

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Exciting, But Not in a Good Way

Last March, House Speaker John Boehner [R-Ohio] actually managed to get a piece of legislation passed. Accomplishing this rare feat required him to work face-to-face with House Democrats — without, of course, turning his back to any potentially knife-wielding members of the House's Liberty Caucus.

In the end, by an Act of Congress, doctors got slightly higher pay and more children got access to health care. Stunned by this unexpected development, CNN's Dana Bash arranged a formal, sit-down interview to ask him how he did it.

"My goal every day," Boehner explained modestly, "is to try to keep 218 frogs in a wheelbarrow long enough to get something passed."

Asked a fortnight ago by a *Po-litico* reporter how he endured the strains of his position, the Speaker used language even more colorful — or, shall we say, pungent. You can teach yourself to do anything, Boehner said. "Garbage men get used to the smell of bad garbage. Prisoners learn how to become prisoners, all right?"

An odd metaphor, perhaps, for the number two spot in the line of Presidential succession. After his long, strange, trek upstream through the sewer lines of power, though, he has earned the right to use it.

Boehner's first big break came in 1990. After a five-year stint in Ohio's state legislature, he successfully primaried a second-term incumbent in the state's Eighth District. His opponent, Buz Lukens, 58, was handi-

capped by a recent conviction for contributing to the unruliness of a minor; to wit, paying a 16-year-old girl \$40 for sex.

A local TV station having already broadcast tape showing Lukens acknowledging his crime to the girl's mother in a McDonald's restaurant, the case was iron-clad. Undaunted, Lukens' lawyers appealed his conviction, using a version of the orphan's defense: the girl's testimony could not be trusted because she was a delinquent.*

As no Democrat had been elected in that District since FDR's second term, Boehner was off and running — running, among other things, errands for the tobacco lobby. Always one for operating efficiently, in 1995 he passed tobacco checks out to deserving House members on the floor, since he was there already.

Such sleaziness came with a touch of irony. During his first term, Boehner had been a member of the Gang of Seven, self-styled reformers who claimed the high ground during the House check-kiting scandal.

During his second term, Boehner was part of the team that forged the Contract With America. Plagiarized might be a more accurate term, though, since the Contract was essentially a cut-and-paste job. Its key goals came from the Heritage Foundation,

* Rather like a certain incumbent Congressman from New Hampshire's First District, Lukens refused to resign his seat despite irrefutable evidence of wrongdoing. Lukens, while a lame duck, was accused of groping by a Capitol elevator operator. He was jail for nine days and ordered to get tested for venereal disease.



a sort of Santa's Workshop for Right Wing billionaires. The basic strategy to implement it is still in use today: never compromise and don't be afraid to shut down the government.

In 1997 Boehner, then the fourth-ranking Republican in the House, along with several other leaders, took part in an attempted coup against then-Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia. After the plotters were out-manuevered by the crafty Gingrich, Boehner claimed he had only been acting as a mole.

Nine years later Boehner ascended to the position of House Majority leader. His promotion was a routine procedure following the indictment of his predecessor, Rep. Tom DeLay. The only surprise was that it had taken so long.

Americans soon became accustomed to seeing Boehner, as

Speaker, in all his glory: beautifully suited, tanned like fine leather, and weeping profusely every time he'd recall the deprivations of his youth and the hardships he'd endured.

Eventually, though, despite endless Camel Ultra Lights and all the merlot he could drink, managing thirty or forty Louis Gohmerts and Trey Gowdys — not to mention the rest of the frogs, and the smell of the garbage — just became too much.

A devout Catholic, Boehner had been inviting Popes to Washington for twenty years. Finally, on September 24th, he attained his apotheosis: Pope Francis spoke from the Speaker's Balcony of the Capitol, with Boehner seated behind him.

People were shocked the next day when Boehner announced his resignation. The wonder is that the day before he didn't skip

over to the railing and drop a microphone over the edge.

Boehner compromised with Democrats Wednesday, engineering a short-term fix to fund the government through December 11th. The maneuver was akin to calling in artillery on your own position, a sacrifice for the greater good. The Liberty Caucus will hate him more than ever, while the nation will be spared needless chaos and expense.

The trouble is, Armageddon is now scheduled to arrive when we reach the debt ceiling — about a fortnight before Christmas.

Also, the probable next Speaker, Kevin McCarthy, falls a bit short, shall we say, of Boehner's standards as a "statesman."

Tuesday night he was heard bragging to Fox's Sean Hannity about having used the *Benghazi!!!* hearings to drive down Hillary Clinton's poll numbers.

The Alleged News®

Qualifications, Schmaulifications

The surest route to the White House has always been by way of a Governor's mansion. That method worked for almost half of our Presidents, and for good reason. Governing a state gives candidates hands-on executive experience, and it leaves a record by which voters may judge them.

Well, so much for tradition and common sense. Nine sitting or former Governors entered the 2016 First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election®, and they all appear to be doomed.

Scott Walker [Wis.] and Rick Perry [Texas] have already quit. George Pataki [N.Y.] will probably quit soon, according to "GOP insiders" quoted by *Politico*. Bobby Jindal [La.] may be on suicide watch now that Willie "Duck Dynasty" Robertson has gone over to the Trump camp.

A recent CNN/Wmur poll

of New Hampshire voters shows that J. Edgar "Jeb!" Bush [Fla.] — once considered the likely front-runner, not because of but despite his sky-high name recognition — has lost half his support since June, dropping from 16 to 7 percent. John Kasich [Ohio] has picked up endorsements from some party bigwigs in New Hampshire, but that's brought him up only to Bush's mediocre level. Chris Christie [N.J.] trails them by two points.

Jim Gilmore [Va.] must wonder why he bothered. He's the first choice of just one percent of the voters, and his unfavorability rating has doubled from 15 to 30 percent since June.

Mike Huckabee [Ark.] is in a category all his own. He's so desperate he just launched an attack on gay Doritos. Google it if you think we're kidding.

This is not to suggest that any of these individuals are actually qualified to be President. Rather, it is to point out that while half a century of cumulative executive experience is being blithely disregarded, three candidates currently lead the pack without ever having held elected office. And what a trio they are: a fatuous talking hairdo, a failed corporate liar, and a neurosurgeon ready to run roughshod over Article VI, paragraph 3 of the U.S. Constitution prohibiting religious tests as a qualification for office.

The traditional method of Presidential politicking, in which 20 or 30 random Granite Staters assemble to weigh a candidate's merits, would never have resulted in a lineup like this. This lineup is a direct and natural result of Party bosses — note the plural, there — following the path of least re-

sistance and allowing CNN and Fox News to decide who participates in their idiotic debates.

The Gong Show had its merits. It was entertaining in its mindless way — but it was only intended as entertainment, not a model for democracy.

It Ain't Broke Yet, So Let's Fix It

On Tuesday we learned that the GOP plans to go even further in the wrong direction in 2020.

The *National Journal* quoted Reince Priebus, Chairman of the Republican Party, saying "I don't think there should ever be any sacred cows as to the primary process or the order," clearly referring to Iowa and New Hampshire.

Priebus, whose name forms the somewhat ominous anagram, "Ruins Epic Beer," mentioned two alternative systems.

One would lump states into five regions — an innovation unrecognized by the Constitution — which would hold collective primaries in rotating order. The other would apparently disregard geography altogether, grouping random states into five primaries by means of a lottery. The clear object in both cases would be to reduce direct exposure of candidates to the public, apparently so as to better disguise their underlying psychopathy.

Surprisingly, a long-time Party panjandrum gave a brutally honest reason for the proposed change: the plutocrats have ordained it. WMUR quoted Steve Duprey saying Priebus was "under a lot of pressure" from Super PACS to make the anti-demo-

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from page one

cratic change.

The GOP and its malevolent overlords seem to have ruled out the more obvious option for solving its electoral problems: recruiting sane candidates and building a reality-based Party platform.

