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A Non-Fiction Newspaper

Vol. CCLIX, No. 25

September 4, 2015

The Fortnightly Rant

What Hath GOP Wrought?

"Trump GOP Candidacy Blows Up," read the headline in the *Weekly Standard* seven weeks ago. Establishment Republicans were mortified: a so-called candidate for their precious Presidential nomination had just dared to insult the Party's most prominent, and damn near only, war hero. Such aggression could not stand.

However, to paraphrase Galileo, "and yet, it stands." Last Friday's *Washington Post* featured a headline guaranteed to amplify the angst: "Donald Trump's polling no longer looks like a bubble set to burst."

Worse yet, on Sunday, the *Des Moines Register* released a poll showing Trump still leading among likely Iowa caucus-goers. That little fact, by now, would be no great surprise in itself. The shocker was his unfavorability rating, which had plummeted from 61 percent to a mere 35. Hell, any self-respecting Republican is probably despised by 35 percent of the Party.

The inevitable self-destruction of Donald Trump is not just overdue, it's nowhere on the horizon — a fact that strikes terror into the hearts of any Establishment Republicans who may happen to be so equipped.

More than two years ago, after losing four of the six most recent presidential elections, the Party officially declared that it "must embrace and champion comprehensive immigration reform." It was the Party's subtle way of saying, "without more Hispanic voters, we are doomed."

Donald Trump cares nothing about official declarations. At a press conference on August 25th he insulted Jorge Ramos, the

best-known and most respected Hispanic journalist in the country. He also had his goons throw Ramos out. And, in a fine Trumpian flourish, he denied throwing Ramos out even as he was throwing Ramos out.

A Trump supporter in the hallway delivered the *coup de gracelessness*, saying to Ramos, an American citizen, "Get out of my country."

As with the McCain incident, there was speculation that Trump may have finally gone too far. But this is Trump City, baby — there is no too far.

Trump State Park

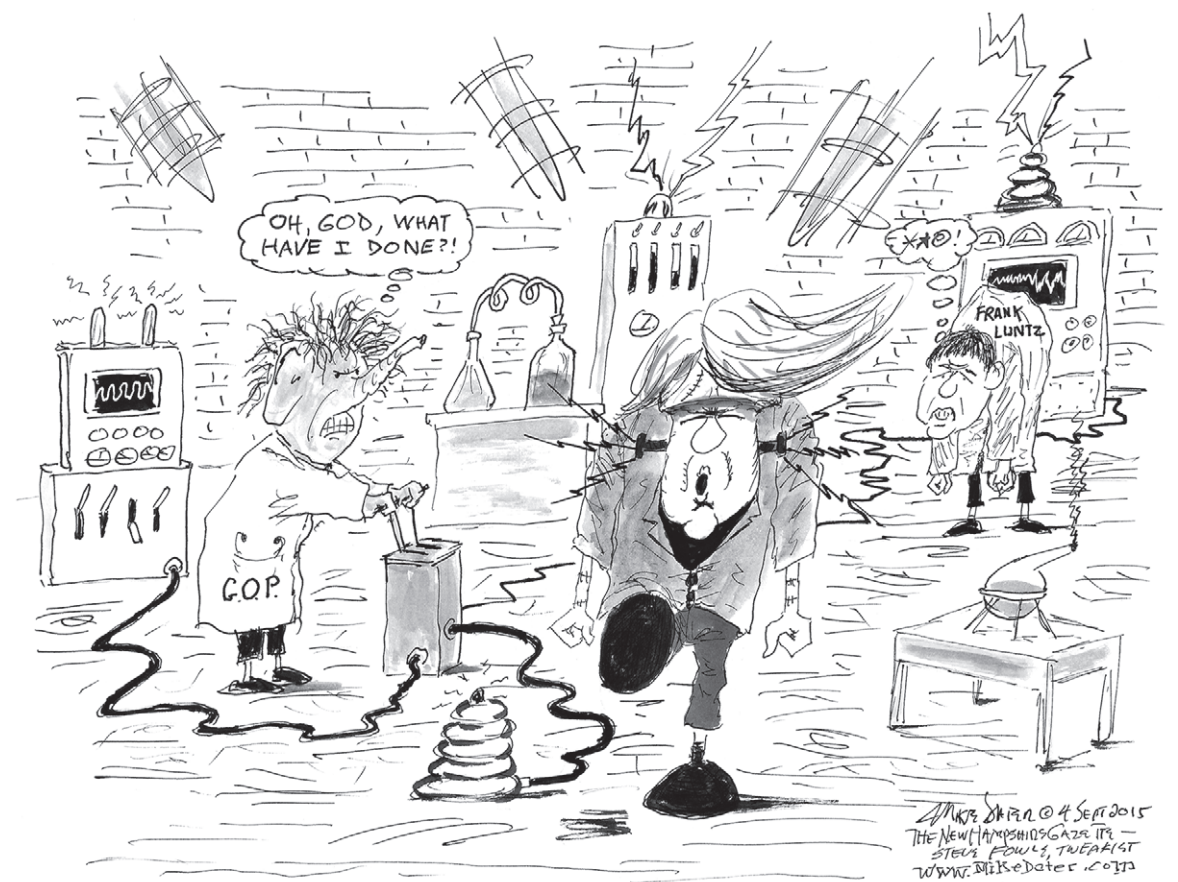
Actually, there is no "Trump City." Not yet, anyway. But there is a Donald J. Trump State Park, which Rachel Maddow did a segment on recently.

One would expect a park with Trump's name on it to be both yuuuge and classy. One might be disappointed.

The Park, located about 38 miles north of Manhattan, east of the Hudson River, is big, comprising about 436 acres. But it is covered with forests, meadows, weeds and abandoned, graffiti-covered, asbestos-laden buildings, and looks like a dump.

Trump bought the land years ago, intending to build — what else? — a golf course. The local towns reacted about the same way Durham did to Aristotle Onassis' proposal for an oil refinery on Great Bay. Trump gave up on the golf course — the loser — and gave the land to the State of New York.

Trump had paid \$3 million for the land. When he gave it to the State as a charitable donation, he is said to have valued it, for



tax purposes, at \$100 million. The way those things work, it's entirely conceivable that Trump lowered his taxes by more than he paid for the land.

Did They Make Him a Deal...?

Maddow's revelation about Trump Park was amusing and has been largely ignored. Pulitzer winner David Cay Johnston recently did some widely-ignored reporting on Trump, and it's fairly terrifying: a mob-owned concrete company building Trump Tower, shady New Jersey gambling license, a cocaine-dealing helicopter pilot.

Nobody cares about this stuff during a primary, but come the general election, things may be different.

Not So Golden Boy

Needless to say, the GOP did not expect to find itself in this awkward position.

For reasons which remain inaccessible to us mere mortals, J. Edgar "Jeb!" Bush was the Establishment favorite going into the 2016 Primary, as evidenced by the nicely-greased path laid out for him by Wall Street and Oil Street.

Bush has weaknesses of his own, as one might expect of such a candidate: obscure baggage having to do with sums of money beyond the ken of your typical GOP voter. In 2005 and 2006, while Governor of Florida, Bush handed the management of the pension funds for the State's working stiffs over to Lehman Brothers. Coincidentally, when Bush left the Governor's mansion in January of 2007, he began making \$1.2 million a year as a consultant at Lehman. Lehman went bankrupt one year later, and Florida lost \$1 billion.

Party of Poisonous Irresponsibility

The GOP's plutocrats seemed unconcerned about Bush's financial finaglings. Why should they worry about Floridians holding their former Governor responsible for their State's financial woes or enriching himself at their expense? He also threw thousands of eligible, mostly-black voters off the rolls before the 2000 election, which led to his brother's catastrophic presidency. No one is holding him responsible for that.

Republicans love personal responsibility — for everyone but themselves. They've been saying increasingly crazy things for forty years, and this is where it's got them.

