

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### Another Fine Predicament

A fortnight ago, there was a plan. John Boehner would spend his final month as Speaker performing certain House-keeping chores, so as, in his words, not to “leave [his] successor a dirty barn.” (Befitting a man of his humble origins, Boehner was being modest; as it is presently constituted, cleaning up the House would be a Herculean task.) Kevin McCarthy would then be elected Speaker, and Congress would go on about its business.

To quote Rick Perry, “Oops.”

Boehner's impending retirement had come as a bit of shock, despite being widely anticipated. McCarthy's renunciation of a likely Speakership came as more of an earthquake — or perhaps a Sharknado. In retrospect, though, his non-election to that post seems almost inevitable. The position, after all, is called “Speaker.”

Words can be seen as useful tools; infinite, varied, and precise; capable of being assembled into complex structures conveying magnificent thoughts. They can also be treated as random lumps of language which any fool can throw around willy nilly until his arm gets tired. McCarthy seems to take the latter approach, which may be how he came to utter his famous *Benghazi!!!* gaffe.

“Everybody thought Hillary Clinton was unbeatable, right? But we put together a *Benghazi!!!* special committee, a select committee. What are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping. Why? Because she's untrustable.”

Way to expose the fourth-longest Congressional investigation

in history as a partisan charade actually intended to hobble a challenging political opponent, Mr. Won't-Be-Speaker.

McCarthy's injudicious use of language is only one, and perhaps the least, of the possible reasons for his withdrawal from the race for the Speakership, though.

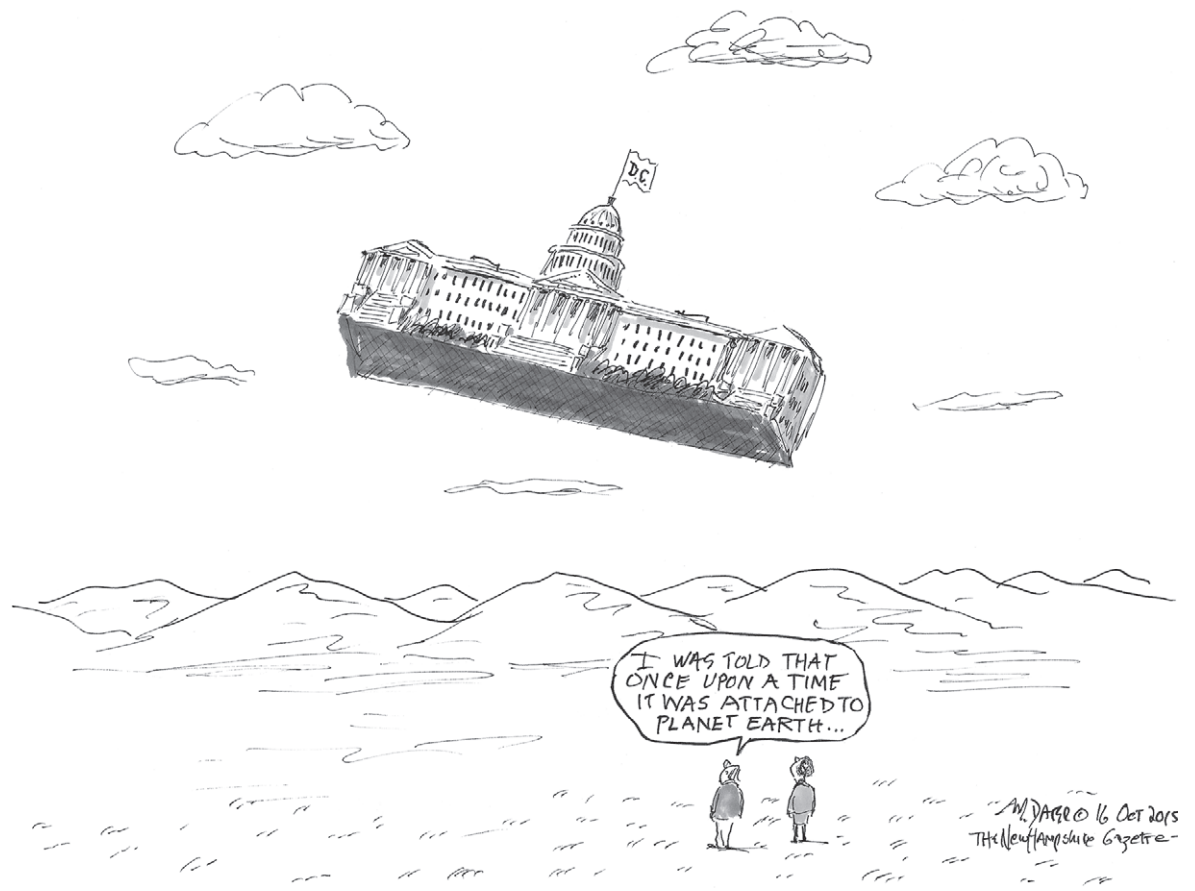
Much as we hate to sully these pages with lewd rumors of erotic shenanigans, the Republican Party plays a large role in civic affairs, and therefore that is ~~some-~~  
~~times~~ often perennially necessary. On October 6th, Rep. Walter B. Jones [R-N.C.] circulated a letter among members of his caucus asking any candidates for a leadership position to withdraw from the pending election if they have committed any misdeeds that might embarrass themselves, the Party, or the House.

The *Washington Examiner* reported on Jones' letter the following day, noting that Rep. Bob Livingston [R-La.] — who had been about to assume the Speakership — resigned in 1999 after smut peddler Larry Flynt threatened to reveal the sordid details of an extramarital affair.

First thing the next morning, according to the *Huffington Post*, McCarthy received an email from Steve Baer, a Republican fundraiser from Chicago. The subject line read, “Kevin, why not resign like Bob Livingston?” Correlation may not imply causality, but four hours later McCarthy threw in the towel.

Steve who, from where? You may well ask.

According to a 2013 *National Review* article, Baer is a “Conservative Mega-Donor [and] the



World's Most Successful E-mail Harasser” who “has mocked those who try to unsubscribe and seemingly has no bounds to the language he will employ in exhorting conservative and Republican officials to take a harder stance against President Obama, particularly over the matter of abortion.” Baer backed Sen. Rick Santorum in 2012, but has since concluded that “Santorum is tied to international abortion subsidies via his ties to the Global Fund.”

A cursory search of the Constitution reveals that while the Founding Fathers (hallowed be their names) intended for the House of Representatives — first-named branch of the government they planned — to be its central body, they made no provision for wealthy, obscure re-

ligious fanatics to have veto power over its choice of Speaker.

One more factor might have doomed McCarthy: the reverse-Midas touch of Dick “Still Dick” Cheney. The man who assured the nation in 2003 that Saddam Hussein had nuclear weapons said, on the night before McCarthy's withdrawal, “Kevin McCarthy is the person we need as Speaker in these dangerous and important times.”

Sen. Tom Cotton [R-Ark.] seems to regard wrongness the way Mark Twain did whiskey: “Too much of anything is bad, but too much good whiskey is barely enough.” Politico reported Monday that Cotton had told them, “I think House leadership experience really matters. And as you know the Speaker doesn't have to be a member of the

House: So therefore, Vice President Cheney for Speaker.”

Having failed to choose a Speaker, and with yet another debt ceiling looming, the House, and the Senate, then proceeded to go on recess.

