

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### Whose World Is It, Anyway?

The *Boston Globe*, apparently shell-shocked after decades of complaints from the Right Wing about its supposed liberal bias, regularly prints opinion columns by former New Hampshire Senator John E. Sununu.

On November 20th, Sununu wrote — with a distinctly imperious and condescending tone that probably can be acquired only through direct inheritance — about the abysmal stupidity of those silly Democrats who voted down Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu's bill to approve the Keystone XL pipeline.

With a degree of relish we found unsettling, Sununu compares that vote in the hushed chambers of the Senate to a scene in the film *There Will Be Blood*. In it, we see the greedy and treacherous Daniel Plainview, vastly wealthy after a succession of oilfield swindles, knee-walking drunk in his private bowling alley, using a bowling pin to bash in the skull of a religious charlatan.

We'd love to know why Sununu saw fit to voluntarily associate the Keystone XL pipeline with oilfield swindlers and religious charlatans, but psychiatrists are prohibited from discussing such matters with third parties.

#### He's Keeping His Day Job

When he is not penning pæans to the world's selfless suppliers of petroleum products, Sununu "advises clients [of Akin Gump, K Street's most-prosperous lobbying firm] on a wide range of public policy, strategic and regulatory issues," according to that company's website.

Akin Gump's website brags that it "has been at the forefront of representing domestic and international oil and gas leaders

in their transactions." Houston-based Quanta Services is among those clients; it has paid Akin Gump at least \$90,000 for its lobbying services.

Quanta is slated to build Keystone XL if it ever gets past those idiotic Democrats.

#### Full Non-Disclosure

There are people who would argue that when a person acting in the capacity of a newspaper columnist writes a column praising a project for which his employer is paid to lobby, he owes it to his reader to reveal that connection.

Sununu's editors are not among those people. His pipeline piece ran with no such disclaimer. We only learned these sordid details by reading a piece by Eric Hananoki, published online by the watchdog group Media Matters for America.

#### Down The Rabbit Hole Again

That, of course, is problematical in itself. Some people will summarily reject any information coming from Media Matters on the grounds that it is biased.

In such cases it's helpful to acknowledge that we've fallen into an enormous rabbit hole. Within its vast and disorienting space we learn that some organizations cannot be trusted because they are funded by wooly-headed liberals who associate with Democrats, whereas other organizations can and must be trusted because they are controlled by wealthy men who profit greatly from an industry that is well on its way to making the planet uninhabitable.

#### It's An Encore Performance

Such a failure to disclose could possibly be a fluke. In this case we know it is not.

Joe Strupp and Oliver Willis wrote about the same problem



for Media Matters in 2012. A Sununu column the *Globe* published in 2011 had praised the America Invents Act, a patent reform bill for which Akin Gump had lobbied.

A certain provision in the Act "could benefit larger corporations with ready cash to pay filing fees," Sununu wrote, to the disadvantage of the average guy working in his garage, but the "overall result ... should be a better system" for everyone.

How fortunate for the "larger corporations." Just the luck of the draw, we suppose.

Another 2011 piece by Sununu, cited by Strupp and Willis, lauded New York Governor Andrew Cuomo for lifting a ban on hydraulic fracking in the Marcellus Shale. Akin Gump has lobbied for Chevron, Hess, and CONSOL, all of which have invested heavily in Marcellus Shale fracking operations.

#### Bidness As Usual

Strupp and Willis questioned *Globe* Editorial Page Editor Peter Canellos about the paper's poli-

cies on disclosure.

He wrote back that that Sununu and his editor "closely monitor his columns for conflicts of interest and disclose them when they occur .... If he were in any position to benefit from matters he writes about, we would disclose that fact .... We looked into whether he should make some sort of blanket disclosure, but it doesn't seem warranted by the small amount of work he does for the firm."

#### A Lot of That Going Around

We live in a world in which generals on the Pentagon's payroll have appeared on Fox News to offer candid observations on preemptive wars in the oil-soaked Middle East.

Should we really be surprised that an ex-Senator can be paid simultaneously by lobbyists for the fossil fuel industry and their supposed enemies in the dreaded liberal media?

Call us paranoid, but we suspect that a significant percentage of the spittle-flecked commentary flooding the comment sections of the internet in defense of

the Invisible Hand of the Market is being written by semi-literate yahoos who are just as subsidized (though at a lower rate, of course) and by the same interested parties as those belligerent generals and John E. Sununu.

#### Whence Cometh Our Succor?

Where, in this violent, filthy, degraded world, can we turn for succor? How about to an 85 year-old woman? Ursula K. Le Guin, who for decades spun her finely-crafted stories in a literary ghetto, was given the 2014 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters at the National Book Awards on November 19th.

"[W]e need writers who know the difference between the production of a market commodity and the practice of an art," she said to rapturous applause.

"We live in capitalism. Its power seems inescapable. So did the divine right of kings. Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings."

Wait — what's that we hear? The sound of applause, rising from the grave of Thomas Paine.

## The Alleged News®

### Can You Spell "Waste, Fraud, and Abuse"?

The official line is that we're on our way out of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. We've now been at war there for 13 years, 1 month, and 3 weeks. Officially, our operation there is named Enduring Freedom; say what you will about the rest of it, at least we got the name half right: we've won two World Wars, the Civil War, and the Spanish American War (and broke even in Korea) in less time than we've spent in "The Grave of Empires."

Our mission, if we understand it correctly, is no longer to conduct direct combat with the Taliban, but rather to train the Afghans to do the job that we never quite finished ourselves. According to last Sunday's *Boston Globe*, there's

plenty of training to be done.

An hour outside Kabul, in the district of Tagab, Afghan soldiers "will not leave their base except for one hour each day starting at 9 a.m., when the Taliban allow them to visit the bazaar as long as the soldiers remain unarmed."

Relations between U.S. Special Forces and the Afghan army are strained. "On at least one occasion," according to the *Globe*, "the Americans believed the Afghan army was firing on their position during an operation in the district."

Despite the apparent resilience of the Taliban, the U.S. has been attempting to promote commerce and industry in this land-locked, mineral-rich Central Asian na-

tion. Not very successfully, at least so far. The Pentagon has spent between \$700 and \$800 million trying to encourage private investment in mining. John Sopko, the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, quoted November 18th in *Defense News*, said that expenditure had "accomplished nothing."

Some of that failure can be attributed to the Afghans. Recently-passed mining laws reportedly lack transparency and make investment unattractive.

#### Build It And ... No, They Won't

The Pentagon, however, can blame only itself for some of the waste. Take the splendid but unoccupied headquarters building at Camp Leatherneck in Helmand

province, for example.

The U.S. Army's Central Command [CentCom] first requested the building in December, 2009. Five months later the Marine Corps Commander at Camp Leatherneck deemed the project unnecessary and attempted to cancel it. CentCom, however, "non-concurred."

A contract was signed in February, 2011, with an estimated cost of \$13.5 million. In October, 2012 the Marine Corps accepted the 64,000 square foot building "as constructed," but the following month declared it "not ready for occupancy." After another six months of work the Marine Commander said that the building, the cost of which had risen

to \$25 million, was still not ready and the Marines would not use it.

