

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

What To Do With Dick?

It's pop quiz time: in what year was the following sentence published?

"Just as one president has left a path of destruction in his wake, one president can rescue us."

Did you guess 2008 or 2009? Of course you did. But, sorry — you're wrong. The answer is 2015, and the allegedly destructive President being referred to isn't George W.[MD] Bush, but Barack Obama.

"What is this," you may ask, "one of those alternate history novels Newt Gingrich writes?"

No. According to its publisher, Threshold Editions, it is "conservative non-fiction," which apparently operates under a set of rules different from standard non-fiction.

Judging by another Threshold title, published two years ago, the distinction may be that "conservative non-fiction" is oxymoronic. *The Embassy House: The Explosive Eyewitness Account of the Libyan Embassy Siege by the Soldier Who Was There*, had to be shredded after it was revealed that its pseudonymous author "Morgan Jones" had made the whole thing up.

Embassy House was a fictionalized account of the September 11, 2012 attack on a U.S. facility in Benghazi!!!, Libya, masquerading as fact.

The person who wrote that perplexing sentence about two presidents also said, about *Benghazi!!!*, "I've watched the ... thing with great interest I think it's one of the worst incidences, frankly, that I can recall in my career."

To put that last statement into perspective, let's review some highlights from that career.

The Dark Nutcase Rises

Given a scholarship to Yale, he flunked twice before finally being kicked out.

In order to pursue "other priorities," he sought and received five deferments from his draft board — during a war he professed to support.

One of his priorities seems to have been the mass consumption of Colorado Kool-Aid, better known as Coors, which earned him two DWI convictions.

During a later and, one hopes, soberer, phase of his career, while working for a Government that he clearly despises, he commissioned a \$9 million study on how private industry could provide logistical support to the Defense Department.

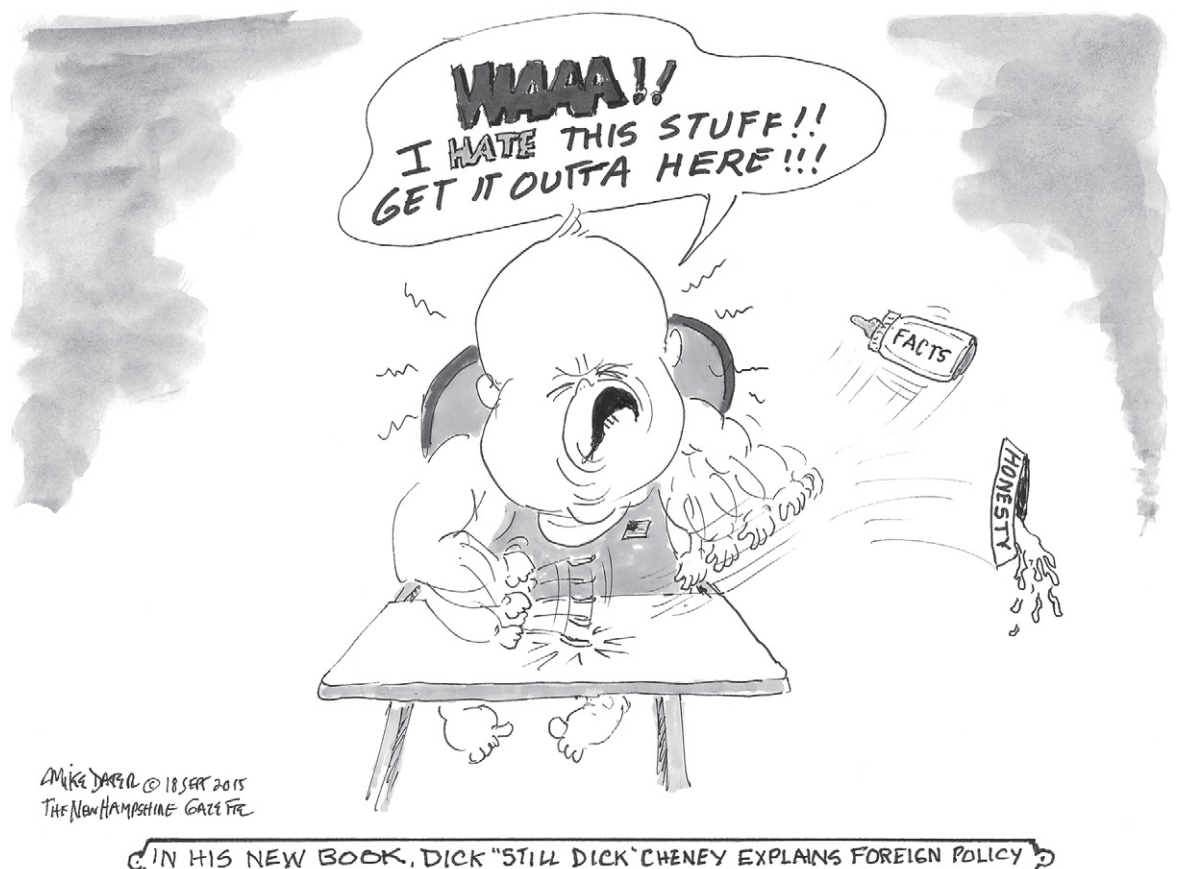
Some years later, while taking time off from a higher-ranked job, also in government, he blasted a friend in the face with a shotgun. Most people, having done so, would apologize. But most people lack his firm convictions. He did not.

Even when he's wrong, he's right. When he's really wrong, though, he's right off the charts.

Magnum Opus Pravum

The work for which he will forever be remembered was the organization of a clandestine network which manufactured spurious "intelligence" to meet certain specifications: raw material for a false justification for an unprovoked war of aggression. This is, by definition, a war crime.

With the blessings of a duped Congress, he sent hundreds of thousands of miserably-equipped soldiers and Marines into an unwinnable hell. The ensuing destruction of an organized state



IN HIS NEW BOOK, DICK "STILL DICK" CHENEY EXPLAINS FOREIGN POLICY

prepared the ground and provided the motivation for Islamic State, the existence of which he blames on his successor [because, let's not fool ourselves, Bush was not driving that bus].

In what was surely just a coincidence, his former employer provided shoddy logistical support for which it billed the Government billions — none of which, we are assured, had anything to do with the \$150,000 per year they contrived to pay him, despite his having previously "severed all ties."

The Telltale Heartlessness

Eventually, to the surprise of no one, the doctors of the man who wrote the sentence which we're trying to understand decided that his heart was so defective he'd be better off without it.

Despite his advanced age of 71, and despite what he'd done

with his old one, he talked doctors into giving him a new heart. Later he said, with a characteristic degree of humility, "It's my new heart, not someone else's old heart."

Not Guilty By Reason of ...

A man with a career record as awful as this can hardly be faulted for writing gibberish accusing others of causing the devastation which clearly bears his stamp. He is just a moral idiot.

If he were broke and living on the streets, he could easily be snatched up and thrown into the Bridgewater State Hospital for the Criminally Insane.

Since he's filthy rich and surrounded by lawyers, that's not going to happen. Like so many others, he's been found not guilty by reason of wealth and influence, without even having been charged.

Unindicted Co-Conspirators

Meanwhile this individual, whose name we are obviously loathe to print, is being treated by our news media as if he had something worthwhile to say.