Meanwhile, back on Planet Earth, scientists say an anomalous “cold blob” in the North Atlantic, off the southern tip of Greenland, suggests that we may have finally succeeded in slowing the current known as the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, with dire potential consequences for the climate.

Current Republican thinking seems to be — pardon the oxymoron — that cleaning up Augean Stables is gummint work and should, therefore, be left to someone who actually believes in such things. And that ain't them.

## The Alleged News®

### This Time It's Harry's Turn

Republican Party Chairman Rince Priebus got his fair share of abuse in our last issue for speaking disrespectfully about New Hampshire's First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election®. This time around it's Harry Reid's turn.

“I was always terribly upset about how we were choosing our Presidents,” the Senate Minority Leader said Monday in Nevada. “You go to New Hampshire, there're not any minorities there — nobody lives there. You go to Iowa and there are a few people there but again, it's a place that does not demonstrate what America is all about. ... I don't mean to denigrate New Hampshire or Iowa, but they shouldn't be the ones choosing who's going to be President.”

Perhaps that exercise band hit him harder than anyone thought.

Or maybe he just doesn't give a damn anymore. He is retiring in just over a year, after all.

Conan the Barbarian famously stated that the best thing in life is to “crush your enemies, see them driven before you, and to hear the lamentation of their women!” For New Hampshire political junkies, it's hearing politicians from other states gripe about our Primary.

Of course, when someone actually challenges our place in the electoral process it's like Brigid O'Shaughnessy shooting Miles Archer in *The Maltese Falcon* — you're supposed to do something about it. Exactly what depends on your party.

Reid being a Democrat, and a supporter of Democratic Governor Maggie Hassan in her 2016 run for the Senate, the New Hampshire GOP Chair instantly

cloaked itself in righteous indignation and picked up its cudgel.

“As disgraced former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's handpicked candidate for the United States Senate....” began a statement from State Chair Jennifer Horn. We're not sure what qualifies Reid as “disgraced.” Sure, he's from a state where prostitution is illegal, but so what? It's not like he's David Vitter, the Louisiana Senator who ... well, just Google Vitter, prostitute, and diapers.

Horn's statement goes on to demand that Hassan “immediately denounce these harmful comments [blah blah blah],” as if that might not occur to her.

At this point she starts buying lottery tickets. Citing “the financial backing of a Washington politician who openly advocates against” the Primary, she says

“Hassan should demand his political operation stop meddling in New Hampshire elections and refuse any future support for her United States Senate campaign.”

Hassan did call Reid's comments “as insulting as they are wrong,” and said “an apology would certainly be appropriate,” &c., &c. She could not have satisfied the New Hampshire GOP, though, if she had called for Reid's head on a pike.

On Tuesday morning a GOP operative with a video camera ambushed Hassan at the corner of Bow and Market Streets in Portsmouth. Following the Party's money line, the un-named op asked, “are you going to accept Senator Reid's financial backing after the way he insulted New Hampshire?” Hassan's flak catcher brushed him off.

The *Union Leader's* Dan Tuo-

hy got in a good lick, leading his piece with this:

“Nevada, land of casinos and legal prostitution, ‘demonstrates what America is all about’ more than the first-in-the-nation primary state, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid said Monday night.”

Having given Priebus the anagram treatment a fortnight back [Ruins Epic Beer], we had to do Reid, as well. We came up with Dire Harry, which seems appropriate for a guy with a bit of the honey badger in him. When confronted on Tuesday with all the dudgeon he'd raised, all Dire Harry had to say was, “New Hampshire is heavily populated and loaded with a lot of minorities, my apologies.”

The Alleged News®

to page two



Dr. Priebus's Medicine Show

The Impossible Dream, One Hopes

The merry band of candidates for the Republican Presidential nomination are carrying on, apparently undeterred by the escalating chaos among their colleagues in Congress — even Calgary-born Rafael Edward “Ted” Cruz.

Cruz has shown, on a number of occasions, an unseemly interest for a Senator in the goings-on of the other, lesser Chamber. His allies there, of course, are the forty or so members of the Freedom Caucus. He huddled with them before they forced the 2013 government shutdown, and on several other occasions when obstinacy reigned. If he decided to make a move for it, Cruz could probably become the Speaker of the House. Nobody else seems to want the job.

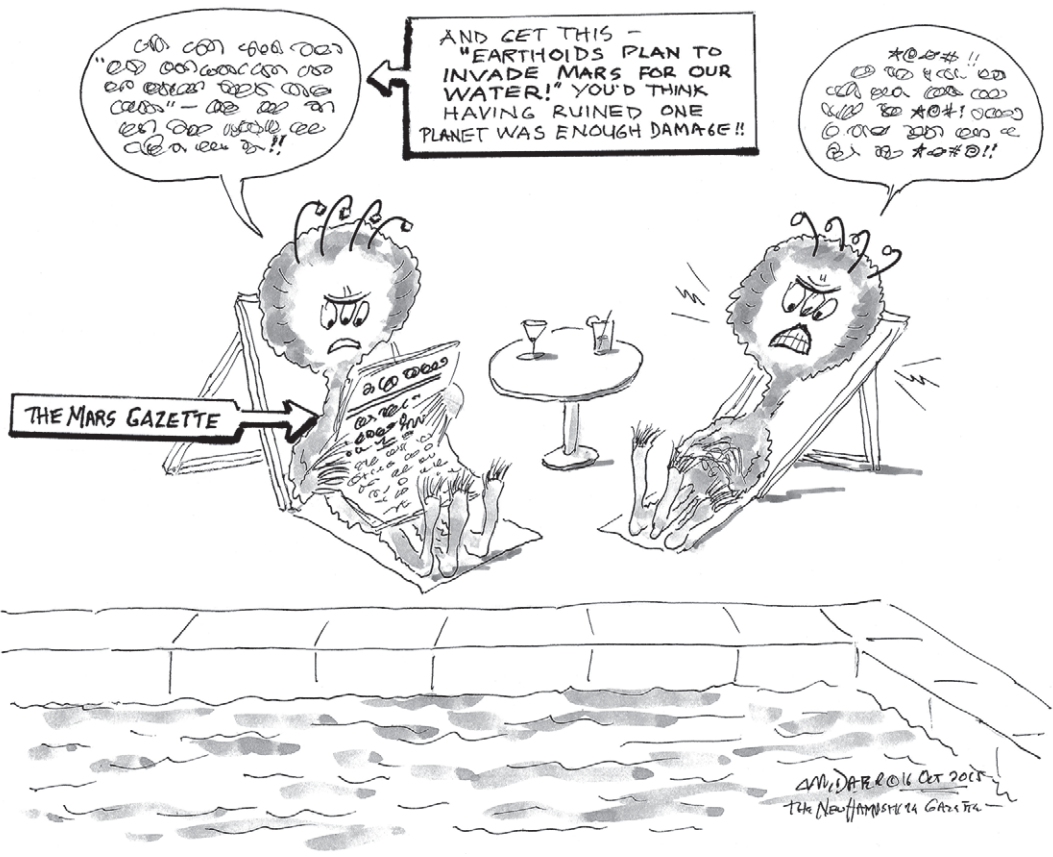
That would require him, though, to give up his fondest hallucination: the heels of his cowboy boots resting on the desk in the Oval Office. It must be hard, being ambitious.

J. Edgar “Jeb!” Bush, on the other hand, is clearly getting rattled — not by the looming gap in the No. 2 spot in the line of Presidential succession, but the spectre of his own dwindling chances of becoming Bush #45.