Control of Camp Leatherneck was formally handed over to Afghan security forces last month. The headquarters building, with an eventual cost of \$36 million, has never been used. In fact it may be torn down because its heating and electrical systems are wired for 110-volts, rather than the Afghans' 220-volt standard.

#### Go Sell the Spartans

Dismal though it may be, the \$36 million Helmand headquarters boondoggle pales in comparison to the Spartan affair.

**The Alleged News®**

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The Alleged News®  
from page one

In September of 2008, the Pentagon signed a “not-to-exceed \$287 million firm-fixed-price contract” with the North American division of Alenia, an Italian airplane manufacturer, for 20 refurbished Italian-made C-27A “Spartan” turbo-prop transport planes, to be used by the Afghan Air Force.

The planes began arriving in Afghanistan around February 2010. By December of the following year the whole fleet was grounded because key parts were missing, replacements could not be found, and maintenance work being done by L-3 Communications\* failed to meet specifications.

At the time of the grounding,

the Senate Armed Forces Committee had recently held an investigation into the counterfeit parts problem. The Spartans were just one of seven varieties of military aircraft found to have been fitted with counterfeit electronic components. Sen. Carl Levin [D-MI] noted at the hearing that L-3 had failed to notify the Air Force of the problem until a year after it was discovered.

By December of 2012 the cost of the C-27 program had ballooned to \$596 million. The discussion about the Spartans had shifted, though, from airworthiness and maintenance to methods of disposal. Sixteen of the planes, for which the Pentagon had paid about \$800 per pound, were eventually sold as scrap to a local contractor for six cents a pound — a decline in value of about 13,000

\*The name alone tells us something. The American aircraft industry was built by men with big ideas and egos to match. They designed the airplanes, and they founded companies named after themselves to build them; e.g., William Boeing, Donald Douglas, Leroy Grumman, Allan and Malcolm Loughhead [Lockheed], Glenn Martin, James McDonnell, Jack Northrop, and Chance Vought. L-3 Communications was spun off from Lockheed Martin in 1997 by Frank Lanza, a former electrical engineer turned mergers and acquisitions specialist, with some help from Lehman Brothers. Lanza died in 2006, and Lehman went bankrupt in 2008, but the blandly-named company, unknown to most Americans, has grown to be the nation's 6th largest defense contractor.



Progress at the African Burying Ground, photographed last Friday, is coming along “one stone at a time,” according to the work crew.



percent.<sup>†</sup>

**Lost In the War Zone Again**

Paradoxically, it seems that the taxpayers would have been better off if the defective Spartans had simply gone missing.

According to a November 7th report from the Inspector General, 15,600 other pieces of war materiel worth about \$419 million — including weapons systems, vehicles, encryption devices, and other communications gear — went missing in Afghanistan during fiscal 2013.

The good news — yes, there is good news — is that, according to an earlier audit, out of some 175,000 items that went missing in Afghanistan between 2006 and 2010, a full 23 percent were later found or recovered. Better still, those recovered items ac-

counted for a generous 44 percent of the total value of all the missing equipment.

**[Not So] Good News, Everyone!**

Agricultural production is one of the few bright spots in the Afghan economy. Unfortunately the only crop that's really flourishing is *Papaver somniferum*, the opium poppy.

The total acreage under opium cultivation is up seven percent across the nation, according to the latest UN report. Within Helmand Province's "Food Zone," where a failed attempt was recently made to entice farmers into cultivating lower-profit, more labor intensive wheat, the acreage devoted to opium was up 13 percent. The average yield per acre is up nine percent.

Meanwhile, eradication efforts are down by a whopping 63 percent. Only 2,692 hectares of poppies were destroyed out of 224,000 hectares being cultivated — just over one percent of the total.

The total opium yield for 2014 is estimated at a robust 6,400

tons. That's bad news for farmers, though; the price is down in all regions of the country.

Demand was high due in large part to the recent Presidential election, which was largely funded with drug money.

**Unintended Consequences ...**

**... Or At Least So We Hope**

To fully appreciate Afghanistan's relationship to opium, we need to go back at least 35 years.

In 1980, the world's total production of the drug was just over 1,000 tons. Of that amount, Afghanistan produced less than one-fifth, a substantial part of which was consumed domestically.

Over the course of the next decade the nation's farmers achieved something truly remarkable. It would have won them worldwide acclamation had they been growing some less-controversial commodity. They produced more opium in 1990 than the whole world had in 1980, and their market share was over 40 percent.

That sudden burst of illicit agricultural enterprise didn't just

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spring up out of nowhere. It was spurred in part by anti-narcotic crackdowns in Pakistan, Turkey, and Iran. Mostly, though, it came as a result of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979 — and America's response to it.

It is nearly forgotten here in the United States of Amnesia, but a Communist faction of Afghanistan's divided government had been begging the Soviets for about a year to honor a previously-signed treaty and send some help to fight widespread rebellions that were wracking the countryside. The U.S. government chose to call the Soviet response an invasion, and a Soviet invasion was by definition an engraved invitation to fight the Cold War in a new venue made all the more welcome because Vietnam was no longer suitable for that purpose.

To fulfill our divine mandate and defeat godless Communism — without shedding American blood — we turned to the mujahideen. They, in retrospect, turned out to be an undifferentiated mass of feuding warlords who exhibited behavioral quirks most Americans might otherwise have found distasteful: summary executions, attacks on rivals within the move-

ment, &c., &c, eventually culminating in acts of global terrorism. Representative examples of the type would include such current public enemies as Mullah Omar, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Mawlawi Jalaluddin Haqqani, and the late Osama bin Laden.

Our so-called intelligence community had previously dealt with a long string of drug-dealing gangsters: Lucky Luciano, Sam Giancana, Vang Pao, the Contras. Every time there have been ugly consequences.

It's enough to make one wonder. Do our covert action bureaucrats never learn? Or are they getting just what they bargained for?

#### More War on the QT

One week ago today the *New York Times* reported that President Obama had signed orders expanding and extending the U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan.

That news was generally met with a collective national shrug; however, we do have conflicting unconfirmed reports from two unreliable sources. One says the Norwegian Nobel Committee has commissioned a ninja metalworker to sneak into the White House and stamp Obama's Peace Prize with an asterisk. The other



M. D. R. 28 Nov 2014  
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claims the Committee has engaged a repo man.

#### How Dare He?

That same day, the President announced that he would use his Executive powers to shield five million undocumented immigrants from deportation. Republicans promptly went berserk.

Rep. Mo Brooks [R-AL] called for impeachment. He said the President might be violating a criminal statute, which would make him eligible for a five-year stretch in jail — and that was *before* Obama spoke.

Congressional Republicans reached into their bin of inapt metaphors and pulled out “poisoning the well.” By taking action, they claimed, Obama was somehow preventing Congress from acting. Since when did Congress have to be prevented from acting?

#### A Deafening Silence

Also on that same busy day, the

Republican-controlled Permanent House Committee on *Benghazi!!!* issued a report completely exonerating the Obama Administration and all its tsars and minions of any wrongdoing, misbehavior, treachery, or skulduggery in the *Benghazi!!!* affair.

