

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Chronicle of a Calamity Foretold

If wrestling promoter Vince McMahon were to pull Hulk Hogan from a cage match and send in Pee-wee Herman instead, it might make for some great entertainment. There is nothing to prevent him from doing it, since professional wrestling is not a regulated utility.

Oh, wait — maybe he could do it even if wrestling *was* a regulated public utility. After all, regulators allowed FairPoint to buy Verizon, a company more than five times its size.

The geographical disparity was equally improbable. FairPoint's headquarters are located 300 miles south of the Mason Dixon Line, in subtropical Charlotte, North Carolina. The poles, wires, and cables the company proposed to maintain are located in northern New England where brutal wintry conditions are common five months out of the year.

Verizon's motives for ditching its Northern New England landline phone service were fairly obvious. Providing an old technology with declining demand in a rural area is not a profitable business model. Throw in a mandate to introduce broadband internet services and alarm bells start to clang.

The mystery is, what was FairPoint thinking? In January of 2007, when the deal was first proposed, CEO Gene Johnson said, according to MarketWatch, "We have effectively created a company that is better positioned for growth than ever before. From every angle, we also believe that customers, that shareholders, local economies and employees are all going to benefit from this transaction."

In an era when recipients of public assistance can be required to provide urine samples on demand, perhaps the same should be required of corporate CEOs.

Asleep at the Switch

Gene Johnson, at least, had a respectable motive for making his improbable move.

Americans understand and approve of greed; it has provided the driving force behind many of our most-revered fortunes.

Utility regulators, on the other hand, are supposed to be motivated by the public good. That makes them inherently suspect in the public eye. In the case of the FairPoint decision, regulators ran true to form.

A majority of the utility regulators in the three-state region, persuaded in large part by credit reports from Standard & Poor's and JPMorgan, signed off on the deal in March of 2008.

One New Hampshire regulator voted against the deal. He believed, along with many Verizon employees and customers, that FairPoint was biting off far more than it could chew.

FairPoint gave \$1.7 billion in cash and debt to Verizon, and another \$1 billion in FairPoint common stock to Verizon shareholders. As part of the deal, it also promised to create 675 new jobs in Northern New England.

Eighteen months later the powerless naysayers were proved to be right: FairPoint declared bankruptcy.

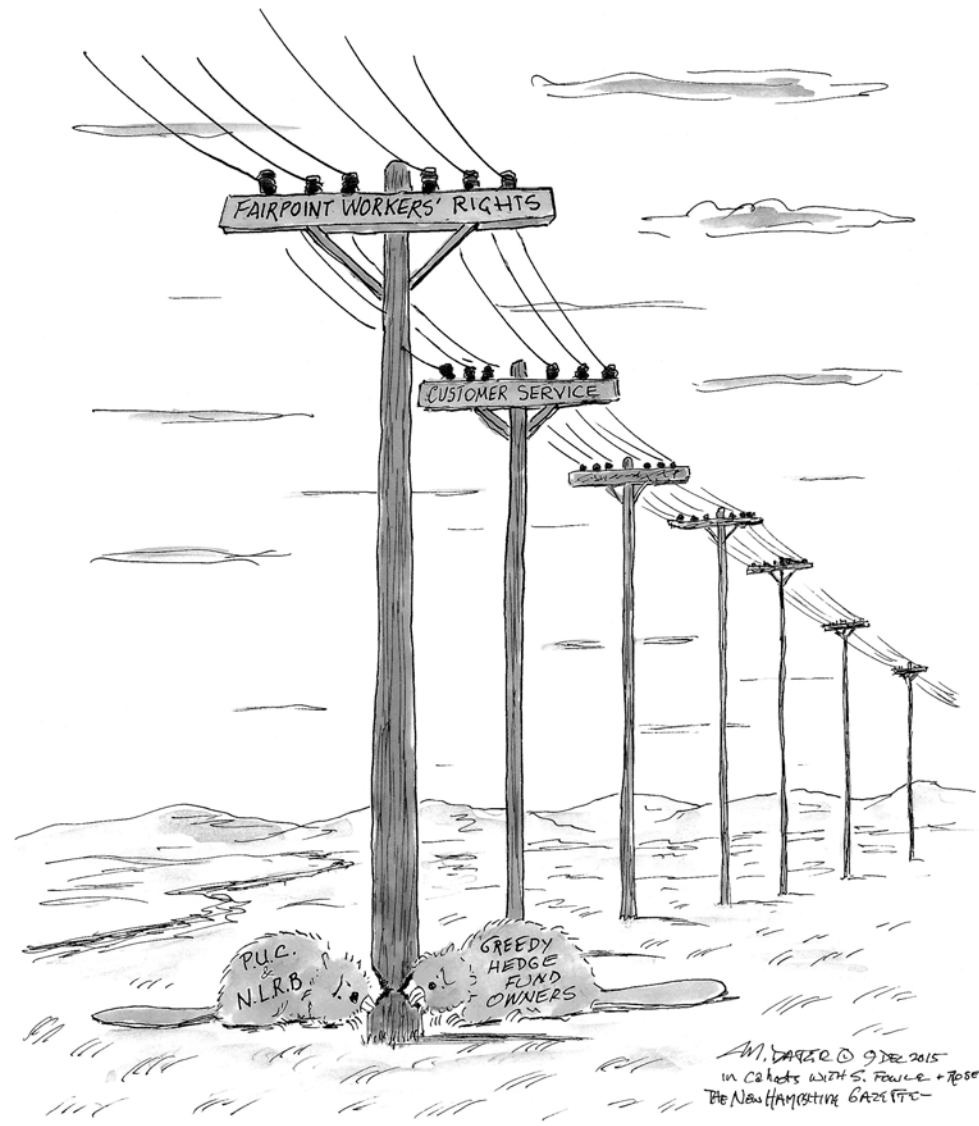
Send In the Vultures

Under the terms approved by the bankruptcy court, one billion dollars worth of equity — the very core of our sacrosanct capitalist system — ceased to exist.

Who were the losers? Oh, only half a million people. How much did they lose? On average, \$2,000. Some more, some less.

FairPoint's ownership is now, shall we say, more streamlined. The number of stockholders has been reduced by 99.96 percent to just 191 shareholders, five of whom own more than 54 percent of the stock.

Four of those five are hedge funds, which is to say, legal fictions — impenetrable walls of paper behind which are hidden anonymous "high net worth" individuals. Due to their status as "job creators," these individuals pay taxes at about half the rate of



someone who chose to climb utility poles in the dead of winter to make a living. The largest of these hedge funds is named Angelo Gordon. It owns 20 percent.

FairPoint's old contract with its nearly 2,000 union workers expired last August. It included a health care plan that workers have conceded was "pretty good." One would hope so. It was obtained by making concessions on higher wages at the bargaining table.

FairPoint, led by Angelo Gordon, proposed a new health care plan that would have cost workers \$6,000 a year in premiums and, in cases of catastrophic illness, would only have kicked in after workers

paid as much as \$20 thousand out-of-pocket. Workers proposed an alternative plan with better benefits that would have saved the company half a million dollars. FairPoint rejected the offer.

"How do you fix that?" asked one union official. "It's hard to fix stupid."

Which Side Are We On?

The National Labor Relations Board had an opportunity to help resolve this issue but punted. The two sides are now meeting under the aegis of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

That's better than nothing; but if it were up to us, we'd rather see Arthur T. Demoulas take over the mediation.

The Alleged News®

Pollsters, Start Your Auto-Dialers!

"The [euphemized] Holidays" are over, the New Year has begun, and the 2016 First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election® is a mere 27 fortnights away! Bliss it is in this season to be alive in the Granite State but to be running this newspaper is very heaven [apologies to Wordsworth].

Compounding the delight, this is an open season, all the way around: no incumbent running; not even, so far as anyone knows, an incumbent Veep. The starting gate is therefore swung wide open. By our estimate, there are approximately 200 million eligible candidates.