Reality has a way of catching up, though. This may be that time for Republicans. And Trump may be its harbinger.

The Alleged News®

A Victory for the Public at Sanders Poynt

Rye resident Robert Jesurum, and through his actions the public at large, have won a semi-decisive victory in their fight for access to the Little Harbor Beach at Sanders Poynt.

William Binnie and his Wentworth by the Sea Country Club have been ordered to tear down the fencing and dig up the shrubbery they installed in October of 2012, restore the gravel parking lot for public use, and clear "the trodden path" for pedestrian access to the beach. Furthermore, "... all costs shall be borne by the Wentworth defendants."

Rockingham County Superior Court Judge Marguerite L. Wageling had already granted Jesurum's petition for a summary judgment establishing a prescriptive easement last November. At issue in her latest rul-

ing was the scope of the remedy. Her decision, dated August 20th, was based on a hearing held on June 25th and 26th.

Wageling found the testimony of the plaintiff's witnesses to be consistent and credible. Two witnesses appeared for the defense. The Judge wrote that she "[did] not find their testimony persuasive."

The Wentworth defendants had argued that any prescriptive easement from the Sanders Poynt parking spaces down the trodden path to the level of mean high tide on Little Harbor Beach should be strictly "limited to pedestrian access for digging for worms."

The Judge did place some limits on the public's use of the area, but they fall far short of what the defendants had requested. Four

short-term, regular-sized public parking spaces are to be allowed, with their use limited to the hours between dawn and dusk. The public "may not park larger vehicles," she wrote, but "vehicles with campers are permitted." The use of carts or towed vehicles to bring watercraft down the trodden path is prohibited.

Now the question appears to be, how long it will take for Binnie to comply with the Judge's order?

Wageling noted in her decision that "the Court will not hesitate to order further equitable relief, along with the assessment of costs, should any party fail to comply." But Binnie has already denied the public's access to the beach for three full summers, and his attorney has suggested that an appeal may be sought to last

November's decision.

The Judge also ruled that "Plaintiff [Jesurum] is not entitled to [recover his] attorney's fees" from Binnie, citing *Harkeem v. Adams (1977)*.

That case holds that "no person should be penalized for merely defending or prosecuting a lawsuit," because "the threat of having to pay an opponent's costs might unjustly deter those of limited resources from prosecuting or defending suits." That case also notes an exception, though. Bad faith conduct may be held to justify the award of counsel fees in cases where one party has acted "in bad faith, vexatiously, wantonly, or for oppressive reasons."

Perhaps if the Wentworth defendants leave their obstacle course in place while filing appeals, the court might allow Je-

surum to go after attorney's fees.

In any case, Jesurum's legal expenses so far amount to \$62,562.81.

The Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire has raised \$1,975.00 to help defray those expenses, and Jesurum says he has personally received two other contributions totaling \$200.

The organization asks that tax deductible donations be made by check, payable to the "Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire," with the notation line on the lower left of the check stating "Sanders Poynt Legal Fund," so that they can direct those donations accordingly.

Failing that, there is a web link for contributions at <http://www.ccanh.org/sanders-poynt-legal-fund/>.

The Alleged News®
from page one

Adventures in False Equivalence

A sitting and a former President visited New Orleans on the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. It was a routine visit for Barack Obama, but, given the history, a little bit daring for George W. Bush. Thanks to a deeply ingrained American habit, though, the two men received comparably cordial welcomes.

The wonders of false equivalence are something to behold. In August of 2005, Bush and FEMA head Michael D. Brown warmed their chairs while the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history drowned a city. Meanwhile, Barack Obama was serving his eighth month as a U.S. Senator from Illinois.

Among Louisiana Republicans, though, 29 percent held Obama responsible for the Government's inept response to Katrina, according to a 2013 poll,

compared to 28 percent who blame Bush.

Somebody in New Orleans remembers, though. Outside a Bush event, one man held up a sign. The top half showed the famous photo of #43 peering down at the drowned city through a window in Air Force One, the bottom half of the sign read, "You're Early — Come Back In A Week."

Granite Stater in Biopic

Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio are teaming up to make a feature film about Gilmanton, New Hampshire native Herman Webster Mudgett.

Who? And why would two of the biggest names in Hollywood make a movie about a person who is virtually unknown in his own home state anyway?

You may well ask.

The film will be based on Erik Larson's non-fiction best-seller, *Devil in the White City*, which tells a tale so lurid it might have made Mudgett's fellow Gil-



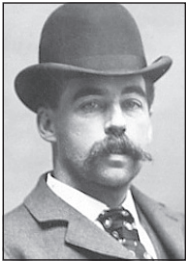
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manton native Grace Metalious blanch.

Mudgett, who went by H.H. Holmes, operated a custom-built boarding house/torture facility concurrently with the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.* In it, he is estimated to have tortured, murdered, and dissected possibly as many as 200 young women. Their skeletons were then articulated, i.e., the bones were strung together with wires, and sold to



* No mention of the Columbian Exposition is complete without our noting that it was the last known public sighting of the first printing press used in New Hampshire.

doctors and medical schools.

Sometimes called America's first serial killer, Mudgett was hanged in Philadelphia in 1896 at the age of 34. Rather ineptly, apparently, it's said he twitched for fifteen minutes before he died. He is also said to have asked that his coffin be filled with cement, so that he might avoid the fate he forced on others.

History as Bunk

On August 30, 1967, Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson's nominee, Thurgood Marshall, was confirmed as the first African-American Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

On August 29, 2015, the Republican Party of Minnesota tweeted, "First African-American Supreme Court Justice, Clarence Thomas, Appointed by

Republican Pres. George H.W. Bush."

We're No. 9!

According to an August 20th report on *Business Insider*, New Hampshire ranks ninth in the nation for marital infidelity. Ranking first is Alabama, which is curious, because the 22nd state to join the Union (and the fourth to join the Confederacy), is also the nation's third most religious.

The *Business Insider* analysis is flawed, though. Its rankings are based on the amount of money per capita paid to the adultery-facilitating website *AshleyMadison*. Fewer than fifteen percent of the profiles on the site claimed to be women, and the vast majority of those few accounts were fake. And the tiny number of accounts actually representing real women

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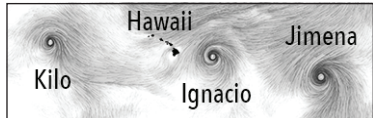
Back to ... Home News

ProPublica recently published a piece on state regulations for home schooling, from which we learned that New Hampshire does not require home schooling parents to have any education whatsoever.

Felons may home school their own children, which may in some cases open up unconventional career choices that are not available in the local public school.

The state does mandate that certain subjects be taught. The role of the First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election® is one, we presume.

Change in the Weather ...



For the first time in recorded history, three major hurricanes have been simultaneously observed east of the International Date Line in the Pacific Ocean. Ignacio, Jimena, and Kilo are all being fueled by a gigantic pool of well above average ocean temperatures, according to Boston meteorologist Eric Fisher. In fact, we are currently on track for

a stronger El Niño than 1997, which was the strongest one on record.

