

The New Hampshire Gazette

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A Non-Fiction Newspaper

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October 30, 2015

The Fortnightly Rant

The Great Disconnect

"The average newspaper, especially of the better sort, has the intelligence of a hillbilly evangelist, the courage of a rat, the fairness of a prohibitionist boob-jumper, the information of a high school janitor, the taste of a designer of celluloid valentines, and the honor of a police-station lawyer."

— H.L. Mencken

Nationally and internationally, for several decades now, the United States of America has operated as if it were being run by a bunch of drunken monkeys.

All right, we exaggerate. It does not operate that well. We were just trying to be kind.

Seriously, though — our roads and bridges are crumbling, we have vast urban areas almost devoid of edible food, and our health and education systems might as well be replaced by outdoor currency bonfires. Our foreign policy seems to consist of blowing people up from a great distance.

In theory we should be enjoying the blessings bestowed by the world's oldest Constitution, written with infinite care by the greatest minds of an enlightened age. So why are we, as a nation, doing the equivalent of walking around with ice cream cones stuck to our foreheads?

It does not help that the people who are supposed to be running this shindig are letting themselves be held hostage by a tiny handful of cranks.

There are 435 members in the House of Representatives, and it takes 218 to make a majority. There are 247 Republicans, so they get to run the joint. Forty

of them, though, are following instructions beamed into their dental work from transmitters on Planet Ailes. Their defection from reality leaves the Republican Conference eleven votes short of a majority — not to mention a few bricks shy of a load and half a bubble out of plumb.

Whenever the mood strikes them, or a black cat crosses their trail, the forty or so members of the Congressional Freedom Caucus threaten to pull down the shades, hang out the "Closed" sign, and lock up the shop.

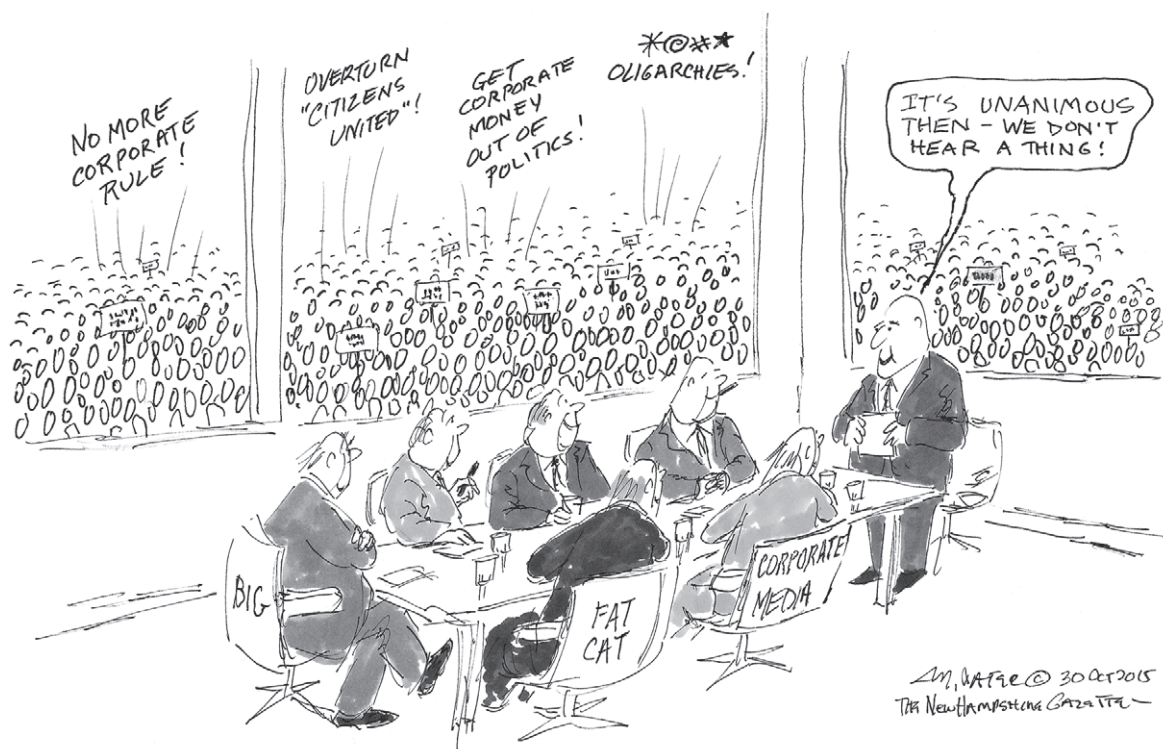
Dire situations always tend to exacerbate our morbid curiosity. We fired up the Univac, fed in some punch cards, and it spit out the answer: we, the long-suffering public, outnumber the Forty Thieves by a ratio of 8,051,075 to one — for all the good that does us.

Whence cometh all these dogs in our manger, who refuse to govern but won't let anyone else?

The Congressional Districts from which they hail vote approximately 13 percent more Republican than the national average, as measured by the Cook Partisan Voting Index; places like western Idaho, Wyoming, eastern Colorado and western Kansas, east Texas, Appalachia, and the broker parts of the Rust Belt.

Part of this process of concentration is due to self-selection. There aren't a whole lot of gay pinkos who are hankering to move to those districts. Their seats will be filled by the winners of their Republican primaries far into the foreseeable future.

Also, there have now been



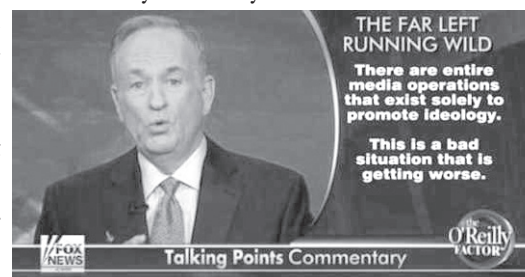
M. WATT © 30 OCT 2015
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE

three decennial Censuses since the Reagan Revolution, providing three opportunities for increasingly Republican state legislatures to hone their gerrymandering skills. Carefully pack Democrats into compact urban districts and you gain more Republican districts with the same number of votes.

As Bob Richie wrote in *The Nation* after the 2014 mid-terms, Republicans only got 52 percent of the votes in House races; but they managed to end up with 57 percent of the seats.

Richie is the Executive Director of FairVote, which studies elections. It has calculated that for Democrats to win 218 seats in the House in 2016, they would need to win ten million more votes than Republicans.

There is more to our national dysfunction, though, than can be explained with mere math.



The authors of our Constitution had a fairly dark view of human character. That's why they built in those famous checks and balances: the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial warily eyeing each other like Clint Eastwood, Eli Wallach, and Lee Van Cleef in the middle of a dusty cemetery.

They also knew that somebody else was going to have to keep a close eye on those mugs to keep them semi-honest. They had nothing else to work with at the time except creaking, slow, wooden presses. They went with what they had.

They never could have imagined that one day an Australian oligarch would hire a disgraced ex-President's former PR guy to create a 24/7 propaganda machine capable of beaming gibberish into millions of minds — including those forty Republicans in the House Freedom Caucus. Not that Fox is the

only offender. In August, as Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump were both experiencing huge, unexpected surges in support, Jim Naureckas at Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting tallied big media mentions of the two. Across major newspapers, the broadcast networks, cable TV news, and public broadcasting, Sanders got only 36 percent as much coverage as Trump.