This point was driven home a few days ago when Mike Huckabee gave up his day job as a TV bloviator to "explore" a run for the White House. If Huck can delude himself into thinking he might draw significant support

here in this largely-secular state, then anyone can do so.

To his credit, Huck, at least, had been putting in his hours at a job which allowed for ample public scrutiny — far more than required or desired, in fact. His example sits in stark contrast to that of Jeb Bush.

Nice "Work" If You Can Get It

According to the AP, Bush has "stepped down from his remaining board memberships" in order to sniff around on the path which leads to that rather grandiose example of public housing formerly occupied by his father and older brother.

Since leaving the Florida Governor's mansion, Bush's toils — so far as we can determine from our near-subterranean vantage point — have been conducted in that rarified strata of the economy where being ushered with great

dignity into a large room and treated like a demigod, therein to make decisions which will materially affect the lives of thousands of people who actually work for a living without fear of ever being confronted by them, and smiling faintly at the sight of your bank balance swelling, passes for work.

The beneficiaries of his labor have included Tenet Healthcare Corp., Barclays [a British bank], Academic Partnerships [a for-profit corporation meddling in education], Empower Software Solutions, Rayonier [timber management], and CorMatrix Cardiovascular.

Not wanting to spoil our chances for an invitation to "Meet the Press," we refrain from suggesting that remunerations from these corporations to Bush — an intimate blood relation to two U.S. Presidents — might have been

viewed by their issuers more as investments than as paychecks.

The *LA Times* reported last month that Tenet paid Bush nearly \$300,000 in 2013. He took in another \$1.1 million from the sale of Tenet stock.

Bush's association with Tenet — whose stock price and profits have soared under Obamacare — will not make Bush popular with the blood and guts wing of New Hampshire's GOP. On the other hand, his approval rating with that crowd could probably go no lower if he was photographed playing poker with the Devil.

Their Heart's Desire

Bush could turn out to be the poster child of this year's Republican Civil War.

Well before this season's fun had even begun, certain indiscreet figures in the GOP let it be known that they would very

much prefer to avoid the sort of autopsy-performed-on-the-living that characterized their 2012 primary, what with Newt Gingrich's impetuosity, Rick Santorum's impersonation of Mister Rogers, Herman Cain's gnostic glossolalia, Rick Perry's impish "Oops," and Michele Bachmann's call for an American Jihad.

These *eminentes grises* want to see a housebroken Republican leading the pack all the way through the primary process — and Jeb Bush is the epitome of housebroken.

The downside is, he's also a RINO: pro-Common Core, squishy on undocumented immigrants, and supportive of background checks on gun buyers. New Hampshire's Tea Party

The Alleged News®
from page one

hardy-types would move down to Massachusetts before they'd ever vote for him.

In trying to avoid a repeat of the 2012 GOP Gong Show, the bigwigs have scheduled a schism. There may not be enough opposition to cost Bush the Primary or the nomination, but the interne-cine fighting should be entertaining as hell. Pass the Popcorn!

Can You Spell Crony Capitalism?

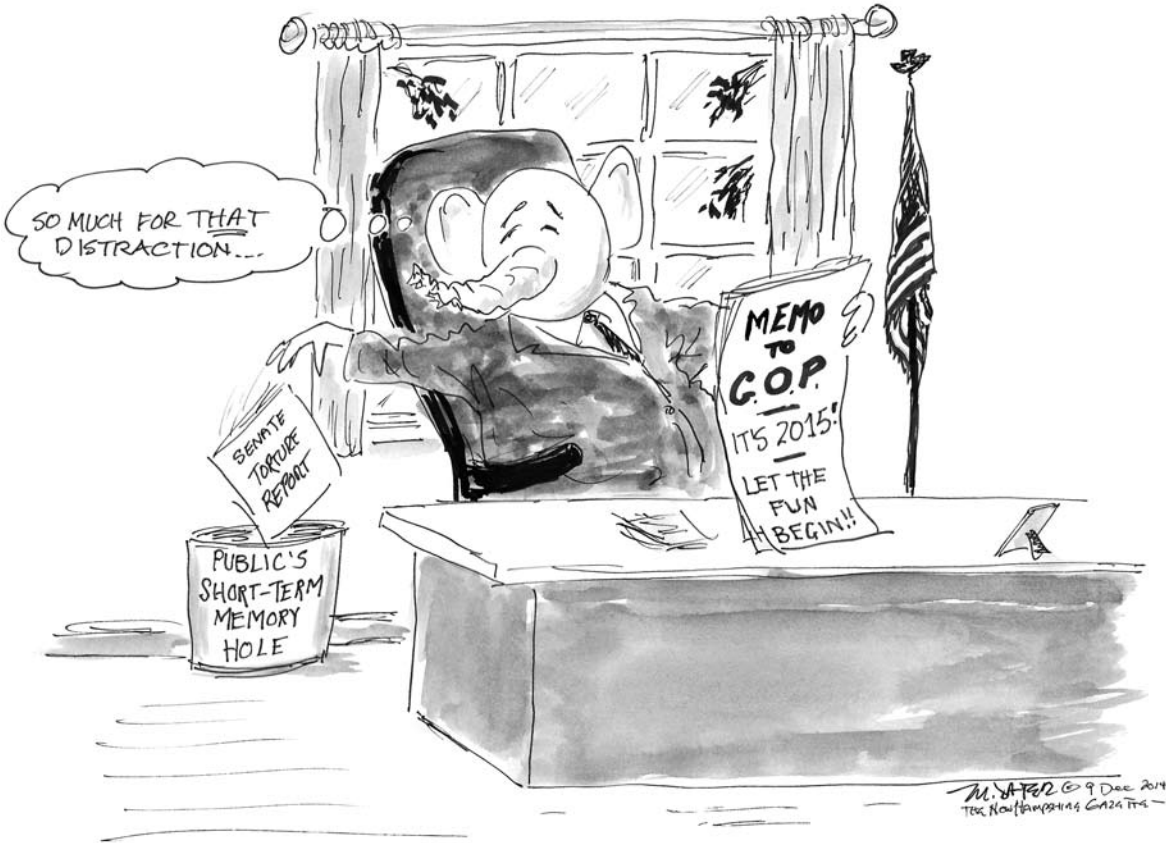
Then there is the little matter of Bush's Foundation for Excellence in Education: yet another 501(c)(3) which appears to the cynical mind as a funnel through which well-heeled corporations are encouraged to pour money in order to get access to public officials the better to make arrangements to

siphon off tax dollars.

Or, as the *Washington Post* put it, in slightly less pejorative terms, "[t]he foundation has, for instance, pushed states to embrace digital learning in public schools, a costly transition that often requires new software and hardware. Many of those digital products are made by donors to Bush's foundation, including Microsoft, Intel, News Corp., Pearson PLC and K12 Inc."

Meanwhile, In Iowa

We'll say this much for Jeb: at least he's going to blow off Rep. Steve King's farcical January 24th ring-kissing ceremony Freedom Summit. Co-sponsored by Citizens United (so you know it's Plutocrat Approved) the event is intended to "focus on how we can get America back on track by focusing on our core conservative



Inspector E. Javert of the Flag Police is naturally deferential toward all independent agencies of the Federal Government. Therefore, rather than peremptorily busting a certain such agency on Daniel Street, though that would be within his purview, as demonstrated by Exhibit A, shown here rotated one-quarter turn to allow for closer inspection, he will simply inform that agency that it is perilously close to violating through inaction Title 4, U.S. Code, Section 8, sub-paragraph (k), which states: "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

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principles of pro-growth economics, social conservatism, and a strong national defense." [Emphasis added.]

Funny, we thought "pro-growth economics [which caused the worst recession since the Great Depression], social conservatism [i.e. Big Brother in your bedroom], and a strong national defense [starting pre-emptive, unwinnable wars against abstract nouns]" were exactly what put us in the pickle we're just groping our way out of.