Other than Designated Sacrificial Idiot Sen. Lindsey Graham

[R-SC] sputtering that the report was “full of crap,” Republicans, including New Hampshire's own Senator and Graham's No. 1 sidekick Kelly Ayotte, have maintained strict radio silence.

#### Local Media Death Spiral

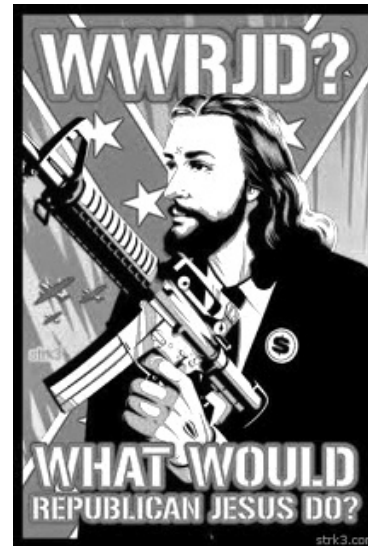
*Foster's*, the newspaper formerly known *Foster's Daily Democrat*, is selling itself to GateHouse Media. The sale is no surprise; the mystery is how Patty Foster, fifth of her name to own the paper, was able to maintain its independence for so long.

Joshua L. Foster founded his eponymous paper in Dover in 1872. Earlier he had published a paper in Portsmouth, the *States & Union*. It closed shortly after rioters, unhappy with his Southern sympathies, destroyed his printing plant in April, 1865.

*Foster's* was best known for its quaint practice of employing reporters to go out and cover news stories.



American shoppers, undaunted by the dual risks presented by plummeting aircraft and marauding groundhogs, bravely flocked to Disneyland on the Piscataqua last Sunday to carry out their civic duty to consume.



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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## Religious Extremists Beyond Compare

To the Editor:

We live in an age of horrific high-definition spectacles, with beheadings only the most recent abomination that fills us all with fear and dread.

In addition, these gruesome spectacles have profound side effects on our perspective. They obscure the brutality and terror caused by our bombs and drones and they distract our attention from those predators who cause suffering on a far grander scale than any jihadists.

These grander predators wear power suits. They run our largest banks and corporations. They run them recklessly. The financial industry frauds that nearly collapsed the world's economy left behind, according to the best estimates, at least 5,000 suicides, to say nothing of the millions of people who lost their jobs and homes. We have auto industry execs who value profit over safety, defense contractors who pound the drums for military engagement, private prison company chiefs who lobby to keep their cells full.

I consider all these power suits religious extremists. They worship money.

I know the pain money-worshippers can cause first-hand. I worked as a respiratory therapist for 35 years. I've witnessed the ravages the tobacco companies wrought in their quest to addict as many people as possible to

their deadly products. The memories will haunt me for the rest of my life: the emphysema patients struggling for every breath, the throat-cancer patients in intensive care, undergoing brutal surgery that severely disfigured their necks and faces, that often ripped away their vocal chords.

Tobacco corporation executives hid the truth about their toxic products for as long as they could. They surely rank as among the most murderous terrorists in human history - and they did it all for the money.

But these money-worshipping killers at Big Tobacco may now have to play second fiddle to an even more deadly corporate crew, the executives who run fossil fuel companies, our world's richest corporations. Their chase after ever greater wealth is disrupting the very fabric of life on Earth. Tobacco executives hid the truth. Fossil fuel executives are sowing doubt and confusion about the scientifically established fact of man-made global warming.

In the meantime, amid the inaction against global climate change, our planetary life support system withers. We face consequences of catastrophic proportion.

Our corporate money worshippers often attend services at churches and synagogues. But they worship during the work-week at the altar of money, and we, the 99 percent, have become their sacrificial lambs. Like a drug addict looking for a fix they spend their lives rigging the system in their never-ending quest for greater and greater wealth - the rest of us be damned.

Addictions can be incredibly powerful. We all know that. But can you imagine being so addicted to money that you would be willing to endanger your planet to get your next fix?

We can't wait for these addicts to seek help. All of us, the 99 percent, need to force the 1 percent

to break their addiction. So let us plan an intervention - and act soon. We cannot wait for the 1 percent to hit bottom. Their bottom would be too disastrous for the rest of us.

In the grand scheme of things, after all, Al Qaeda can't really compare with Altria, the new moniker for Philip Morris. And ISIS/ISIL can't hold a candle to the likes of ExxonMobil.

Jeff Vogel  
Sunnyside, NY

*Jeff Vogel is a retired respiratory therapist, New York-based labor activist and a member of the New York City Labor Chorus.*

## Fear, Dying, & Unlimited Health Care

To the Editor:

Patient to doctor: do everything to prolong my life! Therein lies a problem - because a quarter of Medicare's budget is disproportionately spent on the final year of life, and ten percent on the last thirty days! End-of-life health is one of the few items that genuinely threatens Uncle Sam's solvency, according to David Walker, former U.S. controller general.

But we can't have an honest conversation about it, he says.

All that spending is a result of a "whatever it takes" approach to forestall death.

And it remains the standard, according to a new study from Stanford, which finds that medical science has its default set to maximal interventions for all patients regardless of the effectiveness of doing so.

The Stanford study finds, however, many doctors questioning "whatever it takes," because they recurrently witness the tremendous suffering their terminally ill patients endure as they undergo frequently ineffective high-intensity treatments at the end of life.

Many factors contribute to this full-speed-ahead mentality, such as our litigious environment, pay-

## Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,

ing off expensive medical equipment, life-preserving medical training and of course, patient and family pressure to forestall death.

Psychologists and psychiatrists have identified man's underlying fear of death - which also determines much of the way he lives.

The grim reaper's jarring reality makes us want to "live on" whether through our children or by attaching ourselves to causes that would not be buried along with us.

The prospect of imminent death may generate conscious or unconscious feelings of the bleak realization that everything is meaningless, that life has the same value as a toad.

There seems like no salvation, no solutions, no hope of transformation, no "feel good" answers, only the confirmation of our deepest fears.

Contrarily, there is an important book: *The Denial of Death* by Ernest Becker.

Becker puts more value on truth than on happiness.

He would not be happy if ignorance was the price.

Our world view, our character, our devotions, our attachments, our delusions - they're all defenses against the overpowering feeling of both life and death, he says.

This is not a book to live by; it's a book to understand.

If you (like me) value self-knowledge above all else, this is for you.

What of America's health? Men and women can expect to blow out the candle at 75 and 80 respectfully.

That sounds estimable.

But American women's life expectancy is, shockingly, next to last, and men dead last, among 17 peer countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, and most of Eu-

rope.

Americans not only die sooner, but they suffer higher rates of diseases and injuries than other high-income countries.

Five years ago the Affordable Care Act dropped plans to pay for health providers who talk to patients about terminal care (the "death panel" flack).

It was a fair objection but it skirted an open dialogue on unlimited medicine in a financially strapped environment.

Now, thankfully, some private insurers are covering costs for such doctor-patient talks.

Indeed, the number of medical patients who saw ten or more doctors in the final six months of life is growing as is the number of days those patients spent in intensive care.

We don't know when the cost curve will reach the breaking point. But we know it will.