How desperate is “Jeb!”? The *New York Times* reported October 4th that he’s considering campaigning in South Carolina



Most members of the general public assume, despite mountains of evidence to the contrary, that certain institutions have internalized the Flag Code to such an extent that they are virtually incapable of committing an infraction — which is why we need the Flag Police. Officer Pauly, of the Loudon Division, is now conducting an investigation to determine whether the New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Rt. 106, attendees at the latest monstrous spectacle there, or the owners of the site of the former Loudon VFW Post bear any responsibility for this pathetic display of Old Glory.



with — George W.[MD] Bush.

Can things really be that bad?

Yup. In a straw poll held in Nashua October 7th, Bush came in somewhere near dead last. Even “Honest Gil” Fulbright got more votes, and he isn’t even a real candidate but an actor named Frank Ridley, who was hired by *Represent.us*, an anti-corruption non-profit. To be fair, “Fulbright’s” stump speech was pretty good. Sample line: “Ask not what your country can do for you, pay a lobbyist to ask your country what it can do for you.”

Unlike Bush, Dr. Ben Carson continues to do extremely well in the polls. Carson has a number of advantages, given the tastes of today’s Republican electorate: he has never held elected office, and he is not afraid to say something completely crazy in a very soft-spoken way.

According to Carson, Jews could have stopped the Wehrmacht if they’d only had enough guns.

The solution to random gun violence, he says, is for everyone to charge towards the shooters.

What shall we do about the debt ceiling? Just say no.

Global warming? The climate’s always changing; it’s no big deal.

In the face of so much blithe defiance of objective, everyday reality, it may be time to ask if there could be a connection to Carson’s faith.

He is a Seventh-Day Adventist, a religion which holds some unusual beliefs. And, wouldn’t you know it, it started right here in New Hampshire.

During the 1840s, the internet not having been invented yet, many people developed a great interest in theological questions which now seem rather quaint and obscure.

Among these people were the Millerites, followers of William Miller, who convinced several hundred thousand people that Jesus Christ would return to Earth the night of October 22nd, 1844. Many sold their houses and farms and gathered on hill-tops to wait. His failure to do so became known as “The Great Disappointment.”

One branch of disappointedes was later persuaded by Rachel Oakes Preston, of Washington, New Hampshire [shown here], that Saturday, not Sunday, was the day of the Sabbath. For reasons not terribly clear to us, that distinction was important.

The little white clapboard church she attended still stands, and is in use today. The church now claims to have 18 million adherents.



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Federalism At Work

Alabama: “No I.D. for You!”

Alabama Republicans, in order to preserve inviolate the inestimable sanctity of the voting booth and protect the state forever against a rampant wave of voter fraud — evidence of which has yet to be found — passed a stringent Voter ID law in 2011 requiring certain specific types of government-issued photo identification: a driver’s license, a state-issued voter ID, U.S. military ID, &c.

The law did not go into effect right away. It was held up by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which required Alabama, among other states, to get Federal preclearance of any new election laws. That restriction had been put in place due to Alabama’s history of blatant black voter suppression.

In the year 1900, with the effects of Reconstruction still lingering, the state had some 180,000 eligible black voters. In 1901, an extraordinary new State Constitution was adopted: it contains 340,000 words, 40

times as many as the U.S. Constitution; and it effectively reduced the number of black voters by 98.4 percent.

In 2013, five Justices of the Supreme Court (including all four known to be members of the Federalist Society) decided that the time had come to let bygones be bygones. They threw out the preclearance provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

On September 30th, with the new Voter ID law in full effect, the State of Alabama announced that it was closing 31 offices of the Motor Vehicle Division. As it happens, the majority of the closings were in majority-black, Democratic-voting counties.

As *Birmingham News* columnist John Archibald wrote, “Every single county in which blacks make up more than 75 percent of registered voters will see their driver license office closed. Every one.”

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Our Wandering Photographer fortuitously happened to stroll through Market Square on Sunday, October 4th, just as the local pod of Überoids were staging their latest psychodrama. The vested gent standing on the left is one of the leaders. The camera-wielder is most likely an Überoid, a journalist, or an anthropologist.



FAST THINKING BY HEROIC BEN CARSON SAVES HIS OWN LIFE

Annoying New World

When Überoids Attack Pester

There was a time in this city when, if you chose to take an alternative to a cab, the ancillary benefits included the soothing sound of horses’ hooves, the fragrant aroma of their digestive byproduct, and the unintentional comedy of imaginative complaints about animal abuse from irate members of PETA.

Then came Silicon Valley entrepreneur Travis Kalanick, and his brainchild, Über. Now alternatives to taxicabs seem to require interminable Taxi Commission and City Council meetings, repetitious stories in the Award-Winning Local Daily [AWLD], and posters on every light pole in the downtown area.

Über blew into town around the first of the year. For as long as it takes a baby to gestate, it and the City argued over rules. Meanwhile, local Überoids operated at an advantage over cabs.

The new rules finally went into effect on September 17th, requiring Überoids to pass criminal background checks and provide proof of commercial insurance. Local Überoids immediately commenced to ignore them.

One week later, September 23rd, two Überoids made it to the front page of the AWLD, still driving, still out of compliance, and still casting themselves as the valiant victims of a cabal of statist thugs.\*

The following day a Manchester lawyer earned some free publicity by telling the AWLD that he’d be suing Portsmouth

for infringing on the rights of Über drivers. Naturally there’s a website behind all this activity — “Free Über.” On the site’s “Activism Dashboard” it brags in red letters, “FREE ÜBER makes top story at the Portsmouth Herald! ... TWO DAYS in a row!”

On Sunday afternoon, October 4th, local Überoids held a downtown Litter-a-Thon: half a dozen people showed up to plaster another wave of their self-pity posters on City property. Thanks to “Free Über,” we know that they’re being paid for this vandalism — in Bitcoins. If our calculations are correct, at the rate applicable on Tuesday, each individual eyesore earns the perp \$0.24.

While Überoids feverishly uglify the City for peanuts, Travis Kalanick is sitting at #80 on the Forbes 400 list, with a net worth of \$6 billion.

\* The article demonstrated yet again the ineptitude of parent company GateHouse Media’s Design Center in Austin, Texas. It was accompanied by two photos, on pages one and ten. Both photos showed the same two men, but in different positions, left and right. As it so often does, Austin used the same caption on both photos, so in one case it’s wrong, but there’s no telling which one.

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**Prosecute Trump for Bribery?**  
To the Editors:  
I like your paper, and pick up a copy whenever I can (being, unfortunately, too poor to subscribe). I think you've been a little bamboozled by the Palestinian PR machine, but, otherwise, your paper presents a reliably pretty-sane point of view. Keep up the good work!  
Anyway, I thought you might be interested in the correspondence below, in which I'm trying to get the New Hampshire Attorney General to charge Donald Trump with bribery.  
I haven't yet received a reply to my email of September 30. I'm curious to see what will come of this.  
Paul Fischler  
Rochester, N.H.  
[Fischler to Attorney General Joseph Foster:]  
In his presidential campaign announcement, Donald Trump asserted that rich people and lobbyists were routinely "buying" politicians and making them into "puppets." He asserted that he knew this because he had been one of the rich guys making such "contributions" and extracting his desired quid pro quo.  
He told this story (then, and many times since) to show off that he knows the way things really work, to disparage the other candidates who were/are begging from billionaires and to prove that, because he's rich and not in need of their money, he'll be corruption-free.