Given the sacred status of the quadrennial ritual, the news put NHGOP Chair Jennifer Horn in a jam. Unable to blast Priebus without jeopardizing her own position, she gave a boilerplate defense of the First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election,® then launched into a lament about autocratic Democratic officeholders “trying to rig” the Primary by endorsing Democratic candidates. As non sequiturs go, it was a doozy.

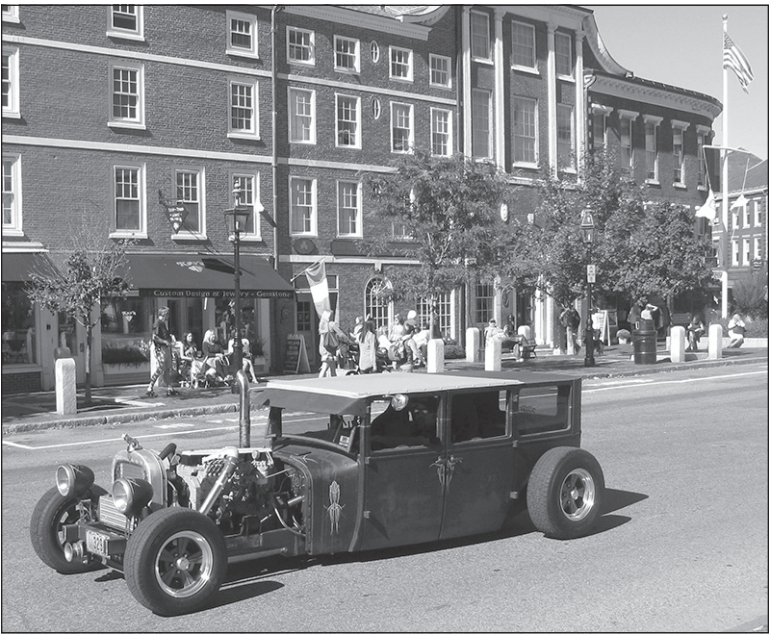
Giving Credit Where It's Due...

... it must be said that the entertainment value of this election cycle has been right off the charts. If the nation ends up in the dustbin of history, the ride there will have been memorable.

The tenor of the fortnight was set at a Trump town hall in Rochester. The candidate called on a middle-aged man in a white Trump T-shirt. His first words were garbled — only “... from White Plains, amen” were intelligible.

“We have a problem in this country. It's called Muslims,” he said, certainly sounding more like White Plains than Rochester. “You know our current President is one. You know he's not even an American, Birth Certificate Man.”

“We need this question,” Trump interjected.



Market Square, on fine summer Sundays, is an anarchic outdoor showroom for vernacular American vehiculature. This 1927 Dodge Brothers sedan, re-imagined by Jason Berounsky, showed up September 20th. Sporting suicide doors in the back and old-school pinstriping, it's powered by a Cummins 5.9 liter turbodiesel coupled with a Chevy Turbo 400 transmission. It also features a Mack bulldog sitting atop its radiator.

Gary Blake
MOTORCARS

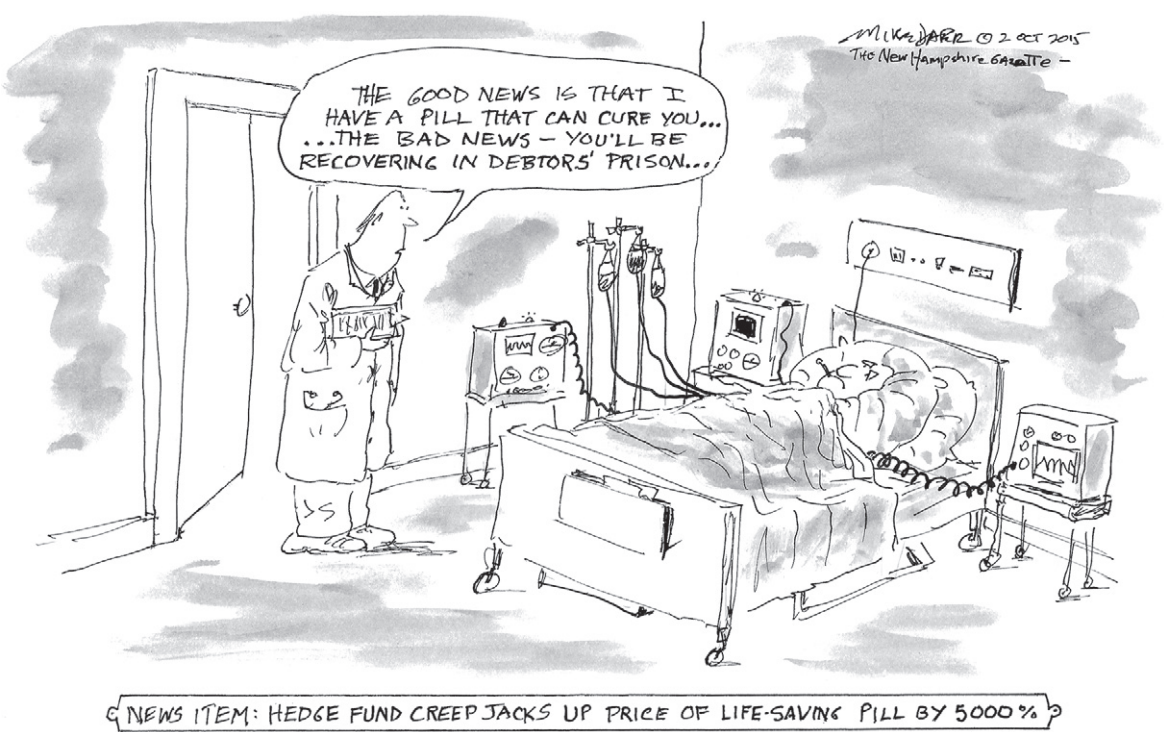
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“Anyway,” White Plains went on, “we have training camps growing where they want to kill us. That’s my question: When can we get rid of them?”

Trump made no effort to correct the erroneous assertions about the President and training camps, making instead a vague assertion about “looking at a lot of things.”

Internecine Squabble, Part III

First thing the next morning — Trump and Fox News being on good terms at that point — Brian Kilmeade said the questioner “sounds like a plant, to be honest.” Three of the panelists on “The Five” agreed with that assessment. The average age of Fox viewers being 68, “O’Reilly” guest host Eric Bolling repeated the lesson that evening, in case anyone might have forgotten.

The truce, however, did not last. Fox allowed Rich Lowry of the *National Review* to voice his opinion a few days later that Carly Fiorina, during the second debate at the Reagan Shrine in Simi Valley, had — we’ll paraphrase — removed a pair of

Trump’s reproductive organs “with the precision of a surgeon.”

Trump’s appreciation of colorful language is apparently not bilateral. He proclaimed a boycott of the network that had made him. Almost immediately, though, Fox announced an impending meeting between Trump and Roger Ailes, to “discuss their differences of opinion.”

If one were cynical, one might suspect that the Trump/Fox storyline had been plotted out by the same person who wrote Trump’s script for *Wrestlemania VI* and *Wrestlemania 23*. (At the latter, Trump attacked Vince McMahon at ringside with a metal folding chair.)

Important If True

The best theory we’ve seen yet to explain the Trump phenomenon comes from Mark Ames at *Pando.com*. Ames cites Trump’s thirty-year association with former Nixon dirty trickster Roger Stone, noting that “Stone’s specialty has long been fracturing the opposition to the Establishment GOP candidate for president, and exploiting an-

ti-mainstream politics for pretty much the same purpose.”

The two teamed up in 2000, simultaneously taking down Pat Buchanan and Ross Perot’s Reform Party, eventually clearing the way for George W.[MD] Bush.

That same year they jointly worked up a racist ad campaign that blocked an Indian casino in the Catskills. Trump fended off competition for his Atlantic City casinos, and Stone was appointed by the Bush/Cheney transition team to dole out jobs in the Bureau of Indian Affairs — a boon for his day job of lobbying for casinos.

Ames goes on to suggest that Trump may have started out intending to draw support away from the crackpot rivals of the Establishment candidates, in exchange for favors to be determined later.