"I think we risk becoming the best informed society that has ever died of ignorance."

— Reuben Blades

The Alleged News®

Time For a New Veterans Day Tradition

Once again, Veterans Day looms. That's a rather ominous way to put it, but we have our reasons.

On November 11th, a week from Wednesday, the nation — or, rather, its designated officials, members of veterans organizations, and some small fraction of the citizenry at large — will perform certain prescribed rituals in an effort to honor those who have served as members of this country's armed forces.

This will be the 96th annual observation of what was formerly known as Armistice Day, marking the 97th anniversary of the end of World War One. A big deal in years past, it may now be our most awkward national holiday. Let us boldly stride into the minefield and explore the reasons why.

Divisiveness Day

Veterans Day, it seems safe to say, means more now to conser-

vatives than to liberals. They are more likely to serve or to know people who serve. If we dare to venture beyond stereotypes, that is a bit paradoxical.

A popular military metaphor compares the donning of a uniform to the writing of a blank check payable to the nation for any amount up to and including your life. Looked at from a slightly different angle, that same act could be seen as the ultimate expression of socialism.

Speaking of paradoxes, Armistice Day was first declared on November 11, 1919, by President Woodrow Wilson. Three years earlier he had become the first Democrat in 80 years to win a consecutive second term, campaigning under the slogan: "He kept us out of war."

Memorializing Two Veterans

Veterans can be a little touchy about people who fail to under-

stand the difference between Veterans Day, which honors all who have served, and Memorial Day, which honors those who died in battle. This newspaper has harped on the issue and intends to continue doing so. The two issues did become somewhat entangled in 1932, though.

On that thirteenth observation of Armistice Day, in Arlington Cemetery, remnants of the Bonus Expeditionary Force gathered to lay wreaths upon the graves of William Hushka and Eric Carlson. Both men had been shot on July 28th by Washington, D.C. police.

Hushka and Carlson had been among some twenty thousand veterans of World War One who came to be known as "the Bonus Army." Coming from all across the country, they had been in the Capitol since spring, living in

huge but orderly encampments, petitioning Congress and the President for the early payment of a previously-established bonus then slated to be paid in 1945.

In response to the police shooting of two unarmed veterans, President Herbert Hoover ordered the U.S. Army to drive the Bonus Army from the Capitol. General Douglas MacArthur, then the Army's Chief of Staff, first sent in a regiment of mounted cavalry troops brandishing sabers. A regiment of infantry followed, bayonets mounted, throwing gas grenades. Half a dozen tanks, commanded by Major General George Patton, crushed the veterans' shacks and hovels, the remnants of which were burned.

The graves of Hushka and Carlson were decorated on a Friday. Just three days earlier,



Hoover, whose treatment of the Bonus Army had sparked widespread public revulsion, had been crushed in the Presidential election. Veterans eventually got their bonuses in 1936 — over President Roosevelt's veto.

Onward, Upward, and Outward

In 1938, Congress made Armistice Day a national holiday. Just in time, too. Given the imperial nature of our foreign policy, essentially unchanged since the Spanish-American War, the scope of the event has expanded considerably. Originally intended to honor 4.7 million, mostly men, by 1946 it applied to more than 20 million men and women. The dollar isn't the only thing that is subject to inflation.

World War Two was America's high point for participatory bel-

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from page one

ligerency: compare its 12.2 percent in uniform to 1.8 percent in Vietnam, or 1.2 percent in Korea. Now we are told that defending our national security against 7.2 billion potential terrorists requires but 0.89 percent of our population. Such is the miracle of productivity, apparently: the more expensive your weapons, the fewer troops you require. Some things remain unchanged, though. A bayonet is still a tool with a worker at each end.

If It Ain't Broke, Break it

In 2001, President George W.[MD] Bush inherited a Veterans Affairs health care system that was almost capable of dealing with the health care needs of the middle-aged Vietnam veterans and geriatric Korean War and WW II vets in its care. As President, Bush sent a whole new wave of young peo-

ple off to fight a Global War on Terror, many of whom suffered complex injuries which in earlier times would have killed them. He never bothered to build a VA adequate to their needs, though. Under President Obama, the VA became more responsive to disability claims for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and expanded medical treatment for veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Policies that required the VA to actually assist veterans, coupled with the surge resulting from the Global War on Terror, naturally resulted in the infamous "VA backlog."

According to Republican doctrine, there is no correlation between the VA's backlog and its budget.

Multiple Cycles of Attention

The amount of attention paid to veterans ebbs and flows annually, peaking twice a year on the aforementioned occasions. A secondary, quadrennial cycle



The stately spire of the North Church always adds beauty to the city's skyline. On Tuesday, October 20th, it provided entertainment, as well. We called the Parish House on Monday, to inquire about whatever work this steeplejack might be doing. The party answering declined to tell us.

coincides with Presidential elections.

Enter Concerned Veterans for America [CVA], a relatively recent addition to this latter phenomenon. It has sponsored at least three Town Hall events in New Hampshire this summer, two featuring Sen. Marco Rubio [R-Fla.] and one featuring Sen. Ted Cruz [R-Texas]. On November 7th, it will host a "Thank a Vet" tailgate event at UNH.

CVA's professed intention is to "speak out on issues that threaten to cripple not only our economic and national security, but the spirit of opportunity and liberty that all Americans cherish." Like many similarly high-minded institutions, CVA is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization, ostensibly created to "promote social welfare." That registration conveniently exempts CVA from having to report where it gets its money.

A ProPublica investigation has

revealed, however, that during the period between mid-2011 and mid-2012, a \$1,968,000 grant from the TC4 Trust seems to have been CVA's sole source of funding. The TC4 Trust is — *surprise!* — one of the myriad entities through which Charles and David Koch funnel money.

In February, CVA issued a proposal for "fixing" VA health care — by unleashing the magical powers of the free market and privatizing the VA.

Then They Came for Me

Traditional veterans organizations like the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled Veterans of America all view the upstart CVA with alarm. After decades of working with Congress and the VA, they're understandably leery about suddenly subjecting their members to the tender mercies of the civilian health care system. Having long embraced conservative politics, though, they're

ill-equipped to argue against it when it comes after them.

An Immodest Proposal

Jonathan Swift was joking — we think — when he proposed eating Irish babies. We're deadly serious. At least twice a year, leaders of veterans organizations and elected representatives should swear not to engage in budgetary jiggery-pokery when funding the VA. While they're at it, let them swear that since warfare is such a socialistic activity, ancillary expenses like the cost of caring for veterans shall not be privatized. Period.

That should fix the demand side of the equation. Let's take a look at supply.

Eighty years of experience, from the Kuomintang in China to the ARVN in Vietnam to the Afghans and the Iraqis, should have taught us by now that no puppet army will ever fight effectively for a corrupt government. Let's quit doing that.

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Local Elections Matter — Vote Tuesday, November 3

And now, a message from the good folks at Seacoast Local:

"The leadership of our city council, school board and police commission can boost our community wealth and well-being. Yet voter turnout for city elections is typically only 20-25 percent, which is less than half the turnout for statewide elections."