He is protected from the law by his wealth and position, and those who pass along his twisted views are protected by the First Amendment. That is a bulwark we will not attack.

It is a dismal situation but it offers moments of amusement. The miscreant in question appeared recently at the American Enterprise Institute, where depraved ideas frequently find welcome. As he was denouncing the Iran nuclear deal, a small female protestor held up a pink cloth sign denouncing him. A male sycophant, a head taller than the woman, tried furiously to yank it away, but failed.

The Alleged News®

We're Gonna Need a Bigger Valium Factory

A poll released on Sunday suggests that if the Presidential election were held today, the candidates would be Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.

Let's just let that sink in.

≈≈≈

When Trump entered the race in mid-June he was greeted for good reason with what seemed like almost universal derision. There are so many things that make him unelectable it would take a spreadsheet to keep track: divorces, bankruptcies, videos of obscenity-laced speeches, business connections to organized crime figures, that thing on top of his head

Trump's polling numbers, though, began rising immediately. By the Fourth of July he had passed establishment favorite J. Edgar "Jeb!" Bush. And his

upward trajectory in the polls remains unshaken to this day — not despite his penchant for constantly saying things that once would have been thought unspeakable, but because of it.

This peculiar situation could be filed under "amusing but irrelevant" were it not for one alarming trend. Trump's unfavorability ratings — which had seemed at first to be an impregnable bulwark against the potential horror of his eventual success — have been slowly but steadily dropping.

Meanwhile, over on the Blue side of the Great Divide, something is taking place that is considerably less strange, but even more improbable.

For forty years now, the Democrats have been playing a meek and defensive game, saying, in

effect, "We're not the radical Socialists crazies they say we are." In doing so they have ceded the power to define the debate to their opponents, and they've gotten their teeth kicked in for their troubles.

That strategic error gave us decades of supply-side governance. The nation would have been better served if we'd been operating under a Dungeons & Dragons rulebook. The economy is a wreck, with the Government and the middle class both broker than ever. Our roads and bridges are a disgrace. Education is a direct route to bankruptcy if ill health doesn't get you there first. Our population of wounded and disabled veterans has exploded because of a war that was based on lies. For-profit prisons serve the vital function of keeping a

considerable percentage of African-American males off the streets and out of the voting booths while keeping the unemployment rate artificially low.

These problems have been lying there waiting for a Democratic Presidential candidate with the guts to propose some real solutions. Along comes Bernie — a Socialist, of all things — and, according to Sunday's YouGov/CBS poll of Democratic voters in New Hampshire, he's getting 52 percent to Clinton's 30.

The public's response to Sanders' proposals has been so electric that Hillary Clinton has begun to talk like a real Democrat instead of a pale imitation. Even "The Donald" Trump is now trying to exploit some of these issues. For that, certain myopic observers

have begun to call him a populist. Demagogue is the proper term. The solutions that he proposes (a wall along our Southern border, with Mexico paying the cost?) are thinner than the gold leaf on his tacky buildings, though — no more real than his alleged hair.

By now we are all far too familiar with preposterous candidates competing in elections that end up changing nothing. This time, perhaps, after all the half-measure elections of the last half century, the American electorate might get as real a choice as they could ever possibly have: a blowhard billionaire versus an authentic mensch.

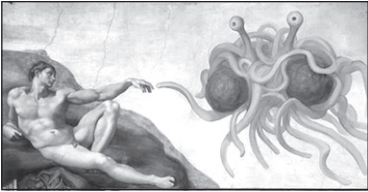
This is a very big bleeping deal. We're not used to this sort of thing. If the race comes down to these two, we're gonna need a bigger Valium factory.

Special Bulletin

The Fortnight in Religiosity

Ordinarily, we do not cover religion, for two reasons. First, it has, or should have, little or no bearing on politics or governance, our primary areas of concern. Second, doing so might distract from our own religious devotions, which are centered on a savory collation of filament-like carbohydrates, spheres of ground beef, and a rich, thick, *Solanum lycopersicum*-based liquid.

Mock it if you will, but in the marketplace of religiosity, our faith has the unique advantage of documentary proof. At the very instant when the Flying Spaghetti Monster created mankind, Arne Niklas Jansson captured the moment in a work he called, "Touched by His Noodly Appendage," reproduced below.



The Fickle Finger of Flame

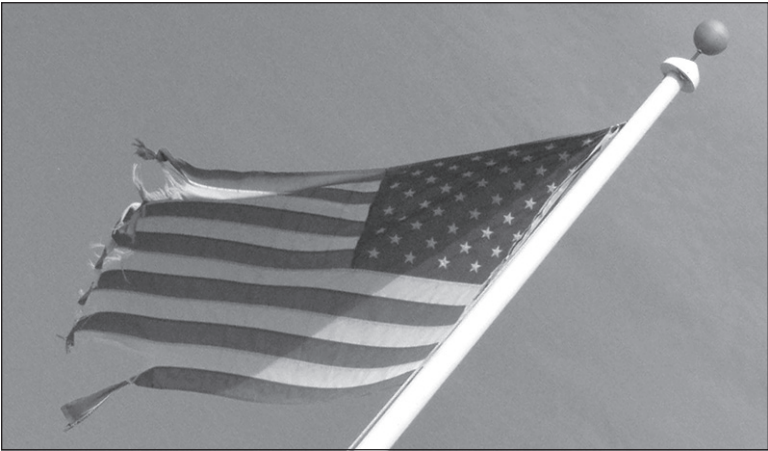
In Bardstown, Kentucky, in 2003, a bolt of lightning set a warehouse on fire. In the resulting inferno, 19,000 barrels of whiskey began leaking. Then the whiskey caught fire. Soon a flaming river of Jim Beam flowed into Salt Creek where high winds whipped the flames into a "frenado" reaching 100 feet into the air.

Twelve years later and approximately 120 miles east of Bardstown, Kim Davis was elected Clerk of Rowan County.

At first glance, other than a very loose geographic proximity, these two events might seem totally unrelated.

What about that subtle duodecimal coincidence, though: 12 years, and 120 miles? Could the Bardstown Firenado of 2003 have been [insert dramatic pause here] a sign from God?

We're not saying it was or wasn't, we're just raising the question. You can believe what-



The Flag Police, never known for their alacrity, have been even more sluggish than usual this summer. That has given flag desecrators an ample supply of slack. Luck has run out, though, for the proprietor of an establishment on Islington Street. The wheels of vexicological justice may turn slowly, but eventually they found themselves across from the Sunoco station.

Gary Blake
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ever you like. That's your business. Just don't try to make it ours. We're not trying to make anybody worship pasta.

She Got It sdrawkcaB

Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis seems blithely unencumbered by that sort of forbearance. Otherwise, though, she seems uniquely qualified to issue marriage licenses when she feels like it. She has plenty of experience with that type of paperwork. Married four times and divorced three, she had twins by her third husband shortly after divorcing her first. Her second husband has custody of the twins. Apparently it does take a village.

Voters decided to put her in charge of issuing marriage licenses last November, and that's what she's going to do — assuming that the applicants meet with her approval.

Sworn in as County Clerk in January, she did her job for about six months. Then the Supreme Court ruled in *Oberge-*

fell v. Hodges: after 226 years of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, the U.S. Government had decided that everybody is equal in marriage.