After his poll numbers soared, Ames theorizes, Trump may have decided to go for the brass ring himself.

Why, that’s so sordid, it’s almost enough to make one turn

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one's head away from democracy and self-government entirely!

Which is exactly the point. A person discouraged from voting is a person who's actively casting a vote for the oligarchs.

Bernie!

This quadrennium, however, a new factor found its way into the equation: a candidate who is unafraid to honestly address the real, underlying issues. You know who we're talking about: the one and only Bernie!

One week ago James Pindell wrote in the *Boston Globe* that Bernie Sanders — a self-described “democratic socialist,” which would once have gotten him pilloried — is running what is “arguably the fastest-growing campaign in a century-old primary.”

Such a phenomenon would perhaps draw more attention if a certain orangutan-haired gambling impresario were not consuming 90 percent of the media's attention. It definitely drew the attention of the *Wall Street Journal*, which, in a mystifying but surely-benign coincidence, belongs to the same billionaire as Fox News.

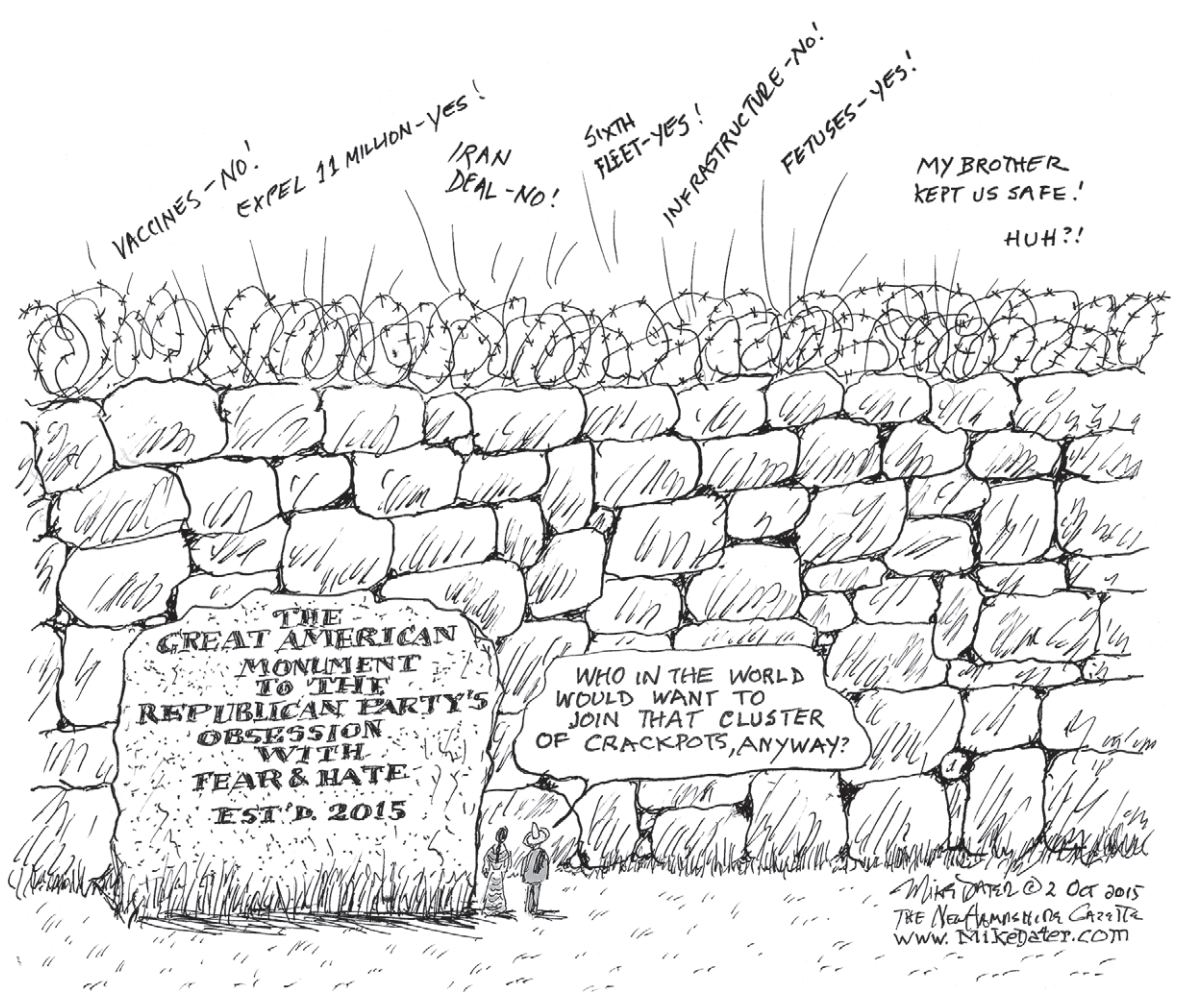
“Price Tag of Bernie Sanders's Proposals: \$18 Trillion,” read the headline. The *Journal* conjured up that scary figure through the simple expedient of adding up the costs of the proposals, ignoring their savings, then multiplying the false results by ten years.

Discussing theology with a schizophrenic would be a better use of time than engaging with the *Journal* over the cost of Federal programs.

New Hampshire voters apparently agree. According to a CNN/WMUR poll taken last week, Sanders is leading Hillary Clinton by 46 to 30 percent. Hell, at a Values Voters Summit — the one where John Boehner got booed for being a RINO — Sanders polled better than Chris Christie or Lindsay Graham.

Sanders Poynt Non-Update

We should, by all rights, be able to truthfully report here that public access to Little Harbor at Sanders Poynt has been restored. The *faux* rail fence should have been removed, the dense *arbor vitae* should have been uprooted, and a smooth gravel surface should have been prepared so that random members of the



Thanks to the second annual Welcome East Motorcycle Show, there were more interesting bikes on display at Vaughan Mall last Saturday than Market Square has seen all summer. Here we have a pair of vintage Indians, with a 1937 model in the foreground. Across the street was a sweet early 1950s BMW with a sidecar — and a vintage siren. Inside the new Birdseye Lounge was a WW II-era, single-cylinder, springer-forked BSA kitted out with RAF accessories.

public, regardless of the state of their attire or hygiene, could park their shiny new Priuses or their rusty old Chevy pickups and launch whatever elegant or ridiculous watercraft they like.

Instead, true to his word, William Binnie, proprietor of Rye's most pretentious amusement park for alleged adults, has appealed his recent loss in Superior Court. He is asking the state's Supreme Court's to throw out the public's prescriptive rights to walk across his precious golf course to reach their seedy little beach. Apparently preparing a fall-back position, he is also disputing the scope of those rights, should they exist.

And his illegal obstacles remain where he put them three years ago. Clearly the failed Republican Senatorial candidate of 2010 has abandoned all hope of a political career.

Gambling in the First District

Speaking of maneuvers most would consider politically unpalatable, on September 22nd, First District Congressional candidate Dan Innis was featured yet again in the Award-Winning Local Daily. This time Innis and his husband and business partner Doug Palardy were reported to be “making inquiries” about the recently-shuttered Brewster Rooms & Efficiencies.

That's polite-speak for calculating whether they can make a profit by gentrifying the former home of half the dishwashers in town. “What the hell,” Innis must have figured, “how many of the newly-homeless vote?”

Birdbrains of a Feather

Now, the political misstep hat trick: on September 26th, No Labels, the transparently phony outfit promoting non-partisanship in a manner guaranteed

not to raise taxes or otherwise disturb the delicate feelings of despotic billionaires, Tweeted “A very happy birthday to No Labels Problem Solver Frank Guinta.”

The only problem Guinta ever solved was how to get elected without having legitimately raised sufficient funds. His solution, of course, was to borrow \$355,000 illegally from his Mom. [Note: In the event that No Labels was just being ironic, we'll admit that we took the bait. — The Ed.]

Guinta, who has the gall to be running for re-election despite being doomed to fall in the primary, Tweeted on September 23rd, “Today we thoughtfully listen to @Pontifex. #GraniteStaters if you could ask him anything, what would it be?”