In order to stimulate voter turnout, Seacoast Local has compiled voter guides, candidate interviews, and other election information for the cities of Portsmouth, Dover, Rochester, and Somersworth. It can all be found at <http://www.seacoastlocal.org/Initiatives/local-elections-matter/>.

Seacoast Local is an educational non-profit working to grow a more local, green, and fair economy on the Seacoast.

Red Baron Strikes [Out] Again

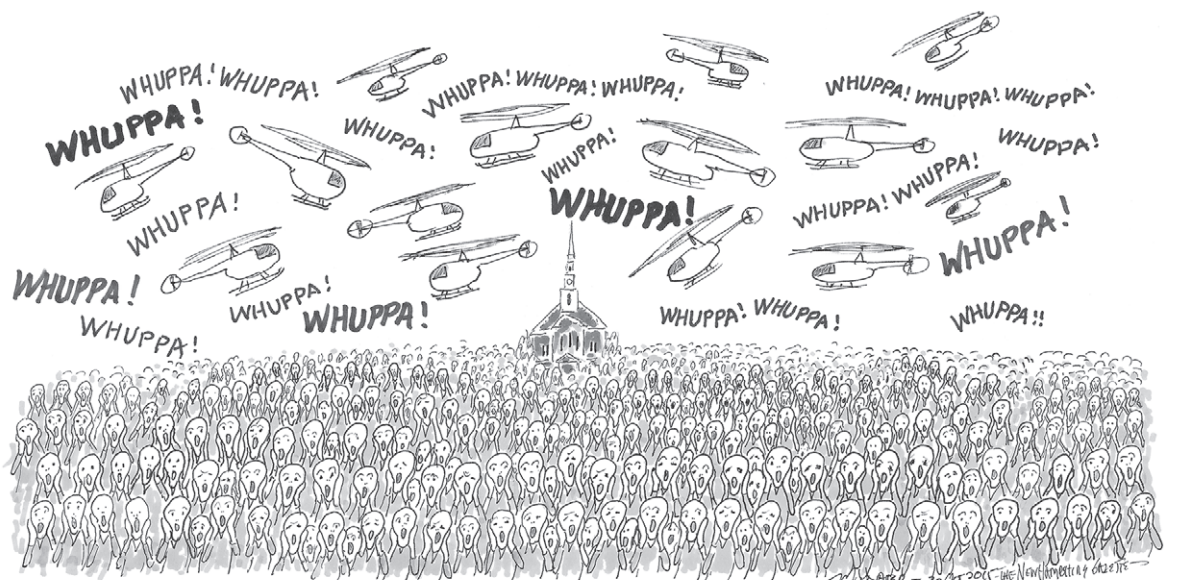
A riveting item appeared in the Police Log printed in Monday's edition of the Award-Winning Local Daily: "Responded to the Pease Tradeport for a complaint about a protestor concerned about helicopter noise," it read, "but the protestor was gone

when police arrived."

The item was dated October 24th, the previous Saturday. Weekends of late, what with their delightful weather and the exuberant state of the foliage, have seen the worst infestation yet of those noisy little red pests. Judging from our own direct observation, we can add that on a number of occasions they seem to have been flying at even lower altitudes than usual.

It hardly seems a stretch to presume that the caller in question was the proprietor of Seacoast Helicopters. As we noted in our papers of July 24th and August 21st, Bruce Cultrera seems quite sensitive to complaints about his airborne joyrides. He succeeded in getting a team from the Portsmouth Police Department to visit the office of a local businessman, though ultimately to no avail. If he *did* call the cops on someone who protested near his place of business, it would come as no surprise.

What would be surprising — shocking, in fact — would be if police officers acceded to any request to violate the legitimate First Amendment rights of a protestor.



(SNAPSHOT OF A GLORIOUS AUTUMN WEEKEND ON THE SEACOAST, 2015)

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Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, 340 Central Ave. Dover, NH 03820, and/or
520 Hart SOB [SOB = Senate Office Building], Washington, DC 20510
Sen. Kelly Ayotte, 14 Manchester Sq. [Square], Portsmouth, NH 03801, and/or
144 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Rep. Frank Guinta, 33 Lowell St., Manchester, NH 03101
City Council (Portsmouth) City Hall, 1 Junkins Ave., Portsmouth, NH 03801
FAA: Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), 412 Yellowbird Rd., Portland, ME 04102



The Press Room on Daniel Street is now in compliance with the Fire Department, having recently installed sprinkler and alarm systems. They appear to have had no effect, though, on the annual infestations of ghouls, monsters, and other grotesque creatures for which the beloved joint has become world famous.

Justice at Sanders Poynt

While we're on the topic of local *bêtes noires*, we received the following email from Robert Jesurum on October 22nd. After Bill Binnie's Wentworth by the Sea Country Club blocked public access to the little beach at Sanders Poynt, it was Jesurum who sued to have it restored.

"Great news! Paul McEachern submitted a request for reconsideration to the Superior Court on their having declined to award us attorney's fees. McEachern argued that there is a principle that awards attorney's fees when a lawsuit confers substantial ben-

efits to the public rather than to the individual bringing the suit.

"Judge Wageling agreed and has awarded us attorney's fees to be paid by the Wentworth defendants. If we prevail through the appeal process, we will be left with excess funds because of the generous donations from some of you. We have to consider how to use those monies, but one possibility is to return them to the [Coastal Conservation Association] to be used for other conservation projects.

"Thanks to all of you who have given me financial and moral support through this long or-

deal."

Our Starving Artiste reminds us that the Wentworth hosted the 1999 Presidential campaign announcement of George W.[MD] Bush.

It was also the venue, according to an April AP story, for negotiations between undercover narcotics agents and Jesus Manuel Gutierrez Guzman, cousin of Joaquin Guzman-Loera, aka "El Chapo," head of the Sinaloa drug cartel. The cartel was plotting to bring 346 kilos cocaine into the country through New England ports. Guzman was sentenced in August to 16 years.

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What is Sea-3 Really Up To?

To the Editor:

There has been quite a bit of curious information being presented to the public regarding the need to expand the Sea-3 facility in order to supply the needs of New Hampshire residents using propane. There is even a proposal by Pan Am Railways to transload propane from rail cars in downtown Portsmouth to meet the propane demands of New Hampshire, which they claim is necessary because of the delays in getting the Sea-3 expansion approved.

Considering the current configuration of the Sea-3 facility to off load propane rail tank cars, there appears to be more than adequate capacity to more than meet the propane needs of New Hampshire homes and businesses. The math is quite simple.

Sea-3 currently has the capacity to offload 6 propane rail tank cars per day. If they did this 6 days a week, 52 weeks per year that would result in 1,872 tank cars unloaded per year. Each propane tank car holds 33,000 gallons of propane. As a result, 61,776,000 gallons of propane can presently be brought into Sea-3 by rail tank car every year. There are currently 78,000 homes using propane in New Hampshire. As such, there would be 812 gallons of propane per home per year available from Sea-3 to New Hampshire homes if they fully utilized their existing capacity. According to the United States Energy Information

Administration, New Hampshire residents using propane average 318 gallons of propane per year, or a total of 24,804,000 gallons of propane used by all New Hampshire homes per year. That leaves us with 36,972,000 gallons of propane available to be used for all other propane consumers in New Hampshire. And remember, Sea-3 is not the only supplier of propane in the state or the region.