Davis insists, however, that issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples would result in her personal damnation. We don't understand why shuffling papers bearing other peoples names is a more sinful than Let's just say we don't quite understand.

A caller to the Diane Rehm Show summed up this situation best. To paraphrase, Davis was supposed to put her hand on the Bible and swear to uphold the Constitution. Instead, she wiped her feet on the Constitution and swore to uphold the Bible.

Follow the Bible Money

Obviously, Davis could avoid the dreaded Lake of Fire, with or without the Jim Beam, if she'd just resign from the damned job already. Let the nation become obsessed with some other absurdity. What about that loose emu

wandering around in Bow, for example? Does it have Ebola? Does it have a green card?

We would hate to be thought cynical, but it should be noted that, just for the record, Davis gets paid pretty well. In one of the nation's poorest counties, where the per capita income is just \$17,094, she's making \$80,000 a year.

Before taking charge in January she was Chief Deputy Clerk, working under her mother. She had held that position since 1991. In 2011, with overtime, she made \$63,113.

Cue the Hucksters

Davis can't be fired because she's an elected official; but she could be, and was, jailed for contempt of court. When she was released after five days, it was like a stone had been rolled away. Mike Huckabee, who just happened to be in the neighborhood, whipped up an old-fashioned revival meeting.

Ted Cruz tried to get on stage

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and soak up some of the attention, but Huckabee, crafty old stage manager that he is, blocked him with a few well-placed deacons.

A Refreshing Change

Davis has done us all one small favor. When you're immersed around the clock in other people's religious dramas, it starts to get a little tedious. As a registered Democrat, she's added a welcome bit of variety to our steady media diet of self-appointed, fundamentalist religious martyrs.

Nearer My Ward To Thee

Portsmouth recently had its own politico-religious scandal. Senator Jeanne Shaheen came to town on September 5th to kiss Hillary Clinton's ring. During the festivities, Voices from the Heart, a local womens chorus, serenaded her with a customized version of the spiritual, "Woke Up This Morning (With My Mind on Jesus)," substituting the candidate's name for the Savior's.

As if on cue, conservative heads began exploding. Glenn Beck's website *TheBlaze* had a 22-second video online the next day. Within hours, several hundred individuals had used the site's comment section to make disturbing revelations about the state of their mental health.

Two days later the scandal

made the big time: Todd Starnes on the Fox Dispatch.

"It's downright sacrilegious," said the author of *They Popped My Hood and Found Gravy on the Dipstick*, "but it's not the first time that Democrats have tried to deify their leaders — as I documented ... [whereupon Starnes segues into a plug for another of his books.]"

Bernie Comes to Jesus

Bernie Sanders is widely acknowledged to have the ability to really fire up an audience of supporters. That's probably why he accepted the invitation from Liberty University. A less likely audience would be hard to find.

News coverage of the event — such as it was — generally described his reception as cordial. We listened to the speech, and the question period that followed.

Through long familiarity, Sanders is quite comfortable tossing out figures on income, wealth, and taxation. On Monday, he seemed equally comfortable applying those hard facts to religious themes.

For about half an hour he talked poverty, opportunity, inequality, and the common values held by all faiths.

What we heard, in response, was vigorous applause, many whistles, and loud shouts of ap-



proval. Calling that "cordial" doesn't adequately describe it.

A Storm of Witchcraft:

The Salem Trials and the American Experience

Emerson "Tad" Baker, a professor of History at Salem State University, will speak in South Berwick on Wednesday, September 23rd about the key players in the Salem witchcraft crisis — the accused witches and the people they allegedly bewitched, as well as the judges and government officials who prosecuted them — illuminating why the tragedy unfolded as it did.

Baker will show how the Puritan Government's attempts to suppress what had taken place only fueled the popular imagination, and established the trials as a turning point from Puritan communalism to Yankee independence. He will also set the trials in the broader context of American history from the 1620s up through the present, and reveal the ways their legacy

remains with us.

Baker is the award-winning author of many works on the history and archaeology of early Maine and New England, including *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience* and *The Devil of Great Island: Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England*. For thirteen summers, Baker directed Old Berwick Historical Society's excavations at the Chadbourne Site (1643-1690) in South Berwick. He has served as an advisor for PBS-TV's "American Experience" and "Colonial House." He tweets on the Salem witch trials and early New England history @EmersonWBaker.

Sponsored by the Old Berwick Historical Society [OBHS], the program will be held at Berwick Academy's Jeppesen Science Center on Academy Street, starting at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited, the event is free, and donations are welcome. Volunteers will serve refreshments.

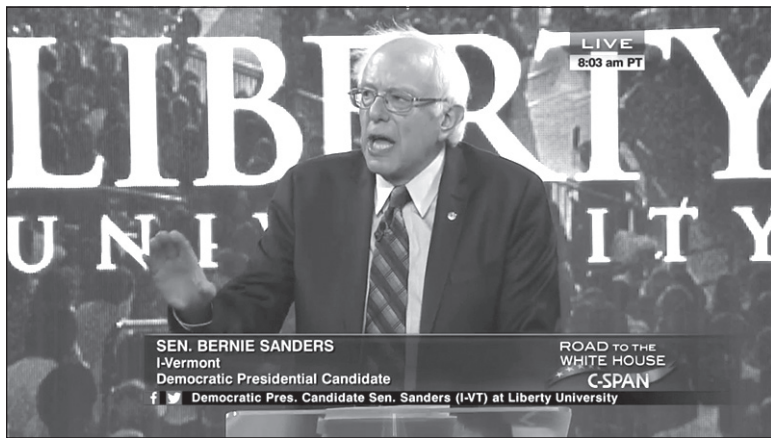
For additional information about OBHS programs and the Counting House, see www.oldberwick.org or call (207) 384-0000.

6th Annual Blasphemy Day

Finally for this topic, September 30th, a week from next Wednesday, will be the 6th Annual Blasphemy Day.

The right of U.S. citizens to blaspheme was first recognized in *Burnstyn v Wilson*, decided May 26, 1952. At issue was Roberto Rossellini's short film *L'Amore*, in which the incomparable Anna Magnani plays a disturbed peasant who believes she is the Virgin Mary. She is raped and impregnated by a character called "Saint Joseph," played by Federico Fellini. The Court concluded that states may not ban films on the basis of a censor's conclusion that it is "sacrilegious."

In 2009, the Center for Inquiry in Amherst, N.Y. founded Blasphemy Day to defend that right. Use it or lose it, folks.



Monday, nominally Jewish self-professed Democratic Socialist Bernie Sanders visited deeply conservative, fundamentalist Christian Liberty University, founded by Jerry Falwell. Inevitable culture clash, right? Wrong.

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Bomb Witness Disputes Details
To the Editor:

Oops! Although the FBI often provides ample fields for satire, the item listed in your almanac under Thursday, August 27th, 1980 isn't one of them. I was staying at a friend's home overlooking Lake Tahoe and the Harvey's Resort Hotel at the time. After initial examination, there wasn't any attempt by anyone, FBI or any agency, to defuse that powerful bomb. It was announced to the public that the bomb was going to be intentionally detonated. In fact, the time for detonation was announced, albeit the explosion was a bit later than originally stated. Local law enforcement explained to my friend that the bomb had sophisticated mercury switches that a careless movement could set it off.