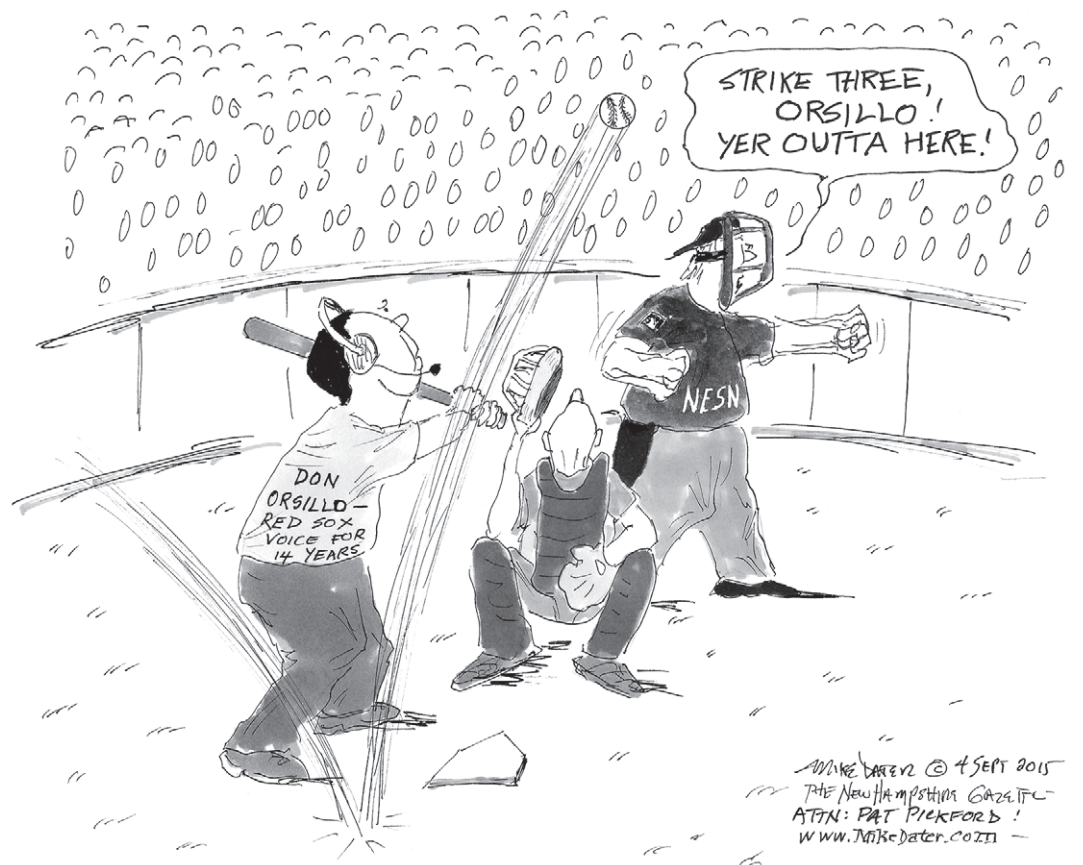
Last year was the hottest year on record. This year is on track to surpass it. July was the hottest month ever recorded.

According to a headline in the *Wall Street Journal* last September, though, and virtually every Republican in Congress, "The Science Isn't Settled."

Christopher Horner is one of those science unsettlers. Though he is a lawyer, not a scientist, he has appeared, not just on Fox News, but CNN, as a climate expert. He hasn't just claimed that the 97 percent of climate scientists are wrong, he's claimed that they're frauds.

On August 25th, *The Intercept's* Lee Fang was able to report, thanks to the recent bankruptcy of Alpha Natural Resources, that Horner's "work" has been funded by ... oh, you already figured it out: Alpha Natural Resources, one of the largest coal producers in the country.

In related depressing news, a study just published in *Theoretical and Applied Climatology*, looking at papers which dispute global warming, found that their results were irreproducible. In other words, they were junk.



Twenty Years of the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail

Saturday, September 5, will mark the 20th year that the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail has been conducting walking tours around town to reveal the often-overlooked African American history of the city.

The PBHT Sankofa Tour on this special anniversary date also will be in observance of the Middle Passage and Port Markers Project, an international commemoration of the millions of African captives who were transported during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

This 90-minute walking tour begins at 1:00 p.m., at the Liberty Pole in Prescott Park on Marcy Street. \$15. Pre-registration is suggested as group size is limited: (603) 380-1231, nhblackhistory@aol.com.

Twenty years ago, more than 75 curious people signed up to walk back in time along the Portsmouth Black Heritage

Trail. Several volunteers had prepared for this day by studying information gathered by Valerie Cunningham, an independent researcher, and they had been trained to lead group tours by Mark Sammons, then-director of Educational Programs at Strawberry Banke Museum. It soon became clear that several smaller groups would be needed to safely guide them through the narrow streets of Portsmouth.

Now under the title of PBHT Sankofa Tours, the trail begins in Prescott Park, where Africans and Black Americans were sold into slavery from ships arriving at Puddle Dock. Following a path through Strawberry Banke Museum, the tour pauses at Stoodley's Tavern, site of slave auctions advertised in *The New Hampshire Gazette*, then proceeds, identifying well-preserved homes of a few of the historic city's most prominent slave hold-

ing families: Sherburne, Warner, Langdon, Moffatt and Whipple, each representing its own unique yet common connection to the wealth and power provided by trans-Atlantic slavery.

Sankofa Tours interweave the stories of resistance and resilience of African Americans, from Portsmouth's Black abolitionists who petitioned for freedom in the 18th century to activists who continued the Civil Rights Movement in 20th century Seacoast towns.

Last stop is the site of the old "Negro Burying Ground," where the city has created an African Burying Ground Memorial, a place to pause, reflect, and remember the hundreds of enslaved workers and their children that lie buried and forgotten across New Hampshire.

Contact nhblackhistory@aol.com for more information about all tours.



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Voldemort's Admonition

To the Editor:

When it comes to matters of foreign policy or issues surrounding war and peace, former Vice President Dick Cheney, just like war hawk Senators John McCain, Lindsay Graham and their Amiga in New Hampshire, has a track record of being 100 percent wrong 100 percent of the time.

The conservative American Enterprise Institute just announced that the former VP, perhaps the chief architect of the disastrous 2003 Iraq invasion, will be delivering an address at the AEI, where he'll reportedly voice his opposition to the Obama Administration's nuclear agreement with Iran, negotiated between six world powers and Iran.

With ISIS still going strong, the Iraq War can hardly be considered a distant memory; hence, one can easily recall that Cheney and his Co-President (the brother of a Republican presidential candidate who refuses to reveal his last name) were wrong (negligently and criminally) about all things Iraq: possession of WMDs; Iraq's ties to al Qaida and complicity with the events of September 11, 2001; promises of the Iraqi people throwing parades and greeting the U.S. troops as liberators; the insurgency being "in its last throes;" usurping power from the Sunnis, through a policy of "De-Baathification," and transferring it

to the hands of Nori al-Maliki and the Shiites, who are aligned with Iran and Syria's Bashar Al Assad; and for disbanding Iraq's 400,000 person military, angry and armed to the hilt, which undeniably gave birth to ISIS.

Cheney has been just as wrong about Iran as he was on Iraq. As the CEO of Halliburton (a major beneficiary of the Iraq debacle), Cheney, desiring business with Iran, told an audience, in 1996, that sanctions were the greatest threat to Halliburton and other American oil-related companies trying to expand overseas. He asserted, "We seem to be sanction-happy as a government. The problem is that the good lord didn't see fit to always put oil and gas resources where there are democratic governments."

Imagine where we'd be if the Clinton and Obama Administrations hadn't ignored Cheney's wrongheaded advice. We'd be discussing how to combat Iran's nuclear weapon stockpiles instead of signing an agreement to halt Iran's nuclear weapons development.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

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**Safer with Iran Deal**

To the Editor:

This July Iran signed a nuclear agreement with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the European Union Representative and Germany (the P5+1.) It was then ratified by all 15 countries on the UN Security Council. It achieves the goal of reversing Iran's march toward a nuclear weapon.

Under the agreement Iran's current stockpile of 12 tons of 3.5 percent enriched uranium must be sold or diluted to its natural state, leaving it with 300KG (660lbs) of 3.5 percent enriched uranium for the next 15 years. Iran's 20,000 centrifuges will be reduced to 5,000. Iran's nuclear sites stay under 24 hour surveil-

lance with cameras and sensors. Iran must change its nuclear reactor at Arak to one which cannot produce plutonium. In return the rest of the world will lift their sanctions.