If the true intention of Sea-3 is, as they claim, to supply New Hampshire residents with a reliable source of propane, why are they not fully utilizing their existing rail offloading capacity? Is the expansion really needed to supply local demand, or is it, as they originally stated in their application to the Newington Planning Board, to export it via ocean-going ship? Considering the above statistics, does New Hampshire and even the region need the amount of propane that will be brought in by an additional 3,120 rail tank cars per year when Sea-3 expands its terminal? If not, where will that propane be going, and who will benefit while we absorb all the risks to our safety, economy, and environment? These are fair questions that deserve straight answers.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, NH

Rich:

We heartily applaud your skepticism.

The Editor

What Killed Onassis's Refinery?

To the Editor:

I'm a little behind in my reading, but in the August 7th edition I found a small error. In the memoriam for Phyllis Bennett you stated that she and her allies prevented the refinery. In my canvassing days, I spoke with the chemist in Exeter who did the water analysis for Onassis. They loved his report except for the

salinity reading. Apparently they thought that Great Bay, being so large and so far inland, was fresh water. They didn't realize it was a salt water estuary.

They need fresh water to crack oil. Great Bay being salt water is what killed the refinery. Simple, or not so simple, chemistry stopped the refinery, though I do applaud all that worked against it.

Michael Letendre
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

This is fascinating. It matches up nicely with our personal prejudice against big, moneyed interests: wasteful, blundering, &c. It's a little thinly sourced, though. One would think, though, that over four decades, this story would have gained more currency. Can anyone shed more light on this?

The Editor

Bernie in the Debate

To the Editor:

We are lucky in New Hampshire to see the presidential candidates up-close and personal and for extended periods of time. Tuesday night was really the first chance the nation has had to see most of the candidates on the debate stage. Every candidate was impressive in her or his own way, and our party is justifiably proud of them all.

Senator Bernie Sanders was among those introducing themselves to the American people. And in so doing he put to rest the notion that he is a fringe candidate, a distraction on the road to the White House for another candidate. His surge in the polls, his success in raising money, and the crowds he is drawing to his speeches are all a refreshing reminder that choosing our President is in our hands and always will be. It is the job of the people.

How did the debate help the undecided voter in New Hampshire? In the rest of the country? Like so many, I went into this

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL**

primary season with an open mind. I hosted a house party for Martin O'Malley, whom I respect and admire a great deal. Secretary Clinton has been a national figure for a quarter century, going back to her husband's primary campaign in New Hampshire in the early 1990's. Why is Bernie Sanders drawing such big crowds? Why is he bringing in more donors than any candidate in history? Why is he polling ahead of the other candidates in the states that will vote first?

Tuesday evening, Bernie Sanders showed us why he is so popular with the voters in New Hampshire and across the country, and why he has been elected and reelected by the people of Vermont for over 30 years. Bernie has the courage of his convictions. Courage is something you know when you see it.

When it comes to the most compelling issues facing the American people today Bernie Sanders has well thought out and long-held positions. When it comes to: peace and war, big money's role in government and Citizens' United, inequality of wealth, cost of higher education, international trade, preservation and expansion of social security, care for our veterans, civil rights for all, climate change and a sustainable planet, big money's role in government, you know where Bernie Sanders stands. Just a few months ago, Bernie was a relative unknown, and the outcome of this race was considered a foregone conclusion. Now the rest of our country can see why he's polling at 46 percent in New Hampshire. Millions of voters across the nation are feeling the Bern. I'm one of them — and you?

Dudley Dudley
Durham, N.H.
Dudley:

Please note the above query — if anyone might know more about this, it's you.

The Editor

Internal Dissent

To the Editor:

William Marvel's latest appears to be a good example of some old fashioned (but still so popular today) slut-shaming. Not only does he assume Saphronia [Ann Prescott] was more sexually experienced than [her husband] John Wilmott, he suggests her reason for delaying telling John about the pregnancy was she'd failed in getting her other sexual partners to take responsibility for it. But wait, there's more! He supposes the reason she never remarried was to keep his pension. And to top it off, Mr. Marvel seems to suggest Saphronia's father is the father of her last child, Rohessie. Pretty disgusting, all around. Tabloid-grade slut-shaming. His mind is in the gutter, jumping to these conclusions. Her sexual story is none of his business.

Sorry for the rant, but f@&# that guy.

Megan "Moonbeam" Stelzer,
Downtown Distribution Volunteer

Exeter, N.H.

Dear Moonbeam:

Mr. Marvel does seem to have relished the opportunity to construct and relate a salacious narrative built upon a particular set of presumably accurate facts. He is a historian, though, and we must defend his right to do what he will with the facts that he finds. We will all of us, someday, be at the mercy of future historian — provided that any survive our profligacy. It is part of the human condition.

You, of course, in the present day, have every right to criticize Marvel's characterization of the individuals involved. You would, with

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote
*As I went walking I saw a sign there
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That side was made for you and me.*
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And Other Correspondence

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The Editor

~~~~~  
**We Inherit Their Unpaid Tax**  
To the Editor:  
A couple days ago I was the recipient of my second piece of Marco Rubio election material. It featured three categories: "Pro-Growth," "Pro-Family," and "Tax Reform."

Number one on the list under "Pro-Family" was something unbelievable: "*No More Death Tax.*" Republicans call the Multi-Millionaire's Inheritance Tax the Death Tax. It affects the top 0.15 of one percent of taxpayers. Estates under \$5.43 Million pay no Inheritance Tax. Its repeal is a top Republican priority.

Under Rubio's proposal (and one passed by the Republican House), the top 5,500 households get a \$270 billion tax cut; the other 115 million families get nothing — unless you count a chance to pay more taxes and have a larger deficit as something. So I guess he really is pro-family! You've just got to be in the right family.

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
Michael:  
*Thank you. As Orwell wrote, "In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."*  
The Editor

~~~~~  
Leaders to Vote For
To the Editor:
The Democrats showed America how grownups debate. They discussed real issues — income inequity choking the middle class, billionaire money buying politics, global climate change threatening our future — and they did so respecting each other. The Democratic candidates each have experience, knowledge, and a vision of a more inclusive future

for all Americans. We see leaders to vote for, rather than clowns to vote against.
Bernie Sanders had the most fire and energy, which he kept aimed at the problems our country faces. Martin O'Malley projected a vision for our future based on his belief in our youths' positive energy. Hillary ticked off a list of programs and positions for which she now advocates.