All morning we watched many flatbed trucks carrying sandbags that were used to minimize the collateral damage of the explosion. The damage was extensive despite the sandbagging.

Another scenario also can be envisioned. What if the millions of dollars asked by the blackmailer was paid to him? And, good as his word, he sent instructions on how to defuse the bomb, "Turn this screw, lift that plate, cut this wire, etc." Who would be foolish enough to try to follow the instructions? Are you going to put your faith in the word of a blackmailer? By the way, how would you accidentally explode a half-ton bomb and in your own words,

"No one is injured"? Not likely! Despite this particular bit of hyperbole, I look forward to the chuckles you provide me as I squint through each of the *Gazette's* almanacs. However, I must admit some of them are painful reminders of man's stupidity and inhumanity to man.

Sincerely,
John McCormick
Chico, CA
John:

Thank you for writing. It's exciting to hear from someone who was actually there.

Our sources say that the FBI used shaped charges in an attempt to separate the mercury switches from the body of the bomb. Considering that this was the largest homemade bomb they'd ever seen, it would only be prudent for them to assume that the thing was going to go off.

The Editor

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**Distrust and Pray**

To the Editor:

There was a naive optimism expressed by the crew who wrote the letter headlined "Safer With Iran Deal," especially the references to their faith justifying their position ("They believe ... we believe"). Iran's theocratic leaders are still decreeing "Death to Israel, Death to America" based on Allah's will. But in America, our faith is more amorphous. We just believe.

That people believe that Iran will honor its word — after years of violating prior related pledges — puts those individuals in a spiritual league with Khameini, whose determination also derives from belief. But since I am a rationalist, I try to think rather than being sucked into faith-based wishful fantasies. (Or perhaps I believe that I think? Current cognitive psychology insights force me to wonder.) I think that one has a vital obligation to evaluate cogently, to examine historical facts, current stated intent, and underlying cultural norms

to determine what to expect. Not what to believe, but what to think. That process leaves me seriously questioning this deal.

Ronald Reagan was a second-rate actor, which made him a first-rate President since politics seems to be all about blundering deception. The Gipper didn't get much right. But his dictum, "Trust, but verify," certainly rings true. We didn't do that with North Korea, and now, despite the assurances of our leaders at the time, we are dealing with a psychotic, aggressor nation which has been horribly abusing its own citizens and threatening their neighbors and the world. Only now they can do so with nukes. Do we really want to facilitate yet another such benighted achievement?

Our country has done a lot that is awful, leading the more honest among our citizenry to justifiably criticize major embarrassments in U.S. history and to render our current actions suspect. But Iran is doing much that is far, far worse. Encouraging their acquisition of nuclear weapons and their exponentiation of worldwide terrorism, and en passant encouraging a nuclear arms race between Shias and Sunnis, even leaving Israel out of the equation, doesn't strike me as a great idea. And given the absence of verifiable assurances of compliance, we are traversing the exact same twisted path we staggered down before. This is an absolutely classic example of Santayana's dictum. Not only have we repeated Chamberlain's well-intended, optimistic blunder. We are also repeating the North Korean debacle, which is Peace In Our Time on steroids. Or more to the point, on Plutonium.

Based on the evidence, someday we are going to look back on Kerry with the same grim humor which now is assigned to Chamberlain's innocent but counterproductive efforts. Even ignoring

*Mash Notes,* **HATE MAIL**

theological motivations, Iran has good reason to feel vindictive toward us — thanks, ARAMCO & CIA — which is all the more reason to be concerned about her real intentions. And it's pretty obvious that the secret parts of this deal were kept from us just because our leaders knew that they reflect a potential disaster in the making. Iran, for whom *taqiyya* is a religious obligation, did this deal to free up money to buy sophisticated weapons from Russia and North Korea and to increase the generous aid she already provides to various terror groups she supports. She will continue her present paths, only now well subsidized and benefiting from our guarantees to defend her, if you can imagine that.

I certainly hope I'm wrong, but it's a gamble that history, theology, and public declarations by Iran's leaders suggest that we are going to lose. Big time. And a lot of others with us. Our leaders blew it. It's too late now to do anything rational. So that would make it time to pray. Or to believe. Us cynical atheists will have a harder time of it.

Richard Collier  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
Richard:

*We heartily applaud your rare acknowledgement of the universal possibility that you may only believe that you think.*

The Editor

~~~~~

Trump the Pied Piper

To the Editor:

I see by the media that the GOP is having a hissy fit about the Trump popularity in the Republican electorate — and it certainly does figure as I see it now: Mr. Trump is simply the Pied Piper who is stealing all the "children" from the Tea Party showoffs, hardline bigots, wealth admirers and all of the other

low-information desperados in between.

Some of the Presidential hopefuls are copying bits and pieces of Trump's meandering statements hoping for a boost in their poll numbers but it may be a futile move. The more that their thunder is stolen, the less are their chances with the "children."

The progressive movement is very much alive and well. It is still bringing hope to thinking, intelligent, well-informed people. As always, the angry dimwits fall away until they can learn better.

Helen McKinney
Sapphire, N.C.

Helen:

You're considerably more sanguine that we are about those angry dimwits.

The Editor

~~~~~

**Armed Illegal Aliens, Oh, My!**

To the Editor:

We often hear demands to do things "for the children." When we hear of children being shot, stricter gun control laws are demanded. It's said "to save even one child's life," it's worth further limiting the freedoms of the American people, even with new laws that wouldn't have saved a single life.

But the politicians and media are selective in their concerns "for the children." If an American who isn't a known criminal or gang member shoots a child, even if current laws should have prevented the gun sale, then they demand restricting the rights of all Americans who use guns legally and responsibly.

But the politicians and media don't seem to care about the more normal situation when illegal aliens (or known criminals or gang members) kill children or other Americans. The number of illegal aliens alone incarcerated

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**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**  
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— Julius Rosenwald (1862-1932)  
businessman, philanthropist

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# And Other Correspondence

ed for homicide is surprisingly high, about 25,000 according to a 2011 GAO report (compare to 16,000 annual homicides).

Just enforcing our current immigration laws, requiring changes in policy but no additional funding, could significantly reduce the killings, rapes, kidnappings, robberies, brutalization, and other crimes against Americans, including children, without reducing the freedoms of law-abiding citizens.

Democrat and Republican establishment politicians apparently gain too much from illegal immigration to stop it, no matter how many American children and adults suffer. It's time to drive those politicians from office and replace them with people who will stop illegal immigration and save many thousands of Americans from harm.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H

Don:  
*Try taking a few deep breaths.*  
The Editor

### Do Your Job, Senators

To the Editor:

The War Powers Act, also known as the War Powers Resolution of 1973, requires the following: the President, upon sending troops into military action, must notify Congress within 48 hours that he has done so. The Resolution also forbids military personnel from remaining in a state of conflict for more than 60 days (including an additional 30 days for withdrawal). After that, the President must seek an additional authorization from Congress or a formal declaration of war. This is the law of the land, but Congress refuses to accept its responsibility.

The President began bombing the Islamic State in July, 2014. He sent troops into Iraq begin-

ning in August, 2014. The President has asked Congress twice for legal authority to continue the fight and Congress has done nothing. Legally our war against the Islamic State should have ended ninety days after it began because Congress did not vote to approve the continued use of force.