Regardless of what may have been in any politician's mind, Trump's statements make it clear that his intention was always the bribing of public officials — to give them money in return for future favors.  
It's my impression that such bribery is still against the law — and that Trump's own statements constitute a public admission of guilt. I'm sure he's given money to a bunch of New Hampshire politicians, and has thus committed his crime in our state, giving you jurisdiction.  
Will you charge and prosecute this criminal?  
If I need to fill out some forms to get this going, please let me know. I'm willing.  
[Deputy Attorney General Ann M. Rice to Fischler:]  
Thank you for taking the time to email us.  
You are correct that bribery is a crime in New Hampshire. Here is a link to the Bribery statute: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/LXII/640/640-2.htm>. In order to prosecute a person for bribery, it is necessary to identify when a payment was made and to whom, and to demonstrate that it was made with the specific purpose of influencing a public official. Even assuming Mr. Trump was publicly admitting to having done so, his statement, standing alone, is not a sufficient basis under the law to bring a criminal charge against him. As a general matter, this office will not initiate a criminal investigation unless there is a factual basis to establish that a crime was committed. Absent additional information, Mr. Trump's statement does not reach that level.  
I hope this information is helpful.  
[Fischler to Deputy Attorney General Rice:]  
Thank you for your reply ... and the link to the Bribery statute.  
The Bribery statute says:

I. A person is guilty of a class B felony if: (a) He promises, offers, or gives any pecuniary benefit to another with the purpose of influencing the other's action, decision, opinion, recommendation, vote, nomination, or other exercise of discretion as a public servant, party official, or voter.  
On 8/6/14, Trump gave \$2500 to "NH for Scott Brown."  
On 3/31/14, Trump gave \$1000 to "Friends of Frank Guinta."  
Now you have the information about when payments were made. Trump's public statements indicate that they were "made with the specific purpose of influencing a public official."  
Will you now charge him with a class B felony? If not, why not?  
Thanks for your attention.  
Paul Fischler  
Rochester, N.H.  
~~~~~

**Apples, Oranges, & Guns**  
To the Editor:  
In the October 4th *Sunday New York Times*, two statistics in a commentary by Nicholas Kristof put the insanity of America's gun violence into startlingly clear perspective. The first, since 1970, more Americans have died from guns than died in all U.S. wars going back to the American Revolution. Approximately 1.4 million war deaths since 1775, versus 1.45 million gun deaths since 1970, (including homicides, suicides and accidents). The second, more American preschoolers are shot dead each year (82 in 2013) than police officers in the line of duty (27 in 2013). (CDC, FBI)  
As Mr. Kristof points out, gun advocates respond to these statistics with the mantra that car accidents kill more people than guns every year, should we ban cars? No, we should not ban cars, and it would be impossible and impracticable to ban guns, but that does not mean we should do nothing in the face of the gun

*Mash Notes, HATE MAIL*  
violence epidemic. In fact, as Mr. Kristof points out, we can learn from the public health actions taken to reduce car crash deaths and apply the same logic to reducing gun violence.  
He states, that as a result of government regulation on both the car drivers and the vehicle itself, death rates from car crashes have been reduced by 95 percent. Sensible laws to prevent and enforce impaired driving were put into effect, we licence drivers, seatbelts, airbags, padded dashboards, safety glass, and collapsible steering columns and ABS brakes have been installed in cars to reduce deaths and serious injury.  
He also advocates for sensible gun safety laws and "smart gun" safety technology that can be added to guns, as has been done with cars to reduce gun violence. Such action would include; universal background checks, tighter regulation on gun dealers; safe storage requirements in homes and a 10-year prohibition on possessing guns for anyone convicted of domestic violence, assault or other violent crimes. Guns can be required to have technology that allows a gun to be fired only with a PIN or fingerprint, microstamping shell casings to allow tracing back to a particular gun, and we can require liability insurance for guns as we do for cars.  
All of the above are reasonable actions that can help reduce the toll of gun violence without interfering with the rights of responsible gun owners. However, as long as we have people in Congress like Sen. Kelley Ayotte, who oppose even the most common sense gun safety legislation, the toll of gun violence in America will continue unabated. It is way past time to end this government paralysis on gun sensi-  
ble safety measures. How many more lives must be lost before our elected representatives display some political courage and stand up for life?  
Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
~~~~~  
**Say "No" to the Pipeline**  
To the Editor:  
I am a New Ipswich resident. I have property, but not along the proposed pipeline route or near the compressor station. My fellow neighbors have a more immediate burden to bare. I have the ill feeling, in the pit of my stomach, of a force, an insidious invasion, that is taking over our country and now comes to our state and my town. This gas flowing through the pipeline, from its origins in the ground to the now hideous method used to extract it, and the damage to human life, animal life, our air and water, is like a sick virus that is feeding on people and our land in order to stuff the pockets of the few. The damage and lives affected start at the source where the drilling and "fracking" occur, continue along the pipeline route, to the compressor stations, and finally come our way to New England.  
Many people do not realize the damage and waste that is produced by this entire process, which Kinder Morgan's website falsely calls an "Environmentally Friendly Fuel." We need to wake up to the lies being told to us. The gas pipeline companies also have been wrongfully exempt from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, so they are under no pressure to regulate what gases and toxins are let off into the environment.  
New Hampshire will not benefit from this, financially or any other way. Please call or write to the Governor, Executive Council, state and federal representa-

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# And Other Correspondence

tives and urge them to see this for what it really is: a problem, not a solution.

Mark Hutchings  
New Ipswich, N.H.

~~~~~

## End Solitary Confinement To the Editor:

We have consigned over 80,000 in federal and State prisons and thousands more in jails, juvenile facilities, military prisons, etc. to conditions that horrified our highest court a century ago. In July, President Obama became the first president to visit a U.S. prison and to question the use of solitary confinement (heretofore, political suicide).

If prolonged isolation is, as research and experience have confirmed, horrifying and intrinsically cruel, how do we run a prison system that subjects more of our own citizens to it than any other country in history?

Solitary exerts a terrible price, causing disorientation, crushing the human spirit, and forcing many to self-mutilate and suicide. In this cramped space few contours distinguish days, weeks, months from the next. Some inmates have spent over two decades in these tombs.

One paradox of solitary is that as starved as inmates are for companionship, isolation typically leaves them unfit for it, and makes them easy prey for additional solitary.

Years ago, the British noticed that simply decreasing humiliation and saving face helped reduce violence. The most dangerous prisoners were offered work opportunities, education, skill training with privileges like more visitations and phone calls. Results were impressive. The use of long-term isolation in England is now negligible.

When inmates refuse to follow the rules, attack others, and

escape [those issues] must be addressed — not with prolonged isolation, but using it sparingly, when warranted.

The good news is that States and jurisdictions are beginning to implement policy changes on alternatives to solitary confinement.

Michael Kulla  
Pleasant Valley, NY

~~~~~

## Shootings Don't "Just Happen" To the Editor:

Here we go with yet another round of political blah-blah-blah over gun control, most of it predestined to go nowhere. As a long-time gun owner, it makes my teeth itch because I view indiscriminate shooting-suicides as a public safety problem rather than a topic for political debate.

Face it, if we drive a car, fly a plane, install LP-gas lines, or do just about anything involving a potential risk to others, society rightfully asks us to demonstrate competence and obtain some sort of license or certification. Culling out unqualified practitioners in the public interest is one of the few things government does that makes sense.