The 15 countries on the UN Security Council who approved this agreement believe the world will be safer when Iran does not have 12 tons of enriched uranium and 3/4 of its centrifuges are not functioning. They believe the world is safer with inspectors at Iran's plants. We agree. We urge you to tell your members of Congress you support this deal.

Signed by:

Joel Berman, Concord; Ronnie Flaschner, Portsmouth; Walter Hamilton, Portsmouth; Joan Jacobs, Portsmouth; Judy Ullman, Portsmouth; Emma Rous, Durham; Naomi Kornhauser, Durham; Colin H. Williams, Barrington; Eve Edelstein Williams, Barrington; Alan Green, Nashua; Rebecca Green, Nashua; Lisa Horwitz, S. Berwick, ME

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Ohio Badly Governed

To the Editor:

Please publish this Open Letter to Michael DeWine, Ohio Attorney General

Mr. DeWine:

I read recently where you are fighting improvements to the Federal clean water act.

With Ohio's Grand Lake un-swimmable, and algae raging across Lake Erie — to the point where I can't even use my boat on it — why in the world would you waste Ohio's time and resources fighting sound and needed environmental protection legislation?

At the same time we have a state school board appointee of Governor Kasich who cooked the books and threw out F grades of charter schools — schools owned by campaign contributors of the Governor — to make the schools ratings look rosy when they weren't. And that employee's

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL

spouse was then made the Governors Presidential Campaign leader? And you have declined to investigate this mess?

These schools have dismal academic records, but they are getting a free pass. Of course public school employees, who followed superiors' orders to do the same were fired, prosecuted, and their lives ruined. Why the double standard? Why were public school employees crucified but private business profiting with public tax dollars given a free pass? Was it because of the connection to the Governor? Who ordered the grades changed? What role did the Governor or his hand-picked State Superintendent have in this mess? It is hard to believe the state superintendent, (and the Governor, given that the employee's spouse was the Governor's Chief of Staff) were not aware of what was going on. Why are they defying the call from at least seven State School Board members for an impartial outside investigation?

Surely the State of Ohio would be better served by your office investigating this gigantic grade dropping mess, and finding answers to these questions, instead of your wasting dollars fighting clean water and serving as a road block to cleaning up Ohio's heavily polluted Lake Erie.

Riley Friend
Ottawa, Ohio

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**Seize This Opportunity**

To the Editor:

Over the course of the debate regarding the P5+1 nuclear agreement with Iran, there has been a great deal of discussion about people in Iran chanting "death to America, Death to Israel" as a reason why we cannot trust Iran to uphold their part of the agreement. While I

agree that this rhetoric is not appropriate or helpful, we should also consider the rhetoric coming from many in America and Israel as well. There have been many pronouncements by politicians from both nations expressing a desire to destroy Iran. For example, during the 2008 presidential campaign, Sen. John McCain, the Republican nominee for president, happily chanted "Bomb Bomb Iran" to the tune of a Beach Boys song.

While Iran has certainly not been a force for peace and stability in the world, it is instructive that we understand and acknowledge the history of America's policies and actions that have contributed to why many in Iran, especially older people, mistrust and hate America.

In the 1950's America, through the CIA, was instrumental in overthrowing the democratically elected President of Iran and replacing him with the Shah, a dictator who brutalized anyone who disagreed with his policies. Many Iranians were imprisoned and executed at the hands of the Shah during his 25 year rein of terror, while America supported his regime.

During the Iran Iraq war from 1980 to 1988, started by Iraq, we provided substantial military support to Iraq, and allowed American made arms to be sold to Iraq to help them defeat Iran. Also, recently released top-secret CIA files show that the United States was aware that Iraq planned to use chemical weapons, including sarin nerve gas, against Iranian forces, and that we actually provided intelligence to Iraq regarding Iran troop movements to aid in the effectiveness of their attack. (*Foreign-policy.com*, August 26, 2013)

On July 3, 1988 the commercial Air Iran flight 655 with 290

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# And Other Correspondence

civilians on board, including 66 children, was shot down by a U.S. Navy warship; all on board were killed.

It is clear that both America and Iran have behaved in ways that have contributed to the current level of mistrust and animosity that exists between our nations. For our part, it was also not helpful to building trust, to have 47 Republican Senators send a letter to the leaders of Iran, basically stating that they should not trust America to comply with any agreement made by our President.

The nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1 offers the world a unique opportunity to reduce the hostility of Iran and bring them back into the family of nations. Considering that many Iranians, especially the young, admire the west and want to engage peacefully with us, it offers a future that could result in a much safer world. The alternative, rejecting the agreement and using military force against Iran will only guarantee that they remain a hostile nation and will still in the end assuredly develop nuclear weapons.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

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Walker a Failure

To the Editor:
"Wisconsin leads U.S. in shrinking middle class." This was the headline in a Madison paper last month. It is a prime example of Governor Scott Walkers failures, but his terrible record never seems to come up in the news on the campaign trail.
Walker and the GOP cut education in Wisconsin by a billion dollars. They cut incomes for 75,000 working families by 15 percent. They cut access to health care for the elderly, the poor, women and children and forced

90,000 off Badger Care. Walker gave massive tax breaks to his rich campaign contributors and wealthy corporations. Wisconsin lags behind at 44th in the nation for job growth and 45th in wage growth, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. According to *Forbes* magazine, Wisconsin is 49th in projected job growth through 2018. Walker's "Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation" gave millions to his contributors and never kept track of the money.

Minnesota has the 5th fastest growing economy in the nation and stands as the 8th best business environment. Wisconsin's economy is ranked 42nd. Minnesota expects a \$1.5 billion surplus for 2015 while Walker managed to leave a \$2.2 billion dollar deficit. Walker and his GOP allies have spent their time attacking their political opponents and citizens groups that oppose him while the Minnesota legislature has actually worked to help its citizens.

Walker's policies *do not work!* He has failed miserably in his first term and, as his budget shows, he plans to continue more of the same failed policies in his second term. While he travels the country telling people his failures are successes, those of us in Wisconsin know better. At least those of us who do not watch Fox News.

Doug Curtis
Gleason, Wisc.

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**Ask About Fiduciary Duty**

To the Editor:  
A fiduciary is a professional adviser obligated by law to put your best interests first. These days, with millions of baby boomers cultivating their life savings like back-yard gardeners, investment peddlers are swarming in like bees in search of honey. Unfortunately,

most of these sales agents are not subject to fiduciary standards, so they come armed with a strong incentive to mislead you in order to collect higher fees and make more money for themselves.

The Obama Administration and Elizabeth Warren have proposed new rule-making to impose higher ethical standards on "financial advisers," but Congressional Republicans have worked equally hard to shoot it down on behalf of the retail investment industry. If you're in the market for a safe place to stash your retirement money, my best fiduciary counsel is to watch your back! As far as Congressional Republicans are concerned, the inalienable right to be swindled out of your life savings by corporate predators must be protected at all cost.

Little surprise the Congress suffers from conflicted loyalties. These days, candidates for public office have little choice but to enter into unhealthy dependency relationships with private-sector donors in order to wage a competitive campaign. The oligarchs on Wall Street and Capitol Hill may like it that way, but it does no favor for the rest of us.

As candidates cycle through New Hampshire for the coming elections, I'll be asking for their position on raising ethical standards for retail investment firms — and I hope you'll do the same. After all, aren't elected public officials supposed to serve as our fiduciaries in Washington? If not, perhaps they don't deserve my money or my vote.