When the flow of "free" money is shut off maybe we'll start having "honest conversations" about treatments that will reach a tipping point where the treatment becomes more burdensome than the illness itself.

It's uncomfortable to think about but it's better to hear about it now than from a doctor a few years down the road, when you or someone you love is approaching his or her final days.

Michael Kulla  
Pleasant Valley, NY

## A Bright Young Man

To the Editor:

A bright young man with a very bright future, whom I know from a favorite recreational facility in Dover, frequently reads my letters to newspapers addressing the issues of the day, and clearly enjoys engaging me on the same issues. He, like my two children and their friends, gives me great hope

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# And Other Correspondence

for the future of America!

Based on frequent conversations with my young friend, I know that he and I share common mainstream values, aspirations, concerns and see the following as just some of the things that matter to us most: Social Security; Medicare; affordable education; reliable public safety; repairing eroding infrastructure; protecting our natural beauty, land, air and water; access for all citizens to affordable healthcare and nutrition; a strong defensive-minded national defense and looking after the veterans who provide that defense; development of sustainable renewable energy sources to completely wean ourselves of Middle East petroleum with its associated incoherent and hypocritical foreign policy; an inclusive economy built around a strong middle class; reducing income inequality while raising the federal minimum wage; defending a citizens' right to vote and eliminating voter suppression; and eradicating money from politics and elections.

We discovered that we also share a concern regarding America's apathy towards voting. It was obvious to us that New Hampshire had defended itself from a Republican tsunami in the recent midterm election thanks to a relatively large voter turnout and individuals voting in their enlightened self-interest. However, it's also clear what the result would have been in New Hampshire and nationwide if all eligible voters would have participated.

To combat voter apathy, my friend, wise beyond his years, suggested that Congress propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that makes all eligible voters who choose not to vote in a given election automatically ineligible to vote in the next one. We recognized that the mere proposal of

such an amendment would shock and compel millions of Americans to take to the streets in ironic protest where they could be met with a civics lesson by their respective lawmakers on their obligation to never miss a vote again!

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, NH

§  
**No-Trick Pony**

To the Editor:

This morning's cup of coffee I used to wash down my daily helping of DemocracyNow! The later part of the netcast was this Lt. General. Daniel Bolger, who's new book, *How We Lost The War*, about Afghanistan, Iraq, and others seems like a must-read. His on-screen delivery, being a guest of Ms. Goodman's, might be familiar to those of us who've survived time in the U.S. military; the guy's the kind of pressed, starched, unblinking, straight-talking sort they like putting on recruiting posters. General Bolger's main points in his book boil down to the novel assertion that the U.S. military is not designed to fight this kind of war, nor are its designers inclined to see the errors of their ways at the drawingboard. (And these designers keep cashing their checks from *us*, and sending *us* to kill and/or perish for 'em?!) The General stopped short of calling G.W. Bush a flatout war criminal (too much starch, I guess), even with Ms. Goodman's prompting, but he does seem to have experienced something of an epiphany in his 35 year career. He notes that he's been thus outspoken for some time before retiring, which I find refreshing and a little heartening.

I've long known there is a "constitutional" element in the Pentagon, I've just wondered where the Hell they are. After repeatedly making the point that the particular problems in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere are really only solvable by the residents of those places (Big Ass Revelation along the lines of self-determination), the General and Amy amicably signed off. Neither of them noted that the real reason for those conflicts was *oil* — the oilfields of Iraq and its neighbors, and the Afghani route of the pipeline bringing petro from Watafrackistan.

## First-in-the-Nation Action Ecosystem Files for Intervention in Lawsuit to Defend Own Legal Rights to Exist and Flourish Comes as Industry Sues Township, Claiming it has a Corporate "Right" to Inject Frack Wastewater

November 18, 2014; GRANT TOWNSHIP, PA: Today, for the first time, an ecosystem in the United States filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit to defend its own rights to exist and flourish.

Rights of the Little Mahoning Watershed were secured in law by Grant Township (Indiana County, PA) in June. The Grant Township Supervisors enacted a Community Bill of Rights ordinance, establishing the rights of human and natural communities to water and a healthy environment — including the rights of ecosystems to exist and flourish — and bans frack wastewater injection wells as a violation of those rights.

The watershed filed a motion to intervene in *Pennsylvania General Energy Company (PGE) v. Grant Township*, in which PGE is suing Grant Township to overturn the Bill of Rights. PGE claims that the Bill of Rights violates the Constitutional right of the corporation to inject frack wastewater in the township.

Pennsylvania communities are increasingly threatened by injection wells, which are used to store fracking waste, endangering drinking water and local aquifers. Injection wells have also been linked with earthquakes in neighboring Ohio.

PGE sued Grant Township in August, followed by a unanimous vote of the Grant Township Supervisors to defend their Community Bill of Rights ordinance, and to retain the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund [CELDF] as legal counsel to defend the ordinance.

The Little Mahoning Watershed is joining with the East Run Hellbenders Society in filing the motion to intervene. The Hellbenders — a local grassroots group — participated in the drafting of the ordinance.

CELDF Executive Director, Thomas Linzey, Esq., stated, "This lawsuit, brought by the the gas industry to overturn a democratically enacted law, threatens the rights of both human and natural communities. This represents the first time an ecosystem is seeking to defend its legally enforceable rights to exist and flourish by intervening in a lawsuit.

"Communities across the country have established the rights of nature in law. They recognize that we cannot protect the environment with environmental laws that legalize fracking and other harmful activities. Communities are recognizing the rights of nature in law as part of a growing understanding that a fundamental change in the



relationship between humankind and nature is necessary."

Since 2006, communities in Pennsylvania and around the country have recognized the rights of ecosystems and natural communities in law with the support of the CELDF.

Through grassroots organizing and public interest law, CELDF works with communities across the country to establish Community Rights to democratic, local self-governance and sustainability. CELDF has assisted nearly 200 communities to ban shale gas drilling and fracking, factory farming, water privatization, and other threats, and eliminate corporate "rights" when they violate community and nature's rights. This includes assisting the first communities in the U.S. to establish the rights of nature in law — as well as assisted Ecuador to draft rights of nature provisions for its constitution in 2008 — as well as the first communities to elevate the rights of communities above the "rights" of corporations.

They have time constraints, but still, I thought it a conspicuous omission.

As if this wasn't yummy and nourishing enough, and with a compulsive interest in surviving this overpowered nuthouse of a "nation," I went to Wikipedia to look up the Boxer Rebellion. Hoo, Lordy! These bastards have not learned anything in more than a hundred years except there's a *kill-*

*ing* to be made in the mass-killing racket. If you've not checked this out, try it. It includes a link to an item on the Boxer Rebellion (and the Phillipines) by Mark Twain, called "To the Person Sitting In Darkness." It's classic, armor-piercing Twain.

See: <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~drbr/sitting.html>  
Rick Weddle  
Hawaii

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Northcountry Chronicle

The Christmas Blitz

by William Marvel

It was on November 7 this year that I noticed the first evidence of retail pandering to the Christmas season, although those who watch television tell me that it had already begun a week before. The Maine NPR station broadcast a piece about buying locally, which I initially mistook for a nod to the environmental benefits of avoiding long-distance transport of goods. Instead, it was little more than an excuse for making the Christmas pitch, nearly three weeks before Thanksgiving.