So why should handling lethal firearms be such a sacred exception? From a political standpoint, the only civil-right abridged by getting a license is the right to behave recklessly. If there's a Constitutional amendment protecting "stupid," I'd like to know which one.

Many New Hampshire gun owners are exceedingly proficient through military training, civilian classes, hunter safety programs, shooting-sport competitions, and the like. But not everyone who owns a gun is up to speed. Many out there are poorly-trained or have behavioral "issues" that might disqualify them. As a civil society, it makes

sense to identify and educate the marginal folks. That way, we either bring them into the fold or declare them 4F and boot them off New Hampshire's metaphysical militia before anyone gets hurt.

However, there's one more thing we need to do first. New Hampshire voters need to paste a one-way ticket to Abu Dhabi on every politico running for office who honestly believes there's money to be made or votes to be garnered by supporting the NRA's wild-west nonsense. Fact is, the NRA could easily quell the public's jittery nerves over "gun control" and make a ton of money at the same time by sponsoring national certification training. If only they weren't so busy playing politics and shooting themselves in the foot!

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

~~~~~

## He's Fed Up With Blowback To the Editor:

Remember the comedy act of the Three Stooges? Moe, Larry and Curly were the characters who, no matter what they did, it would always end up in total disaster. With so many U.S. foreign policy debacles, it seems the White House, the State Department and the Pentagon could be stand-ins for them. Last month Politico reported, "there are now just "four or five" U.S.-trained fighters in Syria ... in the first year of the Pentagon's \$500 million train-and-equip program." Good grief. Never mind the 2 trillion dollars spent in Iraq and another 2 trillion dollars spent on Afghanistan. And what has resulted? Both countries are in chaos with radical jihadists running amok. And what about Obama's reckless policy of regime change in Libya and Ukraine? More billions spent and again, these countries have melted into a total mess. Our country now has 19 trillion dollars in debt — that's a



19 followed by 12 zeros it looks like this: \$19,000,000,000,000.

Has anyone in America's Three Stooges leadership realized what all this regime change madness is causing? Thousands have been killed, millions are fleeing, anarchy has been the result. And what does President Barack Obama have to say about Syria — "Assad must go!" Does Obama even think what will happen if Assad goes? Seems the likely vacuum of Assad going will be filled by an ISIS Caliphate shared with Al Qaeda.

Last week, Russia began bombing ISIS and Al Qaeda and other terror groups in Syria. Incredibly, all we hear is negative press coverage of Russia trying to stop these monstrous terror groups. On the first day of Russian bombing, we hear that they had attacked "CIA-trained groups" who are described as "our guys."

From multiple reports, "our guys" are CIA-trained mercenaries that are part of the so-called Army of Conquest "moderate rebels" that are "fighting alongside" Al Qaeda. Amazingly, Al Qaeda is now allied with "our guys" and classified as moderate!

And what does Hillary Clinton, who is the front runner to replace Obama, have to say? Hillary said she would put in a "no-fly" zone in Syria to stop nuclear-armed Russia from bomb-

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Green Mountain Bathsheba

by William Marvel

While leafing through Civil War soldiers' letters in the Vermont Historical Society, I once ran across a soldier responding to a woman's claim that he had left her pregnant. I incorporated this couple into a tetralogy I was then writing, but never composed an independent article on their relationship. I discussed such an article with a volunteer and an employee at the historical society years ago, and while doing further research on it last month I found that those two had finally published one themselves. They cast a romantic light on the story in their well-researched piece, which they called "Making It Right: The Civil War Letters of John Wilmot."

John was working as a farm hand in Post Mills just before the war, and in the summer of 1861 he apparently shared an intimate moment or two with Saphronia Ann Prescott. In September, at 19, he went to war with the 4th Vermont Infantry, but he heard

nothing from Saphronia until March of 1862. By then she was better than seven months pregnant. The baby, whom she named Rohessie Wilmot, was born April 23, 1862.

John spent the next two years sending Saphronia all the money he could spare. Then, he reenlisted for the bounty money and a furlough so he could come home and marry her. Soon after returning to duty he was severely wounded at the Wilderness, and died on June 17, 1864.

The entire tale oozes with sentimentality. The young soldier immediately took responsibility, promising to stand as a good father and husband, while his widow preserved all his letters as testimony of her devotion. She also provided him with a headstone, inscribed with four lines of lugubrious doggerel.

"Not so fast," an inquisitive reporter might say. Saphronia must have suspected she was pregnant by late September, before John's regiment left the state, but she never approached him until deep

into her third trimester. In that first letter, she asked him to turn over the supplemental monthly stipend Vermont allowed soldiers for the support of their families. He had already assigned that to his father — from whom he appears to have been estranged, but whose permission he had needed to enlist. Instead, he sent her most of his regular pay. When he became eligible to reenlist he explained to her that it would avail him a generous bounty and a furlough, so they could get married, asking her if he should do it; her reply is reflected in his prompt reenlistment.

Saphronia collected a widow's pension until her death in 1909, and she quickly sought a pension increase because of her daughter. John's letters were worth saving as evidence, since he acknowledged her child as his in each of them, and she showed them to public officials as proof. The Pension Bureau initially considered Rohessie illegitimate nonetheless, but the widow eventually won her case.

Saphronia was four years older than John Wilmot, and while she may have been his first coital consort it seems doubtful that he was hers. She was obviously a woman of easy virtue by the standards of 1861, and that behavior appeared to run in her family. At least one of her sisters had a child out of wedlock before the war, and Saphronia's own behavior may have influenced her daughter, for Rohessie turned up pregnant shortly after her 16th birthday. John Wilmot had not been dead two years when Saphronia gave birth to another child whose father was never named. That baby died in infancy, but in 1875 Saphronia bore an illegitimate son she called Alger Prescott Wilmot. His 1936 death certificate identified his father as John Wilmot, who died a decade before Alger was conceived.

Saphronia never married again, probably because she would have lost her pension. Similarly mercenary calculation may have prompted her belated appeal to John in the first place, because

support could be obtained with relative ease from the Vermont soldiers' subsidy. John instantly took her word that he had fathered her child — never wondering why she hadn't written to him for six months, during which she may have been pursuing more resistant candidates. He may well have been a victim of the classic deception Bathsheba attempted in the Second Book of Samuel.

An even more sinister twist remains possible. Saphronia lived with her parents most of her life. In an age when very few people reached the century mark, her father lived to be 99 years old and her daughter came within eight months of the same age. That, and the Prescott girls' unusual tendency to unwed motherhood, suggests that the grandfather's genetic advantages might have descended to Rohessie in greater-than-normal purity. Perhaps Alger Prescott Wilmot deserved his middle name more than his last, and John Wilmot's DNA died with him.

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

ing these terrorists. Does Hillary realize such a knuckleheaded idea could start World War III? Recall Hillary, as Secretary of State, laughed when Muammar Gaddafi was lynched by a mob and said, "We came, we saw, he died." It is curious Hillary Clinton chose to paraphrase Caesar, the leader of Rome, as we all know what happened to Rome.

John Meinhold  
Portsmouth, N.H.

~~~~~  
**Ayotte vs. Women's Health**  
To the Editor:  
Has anyone seen Kelly Ayotte's

latest TV ad touting her support for women's healthcare? Note the timing of the appearance of this ad launched just days after Governor Maggie Hassan announced her run for U.S. Senate. While Ayotte claims to be a big defender of women's health, her record demonstrates otherwise. Ayotte has voted right along with her Republican colleagues as they continue what some have termed their "war on women."

