Koch groups alone spent more than double the combined political spending (including to undisclosed group) for the top ten unions combined.”

So on the one hand *Herald* readers get Altschiller patting Lessig on the back for trying to tamp down the money that’s perverting our politics, and on the other they get hogwash which will leave them knowing less about that very subject than if they’d never seen that day’s paper.

**NH Citizens vs. Citizens United**

No sooner had Scott Brown, the Hamlet of Rye, announced he was forming a committee to help him think about whether to run for the U.S. Senate from New Hampshire, of all places, than Karl Rove announced his organization would spend \$650,000 on television ads on Brown’s behalf.

Rove raised that money riding the rails from one hobo camp to another, collecting nickels in an old sock .... Sorry, we’ve been misled; please disregard.

Actually, Rove’s American Crossroads is bombarded with fat donations from anonymous billionaires like the Koch brothers, which it spends trying to get us rubes to vote in ways that will condemn us to perpetual wage slavery.

Which is why the *Telegraph’s* Kevin Landrigan was able to report on Tuesday that “Four of five NH towns (47 of 59) endorse amending U.S. Const[itution] to overturn *Citizen’s United* case re: campaign finance.”



First it came for the granite benches at the Bridge Street parking lot. Then it came for the black steel bicycle racks. This water fountain in Market Square appears to be the latest victim of the dreaded sidewalk plow, and its jihad against all public amenities.

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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**For the Minimum Wage**

To the Editor:

The Republicans are apparently against any sort of minimum wage, never mind increasing it. The logical extension of that means that the Republicans are okay with workers who are paid below or at the current minimum wage which is definitely not a living wage. An unavoidable fact is that their employer is making a living while his/her employees aren't. How do those employees continue to work? Government food stamps and other supports to life. The employer is being subsidized by taxpayers. So Wal-Mart, McDonalds, Staples and all the others with huge profits are getting a free ride thanks to our tax dollar. Southern New Hampshire is infested with these parasites.

What is worse, Wal-Mart, Staples, and their ilk get most of their goods from foreign countries relying on slave labor, or survival wages in unsafe conditions. Our policies need to change and to change now. Fair Trade needs to make a comeback, unions need to be allowed in our international trading partners, and the minimum wage needs to free-up our workers from government support for the obscene corporate profits of Wal-Mart, Staples, and all the rest.

Republicans will never support fixing this injustice, and our standard of living will continue to decline, until we all wake up and throw the bums out. Jeanne

Shaheen and Carol Shea-Porter are our best hope. A Democratic House of Representatives that sends John Boehner home is our only hope.

Hiram Connell  
Somersworth, NH

Hiram:

*We're shocked to see the 'Murican way of life criticized like this.*

The Editor

§

**The Walking CPAC**

To the Editor:

My life is so boring these days that I actually had a great time watching and reading about the recent Conservative Political Action Committee convention held in our nation's Capital. CPAC puts the nutters in the Republican Party on full display for our amusement/horror. And even some "mainstream" Repubs made their voices heard during this conservo cavalcade, such as double-wide New Jersey governor Chris Christie who was in attendance to try and rehabilitate his right-wing creds. Last year the blubbery blowhard was not invited to CPAC after committing the major sin of saying a good thing or two about that Kenyan anti-colonialist in the White House in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. The corpulent state exec tried to make up for it at this 2014 CPAC carnival by slamming Obama on his "leadership." The irony is that Jabba the Christie himself apparently can't even lead his own Garden State underlings. At least that's what he wants you to think.

Also in attendance was that bikini MILF with machine guns, Sarah Palin. The former half-term Governor of Alaska with the sexy ankles and sexy lack of foreign policy experience thinks that the way to deal with Iran, for example, is to nuke 'em! "Mr. President, the only thing that stops a bad guy with a nuke is a good guy with a nuke." She actually

said that. And why not? Dishing out red meat to the base is what it's all about. I suspect that most of those in attendance at CPAC aren't really into fact checking or considering the ramifications if some mustachioed neocon (sorry about the lack of illiteration!) like a John Bolton were to have his eager finger perched precariously above the button.

And then there was the Skeletor Ann Coulter who was going on about the "browning of America" during an idiotic panel discussion. And I assume she wasn't referring to some sexual perversion although with her, you never know. And then there was Paul Ryan who will solve all our problems by getting rid of free school lunch programs.

I would go on but I must stop to watch "The Walking Dead." Come to think of it, watching CPAC wasn't that much different.

Robert "Wheel Gun Bob" Ford  
Portsmouth, NH

Bob:

*Nice to hear from someone who truly appreciates America.*

The Editor

§

**Clinton and Fascism**

To the Editor:

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is the frontrunner to be the next president of the United States, recently made reckless remarks by comparing Russia's President Vladimir Putin's actions in Ukraine to Hitler. Hillary Clinton is playing with more than fire by making such comparisons of Russia's leader to Hitler. Never mind how hurtful such remarks are to Russians, who lost some 28 million people during their courageous fight against Hitler in World War II.

Why isn't Hillary Clinton questioning why our government, led by her former colleagues in the State Department, are now allied with members of fascist organi-

*Mash Notes,* **HATE MAIL,**

zations in the interim Ukrainian government?