Charlie Perkins, the pucky ex-Executive Editor of the *Union Leader*, suggested this apt item: “Is lying a mortal sin?”

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Do Communities Have Rights?

To the Editor:
The people of New Hampshire realize that even with traditional New England Town Meeting governing style, and the largest representative body of any other state, that communities are being denied the right to decide what happens where they live.

Hydro-Quebec's Northern Pass project, if permitted, would produce 190-miles of HVDV transmission lines and towers from Canada to southern New Hampshire. A scar through some of New Hampshire's most pristine and un-fragmented wild places, to carry electricity to feed the demands of southern New England states. Almost every community along the Northern Pass route objects to the project as proposed. Who decides the fate of communities targeted by HQ NP? A presidential permit and the state agency known as the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC).

Along the central-western ridgelines of New Hampshire, industrial wind developers have been bullying communities with a number of projects over the past four years. Global developers, like Energias de Portugal (EDP), are eager to profit from one of the region's most sought after resources — unspoiled ridgelines. Even communities not targeted to host industrial wind projects are in opposition to the destruction of New Hampshire's pristine ridgelines for the sake of

"not clean, not green, not cheap" energy. Who decides the fate of communities targeted by industrial wind developers? The SEC.

The Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct pipeline project has awakened the more populated southern part of New Hampshire to the reality of the systemic stripping away of any authority communities have over the decision making process. Communities across New Hampshire are beginning to understand what NIMBY truly stands for — Next It Might Be You! Who decides the fate of communities targeted by the KM NED pipeline? The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Corporate water withdrawal and gravel mining corporations have targeted a number of Granite State communities as resource colonies. These resources are vital to the local survival and sustainability of surrounding ecosystems and those that depend on them. Who decides the fate of communities targeted for corporate water withdrawal? The State of New Hampshire through the Department of Environmental Services.

From all across New Hampshire, communities have come together to form the New Hampshire Community Rights Network (NHCRN). Participants of the NHCRN realize the common denominator shared by those targeted as "resource colonies for profit" — that sustainable environmental and economic development can be achieved only when the people affected by governing decisions are the ones who make such decisions. In order to protect the resources they hold dear, and protect their very own survival, communities must frontally challenge the current structure of law that legalize these harms.

Participants of the NHCRN are challenging our elected representatives to see the cur-

rent structure of law for what it truly is — a "free pass" that allows for-profit corporations to rape and plunder the natural resources that Granite Staters depend upon for environmental and economic survival; a denial of freedom for the people of New Hampshire to protect their health, safety and welfare; and a blatant contradiction to the New Hampshire Constitution, Bill of Rights.

The NHCRN is not only challenging our elected representatives to see the current structure of law for what it truly is, but we call on the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire to place a constitutional amendment before the voters that acknowledges the rights of communities, and their governments, to enact local laws to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people, their community and natural environment. An amendment to our New Hampshire State Constitution that would allow communities to decide what happens where they live. In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of natural people and their environments, communities must have the authority to prohibit activities that would violate their rights.

The NHCRN is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that has partnered with Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) to draft the New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment we are proposing for the 2016 Legislative Session. We must stop accepting the legalization of harmful activities and instead, we must assert our Right of Local Community Self-Government to enact local laws that protect the health, safety and welfare of New Hampshire communities and environments. Visit NHCRN at www.nhcommunityrights.org, or contact us at info@nhcommunityrights.org to learn more about the

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL**

New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment.

Michelle Sanborn, NHCRN Coordinator
Alexandria, N.H.

Michelle:
Who decides whether an individual may profit from tourist helicopter flights, while destroying the peace and quiet of thousands? The FAA. We hope that Portsmouth residents wishing for quieter skies will consider your proposal as a means to that end.

The Editor

~~~~~  
**Save Our Wells**

To the Editor:

No one should need to worry about the water they are drinking! That said, Granite Staters have been watching the news of contaminated wells at Pease International Tradeport. How unfortunate that 9,000 adults and children have ingested water with elevated levels of perfluorochemicals (PFCs), 12.5 times higher than the level set by the Environmental Protection Agency's [EPA] Provisional Health Advisory. The EPA notes that PFCs are a "contaminant of emerging concern." This unfortunate, exposed group has lived for over a year with the fear of what the future will bring. Now having been tested, and with their results, that same unlucky population will be living day to day with the worry of what might potentially occur in the future. We, as your neighbors, hope that those potential health threats are never realized. The support that you are receiving from Senator Kelly Ayotte and Senator Jeanne Shaheen is commendable.

We have drinking water concerns as well! The proposed Northeast Direct (NED) pipeline snakes through 77 miles in 17 towns in the southern tier of New Hampshire. Kinder Mor-

gan/Tennessee Gas is seeking permitting with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for this project. If approved, what effect will the blasting for the pipeline construction have on our wells? Where will the blasting contaminants go? Will they end up in our water supplies; a town reservoir and our private wells? Who will protect our water? We are now worried about potentially polluted water and dealing with possible health threats. At this time, neither the Governor nor any of the New Hampshire delegation has taken the stand in opposition to the project!

So we, fellow concerned Granite Staters, are reaching out to you, our neighbors, to help us stop this contaminating monster!

The website [nhpipelineawareness.org/](http://nhpipelineawareness.org/) is a source of excellent information.

Kathleen Gauvin  
New Ipswich, N.H.

~~~~~  
Fork In The Road ...

To the Editor:

In a letter to *Foster's Daily Democrat* published September 27th, former New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg introduced a new concept he calls the "Trump-Sanders Axis." This populist phenomenon, he claims, signals a perilous departure from responsible governance that threatens to bring down the Republic. By writing "Trump" and "Sanders" in the same sentence and penning in a hyphen between them, he apparently hopes to trick the world into thinking these two "fringe players" share equal billing on the presidential stage.

Of course, Gregg's "axis" is not only bogus, but it's also exceptionally derogatory to Senator Sanders who — unlike Mr. Trump — has accumulated a

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— Sylvia (a wise friend)

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And Other Correspondence

long and distinguished history of public service. Recall that Sanders was a four-term mayor, member of the U.S. House for 16 years, and has served as Vermont's junior Senator since 2006 with a long list of key appointments to his credit. Moreover, he commands high marks from colleagues and constituents for his professional manner of conduct in office and for his ability to work across the aisle. In short, unlike "the Don," Bernie Sanders is eminently qualified by virtue of experience and temperament to fill the office to which he aspires. His politics may be too "liberal" for Judd Gregg's sensibilities, but the Senator from Vermont is hardly a loose cannon or political outsider.

But, Gregg's fit of condescension didn't stop with deprecating Sanders, because he went on to insult the rest of us by suggesting America's plebeian affinity for these political extremists results from pent-up anger, societal impulsiveness, poor education, and irrational thinking. Correct me if I'm wrong, but that analysis doesn't seem to tally well against the demography of the Sanders supporters I've met so far. So why the fit of pique?

Yogi Berra will remain ever-famous for his quote: "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." When it was Judd Gregg's turn to confront the crossroads, he showed us his navigational preference by leaving public service to enter the private sector as a highly paid Wall Street operative and Washington lobbyist (score one for the devil). Sanders, on the other hand, appears to have chosen a more noble path by remaining in the public sector in the service of the American people. Score one for the good guys.

Nevertheless, Sanders may

have been complicit in inviting Judd Gregg's wrath. After all, Bernie does tend to wax at length about self-serving lobbyists and greedy Wall Street billionaires. Seeing that Judd's resume is packed with the very things Sanders and so many other Americans find offensive about the influence Wall Street and big money in politics, it's no surprise Judd's ears turned red and his pen flew into action.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.
Rick:
Well done, sir.
The Editor

On the Path to Plutocracy

To the Editor:
The traveling circus that calls itself the Republican Presidential Candidates Debate made its second stop recently. The show was entirely predictable. Although Donald Trump toned down his rhetoric, the conversation focused on the same old subjects — immigration, defense and ginned-up tales of the horrors of the Obama administration. Conspicuously missing from the agenda was any mention on one of the most important problems facing American society, the rising rate of income inequality. Many Republicans deny that income inequality is a problem, some even calling it "an artificial political construct". Income inequality, however, is a real concern. Here are the facts on the issue.