Let's look at the facts. Ayotte supported the misguided Hobby Lobby decision. She voted multiple times to allow employers to

deny women access to contraception. She introduced a sham birth control bill that increased costs for women which, by the way, was opposed by the American Congress of OB-GYNs. Ayotte voted repeatedly to defund Planned Parenthood and other family planning centers. These centers provide critical health services including breast and cervical cancer screenings.

While Kelly Ayotte and her backers are desperately trying to rewrite history, they can't alter the facts. Ayotte has repeatedly voted to block women's access

to health care. She has supported efforts to allow employers to deny women coverage for birth control and other preventative screenings. One would hope that in 2015 a woman no less could do better than that.

Women (and men) throughout New Hampshire must look beyond polished political ads to learn what our candidates are really about. Ayotte is not pro-women. She has proven that time and again.

Beth Olshansky  
Durham, N.H.

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603 Alliance Caucus Coming Up

To the Editor:  
The 603 Alliance has been formed to help make sure that a candidate who would be a great President wins the New Hampshire Republican Presidential primary.

To accomplish its goal, the 603 Alliance is conducting an Iowa-like caucus on October 17th. The 603 Alliance will endorse the caucus winner and encourage people to help him or her win the New Hampshire Republican Presidential Primary.

Unlike a primary election, a

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Proud “Partners” Corporatize Our Parks

by Jim Hightower

While we Americans celebrate the 100th anniversary of our National Park Service, America’s so-called “leaders” are aggressively commercializing our parks, converting these jewels of the common good into just another corporate cash cow.

This started with “co-branding” agreements, rationalized by NPS officials as “aligning the econom-

ic and historical legacies” of parks with advertisers. In other words, they are selling the Park Service’s proud public brand ... as well as its soul.

First in line was Coca-Cola. In 2010, the multibillion-dollar colossus became a “Proud Partner” with NPS by making a mere \$2.5 million tax-deductible donation. In return, Coke got exclusive rights to use park logos in its ads — and it also was allowed to veto

an NPS plan to ban sales of bottled water in the Grand Canyon park. Disposable plastic bottles are that park’s biggest source of trash, but Coke owns the Dasani brand of water, so bye-bye ban. Public outrage forced officials to reverse this crass move, but NPS’ integrity has yet to recover.

Then this April, the park service abandoned its policy of rejecting any ties to alcohol products when Anheuser-Busch

also became a Proud NPS Partner by making a \$2.5 million tax-deductible “gift.” In turn, its Budweiser brand was given the Statue of Liberty. Not literally, but symbolically — Bud now has the right to plaster Lady Liberty, the iconic symbol of the USA itself, on its cans.

Creeping commercialization of our public parks is not creeping, it’s running rampant! For example, take a whiff of this:

In return for becoming a Proud Partner, Air Wick was authorized to market a new fragrance collection that it advertises as being “uniquely inspired by America’s national parks.”

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caucus conducts multiple rounds of voting to determine the candidate that most voters prefer.

Everyone votes for their first choice, then votes are counted and the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. People who voted for the eliminated candidate(s) vote for their next choice in the next round of voting. The process of voting, eliminating the least popular candidate(s), and voting again from among the remaining candidates is repeated until a single candidate, the winner, is left.

The caucus winner is the candidate that most people prefer, hopefully one of almost everyone’s top choices. Identifying the caucus winner should help voters decide who to vote for in the New Hampshire Presidential Primary in February, 2016.

All registered New Hampshire Republican and Undeclared voters are invited to participate in the caucus which will be held on Saturday, October 17th at the Hopkinton Fair Grounds. Caucus sign-in begins at 10 a.m. Photo ID is required. There is no charge to participate. See [www.603alliance.com](http://www.603alliance.com) for more information.

possibility that a great President emerge from the current Republican field. That said, we’re all for the Alliance’s openness to an alternative to winner-take-all voting.

The Editor

**A Comical Comma Comment**

To the Editor:

William Marvel’s column on “Comma Karma” (Sept.18) 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 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’ll let Mr. Marvel speak for himself: “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 men-

tioned. 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

**Stop Energy Colonization**

To the Editor:

New Hampshire Community Rights Network (NHCRN) believes that sustainable environmental and economic development can be achieved only when the people affected by governing decisions are the ones who make such decisions. When for-profit corporations such as Energias de Portugal force their projects against the will of communities impacted by such projects, they are violating the rights of the people to collectively decide what happens where they live.

Energias de Portugal’s (EDP) decision to move forward with the Spruce Ridge project reveals they feel their right to profit from ridgeline wind resources overrides the rights of communities to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents, their economic sustainability, and their

natural environments. Communities impacted by proposed industrial wind in the Newfound / Mt. Cardigan Region have overwhelmingly expressed opposition to such projects through their Master Plans, Resolutions, and the enactment of Rights-based Ordinances in Grafton, Danbury, Alexandria and Hebron.

EDP is interested in using the Newfound / Mt. Cardigan Region as a wind resource colony for profit. NHCRN assists communities in elevating their right to protect their resources for the sake of the health, safety and welfare of residents, their local economy, and their environmental sustainability.

NHCRN has proposed a constitutional amendment, sponsored by Representative Susan Emerson, that would secure the right of local community self-government within communities all across the State of New Hampshire - to protect the rights of people, communities, and their natural environments free from state preemption and corporate interference. Visit NHCRN at [www.nhcommunityrights.org](http://www.nhcommunityrights.org) or contact [info@nhcommunityrights.org](mailto:info@nhcommunityrights.org).