For example, in May 2013, Ukraine's far right fascist Svoboda Party was labeled as "neo-Nazi" by the World Jewish Congress, which called upon European governments to ban it. Yet, multiple members from Svoboda and other far right groups are now holding seven ministry positions in the interim Ukraine government — fully supported by President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry.

John Meinhold  
Portsmouth, NH

§

**A Dose of Libertarian Claptrap**

To the Editor:

I am in awe of recent battles for government funding. People who receive government assistance called "welfare" are vilified while I hardly hear negativity about government assistance for healthcare, schools, grants, or the like. People have spoken out against corporations getting bailouts, but even that is more accepted than those who are "on welfare." Why do these people get shunned but it's OK to put one's hand out for other programs that some believe is a right? Government isn't a business and doesn't make a profit — it gets deeper in debt and taxes go up. Taxes are theft according to Bastiat, the author of "The Law." I agree. Money is taken from one and given to another with the threat of jail or losing their property, if not paid. What would schools, healthcare, and other "services" the government is trying to monopolize look like if it was voluntary and folks paid into as they saw fit, allowing for competition? Money would follow good service and sound business models. I would not give a dime to public schools, if I wasn't forced to. How is it that the budget for Plaistow

schools goes up but enrollment is way down? I have donated money for the past two years to support a New Hampshire organization that awards scholarships to children so they can attend charter schools, which is privately funded and no one is making me do it. Many folks claim these funding battles and increases are for the children, and the future. How is getting deeper into debt going to be good for the children? Today's New Hampshire elderly are having a tough time paying their property taxes and the children will be burdened with the debt in the future, created today. When does it end? I would like to see people vote to stop the spending and increase in budgets, going forward. I would like to see sacrifice, less government reliance, and a state where independence and personal responsibility are at the forefront, once more. It was done with less, at a more difficult time in history, it can be done again.

Carla Mora  
Plaistow, NH

Carla:

*So, you would like to see essential services funded solely by voluntary contributions, eh?*

*We would like to see jeweled unicorns flying in tight formation over Manchester, leaving behind a trail of Faberge eggs dangling from parachutes made of Hermès scarves. One is as likely to happen as the other.*

The Editor

§

**We Need a Responsible GOP**

To the Editor:

I confess to being a Democrat even though I have on occasion voted for Republicans, both for President and for state office. However, our democracy cannot function without a strong opposition party (or maybe more than one). That is why I am seriously concerned that the Republican

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# And Other Correspondence

Party appears on its way to becoming a regional party; one that can win governors races and do well in some parts of the country, but not be able to compete nationwide.

For our country to move forward and solve many of our national challenges, many groups and parties need to work constructively and not view compromise as defeat. But that is how I believe the current Republican Party leadership is failing our country.

Despite the blunt evaluation that they received from their own consultants after the 2012 elections, it appears they will not be changing any of the policies that turned many voters away, and will not make a genuine attempt to reach out to those voters they do not seem to be attracting: women, young voters, Hispanic and minority voters, and many seniors. Instead they seem to be determined to repeal the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), protect the wealthy and corporations from any additional taxes or regulations, support radical religious views and infringe women's private decisions, ignore the situation of 11 million illegal emigrants in our country, and attempt to generally restrict voting or make it harder to vote for everyone. This does not make our country any better, and it is not a winning formula if you are seeking the support of a large segment of the population. But without changing, they will continue to lose elections. Americans are an optimistic people and are looking for positive not negative messages. It is not enough to be against policies, you also have to show that your policies will make most people's lives better and make our country a better place. This is true not only in the country at large

but also right here in Portsmouth. When local Republican leaders in Portsmouth such as Sue Polidura, Norm Olsen or Jeffrey Purtell constantly complain about taxes, public employees, labor unions or the incompetence of the current city council, is does not resonate with most voters, because they offer no alternative positive vision for our city or our country. And when they complain about voter fraud and suggest that this is why they are not being elected in Portsmouth, it is a serious charge against our local poll workers who make every effort to be fair to all voters. No, Republicans have a hard time getting elected in Portsmouth because the party brand is currently not very popular, and local Republicans are not doing anything to improve that situation. I recently told a Republican friend in Portsmouth that if there were more Republicans like Ray Bowles on the ballot in Portsmouth, even I might vote for that person.

I know what it is like to be the chairman of the minority party in town. For four years I was the chairman in Amherst, New Hampshire — a Republican town. Our small group however found many ways of connecting with local voters and their interests nevertheless. We gave away awards to young people for essays, community service and supported many local initiatives and charities, regardless of political affiliation. We tried to be constructive and find common ground, and after many years were seen as a positive force in town.

Is it not possible for both Republicans and Democrats to agree that everyone in our country should have high quality health-care, regardless of how we get there? We all know that our tax system is too complicated and un-

fair, so let's improve it. Can't we agree that no one in our country should stand in line to vote for more than 45 minutes? Is it not time to honestly deal with the illegal emigrants in our country in a humane and fair way? Our country needs good ideas from all parties, but most of all we need compromise to make things happen. The Republican Party must be part of the solution not an obstacle.

Peter Somssich, former Democratic Chairman in Amherst & Portsmouth NH  
Portsmouth, NH

### The Voter ID Falsehood

To the Editor:

There have been several letters recently about the need for voter ID to combat vote fraud. None cite any evidence of meaningful voter ID fraud in New Hampshire elections. I'd like to ask the proponents of stringent voter ID requirements how they think there could be a meaningful number of false ballots cast under the existing system.