I support Martin O'Malley. As governor of Maryland, he accomplished many of the reforms we need nationally. His experience can best reform Washington and Wall Street with the principles that the Democratic candidates stand for.
Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA
Bruce:
Must you be so civil?
The Editor

~~~~~  
**More Marple Argle-Bargle**  
To the Editor:  
[HB 400] has language that references State statute RSA 282-A:9, IV, (0)(1)(2) which excludes all elected officials, who are *not* employees, from any deductions being taken from their "compensation." The Federal statute confirms this status in Title 29, U.S. Code Section 630(f) which specifically "exempts" any elected official of any state and subdivisions as they are *not* employees. They do not get a salary, they are not paid lawful money, and they can not collect unemployment insurance if not re-elected. In 1991 the Supreme Court ratified the validity of 29 USC 630(f) in the *Gregory v. Ashcroft* case, which in my opinion should be required study for all high school seniors as it is filled with *civics*, what [sic] is not taught in he schools today.  
We have 235 ± cities and towns, ten counties, plus the

General court. Governor, Council, Secretary of State, House Clerk, Senate Clerk, and many other appointed officials also [are] excluded by 29 USC 630(f). Accordingly there is *now* being deducted from these officials "compensation" 7.5 percent Social Security (the other 7.5 percent comes out of the General Fund, i.e., taxpayers). Then there is the additional Medicare, which is now unlawfully being deducted, plus the collateral expense of salaries and the expenses of all CPAs and other accountants who do the calculations of removal!

The obeying of both current State and Federal statutes would give every elected official a substantial increase in their "take-home" compensation and that gives them the opportunity to spend those 100,000's of thousand dollars [sic] here in the New Hampshire economy! I need your help in keeping this money in New Hampshire by making it visible to our business community who will benefit from the enactment of HB 400.

Dick Marple, Hooksett, Republic of New Hampshire, Rep. [Fourth Term], Merrimack #24  
Dick:  
*By our calculation (assuming we are correctly interpreting the storm of characters which make up your letter), "100,000's of thousand dollars" equal \$100,000,000. Even if we're off by a decimal place — in your favor, you still seem to be suggesting that there are ten million bucks in superfluous state salaries flying around loose out there. This, we find hard to believe.*  
*We do agree on one thing: civics education is lacking these days.*  
The Editor

~~~~~  
Request for Investigations
To the Editor:
Please print the following open letter to Rep. Frank Guinta:
Dear Congressman Guinta:
As a citizen of New Hampshire's

First Congressional District, I sent you an email message when you were running in 2014. I asked you this question: "What specific reforms will you advance to end the corrupting influence of money in politics?" I never did receive a response; hence, my decision to send this open letter.

You are no doubt aware that three members of the Benghazi[!!!] Special Committee have recently admitted, shockingly, that the seven separate investigations to the tune of approximately \$4,500,000, were all for the purpose of discrediting political enemies of the GOP (President Obama and former Secretary of State Clinton). Perhaps you would agree that if your House colleagues were speaking the truth, then members of the Benghazi Special Committee and those that supported continued investigations of Benghazi (Senators Ayotte, McCain and Graham for starters) are guilty of behavior tantamount to robbing \$4.5 million from U.S. taxpayers to fund a massive witch hunt, which would indeed be a betrayal of the American people, the four victims of the Benghazi "Consulate" attack and their grieving families.

Therefore, I humbly request that you, as my representative, file a request, with the House Ethics Committee, a committee surely familiar to you, to launch a thorough investigation of the "investigators" of the Benghazi Special Committee.
Furthermore, since we're still on the subject of investigations (no, not referring to the FEC), countless conversations I've had with your constituents over the last 14 years have convinced me that we still have many unanswered questions and concerns surrounding the Al-Qaeda attacks of America on September 11, 2001 and the 2003 invasion of Iraq, which have resulted in, and are still causing, infinitely



greater death and destruction than the relatively minor Benghazi event (with minimal impact on national security). We agree that neither case was sufficiently investigated and that both investigations were completely whitewashed by the GOP and Bush Administration.

Meanwhile, you have my promise of full cooperation and the provision of an abundance of credible leads and information to aid in the three investigations I've requested.
Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.
Wayne:
Anytime someone wants to lay the gloves on Frank, we'll be happy to help.
The Editor

~~~~~  
**Eschewer of the Inefficacious**  
To the Editor:  
Hillary Clinton performed like a champion in the Democratic presidential debate, not just as the embodiment of the most widely used definition of champion, "a winner," but most importantly, champion as it applies to "one who fights for others."  
Hillary's debate performance exemplifies her compassion in regard to the care and education of children, the need for health care and paid family leave and the needs of the average American worker. She engenders hope in those who are marginalized

**Hate Mail, &c.**  
to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Mourning Becomes America

by William Marvel

Some of us who resided in New Hampshire during the administration of Governor Meldrim Thomson remember how the flag at the State House would drop to half-staff on an absurdly regular basis. Every time something happened to offend the governor's ultra-conservative sentiments, he would order the flag in Concord lowered to demonstrate his distress. When the U.S. formally recognized the government of China as the Communist regime in what was then called Peking, down went the flags; he preferred to think of the Taiwanese government-in-exile as the legitimate leadership, and when Taiwan's alternative Chinese team was barred from participating in the Olympics Thomson sent the flag down again. He was prone to lower it on Good Fridays, too, to express his sadness over the crucifixion of Christ.

It was bad enough under Gerald Ford, who was far too moderate for the governor. With the

ascent of Jimmy Carter to the presidency, the State House flag started going up and down like a yo-yo. When Carter signed a treaty that would ultimately give Panama sovereignty over a canal that one Republican senator said we "stole fair-and-square," the flag slid down the pole in Concord. Thomson, who had enjoyed an extremely dubious employment deferment during World War II, all but tripped over himself in his haste to lower the flag again when Carter announced an amnesty for Vietnam-era draft dodgers and deserters.

Thomson left office in 1979, but he made the flags in this state come down once again more than two decades later, when he died. That was the most frequent purpose of lowering the flag in the first place, as a sign of official regret at the passing of a prominent figure in the state or nation, including those who were more clown than statesman. I suppose they would even dip the flags on the demise of Donald Trump, if he were to ever win the presidency,

but I'm reluctant to linger long on that chilling thought; some of the other frontrunners are frightening enough.

I don't remember when I came to understand that concept of official mourning, because it was so seldom observed. It is most noticeable when a sitting or former president dies, whereupon the flag is supposed to be flown at half-staff for 30 days, but no presidents died during my lifetime until the assassination of Jack Kennedy. The vice president only gets a 10-day observance if he dies in office, while retired vice presidents, cabinet members, or congressional party leaders merit only the time it takes to bury them; congressmen are allotted one day of such mourning. This tradition seemed pretty standard, with similar rules within states for the deaths of their current or retired high officials, and then of course there was Memorial Day.

At least in recent decades, Americans have recognized no limits in praising, honoring, or mourning those they regard as

special. Ours, after all, is the society that never gives the school band anything less than a standing ovation, no matter how horrible the performance. Our criteria for awarding the label of "hero" is appallingly low, and when it comes to grief we are not to be outdone; we love to weep, as the insatiable public fascination with tragedies attests.

Chief executives make the decisions about flag-related recognition, and politicians are notorious for accommodating constituencies. Through various presidential proclamations, the lowering of the flag for Memorial Day has now been extended to May 15 (Memorial Day for police), July 27 (Veterans Day for Korea vets), September 11 (called Patriot Day by people who apparently hadn't heard about Patriots Day), the first Sunday in October (National Firefighters Memorial Day), and December 7 (Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day). December 7 was also my parents' wedding anniversary, and I think my father never erected a flagpole here because my mother would have

lowered the flag herself.

Governors order their state flags to half-staff with increasing ease as their political ambitions grow. After the 2013 Boston bombings, Maggie Hassan lowered the flags in New Hampshire for the MIT policeman who was killed, along with sending the requisite "thoughts and prayers." You see, many of Maggie's potential supporters for her inevitable U.S. Senate race are — like her — still from Massachusetts at heart.

Contrast that to a lame-duck president who only lowered federal flags under intense pressure after five U.S. servicemen were murdered in Chattanooga. Obama made the better call, however — at least until he knuckled under, as he usually does on flag issues. Until FDR died, no flags budged during WW II, or while hundreds of Americans a week died in Vietnam, but now they are lowered so often that it seems as though Mel were back. They could save a lot of time and materials by just making the flagpoles half as tall.

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

everywhere, especially African Americans.

Her accomplishments, too numerous to list here, as a lawyer, senator, and Secretary of State, reveal her travelling the nation and the world, espousing everything from gun control reform to sanctions against Iran. A stand-out accomplishment, being a mentor and example of achievement for women, was wonderful and historical to witness, and also was done with humility, decorum and confidence.

In essence, she spoke for all of

us who know the importance of being Presidential, who desire the ability to apply diplomacy, who value beyond words the crucial role of supreme negotiator as the leader of the free world.

She has stood persistent and passionate in the face of partisan accusations, and is open, through careful research, to changes of opinion if the current public good proves that her previous stance is not efficacious.

I believe in Hillary Rodham Clinton, and I believe she wants to be a champion for all Ameri-

cans. I thank her for solidifying my belief in her with her debate performance

Hillary cares, prepares — and delivers.

Patricia Stansfield Tarbox  
Wolfeboro, N.H.