The next morning we had to make a trip to North Conway. As usual, we wanted to avoid driving in town, and before we were finished we had walked the length of the village. It was an extremely chilly and blustery day. Even at nine o'clock in the morning, I was astounded to note that businesses had thrown their doors open to the cold, merely so passersby could hear their seasonal music and be drawn in to spend some money. With oil furnaces crank-

ing and greenhouse gases pouring into the atmosphere, the Emerald City's trinket vendors made it clear that the environment is last on their Christmas list.

We stopped in none of those establishments. Once upon a time I knew every store in the village, and was familiar with their inventory, from the hardware and haberdashery of the Carroll County Company to the jewelry and firearms of Robertson's Cut-Rate and the creaky aisles of the 5&10. Now I can't tell you the names of most of the stores on Main Street, or even guess what they sell. Except for White Birch Books, none of them have anything I want at a price I could afford.

Scented candles appear to be one favorite item in a tourist town, but they always remind me of a less appealing stench. Breathing relatively unpolluted air and living in a fairly clean house, I can only envision one use for scented candles. Artificial aromas are usually meant to disguise something, after all: patchouli was the hippie damsel's substitute for deodor-

ant, and incense generally masked the telltale odor of reefer. Scented candles, meanwhile, are almost always found in the bathrooms of the more fastidious, and they aren't meant to provide light in case the power goes out. That's the smell I think of when I see scented candles for sale. In fact, that is the smell I think of when I go to North Conway anymore — even without the Seavey Street sewer problem.

Still more than a week before Thanksgiving, North Conway was advertising the planning of an "old-fashioned Christmas" — primarily for shoppers, I presume. My guess is that it won't be very old-fashioned, since the orgy of retail consumption was not part of the Christmas celebration until recent decades. My father, who was born in the administration of Teddy Roosevelt, only received one gift each Christmas, although his father was a doctor with an adequate income.

My own memory does not quite reach beyond the mercenary atmosphere of the season,



Reuben J. Marvel, Jr.  
Orleans, Mass.  
Christmas, 1912

but my idea of an old-fashioned Christmas is not that conducive to retail hype. In our house, "old-fashioned" was a term my parents applied to any activity we had to undertake because we lacked the funds to do anything else. Christmas of 1959 was an "old-fashioned" Christmas in this house, for instance. My father was recovering from a broken shoulder after a logging accident, and I

got to cut the tree down; I'm not confident it would have satisfied many of North Conway's neo-Victorians. We strung popcorn to hang on it instead of tinsel, and there weren't many presents under it. The only gift I remember was a small box of books about the Civil War and the Revolution from our summer neighbors, most of which I still have. Every now and then I glance through one of them again, to remind me how much I enjoyed them during that dismal winter.

Looking back after more than half a century, I think that unavoidably "old-fashioned" Christmas may have been the best of them all. I'm sure I was a little disappointed not to score the cache of surprises that some of my schoolmates did, but neither did I suffer the inevitable sense of loss as those various playthings broke, or the long-term guilt of remembering the sacrifices my parents made to supply me with a host of gifts in which I quickly lost interest. I would probably have been better off had all my childhood Christmases been that way.

WSCA 106.1FM Portsmouth Community Radio Holiday Gathering

Portsmouth Community Radio is kicking off the Holiday Season by thanking all of its Members, Volunteers, Supporters, Underwriters, and Friends of WSCA 106.1 FM with its 10th Annual Holiday Gathering on Tuesday December 2nd, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., downstairs in the Jimmy LaPanza Lounge at the Portsmouth Brewery on Market Street in downtown Portsmouth.

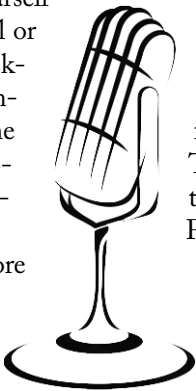
Take time out to share some good food, beverage, and holiday cheer with the folks who bring you independent locally-pro-

duced programming on WSCA, your community radio station.

You might even find yourself drawn into a game of pool or shuffleboard! WSCA is asking everyone to bring non-perishable food items to the gathering which will be donated to the Seacoast Family Food Pantry.

Please bring one or more items to help out this very worthwhile community organization.

Looking for a holiday gift? WSCA gift



memberships, t-shirts, mugs, and bumper stickers will also be available at the event.

Light food will be provided. So mark you calendars and join WSCA for some holiday cheer, Tuesday, December 2, 5 to 8PM, downstairs at the Portsmouth Brewery!

Portsmouth Community Radio WSCA 106.1FM is an independent, volunteer-powered, listener-supported, non-commercial radio

station serving the Seacoast region. WSCA is on the air 24/7 featuring locally-produced public affairs programming and the widest variety of music available on seacoast airwaves. For more information on this event, a program schedule, volunteering, DJ opportunities, or supporting WSCA106.1 FM, visit [www.wscafm.org](http://www.wscafm.org) or call (603) 430-9722.

Portsmouth Community Radio is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Visit [www.wscafm.org](http://www.wscafm.org) for more information.

Robinson Talks Murder!

Local author and historian J. Dennis Robinson will discuss his new book, *Mystery on the Isles of Shoals: Closing the Case on the Smuttynose Ax Murders of 1873*, at RiverRun Bookstore on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Ten years before the Lizzie Borden ax murder trial and the fictional Sherlock Holmes, Americans met a sociopath named Louis Wagner — and many came to love him. Find out why!

This event is free to the public. RiverRun Bookstore is at 142 Fleet Street.

§

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Obama's Thanksgiving Pardon of Republican Turkeys

by Jim Hightower

Thanksgiving — a time of grace and family sharing — will get an extra bit of grace from the White House this year. Just as every president since Lincoln has done, Barack Obama will grant clemency to two turkeys that otherwise could've become the main entrée for the First Family's holiday dinner. This traditional presidential pardon

of the gobblers provides a bit of good PR for the National Turkey Federation, the lobbying group that arranges for one of its members to supply the birds. Therein lies this year's extra touch of grace: Obama will be pardoning hard-core Republican turkeys! Well, fowls themselves probably aren't political, beyond being anti-hatchetism. But even if turkeys had tried to vote in the November elections, they would've faced

the voter ID laws that GOP officials have imposed. The laws were meant to repress the Democratic vote, but I think they would've repressed the turkey vote, too. However, guess who did vote Republican in the midterms? The turkey industry lobbying group, plus the very corporate farm that shipped the two birds to Obama, voted with their dollars. The Federation fed nearly \$160,000 into this year's anti-Obama Congress-

sional candidates, and Cooper Farms of Ohio chipped in more than \$46,000 to GOP candidates, plus some \$66,000 to the Federation's Republican electioneering effort. Cooper Farms had also donated to the GOP's failed effort in 2008 and again in 2012 to defeat Obama himself. Yet, the Democrat in the White House will shun the chance for partisan retribution, making a unilateral executive decision to spare the lives of the two Republican turkeys. No doubt this will cause the GOP speaker of the House, John Boehner of Ohio, to sue Obama once again for executive overreach — this time for sparing turkeys without congressional permission.