There are two paths to the ballot box; the first is the voter presents himself to a poll worker, declares his name and the poll worker finds that name in the alphabetic check list of registered voters. To cast a fraudulent ballot the person presenting himself would have to know that the person whose name he was using was not going to vote; he'd also somehow have to know that the poll worker, and other poll workers within earshot, all of whom are residents of the precinct, did not know the person whose name was being misused. Doing enough of that to cast a substantial number of false ballots seems not credible.

The second route to a ballot is to go to the same day registration table and claim to be a new voter in the precinct. The worker will ask for proof of ID and residence which most people in this situa-

tion have. If not, they can sign affidavits which are filed with election authorities. Any meaningful number of new registrations with affidavits instead of proof of identity and residence should trigger concern at the polling place and with the state Attorney General. In any case, new registrations have nothing to do with requiring photo voter ID for already registered voters.

Robert Wilkinson  
Portsmouth, NH

Robert:  
*Your argument is invalid: it relies on facts and common sense. The push for voter ID is based entirely on other considerations; to wit, the sinister use of fear, uncertainty and doubt to induce people to vote against their own best interests.*

The Editor  
§  
**Putin Pushes Back**

To the Editor:  
With John Kerry going about the world making a fool of himself, and reinforcing an American hypocrisy that diminishes the soft power of American ideals, the print and electronic media, former watchdogs, now lap dogs for government, join in a chorus of propaganda, thinking that the world does not recognize or remember American misadventure and violation of the sovereignty of Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, and the continuous efforts to destabilize legitimate governments in South America and Syria.

Like JFK, who brought us to the brink of nuclear war over Soviet missiles in Cuba, Putin will not permit NATO to expand to the Russian border.

Furthermore, Russia did not invade the Crimea, they have treaties that put their fleet and soldiers legitimately in the Crimea until 2024.

It seems that since the begin-

**More Hate Mail, &c.**  
to page six



On March 28, 2006, WSCA-LP was granted a license by the Federal Communications Commission to serve the public interest as a public trustee until April 1, 2014.

Our license will expire on April 1, 2014. We filed an application for renewal with the FCC on November 20, 2013. A copy of this application is available for inspection during our regular business hours. It contains information concerning this station's performance during the last seven years.

Individuals who wish to advise the FCC of facts relating to our renewal application and to whether this station has operated in the public interest, should file comments and petitions with the FCC.

Further information concerning the FCC's broadcast license renewal process is available at our 909 Islington Street, Suite 1 studios in Portsmouth, New Hampshire or may be obtained from the FCC, Washington, DC 20554, www.fcc.gov.

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*Northcountry Chronicle***Polled Cattle**

by William Marvel

At our annual town and school meetings, controversial questions are usually confronted by a petition for a secret ballot. Those petitions are frequently met with groans, partly because ballot voting interrupts and delays the process. The secret ballot is also feared, however, because supporters on one side or the other of a sensitive issue know they might not achieve their goal if people are allowed to vote beyond the prying eyes of their neighbors.

The pressure of public opinion often prevents people from voting according to conscience, and that distortion of the democratic process sometimes leads to serious trouble. Before and during the Civil War voting was usually done in the open, with party tickets instead of nonpartisan ballots, and that proved decisive in many of the referenda on secession. Anxiety and anger gripped the slave South, especially after President Lincoln began to mobilize

against the states that had already seceded, and in many places it could put a man in mortal danger to express loyalty for the Union. In Appomattox County, Virginia, every single citizen voted to secede, and the results showed similar unanimity across much of the region despite an abundance of known loyalists: most of those unionists simply succumbed to intimidation, either refraining from voting at all or casting ballots to satisfy their outraged neighbors.

The so-called "Bradley effect" reflects how citizens may answer a question one way in front of other people and another way when they are alone. The term originated when Tom Bradley, a black candidate for governor of California, lost the election despite polls giving him a commanding lead: analysts theorized that people feared they would seem prejudiced if they replied honestly when asked directly whom they preferred. That seemed a reasonable conclusion, considering how often the opponents of minority

candidates are subjected to calculated accusations of racism.

The same phenomenon exaggerates support for gay marriage. Polls often predict higher approval of gay marriage than popular votes demonstrate; more significantly, those polls seem to invariably underestimate the opposition. Four state referenda have been held since 2009, including two in Maine, and polls conducted in the last months before each vote consistently underestimated the proportion of opponents by an average of several percentage points beyond their margins of error. Before the 2009 Maine vote to ban gay marriage, six polls predicted results showing, on average, that the measure would fail by four percentage points, but it passed by 5.5 percent. In 2012, the averaged results of seven polls again overestimated the pro-gay-marriage vote, and underestimated the opposition by nearly 14 percentage points. Similar discrepancies afflicted poll results just before the gay-marriage referenda in Wash-

ington in 2012 and Maryland in 2013: both passed, but with much more resistance than expected. At least in liberal states, the initiative has had more success in the legislatures, where voting cannot be done in private. After all, many politicians worship poll results, however inaccurate.