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

~~~~~  
Disturbing Pattern Emerging

To the Editor:
A pattern has emerged in Baltimore, Ferguson, Oakland, New York, Cleveland and beyond. The Department of Justice finds a pattern of racially-biased polic-

ing. The cities unwholehardly agree to train officers to not use excessive force, encourage sensitivity and prohibit racial profiling. Necessary reforms to be sure, but the cause is not primarily about policing!

The problem is that America has moved toward two societies, one black, one white — separate and equal. White institutions created it, maintain it, and white society condones it, according to the [1968] Kerner Commission.

In racially denominated areas, jobs are few, transportation to job-rich areas is absent, property rates are high and education levels are low. Petty misbehavior and more serious crime abound. Young men and cops don't develop the best expectations of each other, leading to predictable confrontations.

Yes, government — federal, state, local — explicitly created racial laws and policies ensuring that black Americans would live separately. A hundred years ago Baltimore and St. Louis adopted ordinances prohibiting African Americans from moving to streets where whites predominated. In black neighborhoods they permitted multi-family dwellings, saloons and factories. Zoning was changed when necessary to enforce racial boundaries. City services declined and overcrowded neighborhoods turned into slums. Then came "slum clearance" programs forcing blacks to relocate.

Segregation results mostly from racial policy, a blatant violation of constitutional guarantees. Without remedy, my bet is we'll see more Fergusons and Baltimores in spite of police possibly being gentler.

Michael Kulla
Pleasant Valley, NY

~~~~~  
**Get Serious About the Deficit, Be Honest About the Budget**

To the Editor:  
Recent news articles featur-



ing the Concord Coalition (CC) emphasizing the need to reduce entitlements, e.g. Social Security and Medicare (SSM) benefits, in order to reduce our country's national debt, are misleading.

Without getting into details, it is well known that while entitlement spending may be a problem in 10-30 years, it did not cause increases in spending or rising national debt. Also, what is exactly our nation's annual budget? During President Reagan's administration, annual government spending deficits were running approx. \$250 billion primarily caused by increases in military spending and big tax reductions.

At the time only Democratic Senator Paul Tsongas was warning against unsustainable spending, while almost all Republican office-holders remained quiet. During this period the Social Security Trust Fund (which includes SSM obligations) was generating surpluses. Even though these funds are managed by their own trustees and are not part of regular government functions, President Reagan decided to create the GUB or Grand Unified Budget so that he could add those surpluses to his own budget, making his deficit numbers less shocking to the public. That same GUB process is still used today so that the SSM Trust Fund's current surplus of \$2.8 trillion is added to the reg-

**Hate Mail, &c.**

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Bernie!

by William Marvel

Nearly 36 years ago I sat on those abysmally uncomfortable bleachers in what was then called the “new” gym at Kennett High School to hear the revolutionary politician of that era address a crowd of Conway’s faithful. I was not an admirer of Ronald Reagan, except perhaps later, once, when he faced down a powerful federal employees’ union, but he had a devoted following in Conway. Reagan borrowed all the trickle-down economic ideology that led Herbert Hoover and the United States to grief, and by the end of his presidency Conway was in the economic toilet. What the situation was in the rest of the country I can’t recall, because the local economy is all that matters to those who have tied themselves to the mast in their communities.

Late last month Bernie Sanders came to town, preaching another brand of revolution, and after ignoring his volunteers’ somewhat insistent requests for

my identity I clambered into the same bleachers of the same gym to hear his argument. The free-lunch faction came out in force for him, including its representatives on Conway’s town and school boards, and I suspect they were as unconcerned how all that that free stuff would be funded under Bernie as they are when they vote for it in their municipal positions.

Bernie, however, had a specific idea of where to find the revenue, noting how tax policies favoring the richest Americans have redistributed American wealth steadily upward. If a fraction of one percent of Americans own or control as much of the nation’s wealth as 90 percent of the population, he contended, the source of the revenue is obvious. By levying more reasonable taxation on those fortunes, he proposed the radical notion of state colleges and universities offering free in-state tuition — as some states still did, at least as late as 1980.

His attitude did not seem unjust. Even conservatives contend that

hard work alone creates wealth, after all, and the sweat of the masses built the empires of America’s oligarchs. We often hear that the U.S. taxes the rich unmercifully, and has the highest corporate tax rate in the world, which is technically true, but most of those potential taxes are usually avoided. In fact, the one flaw in Bernie’s scheme may be that he is depending on taxes not from the accrued wealth of the rich but from their income, which their accountants have become expert at shielding through the loopholes that perforate the tax code.

Democrats complain tirelessly about Republicans trying to reduce Social Security benefits, but Democrats themselves don’t often take steps to protect it. The minimum income threshold for paying income tax on Social Security income has not been raised in over two decades, for instance, and now the benefits of all but the most destitute recipients are taxed. Sanders proposed enhancing benefits, and paying for it by increasing the income threshold for paying into the system —

which has also grown unreasonably low through inflation.

Sanders favors the Democrats’ \$15 minimum wage, too, as part of his plan to strengthen the middle class, but to succeed in that overall scheme he would have to pass his whole package of reforms. Increasing the minimum wage alone would only inflate the cost of most goods and services for that same beleaguered middle class.

The Vermonter with the fading Brooklyn accent offers the best sound bites of any candidate in either party, but the real difference lies in his sincerity. His entire career attests to the principles he espouses, but his agenda conflicts with the interests of the most powerful force in the land. The unlimited funds of his nemeses exert a perverse persuasiveness on the relatively unsophisticated constituents who would benefit most from his agenda. Because of that, the upstart Sanders campaign will inevitably founder as the primaries swing to bigger states — unless he wrests smaller ones like New

Hampshire from Hillary Clinton’s establishment machine.

Realizing his programs would require a vast coalition of unlikely political allies who have spent the past decade at each other’s throats over lesser matters. Polarizing issues like gay marriage and gun control are rather petty compared to global warming and the oppressive American oligarchy. The Black Lives Matter juggernaut, meanwhile, only pits one race against the other, distracting both from the overall problem of militarization in police attitudes and armament. With such crusades Democrats have alienated hordes of their potential populist compatriots in the greater struggle. It seems doubtful that such ruptures can be healed in time for the revolution that Bernie Sanders rightly deems necessary to correct our society’s suicide swerve into economic aristocracy. I’m afraid that by 2020 my principal recollection from the appearance of Bernie Sanders may be how much harder those bleachers had become since Ronald Reagan came to town.

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

ular government budget. These surpluses are not just worthless IOUs, but in fact Treasury bills and other safe financial instruments that investors worldwide regularly purchase.

Unfortunately, in recent years the CC has been ignoring the costs of many laws and bills that created larger deficits. Numerous wars and military interventions, subsidies for drugs for seniors and bailouts for Wall Street all were unpaid for. The CC’s recent focus on entitlement spending, which are actually earned bene-

fits resulting from payments into the trust for 30 years or more, is misguided. Yes, changes do need to be made, but as AARP suggests, they are simple and easy to implement: 1) raising the earning cap for SSM taxes, 2) increasing the tax-rate by ~0.2 percent and 3) increasing the retirement age slightly.

The government budget is a different story. Changes are needed, but they are not simple or easy. For example, reductions in military spending on bases abroad and upgrading our nucle-

ar arsenal, eliminating corporate subsidies, e.g. oil subsidies, and increasing the tax rates for corporations and high earners.

When we hear and see the CC and lawmakers in Washington talking about these measures, we’ll know they are serious about our national deficit.

Peter Somssich  
Portsmouth, N.H.

He Will Run Again

To the Editor:

I am excited to announce that I will again seek a seat on Ports-

mouth’s City Council. I am running to provide the fresh face and forward thinking leadership needed to make a positive difference for all of Portsmouth. Like in 2013, I will continue to offer moderate unifying solutions

I will also continue to lead on the important issues that our elected officials are not. In order to restore the public trust in our Police Department’s chain of command, I am calling for the firing of Chief Dubois and Captain Schwartz for their roles in Sergeant Goodwin’s disgraceful

conduct.

I have been called “ahead of the times” for my pursuits of expanding form-based zoning to the Northern Tier and Islington Corridor two years ago, and for my recent sustainability efforts throughout this past year.