Remember this when you hear senators running for President boasting about how they will combat the Islamic State when they will not vote to do so today. Do they want to give the Islamic State free rein until 2017? John McCain, Kelly Ayotte and the 97 other members of their body's inaction legally require a withdrawal of our troops and an end to the bombing. Their inaction endangers our national security. Are they acting out of cowardice, spite, or hatred of our president? Our President is criticized for ignoring Congress. In this case I am glad he has. We need to be attacking the Islamic State.

Saturday I listened to Senators Lindsey Graham and John McCain talk about sending 10,000 troops to Iraq, yet Graham is on the Armed Services Committee and McCain is the Chairman. Neither has voted to authorize the President to do so, or even keep the 3,500 troops presently in Iraq. John McCain called the president feckless. He needs to look in the mirror.

Stop being chickenhawks, Senators, and put national security before personal animosity and politics.

Walter Hamilton  
Portsmouth N.H

### Ayotte Dissembling on Iran

To the Editor:

In her recent *Portsmouth Herald* "One View" commentary, Sen. Kelly Ayotte claims that the Iran nuclear agreement be-

tween Iran and the P5+1 (United States, England, France, Germany, Russia and China) will make us less safe. She came to this conclusion, she claims, stating, "Since July, I have carefully studied the Iran nuclear agreement and questioned administration officials, military leaders, and experts in numerous hearings and briefings." This claim rings very hollow, considering Sen. Ayotte's actions even before an agreement was reached.

When Sen. Ayotte signed the March 2015 letter to the Iranian leaders with 46 of her Senate Republican colleagues, basically telling Iran that they oppose any nuclear deal that President Obama reached with them and the other members of the P5+1, she disqualified herself as being an objective, unbiased, nonpolitical participant in the process. Opposing any deal, even before a deal had been agreed to, clearly made it impossible for her or any of her colleagues to conduct a fair analysis of the agreement. It certainly appears that all the answers to her questions from the Administration, military leaders, and experts fell on deaf ears, since most of these people supported the agreement. She also ignored the strong support for the agreement provided by Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, National Security Adviser and Secretary of State under Republican Presidents. General Powell stated, "The Iran agreement shrinks Iran's program, freezes it and wraps it all in an inspection regime stronger than any negotiated."

Sen. Ayotte quotes President Reagan saying, "trust, but verify." In fact, this agreement is stronger than what President Reagan suggested. This agreement is not based on trust at all, it is all based on accountability, monitoring and inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency



(IAEA). It is also backed by a swift "snap back" of economic sanctions provision if Iran fails to meet its obligations under the agreement.

Once again, Sen. Ayotte has demonstrated her inability to go beyond politics and truly act in a bipartisan manner. Fortunately, this agreement will become a reality despite universal Republican opposition, America will not be isolated from the rest of the world, and the world will be a safer place as a result.

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAF (Ret.)