Given the political habit of demonizing those who differ, the reluctance to openly oppose such bandwagon issues is easy to understand. In the case of gay marriage, a lobby that spent decades pleading for tolerance suddenly turned conspicuously intolerant, wielding economic boycotts and a campaign of ridicule against those who dared express a divergent opinion. The accusation of racism or sexism is still thrown occasionally at those who criticize the candidacy, administration, or agendas of minority or female political figures. More locally, citizens who fail to offer full support for their school boards or school unions risk being reflexively branded "anti-education," and employees

of that system can be made to suffer at work if they depart publicly from the party line.

Then there is the pressure felt by voters whose businesses rely on local patronage. It takes some spine for them to oppose special interests that have a lot of buying power, and some business people seem to vote with their clientele in mind, both from the floor and from elective positions. One member of Conway's Municipal Budget Committee seemed particularly averse to offending potential customers, or intent on ingratiating them: he never voted against a single spending article unless the rest of the board was unanimous against it, and I sometimes noticed him looking around for other hands before he finally raised his. The fear of being shunned by the rest of the herd accounts for the inaccuracy of opinion polling — and for the unreliability of municipal voting as a representation of popular will, when conducted without a secret ballot.

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

ning of breakup of the Soviet Union roles have been reversed, with the American media becoming Pravda, and the support for world revolution being supported by the new evil empire — the United States.

As to the support of the neo-Nazis in Kiev — who, by the way, were the ones using professional snipers to kill policemen, and to murder other revolutionaries, so as to blame it on the legitimate government — I hope that McCain, Kerry and all the other hypocrites remember this when they attend those Memorial Day activities

and talk so fondly of The Greatest Generation who fought and died to defeat those same dark forces.

Then there is Sarah Palin and her inability to differentiate a potential nuclear conflict from a schoolyard brawl, accusing Obama of weakness, when cautious and measured words and deeds are necessary. One trembles to think that this lunatic wanted to be one heart beat away from the presidency. And Obama will do well to reign in a State Department that has gone rogue, and remind McCain that the American people soundly rejected the Mc-

Cain/Palin ticket.

The good thing is that most Americans are not buying what McCain, the neo-cons, Kerry, and the Military Industrial Complex are selling.

John Dente  
Wilmington, DE

§  
**Arizona SB1062**

To the Editor:

Having been highly critical of Arizona Governor Jan Brewer for signing Arizona's anti-immigrant bill (SB1070) into law, I must now praise her for vetoing SB1062 which would have

allowed business owners to deny services, based on their religious beliefs, to the LGBT community. She, no doubt, recognized that Arizona's economy was about to go up in flames if she had done otherwise.

Conversely, the completely Republican-controlled Arizona State Legislature deserves condemnation. It is absolutely inconceivable that their discriminatory bill even reached the governor's desk; which immediately begs the question of what part of, "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," do

the Republicans not understand? The mere thought that SB1062 could get so dangerously close to becoming law is chilling and only conjures up the horrifying image of signs on establishment windows, from dark days gone by, that read "No Coloreds Allowed" or "Jews Strictly Forbidden."

The anti-gay bill passed the Senate on a party-line vote of 17-13 and the House, 33-27, with three Republicans voting in opposition. This can certainly be viewed as an indicator, unless the Arizona State Legislature is completely disconnected from its con-

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# Millionaire Lawmakers Can Rise Above Their Financial Handicap

by Jim Hightower

Mark Twain spoke for me when he said: "I'm opposed to millionaires, but it would be dangerous to offer me the position."

One danger that such wealth brings is that many who have it become blinded to those who don't. Thus, the news that more than half of our Congress critters are now in the millionaire class helps

explain why it has been striving ceaselessly to provide more government giveaways to Wall Street bankers and other superwealthy elites, while also striving to enact government takeaways from middle-class and poor families.

Take the richest House member, Rep. Darrell Issa, with a net worth of \$464 million. A right-wing California Republican, he has used his legislative powers to try denying health coverage to

poor Americans, even as he tried to unravel the new restraints to keep Wall Street bankers from wrecking our economy again. Issa and his ilk are proof that a lawmaker's net worth is strictly a financial measure, not any indication at all of one's actual value or "worthiness."

I hasten to note that many millionaires in America have been able to rise above their financial handicap, serving the public in-

terest rather than self or special interests. For example, when Rep. Chellie Pingree was elected to Congress in 2009, she was an organic farmer and innkeeper in rural Maine. Definitely not a millionaire, she was a stalwart fighter for such progressive policies as getting corporate money out of politics, enacting Medicare for all, and reining in Wall Street greed. But in 2011, Pingree married — of all people — a Wall Street fi-

nancier and was suddenly vaulted into the ranks of the 1-percenters. So, naturally, her legislative positions changed ... not one whit.

See, even in Congress, being a millionaire is no excuse for becoming a narcissistic jerk. Siding with plutocrats is not an incurable condition — it's a choice.

§

Copyright 2014 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laura@jimhightower.com).

stituents, that approximately 56% of the voting citizenry of Arizona must share the perverse belief, based on their interpretation of the Bible, that the God, in which they believe, instructs us to shun 10% of the human race.

The Governor, herself, stated that Arizona has no known record of infringement on the freedom of religion of business owners. Hence, the people of scenic Arizona can and should continue to worship or non-worship freely. However, with this choice comes the responsibility to analytically think about the veracity of what one is being told or how one interprets what they read in the Bible.