Michelle Sanborn, NHCRN Coordinator  
Alexandria, 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 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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| <p><b>2014</b>—Thousands of college-age cretins, urged on by social media company Finnarage, set fires, throw billiard balls, and overturn cars at the final Keene Pumpkin Festival.</p> <p><b>2011</b>—Ohioan Terry Thompson releases his menagerie of 56 exotic animals including lions, leopards, and tigers, then kills himself.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The president of Bolivia is driven out of office (and country) by disgruntled peasants tired of his knuckling under to corrupt international energy companies.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—RIP Walt Kelly.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—The Canadian government declares women are “persons.”</p> <p><b>1927</b>—IWW strikers shut down Colorado’s coal industry.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—The U.S. colonizes Puerto Rico — benevolently, of course.</p> <p><b>1867</b>—Russia hands over Alaska.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—British troops burn the imperial summer palace of the Manchu emperors towards the end of the Second Opium War.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—At a meeting in Ostend, U.S. ministers to Spain, France and Germany declare Cuba indispensable to U.S. security interests and recommend to President Franklin Pierce that he purchase it. Sicily beats him to it.</p> <p><b>1775</b>—British ships under Capt. Henry Mowat destroy Falmouth [now Portland] with an incendiary bombardment. Collateral damage: Mowat’s career &amp; British control.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) wins \$853,492 in the Powerball lottery. A dying woman whose real estate deposit he has refused to return receives exactly none of it.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Saddam Hussein goes on trial in Baghdad for crimes against humanity and Bushes.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Riot police maintain order long enough for the (bloody) Red Sox to beat the Yankees 4 to 2 in Game 6 of the ALCS.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—George W.[MD] Bush says at the Al Smith Dinner, “This is an impressive crowd, the haves and the have-mores. Some people call you the elite. I call you my base.”</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Morton Downey, Jr. begins his televised hate fest the same day the stock market drops 22 percent. Economists fail to see a connection.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Automaker J. DeLorean is arrested with 59 lbs. of coke.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Philippine police shoot and kill Kinshichi Kozuka, Japan’s penultimate WW II holdout.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Air Force General Curtis LeMay recommends direct military intervention in Cuba.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Eisenhower embargoes Cuba.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—St. Albans, Vt. is attacked by twenty Confederate cavalymen riding south from Canada. They rob three banks and escape with more than \$200,000.</p> <p><b>1849</b>—Elizabeth Blackwell becomes the first American woman with an MD.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—Sen.Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) nixes more federal home heating aid for the poor.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—The Red Sox come back from a 3 game deficit and become the American League Champions, beating the Yankees 10 to 3 at Yankee Stadium.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—In 22 cities, Americans protest the impending Gulf War.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—The Feds recognize the Mashantucket Pequots, paving the way for a gargantuan casino.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—After Attorney General Eliot Richardson and Deputy A.G. William Ruckelshaus both refuse, on principle, to comply with President Richard Nixon’s order to fire Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, Solicitor General Robert Bork, who is not so encumbered, complies.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—HUAC opens hearings on commie influence in H’wood.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Two natural gas tanks explode in Cleveland with 1/6th of the force of the Hiroshima bomb, killing 130 people.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—The Red Army’s 6,000 mile “Long March” ends.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—William Kogut, while incarcerated on Death Row at San Quentin, kills himself with a pipe bomb made from playing cards.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—In Dayton, Ohio, Army Lt. H.R. Harris becomes the first man to parachute from a disabled plane and live.</p>                                                                                 | <p><b>1975</b>—In the 12th inning, New Hampshire’s own Carlton Fisk waves the ball fair, and the Red Sox win Game 6 of the World Series.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Yippies, Diggers, Hippies, &amp;c., fail to levitate the Pentagon.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—A mountain of mine waste collapses onto a school in Wales, killing 28 adults and 116 children.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Lyndon Johnson flashes his gall bladder scar for photographers.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Special Forces Captain Harry Cramer becomes the first American soldier killed by hostile action in Vietnam, but his death is falsely listed as accidental.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—The Indiana Boxing Commission rules that boxers and wrestlers must swear under oath they are not Commies before they can fight in the Hoosier State.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—Birth of Charles Ives.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Sen. Edward D. Baker (R-Ore.), in his capacity as a Colonel leading a brigade at the Battle of Ball’s Bluff, becomes the first and last U.S. Senator killed in battle.</p> <p><b>1837</b>—Under a flag of truce, 75 Seminoles are captured and imprisoned by U.S. troops at Ft. Payton, FL.</p> <p><b>1835</b>—For saying “all men are created equal,” Wm. Lloyd Garrison is paraded through Boston with a rope around his neck.</p> <p><b>1797</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Constitution</i> is christened by Captain James Sever of Portsmouth.</p>          | <p><b>1985</b>—The last surviving Kickapoo Indians are given the right to live on their ancestral lands after being kicked off 140 years earlier.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The Atomic Energy Commission explodes a 5-kiloton atomic bomb 2,700 feet underground and ten miles west of Purvis, MS.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—His last request, for an injection of LSD, fulfilled, Aldous Huxley dies.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—SAC goes to DEFCON 2 as JFK blockades Cuba.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—“I know of nothing fundamentally wrong with the stock market,” says President of New York’s National City Bank.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—Female garment workers strike in New York. A judge tells arrested pickets, “You are on strike against God.”</p> <p><b>1907</b>—The Knickerbocker Trust Company goes belly-up, igniting the Panic of 1907.</p> <p><b>1885</b>—Bored with poetry, Arthur Rimbaud decides to run guns for King Menelik of Shoa.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—The first transcontinental telegraph begins operation.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—The third time fails to be a charm as William Miller’s prophecy of the end of the world proves to have been inaccurate.</p> <p><b>1834</b>—A fire to get rid of a huge mass of ancient wooden tally sticks once used for bookkeeping gets out of hand and burns Britain’s Houses of Parliament to the ground.</p> | <p><b>2001</b>—The day Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) introduces the senseless PATRIOT Act, Justice official James Yoo writes a memo saying the President need not obey existing laws.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—Asked why he hasn’t campaigned more in New Hampshire, George W.[MD] Bush says “The important question is, how many hands have I shaken?”</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Suicide bombers kill 241 U.S. Marines and sailors in Lebanon, on Ronald Reagan’s watch.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Workers at the Nevada test site drop a nuclear weapon core 40 feet. It doesn’t explode, so only 11 workers are injured.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Eight articles of impeachment are introduced in the House against President Nixon.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—With SAC at DEFCON 2, JFK and aides debate whether to bomb Cuban SAM sites if any U.S. planes are shot down.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—In a South Vietnamese referendum with 108% participation, Ngô Đình Diệm wins with 98.9%.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Pres. Eisenhower authorizes direct U.S. aid to South Vietnam, bypassing the French.</p> <p><b>1775</b>—The Continental Congress prohibits the enlistment of blacks in the Army.</p> <p><b>1739</b>—Britain declares war on Spain over Robert Jenkins’ ear.</p> <p><b>425</b>—Flavius Placidius Valentinianus, age 6, becomes Emperor.</p>    | <p><b>2012</b>—George W.[MD] Bush speaks at a Houston fundraiser for troops wounded following his orders. His fee: \$100,000.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The U.S. House passes the PATRIOT Act without reading it.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—U.S. military aircraft, using old maps, bomb Richmond Hill Insane Asylum in Grenada, killing 16.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—One wrongly-set switch at the Baikonur Cosmodrome prematurely ignites the second stage of a Soviet R-16 ICBM. It explodes killing more than 100.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Soviet ships reach the U.S. quarantine line off Cuba. They don’t cross it, so we don’t nuke the USSR. A Soviet satellite explodes the same day. NORAD suspects an ICBM attack; but, again, nobody pushes The Button.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—A poorly-designed heater aboard a DC-6 catches fire near Bryce Canyon, Utah. Passengers and crew jettison baggage but can’t maintain altitude; 52 perish.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Walt Disney rats out some employees to Congress as commies.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—The irrational exuberance of the 1920’s stock market undergoes a correction on “Black Thursday.”</p> <p><b>1901</b>—Annie Edson Taylor, 63, becomes the first person to survive a trip over Niagara Falls in a barrel.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—General “Hell-Roaring” Jake” Smith tells Marines at Samar, “burn and kill; the more you burn and kill, the better it will please me.”</p> |