Putting the Fun in Dysfunction

The new session of the Republican-dominated New Hampshire Legislature, with its dueling Republican caucuses, is entertaining enough to have made the *Wall Street Journal's* website.

According to the *WSJ*, grumpy ol' Bill O'Brien has about 100 of the House's Republicans in his corner, which would leave Speaker Jasper with only 139.

"The state's early presidential primary draws lots of attention

from candidates, who seek out local elected officials for endorsements," notes the apple of Rupert Murdoch's eye. "If state legislators are arguing over a substantive national issue such as Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, picking sides could become a fraught exercise for the 2016 contenders."

The Medium is the Tedium

The swallowing of *Foster's Daily Democrat* by GateHouse Media is now complete; this item by *Foster's* John Doyle appeared in the *Sunday Herald*, complete with a spelling-challenged headline probably set in type by GateHouse's ham-handed production center in Austin, TX.

Political Assassinations Explored In Generic Theater Play Reading

Generic Theater will pres-

ent *Project Unspeakable* — a new play about the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King — in a rehearsed reading at 7 p.m., Wednesday, January 14th at the Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., in Portsmouth. Generic Theater's monthly play-readings are free and open to the public.

Author Court Dorsey, formerly of Portsmouth, says the book *JFK and The Unspeakable: Why He Died and Why It Matters*, by James Douglass (Simon & Schuster, 2010) inspired him to write *Project Unspeakable*. He built the play around primary sources — historical quotes, news reports and official documents related to the assassinations within a five-year span 50 years ago.

Baby boomers, Dorsey says, "saw the great leaders of their generation slaughtered in officially whitewashed circumstances."

By examining those circumstances, *Project Unspeakable* "has the potential to bolster current

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demands for government and corporate openness," Dorsey says. "It provides both Boomers and younger Americans a means to discuss the 'unspeakables' of the past and the present."

Dorsey wants the play presented — and discussed — as widely as possible. So far, that includes more than 30 venues around the nation in the past year; a special performance of an expanded script is scheduled for Harlem this February. It's been endorsed by actor Martin Sheen, playwright Eve Ensler, whistle-blower Daniel Ellsberg and singer Joan Baez, among many others.

"The play can make you feel very uncomfortable because it points to government involvement in the deaths of these men," says Cathy Wolff, who is directing the Generic Theater reading. "But it also is a moving reminder of the lost greatness of these leaders, and of the dreams many of us shared with them."

The sit down reading features Cathy Wolff, Susan Turner, Betsy Kimball, Stephen Erickson, Tomer Oz, Alex Pease, Roland

Goodbody, Alan Huisman, Scott Degan, John Tulgren, and Katy Littlefield.

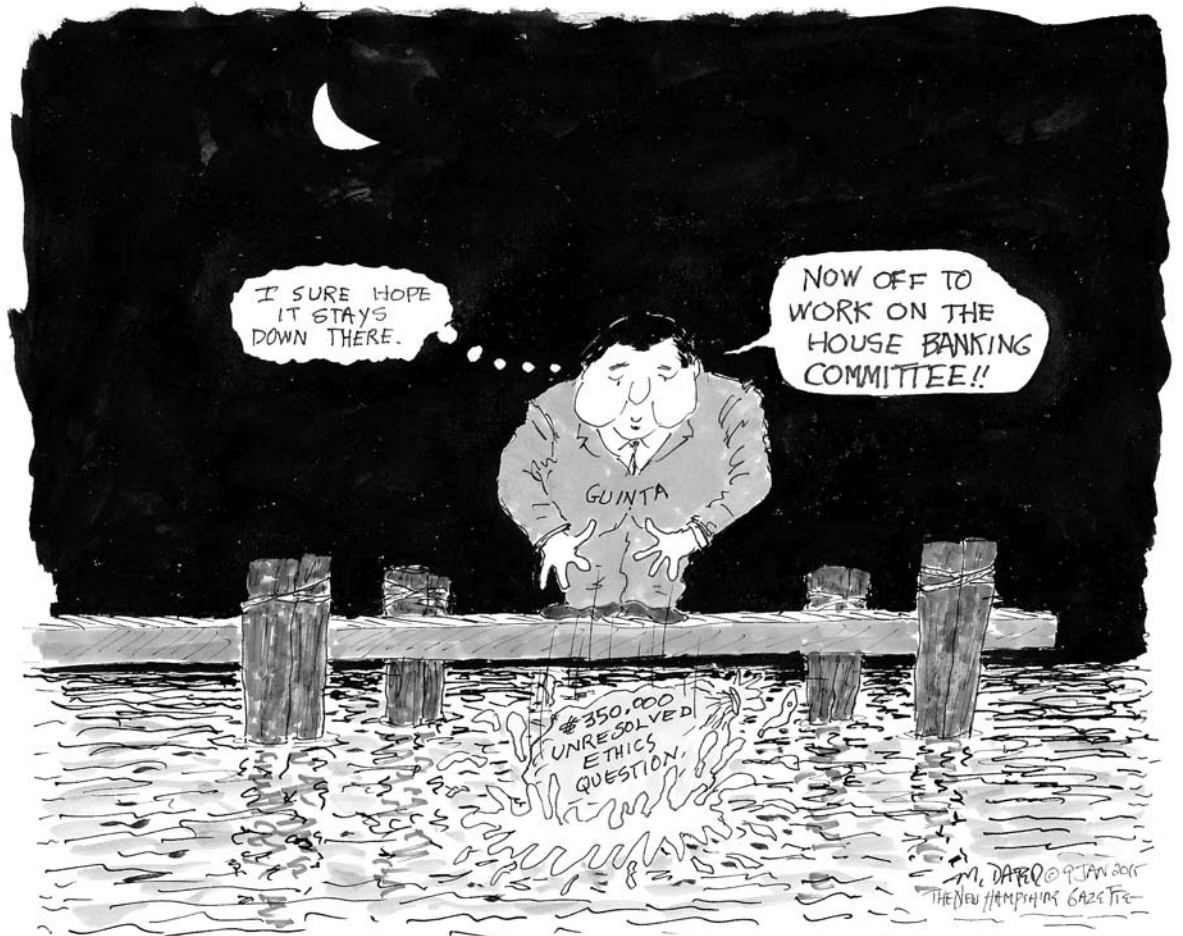
About the Players' Ring: since 1992, the mission of the Players' Ring has been to promote the efforts of local artists through the production of original works, while providing an affordable theater space to local production companies. "The Ring" provides an environment where artists can thrive, grow, take risks, and make daring choices.

For a More Walkable Portsmouth

The public at large has been invited to join Seacoast Local and PS21 (Portsmouth SmartGrowth for the 21st Century) for a presentation by one of the nation's foremost urban planners and advocates for walkable cities, Jeff Speck.

Speck, the author of the best-selling design book of 2013, *Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time*, will discuss the importance of "walkability" and how to make it happen in Portsmouth.

His presentation, "Towards a More Walkable Portsmouth," will



begin at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 22nd at Seacoast Repertory Theatre. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. There will be a question and answer period, and Speck will sign copies of *Walkable City* afterward.

The next day, Friday, January 23rd, Speck will lead an in-depth workshop for land-use board members, design professionals, developers, City staff and interested members of the public, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Portsmouth City Hall. A get-acquainted hour is planned for 10 - 11 a.m., also at City Hall.

Both events are free and open to the public. Seating is limited, RSVP here: <http://ps21.info/rsvp/>.

Black Lives Matter Vigil

Occupy New Hampshire Seacoast and the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter are organizing a Black Lives Matter vigil Thursday, January 15th at 6:00 p.m. on the steps of the Exeter City Hall.

"We can no longer stand by when Black lives are discounted," said Dave Holt, speaking for the group. "The absence of accountability in the recent deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Eric Garner, and the death of 12 year old Tamir Rice, are a breaking point in humanities consciousness and the inception of a new movement in America."