As a forward thinking leader, I understand the need to embrace the sharing economy. Short-term rentals of a room while the owners remain in the home should be allowed throughout all of Portsmouth. Short-term rentals of an entire home should be limited to

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## Why Build a National Monument to a Union-Busting Robber Baron?

by Jim Hightower

Occasionally, I see something that is so bizarre, so out of place, so wrong that I have to assume I'm hallucinating. For example: The National Park Service's Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

George Pullman? My mind boggled! Our tax dollars are being spent to build a national park in tribute to a narcissistic, paternalistic, brutalistic 19th

century robber baron? Incredibly, yes. Pullman, a notorious union buster and exploiter of working families, is having his history mythologized by today's Powers That Be, portraying him as a model of the corporate order's historic virtue. At the February 19 official consecration of Pullman's park, Chicago's thoroughly-corporatized mayor, Rahm Emanuel, even gushed: "This will be a monument ... to Pullman's role in building the American

dream."

Sure, your honor — "dream" as in nightmare. Over 5,000 workers toiled in Pullman factories making rail cars, including the luxury "Palace" sleeper for elite train travel. He condescendingly referred to these workers as his "children," but what a dysfunctional father! In the hard winter of 1894, this feudal lord of the manor abruptly slashed his "children's" meager wages by some 25 percent, leaving many unable to

pay rent and feed their families. Thus came the historic Pullman Strike that quickly spread nationwide, led by union icon Eugene Debs.

No problem for Lord George, though. He and other railroad royals rushed to the White House and got President Grover Cleveland to dispatch the U.S. Army to crush the labor rebellion. Thirty workers were killed, Debs was arrested on a trumped-up conspiracy charge, and all

laborers who'd joined the strike were fired and blacklisted.

The only way that Pullman National Monument can have any legitimacy is for the grounds to be strewn with sculptures of the 30 dead workers he killed.

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less than half a year and only be allowed in the central business district and Islington Corridor.

Furthermore, as someone who moved to the Port City because of our energy, I strongly support our outdoor activities, programming, and music that keeps Portsmouth vibrant. I support Prescott Park Arts Festival's proposed new stage, similar to how I supported Strawberry Banke's Puddle Dock Pond Ice Skating Rink at two years ago.

Please share your ideas with me as I work to earn your vote by going door to door every weekend until election day. In the meantime, explore [www.dentonforcitycouncil.com](http://www.dentonforcitycouncil.com) to learn more about me, my 2013 City Council campaign, and my recent efforts on sustainability.

Josh Denton  
Portsmouth, N.H.

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### An Enemy as a Partner

To the Editor:

Those of you on the waiting list at the Dover Public Library to borrow Nelson Mandela's autobiography, *The Long Walk to Freedom*, will be happy to know that I just returned it to the library via its drop box last night.

There is almost no one that I have more admiration for than the ultimate freedom fighter,

Nelson Mandela. Although I was inspired by many things Mandela had to say in his memoir, which he secretly started writing from his prison cell on Robben Island, what I found most poignant was his response to the question of how he could accept sharing the Nobel Peace Prize with former South African President F.W. de Klerk, whom he had severely criticized for stubbornly stonewalling negotiations to bring an end to South Africa's brutally repressive Apartheid regime. Mandela asserted, "Although I would not take back my criticism, I could say that he had made a genuine and indispensable contribution to the peace process. I never sought to undermine Mr. de Klerk, for the practical reason that the weaker he was, the weaker the negotiations process. To make peace with an enemy one must work with that enemy, and that enemy becomes one's partner."

Reading the above passage, which could have just as easily been derived from Sun Tzu's "The Art of War," I was immediately reminded of current U.S. Congressional Republican efforts to undermine, for purely political reasons, the Obama administration's agreement to curb Iran's nuclear program negoti-

ated between six world powers (United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom, France and Germany) and Iran, a great first step towards promoting peace with Iran, following a long mutual mistrust between our two countries, which began with a CIA orchestrated overthrow of Iran's last democratically elected leader about 62 years ago.

In regard to the six party agreement with Iran, the American people would be far better served, and the world could be a more peaceful place, if our Republican members of Congress would simply cease the mischaracterization of the agreement and the threat, drop the useless politics and embrace Mandela's words of wisdom.

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, N.H.

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### Where Is Our Leader?

To the Editor:

Of course we have many politicians who pledge to fight for seniors. And defending the middle class is the stock and trade of the "successful" politician. And one must not forget the tough stance on keeping our military strong. All these positions are good to go for any politician who wants to survive elections, for woe to those who take a stance that in

any way undermines the interests of seniors, the middle class, or the military. We all know that.

*[We disagree strongly. The interests of seniors and the middle class have been trampled for the past forty years, with no apparent damage to those with the big feet. — The Ed.]*

But where is the politician who is willing to tell the public that, at over 18 trillion dollars, we have way too much government debt, that the government borrows 40 cents for every dollar it spends, and so it is time to raise taxes, not just on the super rich so that it will not impact the average Joe and his vote, but across the board — your taxes and mine? That leader is nowhere to be found.

*[Again, we disagree. So-called "leaders" have been issuing misleading warnings about excessive debt for decades. They're frequently the same ones who are jacking up the deficit. — The Ed.]*

And where is the politician who is willing to tell the public that our war on drugs has ...

*[Sorry, space is limited ... time for drastic measures. — The Ed.]*

[P]rison system ... bloated ... unsustainable ... time to end this second Prohibition ... legalize and regulate many of these drugs ... develop humane health pro-

grams for the myriad addicts ... reduce the prison population by early release for trivial victimless crimes along with jobs training to minimize recidivism.

[M]ilitary spending ... be honest with the public ... world events are not totally under our control ... better than the blunt hammer is the deft diplomatic negotiation ...

[E]ntitlement programs ... pushing out the eligibility age to at least 70, increasing the Social Security tax significantly, and introducing means testing ...

[N]ational government ... state governments ... infrastructure ... neglected ... more tax increases?

[I]nequity between races ... lack of opportunity for pockets of poverty ... police routine mistreatment of minorities, particularly Afro-Americans?

[A]dverse effects of decisions like Citizens United ... government ... the instrument ... of the highly financed lobbyist?

&c., &c.

Henry Barnard  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Henry:

"That leader is not to be found"? Sen. Bernie Sanders is on top of most of these issues, and his solutions are preferable to most of yours.

The Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

| SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   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| <p><b>2013</b>—Todd, Track, Bristol, and Willow Palin all play prominent roles in a bloody, drunken brawl in Anchorage, but not one is arrested.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—FBI agents arrest Ponzi schemer, fugitive from justice, and major Democratic Party donation-bundler Norman Hsu.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—“Too many OB-GYNs are not able to practice their love with women all across this country,” says George W. Bush.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Careless Lockheed Martin workers drop a \$233 million weather satellite causing \$135 million worth of damage.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Explaining why the administration had been silent all summer on its plan to make war on Iraq, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card says, “From a marketing point of view, you don’t introduce new products in August.”</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The U.S. House opens hearings on the assassinations of JFK &amp; MLK. On Dec. 30 they conclude that conspiracies were likely.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Thousands of white kids riot in Hampton Beach, N.H., causing extensive property damage. Bill Loeb blames it on the pinkos.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—“Dying is easy,” says actor Edmund Gwenn, dying. “Comedy is difficult.”</p> <p><b>1949</b>—World War II vet and devout churchgoer Howard Unruh kills 13 of his N.J. neighbors in 12 minutes.</p> | <p><b>2008</b>—The FHFA tells Fannie Mae &amp; Freddie Mac, “all your mortgage are belong to U.S.”</p> <p><b>2000</b>—[“When I am President, we] will not have our veterans standing in line waiting for benefits that they’ve been promised,” G.W. Bush falsely asserts.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Two women walk into the Norfolk (Va.) Naval Base with a banner reading “Love Your Enemies.” They’re arrested.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—In London, an umbrella-wielding KGB agent gives Bulgarian defector Georgi Markov a fatal jab in the leg.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—“Plant one, plant two [Secret Service agents] on [Ted Kennedy],” Richard Nixon says to aides. “We might just get lucky and catch this son-of-a-bitch—ruin him for ‘76. It’s going to be fun.”</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Lyndon Johnson’s infamous “Daisy Ad,” airs once, during NBC’s “Monday Night at the Movies.”</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Noted pseudoreligious hack Norman Vincent Peale opines that any Catholic president would be “under extreme pressure from the hierarchy of his church.”</p> <p><b>1914</b>—French generals send 6,000 infantrymen from Paris to the Battle of the Marne in taxicabs. They hold the line and save the city.</p> <p><b>1737</b>—Thomas Penn’s “Walking Purchase,” swindles the Lenni Lenape out of an area the size of Rhode Island.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—Dr. Ben Marble achieves the new American Dream, telling Dick “Dick” Cheney, live on CNN, “Go f__k yourself, Mr. Cheney.”</p> <p><b>2005</b>—A memorial tribute to former Quebec premier Lucien Bouchard, being broadcast on a Canadian radio station, is cut short when the station is informed he is not dead.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—<i>The N.Y. Times</i> publishes an erroneous story about aluminum tubes based on a false leak from the Bush Administration. Later that day the story is cited by four Administration officials as proof that Iraq has nuclear ambitions.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The Shah of Iran uses U.S.-made tanks and helicopter gunships to put down the Black Friday riots in Tehran; 89 die. Six months later the Ayatollah’s in charge.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—President Gerald Ford pardons ex-President Richard Nixon for any crimes he “committed or may have committed” as president.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Evel Knievel rides a rocket-powered motorcycle partway across the Snake River Canyon.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—In exchange for a \$200,000 contribution from Ray A. Kroc to R. Nixon’s reelection campaign, the Federal Price Commission gives McDonalds permission, which it had denied on May 21, to raise the price of a quarter pounder.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Farmworkers begin a strike against grape growers.</p> | <p><b>2013</b>—Two of three lanes to the George Washington Bridge are closed without warning in Fort Lee, N.J., delaying commuters and emergency personnel.</p> <p><b>2009</b>—As Barack Obama addresses Congress on health care, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) yells at the President, “You lie.”</p> <p><b>2008</b>—Lehman Bros., the nation’s fourth largest investment bank, loses 45 percent of its value.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—Frances Townsend, a Bush Administration advisor, calls Osama bin Laden “impotent.”</p> <p><b>2005</b>—“You know,” says Glenn Beck, “it took me about a year to start hating the 9/11 victims families ... When I see a 9/11 victim family on television ... I’m just, like ‘Oh, shut up.’”</p> <p><b>2002</b>—In Beverly Hills, filmmaker Bart Sibrel calls Buzz Aldrin “a coward, a liar, and a thief.” Aldrin lays out Sibrel with one punch.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—Louis T. “Moondog” Hardin, American composer, street musician, and blind, Viking-helmet-wearing eccentric, dies at 83 in Germany.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—A four-day riot begins at Artica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, N.Y. Prisoners take nine guards hostage.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—San Francisco’s hippie paper <i>Oracle</i> begins publication.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—The Hank McCune Show introduces TV’s “laugh track.”</p> | <p><b>2008</b>—Lehman Brothers executives tell investors and analysts the firm has all the capital it needs.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Donald Rumsfeld says the Defense Department can’t account for about \$2.3 trillion dollars.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—President Clinton vows to his Cabinet officers that he’s done messing around with interns.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—One-legged Tunisian pimp Hamida Djandoubi is the last man to die by a French guillotine.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—In Fruita, Colo., Lloyd Wilson chops the head off “Mike,” a young rooster who goes on to have an 18-month career as “The Headless Wonder Chicken.”</p> <p><b>1939</b>—B&amp;M Railroad Engineer John Beattie and Fireman Charles Towle are killed when the Piscataqua Bridge, damaged during construction of the Mildred Long Bridge, drops their locomotive into the river.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—<i>HMS Oxley</i> becomes the first British sub sunk in WW II — by <i>HMS Triton</i>.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—The “Lincoln Highway” opens — the first paved coast-to-coast road in the U.S.</p> <p><b>1897</b>—Strikers at a Lattimer, Pa., coal mine refuse to disperse, so a sheriff’s posse opens fire. Nineteen die and 36 are wounded, most of them shot in the back.</p> <p><b>1857</b>—Mormons murder 120 Arkansans <i>en route</i> to California at Mountain Meadows, Utah.</p> | <p><b>2013</b>—Pastor Terry Jones and Marvin Sapp are arrested in Fla. for illegally towing a barbecue grill full of kerosene-soaked Qur’ans.</p> <p><b>2012</b>—<i>Benghazi!!!</i></p> <p><b>2007</b>—Russia explodes the “Father of All Bombs,” which is said to be four times as powerful as the U.S.’s “Mother of All Bombs”</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Four American airliners are hijacked and crashed; thousands die. George Bush scurries to safety, Donald Rumsfeld looks for excuses to attack Iraq, and Dick “Dick” Cheney authorizes the shooting down of civilian airliners.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Duly elected President of Chile, Salvador Allende, is overthrown by CIA-backed thugs.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Development of a Ford Pinto/Cessna Skymaster hybrid ends when two die in a fiery crash after it falls apart in mid-air.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—“Free” elections are held in South Vietnam, all but assuring a peaceful future.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Wheeler Lipes, a 22-year old dropout, successfully removes the inflamed appendix of a shipmate aboard the submerged <i>U.S.S. Seadragon</i>. The Navy’s Surgeon General rewards him with the threat of a court martial.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—After its pilot parachutes to safety, a burning Curtiss-Wright P-40 fighter crashes into the factory where it was built in Buffalo, N.Y., killing six and injuring 35.</p> | <p><b>2008</b>—Treasury Sec. Hank Paulson, formerly of Goldman Sachs, tells Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers the Fed can’t save them.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—After an evening spent drinking alcohol and smoking crack with his brother, Frank E. Corder dies at about 1:49 a.m., crash-landing a stolen Cessna on the South Lawn of the White House.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Charles Walker’s heart beats for five minutes after Illinois begins killing him, because a lethal injection tube is kinked.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—Steven Biko dies in the custody of South African police.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—The Weathermen help Tim Leary bust out of prison.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Black soldiers at Maranas Army Airfield near Tucson strike for pay they’ve been denied. After two days, they win.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—Emiliano Zapata, 30, is elected to head the town council of Anenecuceno, Mexico.</p> <p><b>1880</b>—H.L. Mencken, newspaperman, is born in Baltimore.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—American adventurer William Walker, former dictator of Nicaragua deposed by Cornelius Vanderbilt and captured by the British, is executed by a Honduran firing squad.</p> <p><b>1857</b>—<i>S.S. Central America</i> sinks in a hurricane off the Carolinas, drowning about 420. Ten tons of gold sink, too, the loss of which contributes to the Panic of 1857.</p> |
| <p>6:11 6:35</p> <p>12:07</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          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| SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  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                                                                                                                                                   | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              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**2005**—Two weeks after the catastrophe, George W. Bush admits the Federal response to Hurricane Katrina was less than ideal.

**1985**—Star Wars space cowboys, their intended balloon-borne target having failed them, use a fighter-plane launched missile to turn a working science satellite into a cloud of dangerous space junk.

**1981**—William Loeb, alleged newspaperman, goes to his eternal torment at the age of 75.

**1971**—To restore order at New York’s Attica state prison, five hundred state troopers fire 2,200 rounds in nine minutes. The dead include 29 prisoners and ten guards.

**1948**—Rollie Free sets a speed record for bikes at Bonneville going 150 mph on a Vincent Black Shadow wearing just a Speedo.