~~~~~

When is Enough Not Enough?
To the Editor

When is enough not enough? When it doesn't fulfill a Republican ulterior motive.

The current Republican house members seem to be living by the motto, "if at first you don't suc-

ceed try, try again."

Now we have an eighth Benghazi investigation and a fourth Planned Parenthood investigation — the latest attempts of the Republicans to score political points at great taxpayer expense — approximately \$6 million, so far, if you are wondering.

In case you have forgotten, the original objective of the Benghazi probe was to determine what happened, and what could be done to protect diplomatic facilities in the future. A minute by minute timeline was determined,

and no wrongdoing was identified, by any of the prior investigations. Unfortunately, not a single suggestion to improve facilities security has been proposed.

This is after seven Committee inquiries and \$4.5 million to date. Does Chairman Gowdy, of Committee Number Eight, think the previous committee Chairmen and members were incompetent? Does he think that his team has dreamed up some magic questions that will expose a criminal act? Major Bradley Podliska, a former committee

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How Much “Free Speech” Can You Buy?

by Jim Hightower

In today’s so-called “democratic” election process, Big Money doesn’t talk, it roars — usually drowning out the people’s voice.

Bizarrely, the Supreme Court decreed in its 2010 Citizens United ruling that money is a form of “free speech.” Thus, declared the learned justices, people and corporations are henceforth allowed to spend unlimited sums

of their money to “speak” in election campaigns. But wait — if political speech is measured by money, then by definition speech is not free. It can be bought, thereby giving the most speech to the few with the most money. That’s plutocracy, not democracy.

Sure enough, in the first six months of this presidential election cycle, more than half of the record-setting \$300 million given to the various candidates

came from only 358 mega-rich families and the corporations they control. The top 158 of them totaled \$176 million in political spending, meaning that, on average, each one of them bought more than a million dollars worth of “free” speech.

Nearly all of their money is backing Republican presidential hopefuls who promise: (1) to cut taxes on the rich; (2) cut regulations that protect us from corpo-

rate pollution and other abuses of the common good; and (3) to cut Social Security, food stamps, and other safety-net programs that we un-rich people need. The great majority of Americans adamantly oppose all of those cuts — but none of us has a million bucks we can spend to buy an equivalent amount of political speech.

It’s not just some good public programs that are endangered

by the Court’s ridiculous ruling, but democracy itself. That’s why a new poll by Bloomberg Politics found that 78 percent of the American people — including 80 percent of Republicans — want to overturn Citizens United. To help, go to www.FreeSpeechForPeople.org.

Copyright 2015 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laura@jimhightower.com).

investigator and Representative Hanna, both Republicans, don’t believe that to be true. They think the objective has become to damage Hillary Clinton.

When is enough, enough? Maybe eight is enough?

The Planned Parenthood probes are on the same path. One committee, two committees, three committees, one committee more. A search for any excuse to defund Planned Parenthood.

Let me get it straight, the Republican’s objective is to reduce abortions by taking away family planning counseling, contraceptives and pre-natal care from those who need it the most to avoid unwanted and/or unhealthy pregnancies. This is the kind of reasoning that prevails when hyper-ideology and partisanship negates common sense and basic practicality.

What do we expect from a party that can’t accept the findings of their own committee investigations? Could it be that the findings don’t fit the desired outcome?

Dave Potter
North Hampton, N.H.
Dave:

You must admit that the members of House Benghazi!!! Committee No. 8, in their rabidly insatiable pursuit of not much, perfectly emulate their better owners bosses su-

periors masters supporters’ pursuit of what little they don’t already own.