"The message of the vigil is that we no longer accept the systematic abuse of people of color. That the militarized police forces, racial profiling and pattern of excessive force by police are unacceptable. As is all institutionalized inequality. Please join us, get involved and show that humanity is better than this and that there will be change."

For more information contact David Holt at Davidholt@aol.com, or by phone at: (603) 781-8649; or visit [FaceBook.com/OccupyNHSeacoast](https://www.facebook.com/OccupyNHSeacoast).

A Pre-Emptive Program Note

A recent near-cyberdeath experience prompts us to announce here that if, some dire fortnight, our newspaper should fail to appear in the usual locations, it will almost surely be the result of a catastrophic infrastructure failure of the whizbang machine type.

If our googlygizmo grinds to a halt early enough in our publishing cycle, our readers will never know. We'll just defibrillate it and resume ranting.

If, on the other hand, such a thing occurs near the end of the cycle, there will not be time to recover; time, tide, and the printer wait for no editor. Exactly what we might do in those circumstances is hard to say. Most likely we would skip a beat and publish our next issue one fortnight later.

This much is certain: should we ever fail to appear as expected, we will post the sordid details online at www.NH Gazette.com.



Conditions were perfect on First Night, if a little on the cool side, allowing the New Hampshire Astronomical Society to give the public at large — and small — a clear view of the moon, stars, and planets.

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Wentworth's Delaying Strategy
To the Editor:

The *Portsmouth Herald's* latest article covering the Sanders Poynt court case quoted lawyer Benjamin King: "The property owners permitted some members of the public to cross an area of Sanders Poynt because they hoped that by granting permission, no prescriptive rights were created." There had been a public parking lot, maintained by the town of Rye and with controlling signage erected by the Town of Rye. How can this lawyer hope to convince anyone that they permitted only "some members of the public" to use this publically controlled space?

When the town of Rye issued its infamous building permit, it added this strange language: "The issuance of this permit does not constitute an admission by the town that there are no prescriptive rights to use of the area behind the fence."

It appears that the town *did* believe that prescriptive rights had been established, but it also *did not* believe that it had any power of enforcement. Likewise, during this case, New Hampshire has had two different Attorneys General who have declined to take action — in spite of what would appear to be a statutory obligation to protect the public being denied access to public lands.

As the law works in our State, it required a private citizen to step in at personal financial risk to try

to stop this land grab, or it would have been a *fait accompli*. If I or some other citizen had not acted, Sanders Poynt would have been forever lost, in spite of hundreds of years of public use and more than 20 years of use by me. In fact, Bill Binnie had owned the Wentworth for fewer than 20 years when he closed Sanders Poynt, but somehow he is able to speak for all the previous owners of the Wentworth with his claims of "granting permission." With the glacial pace of our wheels of justice, more than two years have elapsed since the fence was erected, and there is no end in sight.

When I filed my suit, we asked for immediate relief, but the judge ruled that the newly erected fence was the "status quo." It seems that this status quo will be in our way as long as it takes for this case to wind its way through the courts, and it also appears that the Wentworth's strategy is to exploit all possible delay.

• Shortly before the case was scheduled to be finally heard last July, the Wentworth lawyers filed a last-minute request for the trial to be postponed in favor of summary judgment. Their request was granted.

• Immediately before Thanksgiving, 2014, the judge ruled against the Wentworth, finding that there were private and public prescriptive rights to Sanders Poynt. She reserved any decision for remedy on a yet-to-be-scheduled hearing.

• Not waiting for the results of the hearing, the Wentworth has now filed an appeal. The likely result is that the hearing will not take place until the appeal has been processed. Then we will have to again wait for a hearing to determine remedies, possibly followed by a second appeal.

Meanwhile, Binnie's fence, bushes and boulders stand. How many more years must elapse before the public gets its remedy?

Where is our Attorney General, who has time to support an auto dealership's land rights against the city of Portsmouth, but who dismisses his responsibilities to defend public access?

And Bill Binnie, who stopped me in the street recently to accuse me of being "incredibly unneighborly." Why can't he do the neighborly and gentlemanly thing and drop these delay tactics. Tear down that wall, Mr. Binnie!

Bob Jesurum
Rye, NH
Bob:

Binnie's blatant attempt to deprive the public of its rights under the law is disgraceful behavior from a would-be Senator. It is not unexpected, however, coming from a member of the New Oligarchy.

The State's refusal to defend the public's rights, on the other hand, is simply a disgrace. The AG and the Governor should both be ashamed.

It is deeply unsettling to find the preservation of such a basic right to be dependent upon the financial resources of a single citizen. We do hope, should the burden become too much to bear, that you will call on the public at large to carry on the fight.

The Editor

§
Time for a Change of Speakers
To the Editor:

There are two challengers to John Boehner, [R-OH], to become the next Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives: Louis Gohmert [R-TX] and Ted S. Yoho [R-FL]. Between the two challengers, Yoho was a co-sponsor of the FairTax, HR25, in the last Congress. You should urge your Congress Member to cast his or her vote for Congressman Ted S. Yoho.

Speaker Boehner has been a good tactician and brings experience, but time has come for a change. Particularly disappointing was the long life of Mr. Boehner's continuing budget resolution

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

(with the exception of the budget for Homeland Security) that effectively threw away the most powerful control that the House of Representatives has. Mr. Boehner's timidity about a possible shutdown of the government and his avidness to get along also guide too much of his thinking.

Weighing all factors, it is time for a change. The election of 2014 gave your Congress Member a mandate that is too precious to squander. Demand that your Congress Member cast his or her vote for Ted S. Yoho as the next Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Jim Bennett
Summit, NJ

Jim:

We can't thank you enough for writing. As a resident of the city with the 16th highest income in New Jersey, your desire to see Ted Yoho replace John of Orange as Speaker of the House reinforces all of our worst prejudices about Republican politics.

Yoho is just what America needs: a cow doctor from Way Down Upon the Suwanee River who believes that only property owners should be allowed to vote.

The Editor

§
Do the New Year Right
To the Editor:

If you are looking for a meaningful New Years' resolution, consider using reusable tote bags for groceries, drinking water only from reusable bottles, or composting with Mr. Fox.

2015 is a promising year for sustainability on the Seacoast. Support for a well-drafted, legally-sound ordinance banning single-use, carry-out, plastic bags is gaining supporters' signatures to go in front of the City Council and make Portsmouth the first municipality in New Hampshire to keep pace with the rest of the

country. Meanwhile in March, Rye will vote on a ballot initiative similar to Pay As You Throw, a fairer solid waste disposal program that saves taxpayers' money by incentivizing reusing, recycling, and composting.

The Moffatt-Ladd House recently showed the documentary *Divide in Concord* to raise awareness of a single-use water bottle ban effort. Banning the sale of what is often just bottled, purified, municipal water reduces petroleum expended and carbon emitted during bottle manufacturing, and the environmental impacts from their disposal.

Last November, the Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices proposed banning the sale of single-use, 21-ounce or less, water bottles on City property. San Francisco bans the sale of such bottles at schools, parks, and sidewalks. This encourages drinking from reusable bottles or water fountains on public property, just like we did prior the recent disposable water bottle trend.

Ring out the old ways and bring in the new this year by making a conscious effort as individuals and as communities to make the Seacoast sustainable.

Josh Denton
Portsmouth, NH

§
Medical Marijuana

To the Editor:

New Jersey's system of medical marijuana regulation, which requires all patients obtain a state-issued patient identification card to possess and purchase medical marijuana, in tracked sales, is unconstitutional.

Federal law still criminalizes marijuana. New Jersey medical marijuana patients must not be forced to incriminate themselves Federally in order to obtain their medicine and be protected from

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Northcountry Chronicle

Old New England: The Cartoon

by William Marvel

One can perhaps forgive travel writers for Lonely Planet who mistake North Conway for the center of the universe, showing such disdain for all the surrounding communities. That seems to be the image projected in local promotion, after all, and passersby like the underpaid contributors to Lonely Planet will inevitably imbibe such impressions, along with some of the alcohol so abundant in the village.