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A Dissenting View on the Berlin Wall

by William Blum

November 9 marked the 25th anniversary of the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. The extravagant hoopla began months ago in Berlin. In the United States all the Cold War clichés about The Free World vs. Communist Tyranny were trotted out and the simple tale of how the wall came to be was repeated: In 1961, the East Berlin Communists built a wall to keep their oppressed citizens from escaping to West Berlin and freedom. Why? Because Commies don't like people to be free, to learn the "truth." What other reason could there have been? ... The West was bedeviling the East with a vigorous campaign of recruiting East German professionals and skilled workers, who had been educated at the expense of the Communist government. This eventually led to a serious labor and production crisis in the East. As one indication of this, the New York Times reported in 1963: "West Berlin suffered economically from the wall by the loss of about 60,000 skilled workmen who had commuted daily from their homes in East Berlin

to their places of work in West Berlin." It should be noted that in 1999, USA Today reported: "When the Berlin Wall crumbled [1989], East Germans imagined a life of freedom where consumer goods were abundant and hardships would fade. Ten years later, a remarkable 51 percent say they were happier with Communism." Earlier polls would likely have shown even more than 51 percent expressing such a sentiment, for in the ten years many of those who remembered life in East Germany with some fondness had passed away; although even 10 years later, in 2009, the Washington Post could report: "Westerners [in Berlin] say they are fed up with the tendency of their eastern counterparts to wax nostalgic about Communist times." It was in the post-unification period that a new Russian and eastern Europe proverb was born: "Everything the Communists said about Communism was a lie, but everything they said about capitalism turned out to be the truth." ... During the 1950s, American Cold Warriors in West Germany instituted a crude campaign of

sabotage and subversion against East Germany designed to throw that country's economic and administrative machinery out of gear. The CIA and other U.S. intelligence and military services recruited, equipped, trained and financed German activist groups and individuals, of West and East, to carry out actions which ran the spectrum from juvenile delinquency to terrorism; anything to make life difficult for the East German people and weaken their support of the government; anything to make the Commies look bad. It was a remarkable undertaking. The United States and its agents used explosives, arson, short circuiting, and other methods to damage power stations, shipyards, canals, docks, public buildings, gas stations, public transportation, bridges, etc; they derailed freight trains, seriously injuring workers; burned 12 cars of a freight train and destroyed air pressure hoses of others; used acids to damage vital factory machinery; put sand in the turbine of a factory, bringing it to a standstill; set fire to a tile-producing factory; promoted work slow-downs in factories; killed 7,000 cows of a co-operative dairy through poisoning; added soap to powdered

milk destined for East German schools; were in possession, when arrested, of a large quantity of the poison cantharidin with which it was planned to produce poisoned cigarettes to kill leading East Germans; set off stink bombs to disrupt political meetings; attempted to disrupt the World Youth Festival in East Berlin by sending out forged invitations, false promises of free bed and board, false notices of cancellations, etc.; carried out attacks on participants with explosives, firebombs, and tire-puncturing equipment; forged and distributed large quantities of food ration cards to cause confusion, shortages and resentment; sent out forged tax notices and other government directives and documents to foster disorganization and inefficiency within industry and unions ... all this and much more. Woodrow Wilson Center Working Paper #58, p.9 states: "The open border in Berlin exposed the GDR [East Germany] to massive espionage and subversion and, as the two documents in the appendices show, its closure gave the Communist state greater security." Throughout the 1950s, the East Germans and the Soviet Union

repeatedly lodged complaints with the Soviets' erstwhile allies in the West and with the United Nations about specific sabotage and espionage activities and called for the closure of the offices in West Germany they claimed were responsible, and for which they provided names and addresses. Their complaints fell on deaf ears. Inevitably, the East Germans began to tighten up entry into the country from the West, leading eventually to the infamous wall. However, even after the wall was built there was regular, albeit limited, legal emigration from east to west. In 1984, for example, East Germany allowed 40,000 people to leave. In 1985, East German newspapers claimed that more than 20,000 former citizens who had settled in the West wanted to return home after becoming disillusioned with the capitalist system. The West German government said that 14,300 East Germans had gone back over the previous 10 years. Let's also not forget that while East Germany completely denazified, in West Germany for more than a decade after the war, the highest government positions in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches contained numerous former and "former" Nazis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