The Editor

~~~~~

### Po’Town City Council Choices

To the Editor:

I don’t know if you plan on doing a piece on the upcoming Municipal election, but I think the forwarded email, titled “The choice for City Council this year,” that former one-term Portsmouth Mayor Steve Marchand blasted throughout Portsmouth on October 22, might be worth your consideration for some muckraking. (Yes, the same Steve Marchand that ran for U.S. Senate.)

The email explains the dense clusters of just the “Great Eights” yard signs on lawns. I love that Steve has “personally written” profiles for each on his website, [www.OnePortsmouth.com](http://www.OnePortsmouth.com), but my personal favorite is the email’s request to like Steve’s Facebook page.

It is no coincidence that these are the same eight candidates Portsmouth Parking Solutions and Keep Portsmouth Loud [recommend] on their lists. In 2013, Portsmouth Parking Solutions supported candidates that supported Steve’s failed Worth Parking Garage. Unlike the Association of Portsmouth Taxpay-

ers, which created its list after interviewing each candidate on television, or the Portsmouth Professional Firefighters, which offered to meet with every candidate before meeting making their endorsements, Portsmouth Parking Solutions and Keep Portsmouth Loud did neither.

I like some of the candidates in the “Great Eight,” but as a candidate who has been going door-to-door for the past nine weekends on my own, I am not a fan of this pack mentality. I do not claim to know what Steve’s ambitions or motives are with his “Great Eight,” but it is worth going to his bio page to see all of the boards he sits on (including the [Portsmouth] Herald’s citizen editorial board). I do know that Portsmouth Now’s distribution of candidate list cards in 2013 divided Portsmouth, and I hope Marchand doesn’t do the same with “Great Eight” cards.

Josh Denton  
Portsmouth, N.H.

[Begin forwarded message.]

From: Steve Marchand  
<[steve.r.marchand@gmail.com](mailto:steve.r.marchand@gmail.com)>

I hope you’re well. If there’s one thing you remember about the upcoming Portsmouth City Council election, let it be this: Who you vote for on November 3rd will impact the day-to-day quality of life for you and your

family.

That’s why I’ve spent time recently creating a website, [www.OnePortsmouth.com](http://www.OnePortsmouth.com). It’s meant to get more citizens involved in local civic life in the spirit of collaboration, rather than polarization. While I greatly respect all candidates who put their name forward, there are eight diverse, thoughtful, talented, outstanding candidates I’m specifically asking you to consider here (a list is below; profiles I have personally written are at the link), and support on November 3rd.

If you are supportive of some or all of these eight candidates, there are a number of ways you can help: [Deleted: 258 words of advice generic, practical political advice; yard signs, canvassing, &c. — The Ed.]

On November 3rd, we have the opportunity to bring back the spirit of collaboration, and tap into a high level of talent, by electing these candidates: Jack Blalock, Joshua Cyr, Chris Dwyer, Gibson “Mike” Kennedy, Brad Lown, Nancy Pearson, Rebecca Perkins, [and] Eric Spear.

I was fortunate to serve as both a Councilor and a Mayor, and saw how people that didn’t always agree could work together to get important work done, in a way that made people proud of their elected officials. Better than

any city in the state, Portsmouth provides excellent public education, significant investments in infrastructure, and safe neighborhoods while keeping tax increases at or below inflation. Our economy is strong, our bond rating the best in New Hampshire, and our professional staff and leadership are excellent.

However, the ability of our community to maintain these qualities, prevent future sizable tax increases, and insure this prosperity gets shared to all of our neighborhoods is strongly impacted by the quality of our next City Council. I’ve audited cities for a living, been a mayor, and studied best practices for local management, and when a community has the rare chance to elect a particularly diverse, talented, and collaborative collection of citizens that want to serve, it is exciting.

Please email me with any questions, feedback, sign locations, or other offers to help from the list above. Thanks very much!

Steve Marchand

[End forwarded message.]

Josh:

Most of these candidates we view without alarm. This business of a non-partisan “No Labels” imprimatur does give us the creeps, though.

The Editor

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1 | **Bruce Ferrara Quartet** 8-11PM NO COVER  
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2 | **Adam Brown** Hoot Meister  
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wed  
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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, NOVEMBER 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       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                  | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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| <p><b>2004</b>—Voting machines are delivered to polling places in Franklin Co., Ohio. More go to higher-income areas than lower-income areas.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—“[T]hat’s what you expect here in New Hampshire,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “somebody who tells you what’s on your mind.”</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The Piscataqua River Bridge opens to traffic.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Two limpet mines kill 26 aboard the <i>U.S.S. Westchester County</i> at My Tho; it is the U.S. Navy’s heaviest loss of life during the war.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Lyndon Johnson, lying, tells U.S. troops in Korea that his great-great granddaddy died at the Alamo.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—South Vietnamese generals stage a coup against Pres. Ngô Đình Diệm, with U.S. approval.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Six thousand soldiers are exposed to an A-bomb explosion in Nevada “for training purposes.”</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Puerto Rican nationalists try to kill Harry S. Truman.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—A scab motorman causes the Malbone Tunnel disaster in New York City; 97 die, 255 are injured.</p> <p><b>1789</b>—George Washington attends two church services in Portsmouth.</p> <p><b>1777</b>—The <i>Ranger</i>, Captain John Paul Jones commanding, leaves Portsmouth for France.</p> <p><b>1765</b>—In Portsmouth, a mock funeral is held for Liberty, who is rescued by “a number of her sons.” The hated Stamp Act is buried in her place.</p>       | <p><b>2004</b>—Warren Co., Ohio, officials explain they’re counting votes behind locked doors because of an alleged “terrorist threat.”</p> <p><b>2002</b>—“We know he [Saddam Hussein] has chemical weapons,” says George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—A Maine TV station reports that George W.[MD] Bush got busted for drunk driving in 1976.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—In exchange for the Justice Department dropping an indictment for making illegal campaign contributions, the Seafarer’s International Union contributes \$100,000 to the Nixon campaign.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Pres. Johnson and his “Wise Men” decide what the Vietnam War needs is more upbeat coverage.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—At the Pentagon, below Robert McNamara’s office window, Norman Morrison, a 31 year-old Quaker, immolates himself.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—President Ngô Đình Diệm and his brother Nhu are assassinated on orders from General Dương Văn “Big” Minh.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Howard Hughes takes the “Spruce Goose”—the world’s largest airplane—out for a test flight. It never flies again.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—“The Wall Street crash,” says <i>Business Week</i>, “doesn’t mean that there will be any general or serious business depression.”</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Socialist Eugene V. Debs gets 913,693 votes for President, despite being in prison.</p> | <p><b>1969</b>—Richard Nixon announces “Vietnamization” of Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Lyndon Johnson is elected as the peace candidate.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A female dog named Laika, aboard <i>Sputnik 2</i>, becomes the first living thing to orbit Earth.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—The <i>Chicago Daily Tribune</i> mistakenly declares Dewey the winner over Truman in the presidential election.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Bolsheviks take power during the Russian Revolution.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—The Income Tax is born.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—The Colombian province of Panama secedes with quiet backing from Teddy Roosevelt whose Republican party recently received \$60,000 from the New Panama Canal Company.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—The White League kills 7 black Republicans, wounds 70 more, and declares Democrats the winners in a Eufala, Ala. election.</p> <p><b>1868</b>—In a special election, Louisiana’s John W. Menard becomes the first black man elected to Congress; his opponent challenges the win, though, and Congress won’t seat him.</p> <p><b>1789</b>—In Portsmouth, George Washington visits Madam Lear, his secretary’s mother, on Hunking St. and attends a ball at the Assembly.</p> <p><b>1755</b>—Massachusetts establishes bounties for Indian scalps, ranging from £50 for male Penobscots over 12 years old, to £20 for female Indians under 12.</p> | <p><b>2008</b>—Americans elect Barack Obama President, and Californians restrict the civil rights of gay Californians.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Militant Shi’ite Muslims take 66 Americans hostage in Teheran, spelling the end of the Carter administration.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Lenny Bruce is found guilty of using obscenity during appearances in New York City.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—In Dallas, a vicious “Mink Coat Mob” angrily confronts Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson. Revulsion at its tactics cost Nixon Texas.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—U.S. B-47 bomber carrying nukes crashes near Abilene, TX. High explosives detonate. Nuclear materials are recovered later.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Soviet troops put down Hungarian revolt.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Asked who shot him, the dying gangster Arnold Rothstein tells police, “My mudder did it.”</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Nellie Rayloe Ross becomes a first female governor of a U.S. state, Wyoming.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Howard Carter discovers King Tutankhamen’s tomb.