When Lonely Planet honored North Conway by lumping it with destination resorts like South Dakota, Duluth, Oakland, and Queens, some of us wondered if it might not be a joke, but who felt competent to doubt the incomparable knowledge of the company's writers? One might quibble over the distorted emphasis in the statement that the village of North Conway is celebrating its 250th anniversary, "along with several neighboring villages," but that was

not the writer's fault. Conway's sestercentennial observances are apparently being managed by and for the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce, so the celebration naturally focuses on the village that considers itself the capital of that Xanadu of artificial New England-ness. We who live in those anonymous "neighboring villages," or in the shrinking rural periphery, should not blame a wayfaring stranger for misunderstanding that North Conway "was chartered in 1765," as though it were municipally independent.

Lonely Planet loved North Conway's quaint covered bridges. Unfortunately, North Conway does not have a single covered bridge, and has not had one for more than 60 years. The only two are in Conway — one of those "neighboring villages" that were also chartered, coincidentally enough, in 1765.

Unless this was another "desk review" for Lonely Planet, composed without an actual visit,

their contracted author must have gone as far south as Conway village, because the local hostel is listed among the cheaper lodgings — twice, in fact, apparently through another misunderstanding. The Lonely Planet critic had only one objection to the hostel, and that was over its location, five miles away from "the action in North Conway." Yet the hostel sits within a two-minute walk of those two quaint covered bridges, which the same guide considered such draws for "North Conway." Maybe there was more to the alcohol served in the "bustling one-street town" of North Conway than I thought.

Oops. As a novice at travel writing, I just committed an egregious stylistic error by referring to the hostel as "sitting" near the bridges. In the lexicon of quaint New England villages, accommodations do not "sit," "stand," or "lie," although travel writers may. Motels, hotels, inns, and bed-and-breakfasts instead "nestle." The hostel, for instance, "nestles" in the shadow of

Moat Mountain, which Lonely Planet's observers tend to call "the Moat Mountains." The hostel also "nestles" between the subsidized housing on Washington Street (known among some of its denizens as "the hood") and Main Street, where most of the businesses are for sale and several have already closed up. The latter description, by the way, is solely for directional purposes; the former is for reservations.

According to Lonely Planet, in North Conway "most people are just passing through." Now that is perfectly accurate, but unfortunately it is just as true of the residents as of the tourists. Once their children have finished school and they have gleaned as much as they can from the community, those transients usually move on, leaving behind the accumulated and ongoing costs of all the amenities they have demanded. In the interim, they continually strive to lure more people here than ever before, because they seem to know no other means of support-

ing themselves.

Such hordes of travelers prove irresistible to retail developers, who inevitably obliterate more of the natural environment and extinguish more of that quaint atmosphere with every new wave of construction. It puts something of a local twist on complaints that Lonely Planet recommendations tend to funnel excessive travel into areas that are already saturated, thereby destroying local culture and the quiet that the inhabitants once enjoyed. It's enough to make one wonder if the name "Lonely Planet" was chosen for its sheer irony.

Meanwhile, as we read recently in a press release passing for front-page news coverage, local promoters "could not be more honored" at the nod from Lonely Planet. Well, I suppose there may be some pride to be teased out of the top-ten list, or at least a measure of consolation. Maybe North Conway didn't beat out Queens or South Dakota, but at least it came in above Oakland and Duluth.

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

family that escaped from a Hungary ruled by a communist government, I heard many stories of relatives and friends enduring extreme cruelties and torture by that government. Perhaps this was the reason I joined Amnesty International 40 years ago. This organization is dedicated to helping the victims of human rights abuses and supporting the abolition of torture worldwide. After my family became American citizens, I never imagined that my new adopted country would engage in torture and abuse of prisoners. But in the 1970s the

investigations by Senator Frank Church revealed that the CIA was not only attempting to assassinate some leaders of South American and Central American countries but that they were also assisting in torturing prisoners in those countries and training the torturers. I knew this was occurring since I was a caseworker for some prisoners in those countries. The 1976 investigations resulted in the CIA being prohibited from involvement in such activities in the future. The Church report stated: "The United States must not adopt the tactics of our en-

emies. Means are as important as ends."

Despite President Reagan's signature on the UN Convention Against Torture in 1993, it is now clear that President Bush authorized the CIA to engage in torture once again after the events of 9/11. While the FBI is experienced at interrogations, as is the U.S. Army, neither of these two organizations was called upon to interrogate prisoners. They were avoided because they either refused or were forbidden from using torture on prisoners.

On the other hand, the CIA,

which was a bit rusty after some 25 years, was asked to do the dirty work, and promptly started hiring outside contractors and consultants.

It is now time for CIA director John Brenner to be fired, and for President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and some legal advisors previously at the Justice department to be held accountable for crimes against humanity. They have done great harm to our international reputation, and have endangered both U.S. military personnel stationed abroad as well

as ordinary U.S. citizens traveling overseas.

While our government is considering actions as the result of the new torture revelations, organizations and even countries have already indicated that they are planning to take legal and diplomatic actions on behalf of any victim who was tortured by the CIA within their country's borders. President Obama should take both punitive actions against those who authorized the use of torture in the name of the American people, as well as preventive actions to avoid any reoc-

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Populist Proposals Win in 2014

by Jim Hightower

While last year's voters put a pack of reactionaries in charge of the new Congress, let's not forget that bigger majorities of the same electorate leapt at the chance to say "YES" to an array of unabashedly progressive ballot initiatives:

For example, even though the crimson-red states of Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska, and South

Dakota elected GOP Senate candidates, voters in all four rejected the GOP's low-wage policies by overwhelmingly approving minimum wage increases.

Also, big majorities in dozens of communities in five states voted for initiatives to get corporate money out of our elections, calling on Congress to let the people vote on a 28th Amendment overturning the Supreme Court's corrosive Citizens United edict.

And there was a potpourri of other populist victories, including four places that chose to help poverty-level workers who face a truly sickening choice when they fall ill: Go to work sick, or stay home and lose their pay — or even their jobs. Last year, proposals to provide paid sick leave for such employees passed in Massachusetts, Oakland, Montclair, NJ., and Trenton, In addition, four more communities voted to ban

fracking in their areas, including a stunning landslide victory over Big Oil's money and arrogance by grassroots rebels in the "gasocracy" of Texas! From Alaska to Florida, red state voters also took solidly-progressive stands on such issues as conservation and marijuana legalization.

Leaders of the new Republican Senate are strutting around, claiming to have a "mandate." But the core message from last year's

elections is not that voters have embraced the GOP's Right Wing values and corporate agenda, but that they don't want namby-pamby Democrats. To put progressives in office, we need to have genuinely progressive candidates, campaigning unabashedly on the populist policies that most voters clearly favor.

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currence of such activities in the future. Many of our closest allies have been protecting themselves against terrorists for many years without resorting to torture. The reasons torture is wrong are many, including Senator John McCain's comments (a victim of torture himself), that it yields primarily false information and disgraces the reputation of our country. It is morally, religiously wrong, always and everywhere. We all know it.

Peter Somssich
Portsmouth, NH

Peter:
A certain sector of our body politic — we won't say which — makes a big deal out of the concept of personal responsibility. Anyone whose life comes up a few cherries short of a bowl is told that it's because they've failed to take personal responsibility for their situation. Yet when a trail of bloody evidence leads directly to the door of their tidy, taxpayer-funded office, that concept is nowhere to be seen.

The Editor

§

Good Year for Job Creation
To the Editor:

Contrary to what we're not being told by the Conservative media, we really did have a Bush/Cheney Presidency that occurred between the Clinton and Obama

Administrations. We were recently reminded of this fact by the release of the Senate Intelligence Committee's report on the G.W. Bush Administration's sanctioned torture of enemy detainees. Unfortunately, the report's disgraceful revelations drowned out, like a water-board, the extremely positive news of the 314,000 private sector jobs that were added under President Obama's watch during the month of November.