The Religious Right, and the GOP, which ridiculously panders to this enormous segment of its voting base, must learn that all of God's little children (approximately 312 million in the U.S.) are wired differently and just like a person's origin of birth, gender, ethnicity or skin color, one's sexual orientation is not a choice!

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, NH  
Wayne:  
We can't believe you left out "No Irish Need Apply" — especially at this time of year!  
The Editor

### Puddle Dock Agonistes

To the Editor:

*Sticks and weeds poked through our ice,  
I was nine, or maybe ten,  
Our puck a rock or someone's shoe,  
We slap-dashed hockey, oh, until  
Our fingers cold, or maybe dark,  
Then plodded home to suppertime.*

*(Not one grown-up, not a one,  
Ever meddled with our fun.)*

*Now all hail! Zamboni lives!  
Hi-tech modern's on a roll!  
Tchotchke vendors, widgets loud!  
Fabrication in high gear!  
On Puddle Lane sits History, mute,  
Robbed of all its quietude.  
(For this there is no remedy.  
Good-bye, winter poetry.)*

from *Lines Written Above a Strawberry Banke*, by Barnabas Umbrage  
Portsmouth, NH

### BP's Macondo Lies

To the Editor:

In 2011, BP finally capped its Macondo oil well in the Gulf of Mexico — America's worst environmental disaster — and the national media moved on.

Michael Robichaux, a Louisiana physician, reports treating patients for clusters of symptoms

unlike anything seen before. The dispersant Corexit, hailed by BP and the EPA but banned in the UK, is applied to the leaking wellhead and sprayed across thousands of square miles of Gulf waters. The effect: oil sinking to the seafloor while the dispersant spreads its toxicity, many times greater than the oil itself, according to the Government Accountability Project, Georgia Technical Institute, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, &c.)

The federally required Material Data Sheets created by Corexit's manufacturer describes the potential hazards as "High," causing "injury to red blood cells, the kidney or liver." Corexit was linked to severe health problems for exposed workers during the Exxon Valdez cleanup.

BP, state and federal agencies failed to provide workers with warnings as required by federal law.

BP contended in May, 2013 that it was "not aware of any data showing ... exposure to dispersants ... that would pose a health or safety concern." (!)

Area fishermen estimate a 60 to 70 percent reduction in the quantity of seafood harvested. Over 70 percent of the nation's shrimp and 60 percent of its oysters come

from the Gulf.

BP launched an unrestrained and immodest ad campaign to restore public confidence.

This plays out like a broken record, leaving the ecosystem and its wildlife the grim reapers.

Michael Kulla  
Pleasant Valley, NY

§

### Re: The Persistence of Error

Date: Friday, February 28  
From: editors@nhgazette.com  
To: WHS Pentagon VNWar50th  
Subject: Typographical Error  
Message: On the [Vietnam-War50th.com] timeline entry for October 17, 1967, [Medal of Honor Recipient] Harold Bascom Durham, Jr.'s first name is misspelled "Harlod."

Surely this can be corrected.  
The Editor  
Date: Wednesday, March 5  
From: WHS Pentagon VN-War50th

To: editors@nhgazette.com  
Subject: RE: Typographical Error  
Message: Dear Mr. Fowler [sic],  
Thank you for catching this error. We will fix this typo immediately.

Mark Franklin  
Chief, History and Education Branch, United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

§

### Oil Play Could End OPEC

To: Random Suckers

Please find a special message from our paid sponsor, Champlain Media. They have important information to share with you. Sponsorships like this help to allow us to [blah, blah, blah ...]

From: Mike Huckabee  
[Message begins.] "Two industry heavyweights with a combined worth of \$74 billion could be set to fight it out for ownership of ..." — Tobin Smith, Fox News alumnus.

"Grey Fox Petroleum's est. 1.25 Billion Barrels of Oil — Buy shares of GFOX now while you can still get them at around \$1.00 and you could turn \$10,000 into \$285,000 in the next 6 months! ..." [End of Message]

Mike  
According to SeekingAlpha.com, "The Fraud Research Institute ... holds a very strong opinion that since its inception, [Gray Fox Petroleum; GFOX] has been cultivated by stock promoters for the sole purpose of acquiring dirt-cheap shares and liquidating them at artificially inflated prices." Shame on you — a man of the cloth — for aiding and abetting the likes of Tobin Smith — who was fired last year by Fox News for hyping bogus stocks.

The Editor

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

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

whom you choose to believe.

The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the

moon drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream

end of Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork.