end of Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

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

Sunday, November 30	Monday, December 1	Tuesday, December 2	Wednesday, December 3	Thursday, December 4	Friday, December 5	Saturday, December 6
<p><b>2001</b>—Two days before filing for bankruptcy, Enron executives award themselves big bonuses.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—A WTO meeting in Seattle is called off due to anarchists.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-AR) appears onstage at Boston's Pilgrim Theater with stripper Fanne Foxe.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Nixon spokesperson Ron Ziegler says with only 27,000 Americans left risking their lives in Vietnam, the White House is done updating the nation on withdrawals.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—600 Native Americans occupy Alcatraz.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-MN) challenges Lyndon Johnson for the Democratic nomination.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Robert Strange McNamara warns LBJ: Put in 600,000 troops? Expect 1,000 KIAs per month. BTW, we may lose anyway.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—President Kennedy OKs defoliation in South Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Liz Hodges, napping on her couch in Sylacauga, AL, is awakened by a 3 lb. meteorite crashing through her roof and bruising her thigh.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Trunk Murderess Winnie Ruth Judd is recaptured after her fourth escape from the Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p><b>1812</b>—Rather than follow his orders to invade Canada, Gen. Alexander "Apocalypse" Smythe's troops turn their weapons on their commander's tent. He flees.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—Reversing an October decision which reversed a July decision, ex-Sen. Bob Smith says he'll challenge Sen. Jeanne Shaheen in 2014.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Steven B. Williams rams the northwest gate of the White House complex at 25 mph with his pickup truck. The gate wins.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. Selective Service holds the first draft lottery since WW II, cleverly undermining support for the anti-war movement.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—A U.S. C-130 with engine trouble empties defoliant tanks over South Vietnamese towns.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Dick Gregory is convicted of fishing with Native Americans.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Rosa Parks changes the world by refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, AL.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—After a 44-day civil war killing 2,000 people ends, Costa Rica disbands its army.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—Italian socialists appoint Benito Mussolini to edit their newspaper <i>Avanti!</i></p> <p><b>1913</b>—Ford announces its first moving assembly line.</p> <p><b>1842</b>—Midshipman Philip Spencer, son of the Secretary of War, is hanged for mutiny, without benefit of court martial, along with two sailors, aboard the <i>U.S.S. Somers</i>.</p> <p><b>1777</b>—Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben lands in Portsmouth, NH from France, <i>en route</i> to Valley Forge, where he will turn Washington's rabble into a trained army.</p>	<p><b>1986</b>—Ronald Reagan says he can't remember what he knew about the Iran-Contra affair, or when he might have known it.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—U.S.-backed deaths squads kill four Catholic missionary women in El Salvador.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Thousands of students occupying Sproul Hall in Berkeley hear Mario Savio say, "when the operation of the machine becomes so odious ... that you can't take part ... you've got to make it stop."</p> <p><b>1954</b>—U.S. Senate censures Joe McCarthy—finally.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Sailfish</i>, formerly the <i>U.S.S. Squalus</i>, sinks the Japanese carrier <i>Chuyo</i> near Truk. Aboard <i>Chuyo</i> are 21 survivors from the <i>U.S.S. Sculpin</i>, which had aided in the rescue of the <i>Squalus</i> in 1939. Only one man survives.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Under the stadium at Staggs Field in Chicago, Enrico Fermi presides over the first sustainable atomic chain reaction.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—California uses its new gas chamber for the first time, killing one Albert Kessel.</p> <p><b>1859</b>—"I hope you will not keep me waiting any longer than necessary," abolitionist John Brown says to his executioner.</p> <p><b>1755</b>—The Eddystone Light burns. Keeper Henry Hall, looking up, accidentally swallows molten lead from the roof and dies of lead poisoning two weeks later at 94.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—In Londonderry, Scott Brown says "I don't think I ever said I was thinking about running for president," 16 weeks after telling the <i>Boston Herald</i> he was thinking about running for President.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—George W. Bush nominates Bernard Kerik (later to be known as Federal Inmate 84888-054) to be Secretary of Homeland Security.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—A New York company that had a contract to manufacture Medals of Honor is fined \$80,000 for selling 300 bootleg copies.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—An industrial accident in Bhopal, India kills 10,000. The U.S. government later blocks extradition of Union Carbide execs who face prosecution in India.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—U.S. Information Agency head Charles Z. Wick says Margaret Thatcher opposed the invasion of Grenada because she's a woman.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Sec. of State Al Haig says four Maryknoll nuns recently murdered by Salvadoran death squads may have been gun-runners.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Bob Marley is shot twice by unidentified assailants. Two days later he plays a concert.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Protesters destroy files at eight NY draft boards.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—The Atomic Energy Commission explodes a .38 kiloton atomic bomb 10 miles west of Purvis, MS, inside an underground cavity created by a 5 kiloton A-bomb blast conducted two years earlier.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—Rep. Duncan Hunter [R-CA] says if the U.S. must use force against Iran's nuclear program, it should use tactical nukes.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—R.I.P. Frank Zappa.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—President Reagan OK's CIA spying on U.S. citizens.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—57 percent of the Chicago 7 found guilty of contempt.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Chicago police shoot and kill sleeping Black Panthers Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—To better understand modern youth, R. Nixon, S. Agnew, and 40 governors view films of "simulated acid trips" and listen to "anti-establishment rock music."</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Lenny Bruce, busted for obscenity in Chicago, shares a paddy wagon ride with George Carlin, busted for refusing to show ID.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, and Elvis Presley jam at Sun Records.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—A "Great Smog" so thick moviegoers couldn't see the screen descends on London. It lasts all winter and kills about 12,000.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—In <i>Feres v. U.S.</i>, the Supreme Court rules that servicemembers can't sue the U.S. for their injuries.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—In Oakland, CA, striking veterans march on the anti-labor <i>Tribune</i>, then City Hall, to demand the Mayor and Council resign.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa agree to team up and take Mexico City.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—In New Hampshire, Scott Brown says he's been helping Republicans "raise awareness as to the issues ... here in Massachusetts."</p> <p><b>2002</b>—At a party on Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday, GOP Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott expresses regret over desegregation.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Fed Chair Alan Greenspan warns that "irrational exuberance" may have inflated stock prices.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—For the first time in 40 years, the House of Alleged Representatives elects a Republican, Newt Gingrich, to be Speaker.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—A North Carolina Grand Jury indicts "holy" man Jim Bakker on charges of fraud and conspiracy.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—A nuke-armed A-4 Skyhawk falls off the <i>U.S.S. Ticonderoga</i> near Japan. Plane, pilot, and bomb are still missing.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—"Uppity Negroes" in Montgomery, AL boycott the municipal mass transit system.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Labor "leaders" in Oakland call off the General Strike.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Five Grumman Avengers and 14 airmen, making up the Navy's Flight 19, disappear off Ft. Lauderdale. Thirteen more men and a PBM Mariner flying boat disappear looking for them.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Utah, of all places, ratifies the 21st Amendment; and Prohibition is repealed.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—Vachel Lindsay, poet, ends it all with a bottle of Lysol.</p>	<p><b>1997</b>—News media convince many that Asteroid XF11 might whack Earth in 2028.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Oakland police fire tear gas into a home trying to drive out the inhabitant who is standing next to them shouting "come out and give yourself up."</p> <p><b>1973</b>—V.P. and crook Spiro "Ted" Agnew is replaced by Gerald R. Ford.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Chaplain Charlie Litley, on patrol in Vietnam, carries 23 wounded men to safety despite intense hostile fire. He's later awarded the Medal of Honor.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A Vanguard rocket carrying the U.S.'s first would-be satellite explodes at an altitude of five feet.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—A roll of spy film mysteriously turns up in a pumpkin on the Maryland farm of ex-<i>Time</i> editor Whittaker Chambers.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—The U.S. War Dept. abandons its WW I practice of shackling defiant conscientious objectors to the walls of solitary cells.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—The largest man-made explosion prior to The Bomb occurs in Halifax when a munitions ship explodes: 1,600 die; and windows break 40 miles away.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—More than 360 men and boys are killed by explosions at two coal mines in Monongah, WV.</p> <p><b>1884</b>—The Washington Monument is completed, 101 years after George himself picked the spot.</p>
<p>5:10 5:34</p> <p>11:18 11:45</p>	<p>6:12 6:41</p> <p>12:24</p>	<p>7:12 7:44</p> <p>12:45 1:27</p>	<p>8:09 8:43</p> <p>1:44 2:26</p>	<p>9:01 9:38</p> <p>2:38 3:21</p>	<p>9:51 10:28</p> <p>3:30 4:11</p>	<p>10:38 11:15</p> <p>4:18 4:58</p>