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| SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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| <p><b>2001</b>—A single Senator — Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) — votes against the PATRIOT Act.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—U.S. troops preserve our Republic by invading Grenada.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—As Nixon sleeps, Henry Kissinger, Alexander Haig, and five other unelected officials raise America’s military readiness level to DEF CON 3.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Northeast Flight 946 crashes into Moose Mountain, in Hanover, N.H. Ten survive, 32 perish.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Nuclear-armed jets scramble from Duluth AFB because a guard, thinking it’s an infiltrator, has shot a bear climbing a fence.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Martin Luther King, Jr. gets four months at hard labor in Decatur, Ga. on old traffic charges.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Adm. Sprague’s task force “Taffy 3,” surprised by a far-larger group of Japanese ships at Samar Island, attacks ferociously, tipping the strategic balance at Leyte Gulf.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—<i>U.S.S. Tang</i>, captained by Dover’s Richard H. O’Kane, is sunk by its own malfunctioning torpedo; 74 men perish. Nine men survive the sinking and subsequent internment in Japanese prison camps.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—Lord James Cardigan leads a brigade of sword-brandishing light cavalymen across open ground in a doomed attack against Russian artillery. Astonishingly, half survive.</p> <p><b>1760</b>—King George II dies on the loo.</p>    | <p><b>2003</b>—Iraqi resistance fighters nearly get Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz with a rocket in Baghdad.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—George W.[MD] Bush eagerly signs the PATRIOT Act.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—South Korean President Park Chung-hee is shot by the head of the South Korean C.I.A.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Henry the K., lying as usual, says “Peace is at hand.”</p> <p><b>1970</b>—“Doonesbury” debuts.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—As planning for massive air strikes continues, President John F. Kennedy gets a telegram from Nikita Khrushchev offering to swap Soviet missiles in Cuba for U.S. missiles in Turkey.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Ngô Đình Diệm proclaims South Vietnam a republic and himself president.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—At the Second Battle of Passchendaele, the Allies gain a few hundred yards of mud at a cost of 12,000 casualties.</p> <p><b>1881</b>—The alleged law and the Clanton brothers shoot it out at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, AZ.</p> <p><b>1806</b>—Lord Timothy Dexter, seminal American crackpot who made money selling bed warmers in the West Indies and author of <i>A Penny for the Knowing Ones</i>, dies in Newburyport, MA.</p> <p><b>1369</b>—“The Wise”Charles V, King of France, dedicates a monument to his personal chef for creating a recipe for pickled fish.</p>                                        | <p><b>2004</b>—The Red Sox take the World Series in four from the Cardinals — first time since 1918.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Richard Nixon pocket vetoes a bill to raise the veterans health care budget by \$85 million.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Hoping to convince the Soviets he’s dangerously unstable, Richard Nixon secretly orders eighteen B-52s armed with H-bombs to spend the next three days flying around the North Pole.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Rev. Philip Berrigan and three friends pour duck blood on draft records in Baltimore, MD.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—“We must never forget,” says Richard Nixon, “that if the war in Vietnam is lost ... the right of free speech will be extinguished throughout the world.”</p> <p><b>1962</b>—As one American U-2 is shot down over Cuba, and another strays over the USSR, Robert Kennedy cuts a deal with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin. Meanwhile, aboard Soviet sub <i>B-59</i>, near Cuba, Vice Admiral Vasili Arkhipov single-handedly prevents the launch of a nuclear torpedo.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—“There is no question,” says Gen. J. Lawton Collins, “that the Communist menace in French Indo-China has been stopped.”</p> <p><b>1838</b>—Missouri Gov. Lilburn Boggs signs an executive order calling for Mormons to be “treated as enemies,” and “exterminated or driven from the state.”</p> | <p><b>2011</b>—Texas Gov. Rick Perry becomes curiously exuberant over the gift of a bottle of maple syrup.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—The Red Sox take the World Series in four from the Rockies — second time in three years.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Cheney henchman “Scooter” Libby resigns after he’s indicted.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—“[A]s you know,” explains George W.[MD] Bush, “these are open forums, you’re able to come and listen to what I have to say.”</p> <p><b>1988</b>—In Tacoma, a jury awards \$147,000 to a woman seduced by her minister.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—OPEC decides to produce less oil and make more money.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Sen. William Fulbright charges the Nixon administration with waging illegal war in Laos.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Russkie Premier Nikita Khrushchev agrees to dismantle the Soviet missile bases in Cuba and remove the weapons.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—A child is born in an airplane, over Miami—where else?</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Benito Mussolini, “sent by divine providence,” according to Pope Pius XI, takes over in Rome.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—Argentine workers revolt under the black flag of anarchism. The army kills 1,500.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Congress passes the Volstead Act, enabling prohibition.</p> <p><b>1906</b>—Ivy Lee issues the world’s first press release, deflecting blame from the Pennsylvania Railroad for the deaths of 50 passengers.</p> | <p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush explains that “The war on terror involves Saddam Hussein because of the nature of Saddam Hussein, the history of Saddam Hussein, and his willingness to terrorize himself.”</p> <p><b>1994</b>—Francisco Martin Duran fires 29 rounds from an SKS rifle at the White House before being subdued by two civilians.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Ronald Reagan nominates Douglas H. Ginsburg for the Supreme Court, but his pot-smoking past puts the kibosh on that.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—1,000 are arrested on Wall Street for disrupting business on the 50th Anniversary of the Crash.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The ARPANET is turned on—two computers communicate for the first time ever.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Jack “Murph the Surf” Murphy lifts the Star of India from the Museum of Natural History.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A radioactive cloud drifts over Los Angeles after the explosion of an A-bomb in Nevada.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—Driving home in his bonus—a new Rolls—after signing a three-year, \$1 million contract, cartoonist Sidney Smith (The Gumps) dies in a car wreck.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—“Black Tuesday”—16 million shares sell on Wall Street, at ever declining prices; \$26 billion evaporates.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Sailors mutiny in Kiel, Germany and establish Sailors and Workers Councils.</p>  | <p><b>2012</b>—For the first time since the Ice Age, public access to the sea at Sanders Poynt in Rye is cut off by would-be Senator Bill Binnie.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Pastor Kyle Lake, 33, standing in water to perform a baptism before 800 people at a Waco, TX Baptist church, reaches for a microphone and is electrocuted.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Quebec votes not to secede, but just barely.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—For the first time since the Ice Age, England and the European mainland are connected; this time by chunnel.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Martin Luther King, Jr. is arrested in Birmingham, AL.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—The Soviet Union air-drops a 58-megaton hydrogen bomb, creating the largest explosion in human history.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Puerto Ricans rebel against U.S. rule.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Smog deaths in Donora, PA reach 20, and 6,000 are sick.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The U.S. government ends shoe rationing.</p> <p><b>1838</b>—A mob led by three Missouri Militia captains attacks a colony of Mormons at Huan’s Mill, killing most of them.</p> <p><b>1831</b>—Rebel slave leader Nat Turner is arrested in Virginia.</p> <p><b>1501</b>—Party guests win prizes by competitively coupling with 50 naked whores collecting chestnuts strewn on the <i>palazzo apostolico</i> of Pope Alexander VI.</p> | <p><b>1973</b>—Three IRA prisoners escape from Mountjoy Jail in Dublin via a hijacked helicopter.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—President Johnson stops the bombing of North Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Gov. Ronald Reagan denies a “homosexual ring” is operating out of his office in Sacramento.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—“I can safely say,” says Gen. Paul Harkin, U.S. commander in South Vietnam, “that the end of the war is in sight.”</p> <p><b>1964</b>—China explodes an A-bomb.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—On convoy duty on the North Atlantic, the <i>U.S.S. Reuben James</i> is sunk by a U-Boat.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—FDR moves the date of Thanksgiving by a week to boost Christmas retail sales.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—A Utah prison doctor records John Deering’s heart rate with an EKG as he’s executed by a firing squad.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Mussolini survives an assassination attempt by 15 year old anarchist Anteo Zamboni.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Ehrich “Harry Houdini” Weiss dies of a punch to the stomach.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—In a week, Spanish Flu kills 21,000 Americans.</p> <p><b>1893</b>—Daniel Fowle’s printing press is last seen in public at the closing of the World’s Columbian Exposition, Chicago.</p> <p><b>1765</b>—The <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> is printed “in mourning” for lost liberty, in protest of the Stamp Act, to take effect the following day.</p>                          |
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