There has always been income inequality in societies. The issue with income inequality in the U.S., however, is not that it exists but that it is increasing and has been for approximately three decades. In the years following the Second World War, incomes in the U.S. tended to converge with all classes sharing in the

economic growth of the post-war period. Income inequality declined in that period. From approximately 1980, however, income has grown the most for the wealthiest. For the poorest 20 percent, income has declined while middle class incomes have remained largely stagnant. For example, in 1979 the wealthiest 1 percent controlled 9 percent of total income; by 2012 their share had risen to 24 percent. During roughly the same period, the share of total income controlled by the middle class declined from 62 percent to 45 percent while the share controlled by the upper class increased from 29 percent to 46 percent.

International comparisons of income distribution are not kind to the U.S. A recent study using the GINI Coefficient ranked the U.S. well below the most equitable countries (Sweden, Norway and Germany). Income distribution in the U.S. is roughly comparable to Turkmenistan, Iran and China. In a comparison of industrialized countries, the U.S. ranked 27th of 30 countries in a measure of income equality.

Although there is no consensus regarding the causes of increased income inequality, two factors appear to explain some of the change. The first is the hollowing out of American manufacturing industries caused by the offshoring of literally millions of well-paying blue collar jobs to low wage countries since the 80's. These jobs had lifted factory workers into the middle class after World War II. Their loss to developing countries as well as the stagnation of manufacturing wages due to competition from low wage nations helps to explain the decimation of the American middle class. The second factor relates to the replacement of both white and blue-collar jobs based on routine activities by more efficient automated machines, a process that



has accelerated since the 90's.

Some claim that income inequality is necessary and that the U.S. is a country of opportunity where anyone can rise to the highest levels of society through hard work. Although the rags to riches myth is a popular meme for conservative politicians, recent data indicate that the reality is otherwise. The decade of the 60's is the last period when intergenerational social mobility increased. It has been in decline since. A recent OECD study found that social mobility is higher in Denmark, Australia, Norway, Finland, Canada, Sweden, Germany and France than in the U.S. Statistically, the best predictor of social status in the U.S. is parents' income and education rather than the willingness to work. In plain words, in the U.S. today, a person's social class at birth is likely where he/she will remain.

Why does this data matter? For starters, most studies indicate that economic growth is correlated with more egalitarian income distributions. Lower and middle class spending tends to drive growth because they spend a higher proportion of their income than do the rich who save a higher percent. This is especially relevant for the U.S. economy since it has been driven historically by middle class expenditures, making the decline of the

Hate Mail, &c.
to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Pity, Inc.

by William Marvel

Last January, when *Conway Daily Sun* columnists could still compose capitalized titles for their editorials, the opinion page carried a piece by syndicated columnist Nicholas Kristof called “How Do We Increase Empathy?” My first thought, on reading the title, was why we would want to. Judging by media attention, empathy must be the most popular passion in the menu of human emotions.

Kristof was concerned primarily about imbuing the wealthy with empathy for the poor, on a global scale. To instill relatively wealthy Americans with compassion for the world’s less fortunate people, he encouraged everything from foreign-service trips for students to bringing the novels of Charles Dickens back into the classroom. A fat lot of today’s digitally dependent kids would read even *Hard Times* or *Oliver Twist*, let alone an 800-page chronicle of the impoverished along the lines of *Little Dorrit*. They’ll wait for the musical or the miniseries, thank you.

We probably don’t have to wonder what Kristof’s attitude would be toward the millions of migrants pouring into Europe this summer from the Middle East and North Africa. He would be right there at the Hungarian border to greet them, holding a welcome sign in one hand and his return ticket to the States in the other.

Citing the tactics of “professional empathy entrepreneurs,” Kristof explained that one of the key triggers for inducing empathy is “cuteness.” Another is the suffering caused by violence, and it is probably no coincidence that a flood of economic migrants began flowing across and around the Mediterranean while swarms of refugees were streaming out of Syria. Families fleeing Assad’s war on his own people evoke a lot of sympathy on which such economic opportunists can capitalize. Deliberately or incidentally, migrant-friendly “professional empathy entrepreneurs” are blurring the differences between the two streams, and focusing on refugee children to exploit their “cuteness” for public sympathy.

Despite the cute kids, many Europeans are leery of accepting so many destitute immigrants, and especially in Germany, where moochers of that hemisphere now reflexively look for handouts and havens. The pity party instinctively characterizes any Germans who resist the teeming masses as neo-Nazi racists, but some pretty liberal friends of mine from Berlin tell me the media is missing or ignoring widespread opposition to the influx among mainstream Germans. Their reluctance is perfectly understandable, too, given the historic relationship between overcrowding and poverty; if homeless hordes could migrate freely from poor nations to those where more sustainable population trends have fostered greater affluence, it seems logical that the relative wealth of the respective countries might be reversed. The wide-open continent that prevented such a consequence during America’s era of mass-migration is now heavily overpopulated, which fans of Emma Lazarus tend to overlook. Our corner of New Hampshire

has its own migrant problem. It may not seem as dramatic because it has been more gradual, but it has exerted a fairly significant economic impact here — and especially since this region started exceeding its sustainable population, several decades back. The subsidized housing for which Conway always seems to be the targeted location is filled by those who are at least nominally disadvantaged, but that may well reflect the maxim that if you build it they will come. Paradoxically, the greatest detriment immigration has wrought on the quality of life in northern Carroll County has been gentrification. The most recent waves of people fleeing overcrowded suburbia have brought vast resources, inflating the price of property beyond the reach of most of the indigenous families, while their city-learned expectations of municipal services seriously pinch the rest.

At town and school meetings our own professional empathy entrepreneurs smother us in statistics showing how much better life is now — or could be, if only we listened to them — but they

often judge by alien measures. They would point out that my household income is twice what it was in 1985, dodging the unpleasant reality that its value in real dollars is even less now than it was then. They would tout the new public programs over the last 30 years, without calculating that our property taxes now consume over five weeks’ income each year, rather than two. They might argue that the value of my home has significantly increased with minimal improvement, but they would not consider that it used to be surrounded by a woodland paradise, instead of a suburban sea of noisy strangers.

Like the original Americans, we have learned that the grateful migrants of yesterday become the domineering neighbors of tomorrow. Perhaps we should hire consultants to cultivate our cuteness quotient, and try to elicit some sympathy from those latest and richest suburban refugees. I was preoccupied with those newcomers while shaving this morning, and what I saw in the mirror didn’t bode well for the cuteness factor.

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

middle class in the U.S. particularly disturbing.

The fact that the U.S. has an income distribution characteristic of a third world country accompanied by a declining social mobility bodes ill. History teaches that when wealth becomes concentrated in restricted elites, it will be used to co-opt the political process to ensure that the elite retains economic advantage. This process seems well underway in the U.S. as the enormous expenditures of the wealthy in

the current election demonstrate. Democracies survive only when economic and political powers are widely shared. We are moving away from this ideal toward a plutocratic society. The time to stop the slide is now before it is too late.

Dr. Robert D. Russell
Harrisburg, Pa.

Comma Karma Redux

To the Editor:
William Marvel’s column on “Comma Karma” (September

18th) trots out a tired debate about the serial comma, and he gets his facts wrong when he criticizes Associated Press style in general. AP does *not* call for describing five-and-a-half-years-old Tommy as “51/2.” In fact, AP (according to the 2015 stylebook, as well as preceding years’ editions) would read: “5 1/2” ... with a space between the whole number and the fraction.

And while Mr. Marvel feels that “in an inflexible AP world, consistency often trumps clarity,”

he probably should take another look at the stylebook. AP has repeatedly explained that the serial comma should be used where its omission would create confusion (e.g., in a series of complex phrases).