Portsmouth, N.H

~~~~~  
PAC Porn

To the Editor:

Here we go again with more smarmy attack ads, this time trashing Maggie Hassan for murdering heroin addicts in the streets! How can the Democrats possibly top such absurdity? Chris Sununu pulling the wings off flies? Kelly Ayotte kicking babies? Are there any grownups in this room?

Apparently not, judging from the ad content. The good news is, New Hampshire voters are growing weary of this childish political melodrama. Even better, they're starting to speak up. In fact, some suggest abandoning New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation status so we can pawn this nonsense off on some other

Hate Mail, &c.
to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Comma Karma

by William Marvel

In what I presume was a press release, the Settlers' Green retail complex in North Conway recently announced it is dropping the apostrophe from its corporate name. Perhaps no one knows anymore where it's supposed to go, or even what it is; after all, the story explained that the company was "dropping the comma." Whoever composed the piece apparently regards the comma and the apostrophe (and maybe the lower half of the semicolon) as the same stray fragment of an emoticon.

Punctuation is crucial to clarity. As a 12-year-old I had plenty of words for the stories I wanted to write, but I was always stymied by how to form the possessive of plurals and nouns ending in "s," or how to connect independent clauses. Knowing the right punctuation requires understanding the rules of grammar, and my early grammar was only picked up by ear, from listening to my parents. The same was true of my profanity.

In high school, with Christine Stoykovich sitting nearby, I

absorbed little from Bob Fisher's sentence diagrams, but obsessive reading did give me the good examples of other writers. I was also surprised how much I learned about English grammar from college French and German. When I started writing seriously, Strunk and White guided me past many stylistic roadblocks with their little manual, but my real education in grammar only began after university presses started picking up my books. Their professional copyeditors introduced me to the intricacies of the "Chicago Manual of Style," and later I found that many commercial presses also rely on it. It answers nearly every question a writer might ask, and most of the better non-fiction in the U.S. now reflects the Chicago tradition.

Newspapers, meanwhile, embrace the "Associated Press Stylebook." It's shorter and cheaper, with simpler rules that seem designed to produce even simpler prose, but then newspapers generally aim for more pedestrian readers. The target audience used to be described as reading at the eighth-grade

level — but that was back when eighth-graders could read a lot better than they do now.

In an inflexible AP world, consistency often trumps clarity. The handbook requires some confusing stylistic forms, and its rule on mixed numbers is a good example. Let's say Tommy is midway between his fifth and sixth birthdays. When asked how old he is, he would proudly proclaim himself "five-and-a-half," but the AP objects to writing out those numerals. The sensible thing, then, would be to hyphenate between the whole number and the fraction (5-1/2), or to at least leave a space (5 1/2), but the AP insists on running everything together — 5 1/2. To discriminating readers, that suggests Tommy is unsure of his exact age, but is somewhere between 51 and 52.

Prejudice against the serial comma is another inexplicable AP mania, and it's the one I loathe the most. Some people call the serial comma the Oxford comma — mostly those hoping to smear it as an elitist affectation, I suspect — and it consists of the last comma before the conjunction in any simple series

of things, ideas, places, or people. The serial comma follows "places" in that last sentence.

The practice irritates me partly because it's petty and unnecessary, and partly because it interrupts the lyrical rhythm for those who hear the words even when they read silently, as I do. In the right circumstances, removing the serial comma without rearranging the sentence — a frequent editorial blunder — also creates misunderstanding.

Another writer who dislikes AP style once ridiculed it by following its prohibition of serial commas in proposing a fake dedication for the first book of a nonexistent author: "To my parents, Ayn Rand and God." Without the serial comma, that hypothetical author is transformed from a Christian libertarian into a delusional megalomaniac — although I suppose the two aren't that different.

Let's imagine something that might appear in *The Conway Daily Sun*, the local paper for which I write regularly. The Chicago manual would advise punctuating a passage about the living arrangements of newly

transplanted residents this way: "Bruno lives with Terry, his wife, and sister." This punctuation implies that Bruno lives with Terry, Terry's wife, and Terry's sister. Stripped of the serial comma, as it would be nowadays in the Sun, the same sentence would appear as follows: "Bruno lives with Terry, his wife and sister." Terry has changed from a man into a woman (admittedly a popular hobby these days), but now there are only two people in the home — which is most likely a trailer, and probably in Ossipee.

Ancient Greeks wrote without any punctuation at all, and reading the text of an Athenian scholar from that era must have been something like trying to decipher an e. e. cummings poem. The increasing indifference to the little dots and squiggles that make sense of our jumbled thoughts could eventually lead us right back into that classical incoherence. Judging by many of the electronic communications I've received or seen published, and by excerpts I've read from the presidential debate, I'd say we're well on our way.

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

state. Of course, the shareholders and accountants at WMUR-TV might not agree.

Regardless, it appears New Hampshire residents will be sitting ducks in a media shooting gallery for at least another thirteen months. During that time, a steady stream of negativity, lies, and half-truths will roll in and wash over us like a tsunami. It will come at us via radio, TV, emails, magazines, newspapers, landlines, mailboxes, roadside

placards, pulpits, and even the candidates themselves. What can we do?

Winston Churchill once proclaimed, "If you are going through hell ... keep going!" So it is, we must somehow prevail and elect decent public officials despite the daily barrage of mindless malarkey meant to obfuscate the facts and divert our focus.

The one thing we can (and must) do is complain loudly to our party leaders about the taste-

less tripe their PACs and national organizations put on the air. With big out-of-state money greasing the wheels, a healthy dose of voter backlash may be the only weapon we have in the war to wipe PAC porn off our flat-screens!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

What a dense and intense conglomeration of passionate cynicism, tempered with a righteous demand

for improvement.

Though we recoil in horror at the suggestion that the State give up its First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election® — after all, it's our meal ticket — we do hope you'll keep writing.

The Editor

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Neighbors, Like Countries, Resent Threats & Want Respect

To the Editor:

Whether in our neighborhood or as a global neighbor in

the world, threats and disrespect will lead to conflicts. Even if we don't like our neighbor, showing some respect and behaving non-threateningly will help us all to get along. Countries often behave in the same manner, whether it is Iran or the U.S. The Iran Nuclear Deal may not be the best possible deal, but it is the best deal available when so many participants all have to agree.

Different countries and partners have different, often hidden,

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It's Time To Free Students From Higher-Ed Debt

by Jim Hightower

In the 1960s, I attended the University of North Texas, a public school blessed with good teachers and an educational culture focused on enabling us students to become socially useful citizens. And it was affordable — with close-to-free tuition and a part-time job, I could get a good education, gain experience in everything from work to civic

activism, graduate in four years, and obtain a debt-free start in life. We just assumed that's what college was supposed to be. It still ought to be, but for most students today, it's not even close.

Indeed, a \$1.3 trillion mountain of debt is weighing down students at all types of U.S. colleges, endangering our entire economy. That's more than people owe on credit cards or auto loans — and it'll soon surpass

the subprime mortgage debt that crashed the economy in 2008.

Private, for-profit, corporate colleges are the biggest creators of this looming danger. To say there are lots of horror stories about them is like saying there are lots of ouchies in a bramble patch. With brand names like University of Phoenix, ITT Tech, Corinthian, Kaplan, and Strayer, they suck up some \$32 billion a year in federal student

loan money. They overcharge students so drastically that even those who graduate are stuck with nearly \$40,000 in debt, and they deliver such poor education that graduates can't get jobs with high-enough wages to repay the loans. David Halprin, author of *Stealing America's Future*, calls this predatory educational industry "an immoral enterprise."

America's whole approach to ever-higher-priced, high-

er-education is wrong-headed. We know that college and advanced-skill degrees today are as essential to both individual and national well-being as high school diplomas used to be, so its time to redirect and reinvest in America's future by making higher education free.

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agendas. That is how our world works, just like neighborhoods. It appears that some countries in that neighborhood are more afraid of Iran as an economic power (including its oil), than a nuclear threat. So, unless we are planning to move out, or leave for another solar system, we have to learn to respect our neighbors and forget the threats.

In the world community, nuclear weapons have become the tool that gets respect, and keeps them safe from bigger more powerful nations. Just look at North Korea, Israel, India or Pakistan. However, these weapons (and civilian nuclear energy, because of its potential for bomb material) pose a threat to the entire world and we need to work aggressively to retire them. As a post-doc physicist I enrolled in a two-semester course on nuclear weapons and proliferation at my university. One of my assignments was to give a presentation on the technical measures that would prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. I was convinced that there were strong technical means to prevent countries from acquiring such weapons. Despite intensive research I came to the conclusion that I was wrong. Any country that was determined to acquire such weapons, because of perceived threats or

with a need for respect, would and could overcome all of the obstacles, and in the end develop such weapons. On the other hand, many countries have felt that they could do better without them, even though they had the capabilities to develop them, e.g. Japan, Germany and many EU countries. I join with the overwhelming number of nuclear scientists and diplomats to express my support for the Iran Deal. This is a good deal, and certainly much better than any alternatives being suggested, e.g. a war, and I call on our representatives in Congress to support it.

Peter Somssich
Portsmouth, N.H.

~~~~~ America is Not a Theocracy!

To the Editor:

The conservative values voters (predominantly Evangelicals) and politicians appear to be quite confused as to the type of government our framers had in mind when they drafted our Constitution and equally perplexed over what the Constitution says about the role/non-role of religion in our government.

Dr. Ben Carson is known for frequently injecting religion into a conversation and for denying the very science he heavily depended on as a brilliant neurosurgeon. Hence, that is probably

why I recently heard a journalist ask him if he believed the Bible should take precedence over the Constitution in governing the U.S.? Following a lengthy pause, Dr. Carson answered, and I must paraphrase, "it would depend on what part of the Bible you were talking about."

Perhaps Dr. Carson is not running for President after all but actually for White House Pastor or leader of the Taliban or ISIS. Otherwise, I trust you found, as I did, his response to a fundamental question to be fundamentally wrong and disturbing. However, it undeniably served as an effective appeal to the Religious Right, one of the Republican's most important voting blocs (only second in importance to the "Low-informed Nationalist" vote that Trump has secured with his inflammatory rhetoric about immigrants, minorities and women). It should come as no surprise that Carson is now polling second nationally.

Anyone that has ever witnessed a presidential inauguration or taken the Oath of Enlistment in the U.S. Armed Forces certainly knows that one "solemnly swears to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign or domestic...." Furthermore, the Constitution contains a clause in

the First Amendment designed to prevent elected officials in our country from placing your chosen deity over 320,000,000 Americans.

If necessary, I'd be very willing to go before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Merritt v. Carson* (and GOP) and argue the following: "What could be more unconstitutional than allowing a holy book to take precedence over the Constitution, the very document that makes us the U.S.A. and a democracy (constitutional republic) as opposed to a Saudi Arabia, an oppressive theocracy under Sharia Law?"

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:

Watch out for that old Leftist weakness, logic.