The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

Sunday, March 23	Monday, March 24	Tuesday, March 25	Wednesday, March 26	Thursday, March 27	Friday, March 28	Saturday, March 29
<p><b>2006</b>—Adwaita, a giant tortoise alleged to be 250 years old, dies at the Calcutta Zoo.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Before 18 other Congressmen of both parties, in the Dirksen Senate office building, Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) helps place a gold crown on the head of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—A convoy of the 507th Maintenance Co. gets lost, then ambushed near Nasiriyah, Iraq; eleven soldiers are KIA, five are wounded, and six taken prisoner, including Private Jessica Ryan.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—A U.S. missile downs a British fighter jet over Iraq.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Acting president Ronald Reagan, flashing back to his "Brass Bancroft" role in 1940's film <i>Murder in the Air</i>, proposes a space-based anti-missile system.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—The Tennessee legislature bans the teaching of evolution.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—In London, a bullet-catching trick by American illusionist William Robinson (aka "Chung Ling Soo, the Marvelous Chinese Conjuror") goes fatally wrong.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—Filipino rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo is captured by U.S. troops. The U.S. had earlier backed him in his fight against Spanish colonial powers.</p> <p><b>1842</b>—The House of Representatives censures Congressman Joshua R. Giddings for introducing a resolution opposing slavery.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—At a black-tie dinner, President Bush cracks up A-list broadcast journalists with gags about "his" failed search for WMDs. Less amused: families of dead GI's; death toll so far: 691.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Exxon demonstrates its commitment to the environment in Prince William Sound.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Alex Mitchell, a British bricklayer, dies of laughter while watching BBC's "The Goodies."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports, thanks to stolen FBI documents, that letter carriers, a Swarthmore switchboard operator, and a local police chief have been spying on Philadelphia activists.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Operation Lam Son 719, the ARVN invasion of Laos, ends. Huge U.S., VC, and ARVN casualties but no winners.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—His parachute destroyed by fire, RAF tail-gunner Nicholas Alkemade jumps from his crippled bomber 18,000 feet over Germany. Pine trees and snow break his fall; he lives until 1987.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—Robert Allison becomes the first American to buy an American-built automobile. It's a Winton.</p> <p><b>1834</b>—The Bank of Maryland collapses, the victim of "stupendous fraud;" depositors lose between \$2 and \$3 million.</p> <p><b>1832</b>—Mormon prophet Joseph Smith is beaten, tarred, and feathered in Ohio.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—George W. Bush signs an Executive Order giving Dick "Dick" Cheney unprecedented power to classify—or declassify—information.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The top four generals at the Air Force Academy are sacked after a massive rape scandal.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Florida's "Old Sparky" does it again, setting Pedro Medina's head on fire as it kills him.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Three dairy coops get \$600 million in milk price supports for a \$427,000 "contribution" towards Nixon's re-election.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Fifteen WWII and Korean War veterans burn their discharge papers in NYC to protest the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Montgomery, AL, 25,000 civil rights marchers complete a march from Selma.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The U.S. Customs Service seizes Allen Ginsburg's "Howl" as "obscene."</p> <p><b>1931</b>—In Alabama, the Scottsboro Boys are arrested.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—RIP, Ida B. Wells.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire kills 146 sweatshop workers in New York City. An investigation shows that the factory's fire doors had been locked to enhance productivity.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—"Coxey's Army" sets out for Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—Quintessential Yankee poet Robert Frost is born—in California.</p>	<p><b>1993</b>—Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev returns to Earth after 300 days in orbit, during which time the country that sent him aloft dissolved.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Once and future U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visits Baghdad where he schmoozes with Iraq's Foreign Minister and gives him Ronald Reagan's best wishes.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Ground is broken in Washington, D.C. for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—RIP John Kennedy Toole.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—A dozen "Wise Men" visit LBJ and tell him it's time to get out of Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Gen. Westmoreland asks for 40,000 more men in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Carried back up onto the scaffold after the rope breaks, James Johnson tells his executioners in Poplar Bluff, MO, "Hurry up, boys, and get me out of my misery."</p> <p><b>1918</b>—A "Slacker Raid" in Minneapolis rounds up men without draft cards.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Congress bars, among others, paupers and anarchists from immigrating.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—The poet Walt Whitman utters his last words, "Hold me up, I want to s...t."</p> <p><b>1827</b>—Ludwig von Beethoven begins composing.</p> <p><b>1804</b>—Federal government informs Indians that they must all move west of the Mississippi.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Iraq "can really finance its own reconstruction and relatively soon," U.S. Undersecretary for Defense Paul Wolfowitz tells Congress. "There's a lot of money to pay for this that doesn't have to be U.S. taxpayer money."</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Congress slashes welfare; approves \$100 million for drug wars "The Contras."</p> <p><b>1980</b>—A Norwegian oil platform collapses in the North Sea. Of the 212 on board, 123 perish.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—Two Boeing 747s collide on the ground in the Canary Islands, killing 580.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The "Good Friday" earthquake and tsunami destroy a large part of Anchorage, AK.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—The U.S. State Department cleanses its overseas libraries of the works of WWI vet Dashiell Hammett.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Sam Phillips establishes Sun Records in Memphis, TN.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—Having drunk Parisian tap water three weeks earlier to prove that it was safe, British novelist Arnold Bennett dies of typhoid fever.