Moreover, the example he cites of Chicago style’s clarity (“Bruno lives with Terry, his wife, and sister.”) is also ambiguous. Is Terry’s wife a resident of the domicile, or is Terry actually Bruno’s wife? Both interpretations are grammatically valid. (Although the

understood “his” before “sister” would be lost in one of the readings, the ambiguity remains if one includes “his.”)

Like Mr. Marvel, I generally prefer Chicago and its use of the serial comma in my personal writing. But after years as a reporter and editor, I also appreciate the economy of AP style, where every character of type is at a premium. Yes, AP can be confusing, but so can the alternative. Better to rework the sentence and avoid the paired

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How Hedge Fund Billionaires Literally “Check” The People’s Will

by Jim Hightower

Donnie Trump is for it, Barack Obama is too, as are Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton. “It” is the idea of finally ending a ridiculous tax loophole that was written by and for the richest, most pampered elites on Wall Street. An obscurely-titled “carried-interest” tax break allows billionaire hedge-fund hucksters to have their massive incomes

taxed at a much lower rate than the one teachers, main street businesses, carpenters, and other modest-income people must pay. This privileged treatment of money shufflers over people who do constructive work in our society adds to America’s widening chasm of inequality. It’s so unfair and unpopular that even Trump and Bush see that it has to go. So, it’s bye-bye loophole, right? Ha — just kidding! Trump

can mouth all he wants, but no animal hath such fury as a hedge-funder whose special tax boondoggle is threatened. Trump had barely gotten the word “unfair” out of his puffy lips before the tax-loophole profiteers deployed battalions of lobbyists, PR flacks, and front-group operatives out to defend their precious carried-interest provision. Just one group, with the arcane name of Private Equity Growth Capi-

tal Council, rushed a dozen Gucci-clad lobbyists to Capitol Hill to “inform” lawmakers about the virtues of coddling Wall Street elites with tax favors. Of course, “informing” meant flashing their checkbooks at key members of Congress. After all, even the loudest blast of political talk is cheap — and it’s the silent sound of a pen writing out a campaign check that makes WashingtonWorld keep spin-

ning in favor of the rich. Sure enough, Rep. Paul Ryan and Sen. Orrin Hatch, the two lawmakers who head Congress’ tax-writing committees, quickly announced that — the will of the people aside — there would be no repeal of the hedge-fund loophole anytime soon. ~~~ © 2015 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laura@jimhightower.com).