The Editor

~~~~~ To the Polls, People!

To the Editor:

The popularity of Donald Trump has shone the light on just how far from reality the Republican Party has moved. There has always been and there always will be a small percentage of extremists in any given population. What is so frightening is that they have taken over one of our major parties. They are affecting national policies and the lives of the rest of us in disturbing ways.

They have brought our government to a halt. It is completely dysfunctional.

There is plenty of blame to go around for this situation. We can blame the Republican Party, Congress, the Koch brothers, Wall Street, the bankers, the Supreme Court, or why not Obama — he gets blamed for everything. But, in fact, the fault lies with the voters. The voter turnout in the midterm election was 36.4 percent, the lowest since WW II. And who is most likely to go to the polls on a bad weather day, a busy work day, a large or small family crisis day? Not the ordinary commonsense people preoccupied with their lives, but the passionate ones driven by fear and hate.

Do we really want them running our country? I wonder what the results would be if the other 60 percent voted for moderate, reasonable people who were willing to cooperate with others to solve real problems?

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.

Cynthia:

You are spot on.

We would note here that Bernie Sanders has called for Election Day to be a National Holiday, which would be a step in the right direction.

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 20	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
<p>2006—“The devil came here yesterday,” says Hugo Chavez to the UN, “and it smells of sulfur still today.”</p> <p>2001—George W.[MD] Bush declares “War on Terror” before a joint session of Congress. It takes him seriously.</p> <p>1968—A U.S. military spokesman in Saigon says Agent Orange produces no harmful effects.</p> <p>1958—A deranged woman stabs Martin Luther King while he autographs books in Harlem.</p> <p>1945—German rocket scientist Werner von Braun begins working for the U.S.</p> <p>1830—In Philadelphia, 38 free blacks form the National Negro Convention to abolish slavery.</p> <p>1797—The frigate <i>Constitution</i> is launched in Boston.</p> <p>1797—Captain Pigot of <i>HMS Hermione</i> orders that the bodies of three sailors who died trying to fulfill his orders be thrown overboard.</p> <p>1777—British troops conduct a surprise nighttime bayonet attack near present-day Malvern, Pa. The Paoli Massacre leaves 272 either dead, wounded, or missing.</p> <p>1565—Spanish forces slaughter 135 Frenchmen in Florida, “for heresy.” It’s the first clash of European colonialists in the New World.</p> <p>1378—French cardinals elect Robert of Geneva, aka “The Butcher of Cesena,” to be Pope Clement VII, bringing the current number of Popes to two.</p>	<p>2001—George Tenet informs Dick “Dick” Cheney that his alleged Iraq/al-Qaeda link is fiction. Cheney, however, is not dissuaded.</p> <p>1988—A pro-Bush PAC begins running the “Willie Horton” ad.</p> <p>1976—Ex-Chilean Ambassador to the U.S., Orlando Letelier, and an assistant are assassinated by car bomb in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1970—On his 20th birthday, a pre-med student is busted at O’Hare Airport with ten pounds of pot. Bill Murray gets off with probation.</p> <p>1957—Hurricane Carrie and a badly-trimmed load of barley sink <i>Pamir</i>, the last cargo-carrying windjammer, off the Azores. Six crewmembers survive, 80 drown.</p> <p>1956—Anastasio Somoza, dictator of Nicaragua, is fatally shot by Roliberto Lopez, a poet.</p> <p>1953—No Kum-Sok, a Lieutenant in the North Korean Air Force, defects to South Korea via MiG-15.</p> <p>1938—New England is clobbered by a nameless 183 m.p.h. hurricane that kills up to 700.</p> <p>1897—A <i>New York Sun</i> editorial lies to a girl named Virginia, telling her a mythical “Santa Claus” is real.</p> <p>1895—The Duryea Motor Wagon Company, first U.S. maker of automobiles, starts its engines.</p> <p>1797—The crew of <i>HMS Hermione</i> slaughters eight officers, heaves their bodies overboard, and hands the ship over to the Spanish.</p>	<p>2003—“A year from now,” says Richard Perle, “I’ll be very surprised if there is not some grand square in Baghdad that is named after President Bush.”</p> <p>1980—The Iran-Iraq War begins.</p> <p>1975—Sarah Jane Moore shoots at President Gerald Ford, but Oliver Sipple, a disabled former Marine and Vietnam vet, deflects the gun.</p> <p>1973—Henry Kissinger becomes Secretary of State.</p> <p>1970—President Nixon requests another 1,000 FBI agents to spy on college campuses.</p> <p>1959—Fire Commissioner Robert J. Quinn sounds the air-raid sirens to celebrate the White Sox’s pennant win. Many Chicagoans assume it’s war with the Russians.</p> <p>1949—After putting vast effort and expense into it, the USSR blows up its first A-bomb.</p> <p>1927—Dempsey loses to Tunney in the famous “Long Count.”</p> <p>1905—The tally after a race riot in Atlanta is 10 dead blacks and 2 dead whites.</p> <p>1904—Jim O’Rourke, 54, gets his last hit in a Giants uniform. In 1876, he had made the first base hit in National League history.</p> <p>1823—The Angel Moroni tells Joseph Smith where to find the golden tablets.</p>	<p>1999—The \$328 million Mars Climate Orbiter burns on landing because Lockheed Martin used Imperial measure, not metric.</p> <p>1974—Fort Knox opens for inspection to quell a tabloid rumor.</p> <p>1960—Alan Ginsberg, Peter Orlovsky, and LeRoi Jones meet in Manhattan with Fidel Castro.</p> <p>1952—Trying to convince Americans that he’s not a crook, Richard Nixon cites his daughters’ dog in a televised speech. Many are fooled.</p> <p>1945—French forces overthrow the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The U.S. acquiesces.</p> <p>1938—A time capsule is buried at the New York World’s Fair to be opened in 6939.</p> <p>1930—Birth of Ray Charles.</p> <p>1912—Release of Mack Sennett’s first “Keystone Comedy.”</p> <p>1848—John Curtis, of Bangor, begins producing “State of Maine Pure Spruce Gum,” the first commercial chewing gum.</p> <p>1838—Birth of Victoria Chaflin Woodhull, a proponent of free love and the first female presidential candidate.</p> <p>1806—Lewis, Clark, and almost all the rest of the gang make it back to St. Louis.</p> <p>1800—Birth of Wm. H. McGuffey, author of <i>McGuffey’s Reader</i>.</p> <p>1779—John Paul Jones takes the British ship <i>Serapis</i> as the <i>Bonhomme Richard</i> sinks under him.</p>	<p>2007—A plane previously used for “rendition” flights carrying alleged terrorists to Guantanamo Bay crashes in the Yucatan carrying 3.3 tons of cocaine.</p> <p>2006—<i>The New York Times</i> publishes a leaked intelligence document concluding that the Iraq War has increased the threat of radical Islamic terrorism.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush tells Wolf Blitzer, “When the final history is written on Iraq, it will look just like a comma.”</p> <p>2005—Human Rights Watch reports that U.S. troops routinely beat and tortured detained Iraqis.</p> <p>2001—Tony Blair publishes a dossier claiming erroneously that Iraq can launch WMDs in 45 minutes.</p> <p>1981—CIA Director William Casey urges that intelligence agencies be exempted from the Freedom of Information Act.</p> <p>1978—On his yacht in Chesapeake Bay, right-handed CIA spook John Paisley takes a shotgun blast behind his left ear. It’s ruled suicide.</p> <p>1969—The Show Trial of the “Chicago 8” begins.</p> <p>1968—Protestors destroy 10,000 draft files in Milwaukee, Wis.</p> <p>1957—The Dodgers play their last game at Ebbetts Field.</p> <p>1911—Portsmouth native Ensign Charles Emerson Hovey, 26, is shot and killed by natives on the island of Basilan in the Philippines.