Sunday, December 7	Monday, December 8	Tuesday, December 9	Wednesday, December 10	Thursday, December 11	Friday, December 12	Saturday, December 13
<p><b>2006</b>—The "Justice" Department fires eight prosecutors for failing to persecute enough Democrats.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—Boris Yeltsin leaves the hospital, fires several aides, and returns to the hospital.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—French workers numbering 1.75 million protest global exploitation.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—The Department of Energy admits it conducted more than 200 secret weapons tests.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—A disgruntled ex-employee shoots a Southwest Airlines pilot and co-pilot. The plane breaks up while diving at Mach 1.2, killing all on board.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—FBI releases JFK assassination files ... some of them.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Indonesia invades East Timor with a little help from the U.S. and Britain.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—R.I.P. Rube Goldberg, cartoonist and inspirer of the <i>Gazette</i> operating plan.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—R. Dodd returns a book overdue 145 years to the U. of Cincinnati; librarians fail to collect \$22,646 in fines.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Japan bestows the Order of the Rising Sun on Gen. Curtis LeMay, whose fire-bombing of that nation during WW II probably killed half a million Japanese.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—Japanese planes attack Pearl Harbor.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—W1XAV in Boston broadcasts the first TV commercial.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—Soldiers in Iraq ask Sec. of Defense Rumsfeld why he sent them there without enough vehicle armor. He tells them, "You go to war with the Army you have ... not the Army you might want."</p> <p><b>1993</b>—President Clinton signs NAFTA into law.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Norman D. Mayer, 66, threatens to blow up the Washington Monument with a van full of dynamite unless a national dialogue on banning nuclear weapons begins. After a ten hour standoff, police shoot and kill him.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—John Lennon is shot dead in New York.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—United Airlines Flight 553 crashes in Chicago killing 45 people including E. Howard Hunt's wife Dorothy.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—U.S. counts 365 dead Viet Cong in Mekong Delta battle.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Lightning strike ignites fuel tanks of a jetliner which crashes near Elkton, MD.</p> <p><b>1940</b>—Four hundred German planes bomb London.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—Birth of James Thurber, Columbus, OH.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Pope Pius IX denounces liberalism, socialism, and rationalism.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—Pope Pius IX proclaims the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.</p> <p><b>1792</b>—Henry Laurens becomes first person cremated in U.S.</p>	<p><b>1994</b>—Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is fired for suggesting that having sex with yourself is OK.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—U.S. Marines wade ashore at 2:00 a.m. local time in Somalia, prime-time in U.S.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese says people go to soup kitchens because it's "easier than paying."</p> <p><b>1974</b>—In the <i>Monday Night Football</i> booth, Ronald Reagan explains American football rules to John Lennon during halftime.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—At the Stanford Research Institute, Doug Engelbart introduces the computer mouse, e-mail, and hypertext.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—"We are in a much stronger position than two years ago," says Sec. of State Dean Rusk, "[Com-mies] will not be able to succeed [in South Vietnam]."</p> <p><b>1958</b>—The John Birch Society, famous for calling Dwight Eisenhower a Commie, is founded.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Hired by Ford to suggest a name for a new model, poet Marianne Moore suggest "Utopian Turtletop;" Ford goes with "Edsel, instead.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—GE vows to fire any Commie employees.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—J. Parnell Thomas, no longer head of House Un-American Activities Committee, gets 6 to 18 months in the Crowbar Hilton for padding Congressional payrolls and spending the loot.</p>	<p><b>2011</b>—The gundalow <i>Piscataqua</i> is launched on the eponymous river.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Gary Webb, who exposed the CIA-Contra drug connection, dies from two gunshots in the face. The coroner calls it suicide.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—At a White House menorah lighting ceremony, George W. Bush says, "I couldn't imagine somebody like Osama bin Laden understanding the joy of Hanukkah."</p> <p><b>1998</b>—House Judiciary Committee debates whether to impeach Pres. Clinton for lying about his disgusting behavior.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Sen. Bob Packwood (Lecher-OR) apologizes for his disgusting behavior, but refuses to resign.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—Ex-paratrooper, movie director, and cross-dresser Ed Wood, Jr. dies in Hollywood.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Expiating for his disgusting behavior with the Argentine Firecracker, Fanne Foxe, Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-AR) resigns.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The Senate, buying Wm. Rehnquist's lie disavowing a letter supporting racial segregation, confirms him for the Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—In Vietnam, sixteen U.S. Marines are killed and 11 are wounded by "friendly fire."</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Trying to lower the cost of natural gas, the U.S. government explodes an A-bomb in NM.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Australia abandons its effort to control its emu population with spending the loot.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—Glenn Beck calls House Speaker Boehner "one of the prime examples of worthless, worthless Republicans," and Senate Minority Leader McConnell "the biggest two-faced liar I've ever seen."</p> <p><b>2006</b>—On national TV, President George W. Bush denies that he was ever "a knee-walking drunk."</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The Supreme Court hears <i>Bush v. Gore</i>.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—Pres. Clinton begs for forgiveness, gets three articles of impeachment, instead.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Soldiers of the U.S.-backed Salvadoran government murder 900 villagers at El Mozote.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Army helicopters and crewmen begin direct U.S. military support in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Seeing at the last minute that JFK has his wife and kids with him, Belmont, NH resident Richard Pavlick defers his plan to crash into the President-elect's car with his dynamite-laden Buick.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Coal dust removal techniques are approved by state inspectors at New Orient mine in West Frankfort, IL. Ten days later an explosion kills 119.</p> <p><b>1838</b>—The House of Representatives passes Rep. Charles Atherton's (D-NH) "gag rule" prohibiting discussion of slavery.</p> <p><b>1792</b>—The French Convention tries King Louis XVI, aka "Louis le Dernier," for treason.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—"I think we are welcomed [in Iraq]," says George W. Bush, "but it was not a peaceful welcome."</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The Supreme Court selects George W. Bush President.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—For good measure, Congress whups a fourth article of impeachment on Pres. Clinton.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—An errant Navy practice missile hits an Indian freighter killing a crewman.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—A plane belonging to Ollie North's favorite airline crashes at Gander, Newfoundland, killing 248 American soldiers. Investigations carefully reveal nothing.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Georgia officials zap Alpha Otis Stephens for two minutes, but he breathes for another six minutes before they finish him off.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—At a Boston trade show called "New Trends in Missiles," anarchist wiseguys turn loose 1,000 cockroaches, symbolizing likely winners of a nuclear war.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-WI) kicks columnist Drew Pearson in the groin.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—Spanish Civil War starts.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—Threatened with impeachment by legislators, Oklahoma Governor Henry Johnston calls out state troopers to stop them.</p> <p><b>1776</b>—Fearing the British will take Philadelphia, the Continental Congress gives dictatorial powers to Washington and flees.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Final victory in Iraq appears imminent as U.S. troops drag S. Hussein out of a hole in the ground. U.S. death toll: 547.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Al Gore decides he'd rather be righteous than be president.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—In Texas, Ray Landry's death is delayed 14 minutes when a tube falls from his arm and lethal chemicals spray across the room.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The Susan B. Anthony dollar is released to an anxiously awaiting public.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Defecting oceanographer Slava Kurilov leaps from a Soviet cruise ship, swims for three days, and reaches the Philippines safely.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Harry S Truman lets J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover scare him into agreeing to purge "disloyal" government workers.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—An American League proposal to legalize the spitball fails.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Nanjing Massacre begins.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—In the visitors gallery of the U.S. House, deranged sporting goods store clerk Martin Kemmerer brandishes a .38 revolver and demands twenty minutes to speak. Rep. Melvin Maas (R-MN) talks him into dropping the gun.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Paraguay declares war on Brazil; by war's end half its population is dead.</p> <p><b>1774</b>—Paul Revere rides to Portsmouth with news that the export of powder and arms to America has been prohibited.</p>
<p>11:23</p> <p>5:04 5:43</p>	<p>12:00 12:06</p> <p>5:48 6:26</p>	<p>12:44 12:49</p> <p>6:32 7:08</p>	<p>1:27 1:32</p> <p>7:16 7:50</p>	<p>2:11 2:17</p> <p>8:01 8:34</p>	<p>2:56 3:03</p> <p>8:49 9:19</p>	<p>3:43 3:53</p> <p>9:40 10:06</p>


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