punctuation perils. Regardless of linguistic leanings, I’ll heed the advice of Lynne Truss, who wrote, in *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*: “There are people who embrace the Oxford comma, and people who don’t, and I’ll just say this: never get between these people when drink has been taken.” William Hall Yarmouth, Maine William: We solicited a response from Mr. Marvel. Here it is: “The virtues Mr. Hall claims for the AP Stylebook are either alien to the AP-obsessed managing editor at the Conway Daily Sun or are absent from my 2002 edition of the AP Stylebook, and may reflect belated recognition of flaws such as those I mentioned. Personally, I find AP style obnoxious enough that I would not consider paying good money for a more recent version. The aforementioned managing editor and I may encounter each other after the consumption of alcohol sometime in early December, if she holds her current position, and Mr. Hall is welcome to referee if he dares.” The Editor

~~~~~ Another Diatribe from Utah To the Editor: All living things capable of dying, including Earth itself, are

first created or “organized” spiritually of intelligent spirit matter .... [Eighty words of mystical hypothesis, backed by tautological reference to Christian and Mormon scriptures, deleted. — The Ed.] Parties to a wombary-sanctum invasion to kill its innocent, helpless and faithful fruit that has a divine spiritual identity, for convenience or profit rather than to mitigate the effects of rape or incest or to save the mother’s life, would be better off to have a millstone tied around their neck and be dropped into the depths of the sea. [Gory symbolism and Biblical citations, amounting to 71 words, deleted. — The Ed.] A late term partial-birth abortion with the baby’s organs sold for profit qualifies as a sin unto death. Those responsible ... lake of fire and brimstone on Judgment Day ... immortal souls ... back to hell, to dwell with the devil and his kind, where their worm never dies ... [Citations from Mormon scriptures]. One must humble him/herself before God .... [Another 108 words of religious verbiage expunged. — The Ed.] Michael W. Jarvis Salt Lake City, Utah Michael: Just to be clear, we publish your

your latest neologism — for those who bailed out early it’s “wombary-sanctum invasion” as a synonym for abortion — might someday invade the Oxford English Dictionary. The Editor ~~~~ A Rare Mash Note To the Editor: I live in Tennessee but subscribe to your Gazette for wisdom and rueful laughs. As an emeritus university historian I get a particular kick out of your page 8 calendars. I wish you would seriously consider taking them for as long as you have published them, eliminating repetition as much as possible, and then publishing them in book form. A little work with PhotoShop (my wife is a retired professional photographer) would suffice to prepare the copy, and I believe you’d have a best seller almost ready for printing. You probably wouldn’t need help to do this but if so I’d be willing to take a little time out from my writing to assist. P.S. My brother Rev. Neal Ferris of Durham, New Hampshire, got me started with your publication with a gift subscription & I am hooked for the duration. Norman Ferris Murfreesboro, Tenn. Norman: We are always pleased to hear

from those who appreciate that feature of our paper. We are also very grateful for your most kind offer. We have fantasized about putting all 3,400 or so entries, amounting to some 73,000 words, into chronological order for publication. Unfortunately the alleged Editor’s sloth, coupled with his pathological need for control, conspire to make such a project unlikely to succeed at this time. The Editor ~~~~ I Love Fiorina’s Act! To the Editor: I love Carly Fiorina’s act and enjoy seeing her perform. Then again I’m partial to impersonators, hucksters and actors in general. It’s like a Red Sox fan applauding Derek Jeter, one can appreciate a polished player. Fiorina does a great job of imitating a successful CEO and a tough minded commander-in-chief. Her version of righteous indignation is also something to behold especially when you know she knows she is lying through her teeth. If one didn’t know better you would think she actually viewed a video about Planned Parenthood that doesn’t exist. When it comes to her Terminator/Exterminator role she gets the scowl and threats right but her lines are weak. Her script is

so loaded with inaccuracies and overstatements she comes across as the desperate Fabricator/Exaggerator. Her Iron Lady is irony laden. She also needs more rehearsal time for her role as a reasonable candidate. Not being a regular voter and stating her lack of faith in the democratic process as the reason is not a very good endorsement. Her California audition was a disaster and Fiorina seems bitter that those voters, who know her the best, didn’t elect her to the Senate. What I don’t understand is why she thinks the rest of the country would elect her president. Fiorina has another major problem, she doesn’t do warm and fuzzy very well. Convincing women and the less fortunate that she really cares about them will be a big challenge. Also getting blue collar workers, who know she shipped 30,000 jobs to China or HP stockholders, who took a 52 percent hit while she was CEO, to vote for her won’t be easy. On second thought I guess I really don’t like Fiorina’s act. In fact I’m hoping she soon chooses a new role for her performance--the impersonation of a mime. Dave Potter North Hampton, N.H.

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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, OCTOBER 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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| <p><b>2010</b>—Germany is finally free of its WW I reparations debt.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—<i>SpaceShipOne</i>, Burt Rutan’s tourist rocket, makes its second trip above the atmosphere in five days, and wins the Ansari X Prize.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Knight-Ridder reports that “The White House and the Pentagon ... are pressuring intelligence analysts to highlight information that supports Bush’s Iraq policy.” Only one paper prints the story.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—An El Al cargo plane carrying depleted uranium and precursors for sarin nerve gas crashes in Amsterdam, killing 47.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—CBS News anchor Dan Rather is attacked on the streets of New York by two men yelling, “What’s the frequency, Ken?”</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Declaring victory in a race in which he ran unopposed, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu calls his margin “an achievement for democracy.”</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Two U.S. military facilities in Saigon are bombed; 13 are wounded—the first announced U.S. casualties in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—The U.S. Navy seizes American oil refineries to break a 20-state strike.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—The world’s largest munitions factory explodes in South Amboy, N.J. About 80 die immediately, and thousands are displaced. Among them, 300 more die from the flu, caused by exposure.</p> | <p><b>2003</b>—Timothy Treadwell and girlfriend Amie Huguenard discover the hard way that the grizzly bears they’ve been associating with in Alaska are not vegetarians.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush tells New Hampshire National Guardsmen — falsely — that Saddam Hussein could inflict “massive and sudden horror” on the U.S.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Robert Stevens, photo editor of the supermarket tabloid <i>The Sun</i>, dies of anthrax. The terrorist who infected him remains at large.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Rush Limbaugh says, “if people are violating the law by doing drugs, they ... ought to be sent up.” After his own arrest in 2003 his position becomes more nuanced.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—In a Vice-Presidential debate, Lloyd Bbentsen informs Dan Quayle he’s “no Jack Kennedy.”</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Nicaraguans shoot down a U.S. cargo plane illegally supplying Contra rebels with arms bought with the proceeds of illegal U.S. arms sales to Iran.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Undetected by U.S. radar, a Cuban defector lands his MiG-17 at Homestead AFB, where <i>Air Force One</i> is waiting to take Richard Nixon back to Washington.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—The Fermi nuclear power plant on the shore of Lake Erie almost melts down.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Radar alerts NORAD of a massive Soviet ICBM launch heading for the U.S. It’s wrong.</p> | <p><b>2004</b>—The top U.S. arms inspector in Iraq says there is no evidence Saddam Hussein had tried to manufacture any WMDs after 1991.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—RIP Bette Davis. Years earlier, told she was rumored to have died, she said, “During a newspaper strike? I wouldn’t dream of it.”</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Seventy-three die when Cubana Flight 455 is bombed over Barbados. Luis Posada Carriles is wanted in Cuba and Venezuela for the bombing, but the U.S. won’t extradite him.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Egypt and Syria attack Israel on Yom Kippur. This backfires.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—President Kennedy recommends that, in case of nuclear war, American families get ready to live for a while in holes in the ground.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—“In time of war,” says Sen. Robert LaFollette, “the citizen must be more alert to his right to control his government.”</p> <p><b>1886</b>—After spotting a 75-foot sea serpent near the mouth of the Piscataqua, its head four feet above the surface, two Kittery men “[ply] their oars lustily for the shore.”</p> <p><b>1856</b>—Portsmouth celebrates the centennial of the founding of <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i>; the railroad lays on extra trains to accommodate the crush of visitors from around New England.</p> <p><b>1536</b>—William Tyndale goes to the stake for printing an edition of <i>The Bible</i> which people could read.</p> | <p><b>2011</b>—Alice Walton, America’s 9th richest person, having killed a woman in a 1989 car wreck, is busted in Texas for DWI on her 62nd birthday.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—Bangor, Maine celebrates the death of Al Brady, Public Enemy No. 1, in a 1937 shootout downtown.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—President George W.[MD] Bush announces that “on any given day” Iraq could attack the U.S. with chemical or biological weapons, a situation which therefore creates “an urgent duty” to stop them.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—U.S. forces invade Afghanistan. George W. Bush writes his Poppy, “I feel no sense of the so-called heavy burden of the office.”</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Fox News begins injecting mass quantities of insidious swill into the public forum.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Congressman John Jenrette, Jr. [D-S.C.] is convicted of conspiracy and bribery.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—At the Six Gallery on Fillmore Street in San Francisco, Allen Ginsberg reads “Howl” in public for the first time.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Relief forces reach the Lost Battalion in the Argonne Forest.</p> <p><b>1765</b>—The Stamp Act Congress meets in New York.</p> <p><b>1756</b>—Daniel Fowle and his enslaved pressman Primus begin printing <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> in Portsmouth. It achieves national seniority in 1839 when the <i>Maryland Gazette</i> folds.</p> | <p><b>2004</b>—American warplanes try to kill Abu Musab al Zarqawi but accidentally kill 13 people at a wedding instead.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—House Speaker Tom Foley [D-Wash.] announces that the House’s sergeant-at-arms will no longer fix traffic tickets for House members.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—The Senate, instead of voting as scheduled on whether to confirm Clarence Thomas for the Supreme Court, decides to hold hearings on whether he’s a sexual harasser.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—The Franklin National Bank collapses, undermined by Mafiaoso Michele Sindona, a close buddy of President Nixon’s Treasury Secretary David Kennedy.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—A three-day riot branded “Days of Rage” begins in Chicago.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Washington, D.C. riots after police shoot a black man.