</p> <p><b>1814</b>—Gen. Andy Jackson leads a massacre at Tohopeka, AL. According to the final tally, accomplished by counting severed noses, the victors killed 557.</p> <p><b>1800</b>—Federalist Senators find Philadelphia <i>Aurora</i> editor William Duane in contempt for publishing the truth about them.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—Phyllis Schlafly tells Bates students that by getting married a woman "has consented to sex, and I don't think you can call it rape".</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Two U.S. "Warthog" aircraft mistakenly strafe British tanks in Iraq killing one soldier.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—"The enemy we're fighting [in Iraq]," General William S. Wallace admits to the <i>Washington Post</i>, "is different from the one we'd war-gamed against."</p> <p><b>1979</b>—A stuck valve causes a nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania to melt.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Radio Caroline, the first pirate radio station, goes on the air.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Rep. Emmanuel Celler of NY introduces anti-payola bills and blames payola for the popularity of cacophonous rock 'n roll among teenagers.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—The Spanish Civil War ends as Franco takes Madrid.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—On Palm Sunday, 38 tornadoes in 8 states kill 380 people.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Bonnot, the anarchist bandit whose gang was said to be the first to use a getaway car, is caught and killed by police.</p> <p><b>1884</b>—In Cincinnati, townspeople unsatisfied with lenient treatment of a confessed murderer torch the courthouse. As the State Militia restores order, 42 die and 128 are injured.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—In Paris, the Commune takes over.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—<i>Newsweek</i> publishes a poll saying 74 percent of Americans think the Bush administration has "a well thought-out military plan."</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Presidential candidate Bill Clinton says that in his younger days he smoked marijuana "a time or two," but "didn't inhale."</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Team owner Robert Irsay sneaks the Colts out of town to avoid an eminent domain seizure by the City of Baltimore.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The last U.S. combat troops leave Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The EPA lays off enforcement for a lead smelter in Idaho in exchange for a \$100,000 "contribution" to the Nixon re-election campaign.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—A court martial elects Lt. W. Calley No. 1 scapegoat for My Lai. For at least 22 murders, Calley gets life in prison, later reduced to three years confinement to his apartment.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—For reasons which remain unaffathomable, France launches a nuclear submarine.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are convicted of espionage.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—A regular wireless news service begins between New York and London.</p> <p><b>1843</b>—At a Cabinet meeting, Sec. of War John C. Spencer lunges at Navy Sec. Abel P. Upshur. President John Tyler intercedes and stops the ensuing fistfight.</p>
4:29      5:08  10:52      11:09	5:29      6:12  11:54	6:35      7:19  12:12      12:58	7:42      8:24  1:19      2:03	8:47      9:24  2:25      3:04	9:47      10:19  3:27      4:00	10:43      11:10  4:24      4:52
Sunday, March 30	Monday, March 31	Tuesday, April 1	Wednesday, April 2	Thursday, April 3	Friday, April 4	Saturday, April 5
<p><b>2012</b>—Two NJ State Police cruisers escort a caravan of high performance sports cars at over 100 mph down the Garden State Parkway.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—As he throws out the first pitch at Washington's new National Park, George W. Bush is met with a resounding chorus of boos.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Donald Rumsfeld claims "we know where" Iraq's WMDs are. "[I]n the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south, and north somewhat."</p> <p><b>2003</b>—During a live Fox News broadcast from Iraq, Geraldo Rivera reveals the 101st Airborne's current location, where they're going to attack next, and when.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—In D.C., John Hinckley Jr. empties a six-shooter at Pres. Ronald Reagan. One shot ricochets off the armored limo and hits Ronnie. Al Haig announces, "As of now, I'm in control here." Meanwhile, in Denver, John's older brother Scott cancels a scheduled dinner engagement with V.P. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush's son Neil.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Hanoi's Easter Offensive sends 200,000 PAVN soldiers across the DMZ; the mightiest attack since China crossed the Yalu.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—A Viet Cong car bomb explodes outside the U.S. Embassy in Saigon killing 22 and injuring 183.</p> <p><b>1870</b>—The 15th Amendment passes, giving the right to vote to all, regardless of race. All males, that is.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—In Fallujah, four American contractors are ambushed, killed, and displayed from a bridge.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Selena Quintanilla-Pérez, Queen of Tejano, is shot to death by the president of her fan club.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—More than 100,000 people gather in London to protest Maggie Thatcher's Poll Tax. The demonstration morphs into the Battle of Trafalgar Square.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—The American banking industry is deregulated. What could possibly go wrong?</p> <p><b>1969</b>—In keeping with his own explicit instructions, the body of Dwight D. Eisenhower is transported via baggage car, like any other U.S. serviceman, to his final resting place in Abilene, KS.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Lyndon Johnson, delighting millions who have no inkling of who will replace him, announces he won't run for re-election.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—In New York City, 200,000 gather to protest the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—U.N. troops fight their way back to the 38th parallel in Korea.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—PR pioneer Edward Bernays, working for the American Tobacco Co., pays women to publically smoke Luckies in New York's Easter Parade.</p> <p><b>1880</b>—In Wabash, IN, the first electric street lighting is turned on.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—Persuaded by Commodore Perry's cannons, Japan opens two ports to foreign trade.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—In Portsmouth Harbor, the tanker <i>Harbour Feature</i> allides with the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Britain declassifies "Blue Peacock," a 1957 scheme to bury tactical nukes in Germany with live chickens to keep the electronics warm. The release's timing leads some to think it's a joke, but it's not.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Bush administration propagandists claim Special Forces have "rescued" PFC Jessica Lynch.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—A blizzard dumps 18 inches of snow on Portsmouth.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs found Apple Computer.