</p>	<p>2008—Somali pirates capture the <i>MV Faina</i>, a 500-foot freighter with a cargo of 33 Soviet tanks.</p> <p>2007—Texas kills Michael Richard on schedule because Judge Sharon Keller refused to work overtime.</p> <p>2003—An early draft of an interim report from weapons inspectors in Iraq says no WMD have been found.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush says “You can’t distinguish between al Qaeda and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror.”</p> <p>1981—Sandra Day O’Connor becomes America’s first female Supreme Court Justice.</p> <p>1966—The smallest crowd in the history of Yankee Stadium—413—watches the White Sox beat the Yankees 4-1.</p> <p>1962—While listening to the first Liston/Patterson fight, Vivian Stanshall and Rodey Slater form the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band.</p> <p>1959—The U.S. Navy loses a nuclear depth charge, minus its fissile core, in Puget Sound.</p> <p>1926—Henry Ford announces the 8 hour, 5 day work week.</p> <p>1915—At Loos, France, British forces release 150 tons of chlorine gas towards German troops. Then the wind shifts.</p> <p>1911—Ground is broken for Fenway Park.</p> <p>1789—Congress passes the Bill of Rights.</p>	<p>2011—Dick “Dick” Cheney is stuck in a Vancouver building while police clear an angry mob.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush claims that “the Iraqi regime possesses biological and chemical weapons.”</p> <p>1991—The House bank announces that, after covering 8,331 rubber checks written by Congressmen over the past year, it will stop.</p> <p>1983—Lt. Col. Stanislav Petrov disregards malfunctioning Red Army computers showing five attacking American nuclear missiles. World War III is averted; Col. Petrov is reprimanded.</p> <p>1960—John Kennedy and Richard Nixon hold the first televised presidential debate.</p> <p>1945—American OSS officer Lt. Col. A. Peter Dewey is killed in Saigon by Viet Minh guerrillas who have mistaken him for a French officer. Before his death, Dewey filed a report saying the U.S. “ought to clear out of Southeast Asia.”</p> <p>1933—The same day G-Men arrest Machine Gun Kelly, ten men escape from an Indiana prison using guns smuggled in by John Dillinger.</p> <p>1911—The Battle of the Meuse-Argonne begins, the last great battle of the War to End All Wars.</p> <p>1901—Abraham Lincoln’s body is viewed one last time before being covered with two tons of concrete. Among the 23 present is Fleetwood Linley, 13, who lives until 1963.</p>
<p>4:19 4:36</p> <p>10:20 10:58</p>	<p>5:13 5:32</p> <p>11:13 11:56</p>	<p>6:12 6:33</p> <p>12:12</p>	<p>7:14 7:35</p> <p>12:56 1:14</p>	<p>8:15 8:36</p> <p>1:56 2:15</p>	<p>9:12 9:34</p> <p>2:54 3:14</p>	<p>10:05 10:28</p> <p>3:48 4:10</p>
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29	Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 30	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

2002—Donald Rumsfeld calls the alleged link between al Qaeda and Iraq “accurate and not debatable.”

1996—In Kabul, the Taliban — former seminarians — torture, castrate, and kill Mohammad Najibullah, President of Afghanistan.

1994—On the Capitol steps, 350 GOP candidates vow to take out a Contract with America. They must have meant “on.”

1991—For the first time in decades, the U.S. has no nuclear-armed B-52’s on alert.

1989—To show kids there are more constructive things to do than take drugs, Jeffrey Petkovitch and Peter DeBernardi climb into a barrel and go over Niagara’s Horseshoe Falls.

1972—The first stretch of the Trans-Amazonian Highway opens; bye-bye rain forest, hello global warming.

1964—The Warren Commission reports that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed President John F. Kennedy.

1957—The United Kingdom tests a nuke on aboriginal lands in Maralinga, South Australia.

1944—A group of 35 U.S. B-24s, isolated over Germany by a navigational error, are jumped by 100 enemy fighters; four survive.

1944—The U.S. government begins large-scale production of plutonium on land taken from the Yakama Indian Nation.

2005—Tom DeLay (R-TX) becomes the first House Majority Leader indicted for violating campaign finance laws. Five days later he resigns.

2005—The Pentagon says it will investigate charges that soldiers posted photos of dead Iraqis online in exchange for free access to porn.

2002—George W.[MD] Bush claims Iraq has WMDs, al Qaeda terrorists, and a nuke coming soon.

2001—To avoid further scorn in these pages, Fleet Bank removes its 18-foot tall green, illuminated sign from the middle of Pleasant Street’s sidewalk.

1978—The papacy of John Paul I ends with his death under mysterious circumstances.

1964—UC Berkeley students protest free speech restrictions.

1960—Ted Williams takes the plate at Fenway for his last at bat and hits his 521st home run.

1938—At Munich, British and French diplomats give Hitler the Sudetenland and the GOP a future talking point.

1917—166 activists of the International Workers of the World are arrested for interfering with the war effort.

1904—In New York a woman is arrested for smoking a cigarette.

1891—In New York a 72 year-old writer named Herman Melville dies in obscurity.

2006—Anti-child porn crusader U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (R-FL) resigns after his lurid e-mails to young male pages are revealed.

2003—The White House denies that Karl Rove had revealed the name of CIA agent Valerie Plame.

1988—The Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua wins a lawsuit preventing the Executive branch from regulating or prohibiting foreign aid that is intended to relieve human suffering.

1980—*The Washington Post* publishes Janet Cook’s Pulitzer-winning story about a fictional 8 year-old junkie.

1972—On Vineyard Sound, a short, bearded man in sneakers fails in his spontaneous attempt to throw former Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara off the ferry *M.V. Islander*.

1969—The U.S. Army drops murder charges against Special Forces Col. Robert Rheault—the CIA won’t let its agents testify.

1959—Maynard G. Krebs is introduced on CBS, insidiously destroying a whole generation.

1957—A Soviet nuclear fuel plant at Kyshtym blows up, kills hundreds, and spews more radiation than anything until Chernobyl. The CIA suppresses the news to protect the U.S. nuclear industry.

1906—To “protect American interests,” U.S. troops go to Cuba.

2013—In the interests of fiscal discipline, Republicans force a government shutdown, costing the economy \$24 billion.

2003—The Free State Project selects New Hampshire as its libertarian paradise, with the blessing of Gov. Craig Benson.

2002—The U.S. Northern Command is established to “Defend America’s Homeland”—*posse comitatus* be damned.

2002—George W.[MD] Bush claims he hasn’t “made up his mind we’re going to war with Iraq.”

1973—Despite many failures to meet service requirements, George W.[MD] Bush is discharged honorably from the Texas Air National Guard.

1964—Campus cops at U.C. Berkeley try to arrest Jack Weinberg; big strategic error. The Free Speech Movement ensues.

1952—The first issue of *Mad Magazine* is unleashed on an unsuspecting world.

1917—Arabs led by T.E. Lawrence capture Damascus.

1903—Fred Van Wormer’s autopsy is interrupted because he is still breathing. Taken back to Sing Sing’s electric chair, he is found to have died. He is electrocuted again anyway, just for good measure.

1860—In San Francisco, Emperor Norton I issues a decree barring Congress from meeting in Washington, D.C.

| 10:56 11:20 4:39 5:03 | 11:45 5:29 5:55 | 12:12 12:34 6:17 6:46 | 1:02 1:23 7:06 7:37 | 2:13 7:55 8:30 | 3:06 8:47 9:24 | 4:02 9:41 10:23 |



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