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Ernesto “Che” Guevara is captured by Bolivian troops led by the CIA’s Felix Rodriguez.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—“The nations of the world will have to unite” warns Gen. D. MacArthur, “for the next war will be an interplanetary war.”</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Shot down on a mission for which he volunteered, Capt. Harl Pease, of Plymouth, N.H., is beheaded by his Japanese captors.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—In the Argonne, ex-pacifist Cpl. Alvin C. York kills 25 German soldiers and captures 132.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—Four die as the Cold River floods Alstead, N.H.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—A bulge in his suit suggests George W.[MD] Bush is wearing a wire during a Presidential debate.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Someone still unknown and uncaught mails letters carrying anthrax spores to the offices of two Democratic senators.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—In “a mockery of the regulatory process” that “brazenly violates existing law,” Citicorp and Travelers Group merge to create Citigroup. The merger enriches bankers Sandy Weill and Jamie Dimon but eventually costs taxpayers billions.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Hearing a loud bang, Michelle Knapp of Peekskill, N.Y. goes outside and finds a hole punched through the trunk of her 1980 Chevy Malibu and a warm 26-pound meteorite lying on the pavement beneath it.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Rep. Wilbur Mills [D-Ark.] is stopped near the Jefferson Memorial at 2 a.m. for speeding with his headlights off. His passenger, Fanne [sic] Foxe, aka “The Argentine Firecracker,” hops out of the car and into the Tidal Basin.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Dr. Ernesto “Che” Guevara taunts a hesitant executioner, saying “Just shoot, you coward. You are only killing a man.”</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Lt. JG William T. Patton, flying a prop-driven Douglas A1 Skyraider, downs a MiG-17 jet fighter over Vietnam.</p> | <p><b>2003</b>—Rush Limbaugh, the <i>Hindenburg</i> of talk radio, confesses he’s an addict headed for rehab.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—In an unusually craven display, the U.S. Senate votes 77-23 to let George W.[MD] Bush have his way with Saddam Hussein.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—Seven of New Hampshire’s largest banks, holding 25% of all deposits and 60% of all commercial loans, are closed by regulators.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Vice President Spiro “Ted” Agnew resigns in disgrace, pleading <i>nolo</i> to charges he dodged taxes on bribes and kickbacks.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Richard Nixon, putting his “madman theory” into practice, orders a gratuitous global nuclear alert for all U.S. military.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A fire in a British nuclear facility causes a radiation leak contaminating milk over a 200 mile radius. The contaminated milk is dumped in the Irish Sea.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—A Boeing 247 airliner is destroyed by a bomb over Indiana. Seven passengers and three crew die in the first such act in history.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Jasper Newton “Jack” Daniel, Tennessee distiller, dies of blood poisoning from an infected toe injured by kicking a safe whose combination he’d forgotten.</p> <p><b>1888</b>—Two trains coming from an abstinence rally collide in Pa.; 66 die. Newspaper accounts suggest that many of the survivors abandoned their pledges.</p> |
| <p>4:44 5:03</p> <p>10:40 11:25</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    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<p>8:00 8:20</p> <p>1:36 1:58</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        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| SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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Wednesday, OCTOBER 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    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**2003**—Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez gives Yankee coach Don Zimmer a shove, knocking the 72-year old Zimmer to the ground.

**2001**—Citing “certain information,” the FBI warns of a terrorist attack in “the next several days.” It fails to materialize.

**1991**—Anita Hill testifies before Congress that her former boss, Supreme Court Justice-to-be Clarence Thomas sexually harassed her.

**1983**—In Bryant, Maine, the last hand-cranked phones in the U.S. are taken out of service.

**1960**—Nikita Khrushchev employs footwear to make his point at the podium of the UN.

**1954**—The Viet Minh take over North Vietnam.

**1945**—Mao and the Red Army go to war against Chiang Kai-Shek’s alleged government.

**1937**—Physicians warn the AMA that Massengil’s new miracle drug “Elixir Sulfanilamide” is causing their patients to die in agony.

**1906**—The City of San Francisco decrees that Japanese children must go to segregated schools.

**1868**—Thomas A. Edison gets his first patent, for an electric vote recording machine.

**1809**—At a tavern called Grinder’s Stand, explorer Meriwether Lewis cuts his wrists and shoots himself twice—according to the official version of events.

**2004**—Thieves break into Lucas County Democratic Party HQ in Toledo, Ohio, taking computers holding essential information.

**2000**—A small boat explodes alongside the *U.S.S. Cole* in the port of Aden, Yemen, killing 17 sailors.

**1972**—A race riot aboard the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk* injures 47.

**1970**—Lieut. William Calley is court-martialed for killing 102 civilians in My Lai.

**1969**—Navy nurse Susan Schnell drops anti-war leaflets from a plane onto a California military base.

**1961**—The FBI launches a “Socialist Worker Disruption Program.”

**1960**—Otoya Yamaguchi, 17, a right-wing ultranationalist, fatally stabs Inejiro Asanuma, leader of the Japanese Socialists, with a sword during a televised debate.

**1945**—Cpl. Desmond Doss, an ex-medic and conscientious objector, becomes the first non-combatant to receive the Medal of Honor.

**1943**—Combat medic Willi Graf is guillotined by the Wehrmacht for undermining the war effort.

**1917**—The First Battle of Passchendaele begins: 13,000 Allied casualties, no advance.

**1902**—Mine owners in Pana, Ill. import strike-breakers. Violence ensues. Fourteen die and 25 are wounded.

**1492**—A lost European begins oppressing native Americans.

**2004**—Andrea Mackris sues her former boss, Bill O’Reilly, for making lewd phone calls. Two weeks later O’Reilly pays her to shut up.

**2004**—George W.[MD] Bush claims during a televised debate, “Gosh, I don’t think I ever said I’m not worried about Osama bin Laden. That’s kind of one of those exaggerations,” directly contradicting his own statement of March 3, 2002 that he’s “not that much concerned about him.”

**1991**—A lie detector test suggests Anita Hill is telling the truth about Clarence Thomas.

**1972**—Seventy-five years after the land for it was allocated, the Burns Paiute Indian reservation in Oregon is created.

**1972**—A plane carrying a Uruguayan rugby team crashes high in the Andes, leading to culinary experimentation.

**1812**—U.S. Gen. Van Rensselaer sends a troop of regulars across the Canadian border. Those who aren’t shot are forced to surrender. A troop of U.S. militia then refuses orders to invade.

**1754**—Molly Pitcher is born in New Hampshire.

**1660**—“I went ... to see Major General Harrison hanged, drawn, and quartered,” writes Samuel Pepys in his diary. “He was looking as cheerful as any man could do in that condition.”

**2012**—Felix Baumgartner uses gravity to break the sound barrier.

**2001**—Delta Flight 458 (Atlanta-Newark) is diverted to Charlotte after two praying Orthodox Jews are mistaken for terrorists.

**1982**—Ronald Reagan declares “War on Drugs.”

**1978**—Jimmie Carter legalizes home brewing of beer.

**1968**—The Pentagon orders 24,000 troops back to Vietnam for an involuntary second tour.

**1968**—At the Presidio stockade, 27 soldiers are arrested for mutiny.

**1962**—A U-2 flying over Cuba photographs medium-range ballistic missile sites being built.

**1947**—Broken ribs be damned: Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier.

**1943**—Prisoners of Sobibor revolt, killing officers and guards. Half the 600 prisoners escape under fire.

**1919**—Forbidden to discuss their pay by *Vanity Fair*, Robert Benchley and Dorothy Parker don signs that state their salaries.

**1915**—Rudolfo Ferro, Pancho Villa’s executioner, is thrown from his horse into quicksand. His men intentionally let him drown.

**1912**—William Schranck shoots Teddy Roosevelt in the chest, later saying “any man looking for a third term ought to be shot.” TR, though bleeding, delivers his speech.

**1864**—The *New Orleans Tribune*, America’s first black daily, begins.

**2008**—The Dow loses 7.8 percent of its value in its 2nd worst day ever.

**2004**—Jon Stewart appears on CNN’s “Crossfire” and begs Tucker Carlson to “stop hurting America.” Less than 90 days later CNN announces the show is over.

**1997**—On Nevada’s Black Rock Desert, RAF pilot Andy Green breaks the sound barrier in a jet-driven, 110,000 horsepower car.

**1991**—The Senate confirms Clarence Thomas as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

**1974**—To great fanfare but little effect, Gerald Ford’s “Whip Inflation Now” campaign begins.

**1966**—Huey Newton and Bobby Seale form the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense.

**1965**—David Miller becomes the first to publicly burn his draft card in Vietnam War protest.

**1959**—A nuke-laden B-52 and a fuel-laden KC-135 collide over Kentucky; we get off easy.

**1923**—The Senate begins investigating suddenly prosperous Interior Secretary Albert Fall, a Republican who leased the Navy’s Teapot Dome oilfield to a friend.

**1917**—Exotic dancer Mata Hari, convicted of spying for Germany, is shot by a French firing squad.

**1910**—Melvin Vaniman, aboard the airship *America*, transmits the first in-flight radio message: “Roy, come and get this goddamn cat.”

**2000**—Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan dies in a plane crash but goes on to defeat John Ashcroft in the November election for Senate.

**1973**—Henry Kissinger somehow gets the Nobel Peace Prize.

**1972**—Majority Leader Hale Boggs [D-La.], Rep. Nick Begich [D-Alaska], and others vanish while flying over Alaska.

**1968**—Tommie Smith and John Carlos raise Black Power salutes at the Mexico Olympics.

**1962**—At breakfast, President John F. Kennedy finds he’s got a Cuban Missile Crisis on his plate.

**1954**—Rep. Douglas Stringfellow [R-Utah] confesses that his tales of heroism in WW II are fictitious.

**1920**—In New York, more than 30,000 Great War veterans march to demand a bonus.

**1869**—Well-diggers in Cardiff, N.Y. unearth what seems to be a ten-foot tall petrified man. The “Cardiff Giant” is later found to be a tobaccoconist’s hoax.

**1859**—Abolitionist John Brown attacks Harper’s Ferry.

**1814**—Ruptured vats in a London brewery release 323,346 gallons of beer, drowning seven.

**1715**—Daniel Fowle is baptized at First Church of Boston.

**1660**—John Cooke, who had prosecuted King Charles I for treason in 1649, is drawn and quartered for the same crime under Charles II.

**2006**—George W.[MD] Bush signs the Military Commissions Act, *habeas corpus* be damned.

**2003**—The day after the Yankees win the pennant, a *New York Post* editorial congratulates the Red Sox for winning the pennant.

**1999**—Lissa Roche commits suicide after confessing she had a 19-year affair with her father-in-law, George Roche III, the president of Hillsdale College, “the most conservative college in America.”

**1973**—OPEC turns off the oil tap.

**1967**—Lt. Col. Terry Allen Jr. leads two companies of the 28th Infantry, outnumbered 10 to 1, into a VC ambush at Ong Thanh. Casualties exceed 92 percent, 64 are KIA; the U.S. Army declares it a victory.

**1956**—“The only way to win the next World War,” says Ike, “is to prevent it.”

**1927**—Harry F. Sinclair’s trial for conspiracy in the Teapot Dome scandal begins. It ends two weeks later when it’s revealed Sinclair has hired detectives to shadow the jury.

**1888**—Thomas Alva Edison files a patent for an “Optical Phonograph”—a movie camera.

**1871**—President Grant suspends the writ of *habeas corpus*.

**1781**—British troops wave the white flag at Yorktown.

**1777**—Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga, inspiring the French to support the Americans.

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