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—U.S. Army begins Operation Pegasus to try to reach besieged Marines at Khe Sanh. Two months after the siege is lifted, the base is abandoned.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—RIP Flann O'Brien.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—LBJ OKs 20,000 new REMF's, 2 new battalions of Marines, and combat patrols in Nam.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Ezra Taft Benson, Sec. of Agriculture, fiddles with cheese price supports, handing distributors a \$2.2 million windfall.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—In Hilo, HI, a tsunami kills 159 people.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—The U.S. government recognizes Francisco Franco's fascist government of Spain.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Five duly elected members of the New York legislature are expelled. And why not — they're only socialists.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—Mrs. Dick "Dick" Cheney halts reissue of her steamy lesbian romance novel <i>Sisters</i>.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—It is revealed that Secretary of State James Baker III (R.—Bush) made 11 personal trips at the taxpayer's expense at an average cost of \$33,781.72.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Argentina invades the Falkland Islands.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Robert Opel provides a little extra entertainment at the Oscars by streaking.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Chicago riots are quelled by National Guard troops.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—M.L. King, Jr. leads a voter registration drive in Birmingham. Police Chief "Bull" Connor responds with dogs and fire hoses.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—At Carnegie Hall, as Eugene Ormandy conducts the Philadelphia Orchestra performing Grieg's Piano Concerto, Pianist Simon Barere, 54, plays the first few bars, then collapses and dies.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Three soldiers, two black and one white, are shot to death, and five are wounded, near Ft. Dix, NJ, in a fight over a phone.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R-MA) punches a constituent in the jaw.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Montana elects Ms. Jeanette Rankin to Congress.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—In Richmond, women rioting for bread are dispersed at gunpoint while President Jefferson Davis flees.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—Asked at a press conference to name his biggest mistake, George W. Bush is unable to answer.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—U.S. Marines cross the Tigris River on their way to Baghdad.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Ted "The Unabomber" Kaczynski is arrested in his Montana cabin.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Having recently been exposed on any number of grotesque little scams, the Congressional "leadership" announces it's suddenly opposed to free health care for solons.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Thirteen states are hit by 148 tornadoes, killing 315 people and injuring 5,484.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Three thousand South Vietnamese troops protest against the Ky regime.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—In Wisconsin, a strike begins at the Kohler bathroom fixture factory. It lasts six years.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Bruno Hauptmann is electrocuted for the Lindbergh kidnapping.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Mt. McKinley is scaled for the first time.</p> <p><b>1895</b>—Oscar Wilde's libel suit against his lover's father begins.</p> <p><b>1882</b>—Robert Ford, a dirty little coward, shoots Jesse James.</p> <p><b>1868</b>—In Hawaii, an intrepid soul rides a 50 foot tidal wave.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—The Pony Express begins operating between St. Joseph, MO and Sacramento, CA. It lasts just 18 months.</p>	<p><b>1984</b>—Congress denies funding for the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, leaving President Reagan with no choice but to illegally sell arms to Ayatollah Khomeini.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Operation Babylift begins. Just after the first C-5A leaves the runway at Tan Son Nhut, it crashes into a rice paddy, killing 140 kids and 50 adults.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Martin Luther King Jr. is murdered in Memphis, perhaps by James Earl Ray, with help from shadowy unknown figures.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Martin Luther King Jr. denounces the Vietnam War and calls for common cause between civil rights and antiwar movements. He is subsequently denounced by 168 major newspapers.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—The 785 foot-long Navy dirigible <i>Akron II</i> crashes off the New Jersey coast. Of 76 crew and passengers aboard, three survive.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—The unemployed riot in Union Square, NY.</p> <p><b>1896</b>—Gold is found in the Yukon.</p> <p><b>1887</b>—In Argonia, KS, Susanna M. Salter is elected America's first female mayor.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—First home phone installed.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—President Abraham Lincoln walks the streets of a defeated Richmond, VA.</p> <p><b>1841</b>—President William Henry Harrison dies of pneumonia after one month in office.</p>	<p><b>2010</b>—Flagrant safety violations at WV's non-union Upper Big Branch coal mine result in an explosion killing 29 miners.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—"How do you stop an elephant if it goes berserk on the grounds of the Capitol?" asks Sen. Bob Smith [R-NH]. Alas, his motion to ban pachyderms is defeated.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—LBJ crony Billy Sol Estes is indicted for selling fake mortgages on fake fertilizer tanks.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Fidel Castro declares war against Cuban dictator Batista.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—A hired thug throws acid and blinds Victor Riesel, New York newspaper columnist and crusader against labor racketeers.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The Farmers Home Administration announces it will issue mortgages on home bomb shelters.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Howard Hughes closes down MGM temporarily, because the authors of all eleven stories on his shooting schedule are suspected communists.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—H.L. Mencken is arrested in Boston for selling his magazine, <i>American Mercury</i>.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—Lord Carnarvon, having sponsored the looting of King Tut's tomb, dies in Cairo.</p> <p><b>1815</b>—In Java, Tambora volcano explodes with dire consequences.</p> <p><b>1794</b>—"Be sure you show my head to the mob," says Georges Jacques Danton to his executioner, "it will be a long time ere they see its like."</p>
11:35      11:57  5:17      5:40	12:24  6:07      6:27	12:43      1:12  6:55      7:12	1:28      1:59  7:42      7:56	2:14      2:46  8:28      8:42	3:00      3:36  9:17      9:29	3:50      4:28  10:08      10:21




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