The 314,000 additional jobs made 2014 the best year for job gains since 1999, when President Clinton was presiding over a fantastically robust economy. We're hopefully all familiar with the story of how Clinton's strong economy and budget surplus were wiped out by disastrous Bush Administration policies and how Obama inherited a near second Great Depression and an America that was hemorrhaging millions of jobs. That's what makes it all the more remarkable that November was the 57th straight month of private sector job growth which has seen the creation of 10.9 million jobs.

One doesn't need to be an economist to recognize that the latest job numbers, along with all other positive economic indicators (the Dow Jones Index, unemployment,

GDP growth, Deficit GDP percentage, home construction and sales and Consumer Confidence, etc ...), suggest that the American Economy has successfully escaped from the abyss in only six years. It is no doubt getting more and more difficult for naysayers, and those that wish Obama to fail, to deny the success of our President on the economy.

It is now time for the U.S. Economy, rebuilt on the backs of hard-working Middle Class Americans, to work for all citizens, not just the 1 percent that control approximately 40 percent of the wealth and resources. In order to make the U.S. Economy more inclusive, the GOP-led Congress, instead of passing measures which deregulate Wall Street, which devastated our economy in the first place, is advised to work on: decreasing the enormous wage gap, increasing the minimum wage, investing in our decaying infrastructure and education system and discouraging the outsourcing of American jobs.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, NH

§

Close But No Cigar!
To the Editor:
For over 50 years the U.S. policy for Cuba has been, in a word, Iso-

late. To characterize the success of our policy as "close but no cigar" is an exaggeration the size of an Upmann Magnum stogie.

Only in the U.S. Congress and Miami would anyone think that a boycott, by a single country, would be an effective strategy for bringing down the Castro government. Do you think that the Cuban American voting block has something to do with the irrational fixation on such an ineffective policy? To our politicians, two million potential votes are more intoxicating than a strong rum punch.

What is wrong with trying a new approach with the Castro regime, one that is working in other countries. Been to Vietnam lately? After KFC, Pizza Hut, the iPhone and Levis, can democracy be far behind?

Are we afraid that Cuba will somehow lull us into a false sense of security and then launch a sneak attack on Miami? Does our "intelligence" community, the same folks who were keeping an eye on ISIS, think that Cuba has a well hidden contingent of tricked out and heavily armored '57 Chevys ready to be deployed. How they would get them over here is unknown. Maybe with cigar smoke and mirrors?

Did we boycott Japan, Germany and Italy after WWII? No, we rebuilt them. Are Cuba's crimes worse? What exactly have they done to America?

Yes, their human rights record is terrible. Does this means we should also boycott and try to isolate China, Egypt, Venezuela, Myanmar or Nigeria, all higher on the Human Rights Watch list?

If American exceptionalism is real how long will it take for the Cuban people to see the truth about their government's lies and failed policies once greater engagement takes place? The Castros will not be able to sugar coat the painful reality of today's Cuba for very long.

Dave Potter
North Hampton, NH


Dave:
Smoke 'em if you've got 'em.
The Editor

§

Misc. Notes
"Keep those Don Ewing letters coming. He is hilarious!!" — L.C., W. Newton, PA
"Tell Murph I miss him!" — V.N., Boston, MA
"Running the newspaper letters column, I always let in anyone who denounced me violently, because I believe people like to read abuse." — H.L. Mencken

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"I still believe that if your aim is to change the world, journalism is a more immediate short-term weapon."
— Tom Stoppard (1937-)
Czech-born British playwright