**1940**—A Luftwaffe plane drops six bombs on Buckingham Palace.

**1913**—Mary, an elephant who had killed her untrained trainer the day before, is hanged from a railroad crane in Erwin, Tenn.

**1859**—Sen. David Broderick (D-Calif.) is shot dead by his duelling opponent, California’s Chief Justice David Terry.

**1848**—Phineas Gage, a Lebanon, N.H. native working in Vermont for a railroad company, loses a good chunk of his brain when an iron bar is blasted through it, but he lives 12 more pretty good years.

**2008**—Lehman Brothers CEO Richard Fuld gets punched in the face by a complete stranger.

**2005**—At the UN, during the World Summit, the Leader of the Free World passes a note to Secretary of State C. Rice saying, “I think I may need a bathroom break. Is that possible?”

**2001**—Standing in rubble created in part by his own failure, George W. Bush declares that America’s “responsibility to history” is to “rid the world of evil.”

**1978**—Jimmy Carter endangers the nation by permitting a 28 year-old State of Emergency to expire.

**1964**—At the White House, arch-propagandist Walt Disney is awarded the Medal of Freedom.

**1938**—The *Graf Zeppelin II*, world’s largest airship, first flies.

**1899**—Henry Bliss becomes the first person in the U.S. to be killed by an automobile.

**1874**—In a bloody coup d’etat, the White Leagues take over the Louisiana state government.

**1847**—Marines under Gen. Winfield “Old Fuss and Feathers” Scott take the Halls of Montezuma.

**1836**—Aaron Burr, the first vice President to shoot a man, dies in Port Richmond, N.Y.

**1814**—Francis Scott Key cribs from a British drinking song, *To Anacreon in Heaven*, to write *The Star Spangled Banner*.

**2008**—Lehman Brothers stock drops 90 percent in one day; the Dow loses 500 points.

**2004**—D.C. police respond to a 911 call from the bathroom of Rep. Don Sherwood (R-Pa.), 63, whom the caller, Cynthia Ore, 28, accuses of choking her.

**2001**—One person in Congress, Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) votes against granting G.W. Bush unlimited military power.

**1982**—Israeli Defense Forces surround Sabra and Shatila, Palestinian refugee camps in West Beirut, and permit Christian Phalangist militiamen to slaughter perhaps 3,500 civilians.

**1980**—A B-52 armed with nukes burns for hours at Grand Forks AFB, N.D. The fire is put out before anything explodes.

**1963**—Two Ku Klux Klan members bomb Birmingham’s 16th St. Baptist Church, killing 4 girls and injuring 22. One bomber is convicted 14 years later; the delay is caused by J. Edgar “Mary” Hoover’s withholding of evidence.

**1946**—The Dodgers beat the Cubs 2-0 in just 5 innings; game is called on account of gnats.

**1940**—During the Battle of Britain, RAF pilot Ray Holmes sees a Dornier heading for Buckingham Palace. His Hurricane out of ammo, he rams the Dornier, downing it, and parachutes to safety.

**2008**—The Federal government bails out insurance giant AIG with a loan of \$85 billion.

**2001**—Dick “Dick” Cheney accepts Tim Russert’s assertion that he would accept Osama bin Laden’s head on a platter and admits that the U.S. has no evidence linking Saddam Hussein or Iraq to 9/11.

**1975**—New Hampshire Democrat John Durkin wins a Senate seat after a marathon nine-month battle following the closest Senate election in history.

**1974**—President Ford announces a conditional amnesty for Vietnam War deserters.

**1968**—Richard M. Nixon appears on “Laugh-In” and says, “Sock it to me.” Eventually, they do.

**1940**—A remarkably prescient draft goes into effect over a year before Pearl Harbor is attacked.

**1925**—Riley B. “B.B.” King is born in Itta Bena, Miss.

**1920**—A bomb in a horse-drawn wagon explodes in front of the J.P. Morgan building on Wall Street, killing 38 and wounding 400.

**1893**—Ten thousand people race for 42,000 parcels of land in the Oklahoma Land Rush.

**1864**—Confederate Cavalry chief Wade Hampton and his men steal 2,500 head of Union Army beef.

**1692**—Giles Cory, 80, is crushed to death in Salem for refusing to testify in his trial for witchcraft.

**2013**—*Mother Jones* releases a video showing Mitt Romney denigrating 47 percent of Americans as leeches.

**2011**—Hundreds of protestors Occupy Wall Street.

**2002**—“There’s an old saying in Tennessee,” says G.W. Bush, “I know it’s in Texas, probably in Tennessee—that says, fool me once, shame on—shame on you. Fool me ... you can’t get fooled again.”

**1991**—Yale Law Dean Guido Calabresi tells the Senate Judiciary Committee that Clarence Thomas, if confirmed for the Supreme Court, might grow intellectually.

**1967**—The Mt. Washington cog railway train derails; eight die.

**1948**—Count Folke Bernadotte, in Jerusalem to mediate the Arab-Israeli conflict for the UN, is assassinated by the Zionist Stern Gang.

**1935**—Len Koenecke, an outfielder, just cut from the Dodgers, charts a plane, starts a fight with the pilot, and is killed by a blow to the head with a fire extinguisher.

**1908**—Wilbur Wright crashes a Wright Flyer at Ft. Myer, Va., making Signal Corps Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge the first person to be killed by a powered aircraft.

**1862**—At Antietam, in Maryland, 113,000 men clash; 3,654 are killed and 17,292 are wounded—bloodiest day in U.S. military history.

**1787**—Having OK’d the Constitution, its authors head to a tavern.

**2001**—Five anthrax-laced letters are mailed to news media by a person or persons still un-apprehended. Five people die.

**2001**—EPA Chief Christine Todd Whitman, acceding to a White House request, says the air at “Ground Zero” is safe to breathe.

**1980**—An airman performing maintenance on a Titan II missile in Damascus, Ark., drops a yard-long, thirty-pound socket wrench. It hits a fuel tank, causing a leak. The leaked fuel then catches fire.

**1980**—The Soviet Union puts the first black person in space: Cuban Arnoldo Tamayo.

**1975**—The FBI catches “Tan-ya,” press baron Wm. Randolph Hearst’s bank-robbing granddaughter.

**1970**—RIP Jimi Hendrix.

**1931**—At Mukden, in Manchuria, Japanese troops dynamite their own railroad and blame it on the Chinese to justify an attack on Chinese Nationalists.

**1895**—Booker T. Washington, in his “Atlanta Compromise” speech, renounces black agitation for equal rights as “extremist folly.”

**1873**—Civil War financier Jay Cooke goes bust on railroads, precipitating the Panic of 1873.

**1793**—President George Washington lays the cornerstone for “the Peoples House,” the U.S. Capitol, using secret Masonic rites.

**2001**—George W. Bush tells CIA chief George Tenet to look for links between S. Hussein and al Qaeda and recommends Dick “Dick” Cheney as a source.

**2001**—Official start of U.S. war against Afghanistan.

**1991**—Alpine tourists discover Oetzi the Iceman.

**1980**—Eight hours after a dropped wrench causes a fire in a missile silo in Arkansas, an explosion hurls a nuclear weapon 600 feet. Thanks to divine providence, only one person is killed.

**1961**—Betty and Barney Hill of Portsmouth, N.H. find their trip back home from a vacation takes two hours longer than expected.

**1959**—Nikita Khrushchev is denied admittance to Disneyland.

**1957**—First U.S. underground nuclear explosion, in Nevada.

**1952**—The U.S. (with Richard Nixon as Vice President, Joe McCarthy a Senator, and Bill Loeb publishing a newspaper) bars Charlie Chaplin from entering unless he proves he’s of sound moral character.

**1945**—William Joyce, aka “Lord Haw-Haw,” an American-born fascist of Irish descent, is sentenced to death in England for broadcasting German propaganda.

**1796**—President George Washington warns against any “small, artful, enterprising minority” that might try to control the government.

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