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11 sun Preminger, Parker, Ojeda & Sofferman Jazz/grill 8PM, NO COVER	18 sun Allen, Parker, Harris Jr and Kaumeheiwā Jazz/grill 8PM, NO COVER
12 mon Judith Murray Larry Garland JAZZ JAM @ 6PM 8PM, NO COVER	19 mon Leftist Marching Band Larry Garland JAZZ JAM @ 6PM 8PM, NO COVER
13 tue Hoot Night HOOT (OPEN MIC) 9PM, NO COVER Pint Night: 6-9pm	20 tue The Dustbowl Revival Pint Night: 6-9pm 9PM, \$15
14 wed Elissa Margolin Jazz/grill 9PM, NO COVER	21 wed Jim Dozet Jazz/grill 9PM, NO COVER
15 thu Beat Night Jazz/Poetry 7-9pm, nc	22 thu B3 Kings Jazz/grill 9PM, NO COVER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, January 11	Monday, January 12	Tuesday, January 13	Wednesday, January 14	Thursday, January 15	Friday, January 16	Saturday, January 17
<p>2008—"There will be a signed peace treaty [between Israel and the Palestinians] by the time I leave office," says George W. Bush.</p> <p>2003—"You can count on this," Donald Rumsfeld tells Saudi Prince Bandar, showing him plans for the Iraq War. "This is going to happen."</p> <p>2002—Joe Foss, 86-year old ex-Governor of South Dakota, is held up for 45 minutes at a Phoenix airport because security personnel think his Medal of Honor might be a weapon.</p> <p>2000—"Rarely is the question asked," says George W. Bush, "is our children learning?"</p> <p>1974—Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Thomas Moorer is reported to have placed spies in the executive branch to obtain secret information on U.S. diplomatic initiatives.</p> <p>1964—Twenty-three years after George Seldes reports that smoking is hazardous to health, the U.S. Surgeon General does, too.</p> <p>1918—Edward Aloysius Murphy Jr., of "Murphy's Law," is born.</p> <p>1912—In Lawrence, MA 32,000 women and children strike for bread — and for roses, too.</p> <p>1908—For refusing to obey the law and register as an Asian, Mohandas Gandhi is jailed in South Africa.</p> <p>1906—Birth of Albert Hofmann, discoverer of LSD.</p>	<p>1991—Congress authorizes the first Bush vs. Hussein War.</p> <p>1984—R. Reagan's Deputy Sec. of Defense W. Paul Thayer resigns after being charged with insider trading. He ends up in the can.</p> <p>1971—Rev. Philip Berrigan is indicted for conspiring to kidnap R. Nixon and bomb federal buildings.</p> <p>1962—For the first time, U.S. helicopters engage in a combat mission in South Vietnam.</p> <p>1954—John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State and brother to C.I.A. chief Allen Dulles, announces that the containment of Communism is over and the threat of massive retaliation is here.</p> <p>1951—Wheelchair-bound Albert Guay, convicted of bombing an airliner, rolls to Canadian gallows.</p> <p>1932—Ms. Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-AK) becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.</p> <p>1928—Ruth Snyder becomes the first woman to be photographed dying in the electric chair.</p> <p>1864—Kit Carson and his fellow heroes kill 11 Navajos in Canyon de Chelly, Arizona Territory.</p> <p>1833—Congress makes it illegal for any Indian to remain within the bounds of the state of Florida.</p> <p>1641—In James City, VA, a law is passed providing that, if any Indian commits a crime, the first Indian caught must pay the penalty—with his life, if necessary.</p>	<p>2006—CIA drones kill eighteen innocent Pakistani villagers instead of Ayman al-Zawahiri.</p> <p>2002—George W. Bush blames his passing during a football game on a pretzel. An ex-British Foreign Secretary reveals lab techs found alcohol in a sample of Bush's blood.</p> <p>1992—Japan apologizes for making sex slaves of tens of thousands of Korean women during WW II.</p> <p>1980—Belgium's top anti-drug cop is busted for smuggling drugs.</p> <p>1974—Dr. Hunter S. Thompson throws a Super Bowl party; one guest: George W. Bush.</p> <p>1964—Cumberland, MD gets lucky: a B-52 crashes, but the nukes on board don't go off.</p> <p>1947—The Supreme Court rules that there's nothing cruel or unusual about electrocuting a man a second time if you fail to kill him on the first go-round.</p> <p>1946—In Paris, 500 GIs adopt an Enlisted Man's <i>Magna Carta</i>, calling for radical reforms of the master-slave relationship between officers and enlisted men.</p> <p>1874—New York City cops, 1,600 strong, beat unemployed demonstrators. Police Commissioner Abram Duryée calls it "the most glorious sight I have ever seen."</p> <p>1842—Of 4,500 British soldiers who began a retreat from Kabul a week earlier, William Brydon rides into Jalalabad, alone.</p>	<p>2005—"[M]an should never try to put words in God's mouth," says George W. Bush on TV.</p> <p>2000—"This is still a dangerous world," warns George W. Bush. "It's a world of madmen and uncertainty and potential mental losses."</p> <p>1969—Near Hawaii, a rocket explosion aboard the nuke-powered <i>U.S.S. Enterprise</i> starts a fire. The fire sets off about 18 500-lb. bombs, killing 27 and injuring 85.</p> <p>1967—The First Human Be-In is held, in San Francisco.</p> <p>1957—"I never should have switched from Scotch to Martinis," says the dying Humphrey Bogart.</p> <p>1898—Death of Rev. Charles L. Dodgson, author and fervent admirer of little girls.</p> <p>1893—Joseph Conrad quits the sea of salt water for a sea of ink.</p> <p>1878—The U.S. Supreme Court confirms the right of railroads to provide unequal levels of service on the basis of race.</p> <p>1850—Imprisoned anarchist Mikhail Bakunin is sentenced to death. After that sentence is suspended, he spends years in a dungeon, comes down with scurvy, is sent to Siberia, escapes, travels the world making trouble for authorities, and eventually dies in Switzerland at 62.</p> <p>1794—Dr. Jesse Bennett performs the first successful Caesarean section in the U.S., in Edom, VA, on his own wife.</p>	<p>2009—Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger safely lands a malfunctioning Airbus on the Hudson River.</p> <p>2000—G.W. Bush promises an administration that "will see service to our country as a great privilege and who will not stain the house."</p> <p>1992—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush, campaigning in NH, says "Remember Lincoln, going to his knees in times of trial and the Civil War and all that stuff. And we are blessed. So don't feel sorry for...don't cry for me, Argentina."</p> <p>1968—Near Dak To, SP/5 Dwight H. Johnson engages so fiercely in a firefight that he is later awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1971 he's shot to death in a suicidal robbery.</p> <p>1968—Jeanette Rankin, 87, Congresswoman who voted against WWI and WWII, leads a march against the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1961—Air Force's "Texas Tower 4," damaged during construction and again by Hurricane Donna, collapses into the Atlantic 60 miles off New Jersey with a loss of 28 lives.</p> <p>1943—In the back seat of a car on the way to her electrocution for murder by the State of South Carolina, Sue Logue bangs her lover, future Senator Strom Thurmond.</p> <p>1919—In Boston, 2,300,000 gallons of molasses, intended for manufacturing explosives, escape from a badly-built storage tank, killing 21 and injuring 150.</p>	<p>2008—Megachurch pastor and Bushian "Point of Light," Earl Paulk confesses that he is a chronic fornicator.</p> <p>2003—Space Shuttle <i>Columbia</i> takes off for the last time.</p> <p>1996—Mistaken for a drug trafficker, Jimmy Buffet and his seaplane are fired on near Jamaica.</p> <p>1986—The Dept. of Energy announces a seven-year search for a nuclear waste dump site. One potential site: Hillsborough, NH.</p> <p>1984—Paul McCartney is arrested in Barbados for pot possession.</p> <p>1980—Paul McCartney is jailed briefly in Japan for pot possession.</p> <p>1980—Anti-drug pencils are recalled in New York because "Too Cool to Do Drugs" becomes, on sharpening, "Cool to Do Drugs," then "Do Drugs."</p> <p>1972—Vesna Vulovic falls 33,000 feet from a bombed DC-9, lands on a snow-covered slope, and lives.</p> <p>1936—Serial killer & cannibal Al-bert Fish is executed at Sing Sing.</p> <p>1920—Prohibition takes effect: 13 years to the next legal drink.</p> <p>1917—German Foreign Secretary A. Zimmermann telegraphs the German ambassador in Mexico telling him to propose a German/Mexican alliance and offering the return of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.</p> <p>1777—Vermont declares independence from New York.</p>	<p>2003—George W. Bush tells wounded troops at Walter Reed we "must provide the best care" for veterans the same day the VA cuts off health care for 164,000 veterans.</p> <p>2003—Gertrude Janeway, the last known widow of a Union Civil War veteran, dies at 93. When they married, he was 81 and she was 18.</p> <p>1998—While Drudge reports <i>Newsweek</i> has spiked a story about his having sex with an intern, Bill Clinton denies under oath having had sex with Monica Lewinsky.</p> <p>1997—Newt Gingrich's lawyer tells a Congressional subcommittee his client's lies were merely "glaringly inconsistent."</p> <p>1991—Gulf (& Exxon) War I begins with air attacks on Iraq.</p> <p>1986—Ronald Reagan authorizes the secret (and illegal) sale of weapons to Iran.</p> <p>1968—G.W. Bush manages to squeak by the Texas Air National Guard's pilot aptitude test, with a score of 25 percent.</p> <p>1977—About to become the first American executed (by firing squad) after a ten-year hiatus, Gary Gilmore says, "Let's do it."</p> <p>1966—An Air Force tanker and a B-52 collide over Spain, dropping H-bombs & scattering radiation.</p> <p>1961—President D.D. Eisenhower warns against the "acquisition of unwarranted influence" by the "Military-Industrial Complex."</p>
<p>3:00 3:11</p> <p>9:00 9:22</p>	<p>3:43 3:59</p> <p>9:48 10:07</p>	<p>4:31 4:52</p> <p>10:41 10:56</p>	<p>5:21 5:49</p> <p>11:36 11:49</p>	<p>6:15 6:48</p> <p>12:34</p>	<p>7:09 7:45</p> <p>12:43 1:31</p>	<p>8:03 8:40</p> <p>1:39 2:25</p>
Sunday, January 18	Monday, January 19	Tuesday, January 20	Wednesday, January 21	Thursday, January 22	Friday, January 23	Saturday, January 24
<p>2004—Israeli PM Ariel Sharon praises Ambassador to Sweden Zvi Mazel for vandalizing art critical of Israel in a Stockholm museum.</p> <p>1990—Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry is arrested in an FBI drug sting.</p> <p>1982—During a training mission at Indian Springs, AZ, four Air Force Thunderbirds fly their T-38 jets into the ground.</p> <p>1969—Peace talks begin in Paris between U.S. and Vietnam.</p> <p>1979—In Parliament, Lord Rann-keillour expresses his belief that UFOs are real.</p> <p>1943—The Red Army breaks the 890-day Nazi siege of Leningrad.</p> <p>1941—Epinard, one of the great race horses of its time, is stolen in France. The nag is later discovered hauling a delivery wagon.</p> <p>1932—Spanish anarchists proclaim a libertarian commune; it lasts a week before the government jails the members.</p> <p>1911—In San Francisco Bay, Eugene B. Ely becomes the first man to land a plane on a ship.</p> <p>1892—Birth of Oliver Hardy.</p> <p>1884—Dr. Wm. Price, a nudist, vegetarian, and Druid, 84, attempts the first legal cremation in Britain of his dead 5-month old illegitimate son, Jesus Christ Price.</p> <p>1863—Apache chief Mangas Colorado, wearing manacles, is shot by two U.S. soldiers.</p>	<p>2004—Over 100,000 Iraqis turn out to protest the U.S. occupation.</p> <p>2001—On his last full day in office, Bill Clinton admits he perjured himself when he denied having sex with Monica Lewinsky.</p> <p>1996—Hollywood producer Don Simpson's \$2,000/day drug habit kills him at the age of 52.</p> <p>1983—Apple Computer unveils the Lisa, innovative but doomed precursor of the Macintosh.</p> <p>1977—Pres. Jerry Ford pardons Iva Toguri "Tokyo Rose" D'Aquino.</p> <p>1968—Attempting to placate Howard Hughes, the AEC detonates an H-bomb 90 miles further from his penthouse; not far enough.</p> <p>1915—Two Britons are killed and three injured in the first Zeppelin attack of WWI.</p> <p>1915—To preserve order, factory guards in Roosevelt, NJ shoot 20 rioting strikers.</p> <p>1915—George Claude patents the neon tube sign.</p> <p>1847—Charles Bent, the new Territorial Governor of New Mexico, is scalped at his Taos home in front of his wife and children.</p> <p>1825—The process of canning food in tins is patented.</p> <p>1810—Portsmouth's temperature drops 50 degrees overnight.</p> <p>1809—Edgar Allan Poe is born.</p> <p>1570—In Linlithgow, the Earl of Moray becomes the first man to be assassinated with a firearm.</p>	<p>2009—Administering the Oath of Office to President Obama off the top of his head, Chief Justice John Roberts blows his lines. That night Gingrich, Luntz, Cantor, Ryan and other GOPers meet to scheme up ways to sabotage Obama.</p> <p>2005—J.P. Morgan Chase admits two banks it swallowed had taken slaves as collateral years before.</p> <p>2001—George W. Bush becomes #43—God help Earth.</p> <p>1981—Ronald Reagan is sworn in as president. Minutes later, 52 American hostages in Iran are released. Just a coincidence.</p> <p>1958—Elvis Presley gets drafted.</p> <p>1942—Nazi officials at Wannsee determine a "final Solution" to the "Jewish problem."</p> <p>1936—In England, after uttering his last words ("God damn you") King George V is euthanized with a lethal injection.</p> <p>1932—Peasant uprising begins in El Salvador, leading to the Matanza Massacre in which 30,000 are killed.</p> <p>1902—In the Philippines, U.S. Major Littleton Waller summarily executes 11 native guides. He is court-martialed for murder but acquitted.</p> <p>1649—The tip of King Charles I's cane falls off as he pokes the prosecutor charging him with treason. To retrieve it, the King stoops before the commoner.</p>	<p>2001—The <i>NY Times</i> reports G.W. Bush's inauguration may bring a "new era of ... social justice," & ignores 20,000 jeering demonstrators.</p> <p>2000—"When I was coming up," says George W. Bush, "it was a dangerous world, and you knew exactly who they were. It was us vs. them, and it was clear who them was."</p> <p>1997—Newt Gingrich becomes the first Speaker of the House to be disciplined for unethical behavior.</p> <p>1996—Bill and Monica enjoy their fifth encounter.</p> <p>1977—Pres. Carter pardons up to half a million draft dodgers.</p> <p>1968—The NVA begins a 78-day siege of U.S. Marines at Khe Sanh. Outnumbered 5 to 1 and suffering 737 KIA/MIA. Marines prevail.</p> <p>1968—A malfunctioning heater ignites unauthorized foam seats aboard a B-52 over Greenland causing it to crash and scatter parts of four H-bombs.</p> <p>1959—Former Little Rascal Carl "Alfalfa" Switzer is fatally shot in the belly by a bear-hunting companion in a dispute over a lost dog.</p> <p>1908—A new law bans smoking on New York streets—for women.</p> <p>1867—In San Francisco, an overzealous cop arrests Emperor Norton 1 for involuntary treatment of a mental disorder. Civic unrest follows. The Police Chief apologizes to the Emperor, and officers begin to salute him on the street.</p>	<p>2010—Mount Washington's world record wind speed of 231 mph is superseded by a previously-overlooked 1996 reading of 253 mph at Barrow Island, Australia.</p> <p>2008—The Center for Public Integrity documents 935 instances of "orchestrated deception" by President Bush and seven top officials leading up to the Iraq War.</p> <p>2005—Donald Rumsfeld cancels an appearance in Germany to avoid a possible arrest for war crimes.</p> <p>1997—Lottie Williams, walking in a Tulsa park, takes a glancing blow on the shoulder from a small falling chunk of a Delta rocket.</p> <p>1987—Pennsylvania Treasurer Budd Dwyer, charged with fraud, blows his brains out on live TV.</p> <p>1973—The Supreme Court issues its <i>Roe v. Wade</i> decision.</p> <p>1967—Salvadorans protest against state violence in Managua; government troops kill 200.</p> <p>1959—Ordered to leave just six feet of rock between themselves and the bed of the Susquehanna River above them, twelve miners drown in Pennsylvania.</p> <p>1957—George "The Mad Bomber" Metesky is arrested in New York for planting 30 bombs over a 16 year period.</p> <p>1948—Boston Mayor James Curley requests that MIT study whether flamethrowers could be used to clear snow.</p>	<p>2005—The U.S. Ambassador to Iraq confirms its Defense Minister Hazim al-Shaalan is under investigation over a missing \$300 million (which sum quickly triples).</p> <p>2004—"[T]he illiteracy level of our children are appalling," says George W. Bush.</p> <p>2001—The <i>LA Times</i> reports that "W" keys are missing from White House computers. It's not true.</p> <p>1986—In a mixup, half a ton of uranium is pumped into the sea at Windscale, England.</p> <p>1973—Richard Nixon claims his "peace with honor" deal with Ho does not betray our allies, abandon our prisoners, or let the war continue in Indochina. It does all three.</p> <p>1968—North Korea seizes the <i>USS Pueblo</i> for spying within its waters.</p> <p>1957—Klan members in Montgomery, AL force Willie Edwards Jr. to jump from a bridge. A judge quashes the indictment of 3 men 19 years later, saying "forcing a person to jump from a bridge does not naturally and probably lead to the death of such person."</p> <p>1870—On the Marias River in Montana, Maj. Eugene Baker's soldiers massacre 173 Blackfoot women and children. Chief Heavy Runner dies holding a U.S. flag given to him to assure their safety.</p> <p>1556—History's deadliest earthquake kills about 830,000 in Shanxi Province, China.</p>	<p>2003—The Dept. of Homeland Security opens for business.</p> <p>2001—GOP hack Rich Galen reports (falsely) that outgoing Gore staffers slashed all the power cords in the Office of the Vice President.</p> <p>1999—Joe DiMaggio, watching "Dateline NBC," is disturbed to read in the "crawl" that he has died.</p> <p>1992—Arkansas executes the lo-batomized Rickey Ray Rector—who asks jailers to save the dessert from his last meal "for later."</p> <p>1986—<i>Voyager</i> flies past Uranus and discovers moons.</p> <p>1978—A Soviet satellite powered by a nuclear reactor crashes on Great Slave Lake in Canada, contaminating 61,000 sq. mi. of ice.</p> <p>1972—"It is with much embarrassment that I have returned alive," says Shoichi Yokoi, a Japanese draftee who had been hiding on Guam since 1944.</p> <p>1965—Winston Churchill dies at 90, having defied Hitler, the odds, and his own doctors.</p> <p>1961—A B-52 breaks up in mid-air releasing two fully-armed 24 megaton H-bombs near Goldsboro, NC. One of four fail-safe devices on one bomb works, preventing detonation. Radioactive components of the other unexploded bomb remain 180 feet underground.</p> <p>1955—Two Jima flag raiser Ira Hamilton Hayes dies of exposure in Sacaton, AZ at 32 years of age.</p>
<p>8:54 9:32</p> <p>2:32 3:17</p>	<p>9:45 10:22</p> <p>3:25 4:07</p>	<p>10:35 11:11</p> <p>4:16 4:56</p>	<p>11:25 12:00</p> <p>5:07 5:44</p>	<p>12:14</p> <p>5:58 6:32</p>	<p>12:49 1:05</p> <p>6:50 7:21</p>	<p>1:39 1:58</p> <p>7:43 8:11</p>

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