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Disgruntled German sailors take over the port at Kiel, starting the German Revolution.</p> <p><b>1879</b>—James Ritty gets a patent for the first cash register, invented to outfox thieving bartenders.</p> <p><b>1879</b>—Will Rogers is born.</p> <p><b>1798</b>—Vermont elects Matthew Lyon, in jail for sedition, to Congress.</p> | <p><b>2004</b>—A Franklin Co. Ohio official reports that Pres. Bush’s 3,893 vote total in one district is erroneous—only 638 ballots were cast.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—File under “Non-News.” Ronald Reagan announces he has Alzheimer’s.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Nam vet Ron McIntosh hijacks a helicopter and uses it to free his girlfriend from the Federal prison he escaped from six days earlier.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Dick “Dick” Cheney becomes White House Chief of Staff, Donald Rumsfeld becomes Secretary of Defense, and George H.[H.]W. Bush becomes Director of the CIA. Gerry Ford is allowed to stay on as President.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—Deranged WW II veteran and daily churchgoer Howard Unruh (1921—2009) shoots 16 people, killing 13, in Camden, N.J.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—Parker Brothers introduces the game “Monopoly.”</p> <p><b>1930</b>—Told over the phone by a Swedish newspaper reporter that he’s won the Nobel Prize, Sinclair Lewis, thinking it’s a hoax, imitates the man’s accent.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Vigilantes fire on IWW members in Everett, Wash. They kill two of their own and five Wobblies.</p> <p><b>1872</b>—In Rochester, N.Y., Susan B. Anthony is arrested for voting.</p> <p><b>1765</b>—Two Boston gangs forego their usual Guy Fawkes Day ruckus and join up to demonstrate against the Stamp Act.</p>                 | <p><b>1984</b>—It’s mourning in America—Reagan defeats Mondale.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—A dam owned and modified by the Toccoa Falls Bible Institute in Georgia fails, killing 39 people.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—The Sex Pistols perform in public for the first time.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The Atomic Energy Commission explodes a 5-megaton nuke—the largest ever exploded in the U.S.—one mile below Amchitka Island in Alaska, about 87 miles from a Soviet naval base in Siberia.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Times Square, five men burn their draft cards, the first such protest of the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—In Midland, Texas, the future Mrs. George W.[MD] Bush runs a stop sign with fatal results.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—A three day fire begins in Bel Air, Calif., destroying 447 homes including those of Zsa Zsa Gabor and Dick Nixon.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The Zionist Stern Gang assassinates Britain’s Lord Moyne in Cairo. Israel honors the assassins with a stamp in 1982.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Herbert Hoover beats Alfred E. Smith for president.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—An explosion kills 77 coal miners in Spangler, Pa.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Shipyard workers revolt in Kiel and Hamburg.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—After three months of fighting in mud, Canadians take Passchendaele, ending the Third Battle of Ypres; Allies gain five miles at a cost of 250,000 casualties.</p> | <p><b>2007</b>—Private Jessica Lynch accuses the Pentagon of using her for propaganda purposes.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The American people vote for a president. Instead, they end up with George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Richard Nixon tells the press they won’t have him to kick around any more. (It’s a lie.)</p> <p><b>1940</b>—The mile-long Tacoma Narrows bridge wiggles, wobbles, and then falls down. Washington State is unable to collect on its insurance, because their agent fraudulently pocketed the premiums.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—3,000 anarchists are held without bail on Ellis Island as the Palmer Raids begin.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Twelve IWW members are convicted in Tulsa of not owning war bonds. Police turn them over, along with five defense witnesses, to a Klan-affiliated mob. They’re then whipped, tarred, and feathered.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Revolutionary peasants lost in the Winter Palace stumble upon the remnants of Kerenky’s government. Being illiterate, they force the officials to write their own arrest warrants.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—The U.S. denies Colombia’s request to place Colombian troops in Panama, a Colombian province.</p> <p><b>1837</b>—Maine-born Elijah P. Lovejoy, an abolitionist editor whose printing press has been thrown in the river twice, is murdered by a mob in Alton, Ill.</p>                            |
| <p>2:23 2:36</p> <p>8:17 8:58</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      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<p>8:12 8:35</p> <p>1:49 2:19</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        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| SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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                  | Wednesday, NOVEMBER 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    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| <p><b>2010</b>—George W.[MD] Bush reveals on TV that his mother once showed him a jar containing the fetus of a miscarried sibling and asked him to drive her to the hospital.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—At 2:16 a.m., Fox News “reporter” John Ellis calls Fla. in favor of his cousin, George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—Serial philanderer Newt Gingrich and the Republican Party gain control of Congress.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Moscow puts its nuclear forces on high alert and sends flash telegrams to its embassies warning that a nuclear strike on the USSR may come at any time.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Singer Michelle Phillips divorces Dennis Hopper — eight days of marriage was enough.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Socialist Norman Thomas gets 884,885 votes for President.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—Disgruntled corporal A. Hitler, with help from disgruntled general E. von Ludendorff, stages the “Beer Hall Putsch” in Munich.</p> <p><b>1897</b>—Birth of Dorothy Day, anarchist founder of <i>Catholic Worker</i>.</p> <p><b>1876</b>—The editor of <i>The New York Times</i> and the chairman of the Republican National Committee conspire to bribe election officials in Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana to “elect” Hayes president.</p> <p><b>1800</b>—A mysterious fire in the War Office destroys many records after (then-liberal) Republicans demanded an accounting of (conservative) Federalist expenditures.</p> | <p><b>1998</b>—NASDAQ brokers are made to pay bilked customers \$1 billion for rigging the game.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—The Berlin Wall becomes porous.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Due to a computer error, for six minutes the U.S. Air Defense Command mistakenly believes that the USSR is attacking the U.S.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—78 Indians occupy Alcatraz.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—<i>Rolling Stone</i> begins publication.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Due to a failure at a single power plant in Ontario, the entire northeast is left in the dark.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Dylan Thomas dies in New York at 39.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The first “Liberty Ship,” the <i>Robert E. Peary</i>, is launched.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—German Nazis demonstrate their racial superiority during Kristallnacht by killing 91 Jews.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—In Switzerland, the Army fires on a demonstration against fascism, killing 13.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Charles Justice is executed in Ohio’s electric chair—which he had built himself while an inmate 14 years earlier.</p> <p><b>1872</b>—600 buildings burn in Boston. The Fire Department is hampered by a lack of horsepower due to an equine virus, aka “the Great Epizootic,” and by looters.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—Abraham Lincoln watches John Wilkes Booth perform in Selby’s “The Marble Heart” at Ford’s Theatre.</p>           | <p><b>2004</b>—George W.[MD] Bush nominates as his new Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales—who goes on to make his predecessor, John Ashcroft, look good.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a gift to the nation from those it had shunned, opens in Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—The <i>Edmund Fitzgerald</i> sinks on Lake Superior, taking with her a crew of 29.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—In Drake, N.D. the school board fires a teacher and burns the book he assigned, <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—“Sesame Street” debuts.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—In Australia, the draft is re-introduced, apparently to protect that part of the British Empire from invasion by Ho’s forces.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Flying over Canada, a U.S. Air Force crew in a B-50 experiences engine trouble. They chuck the bomb (minus its plutonium core) which then explodes in Riviere du Loup, Quebec.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—Four hundred Democratic Party activists in Wilmington, N.C. murder 40 to 100 blacks, depose the mayor, and establish a new government by force.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—Newspaperman Henry Morton Stanley, meeting a white man near Lake Tanganyika, says “Dr. Livingston, I presume?”</p> <p><b>1775</b>—The Continental Congress creates the Marine Corps.</p>                                                                                | <p><b>2000</b>—Republicans go to court to stop manual recounts in Florida.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Sand Lance</i> is launched, the final sub built at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—“Rocky and His Friends” debut.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Soviet forces crush the Hungarian resistance.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—“The Great Black Blizzard,” the first of the great dust storms, hits the Great Plains.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—President Warren G. Harding dedicates the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—In Centralia, Wash., American Legionnaires kidnap, torture, and castrate fellow WW I vet Wesley Everest, who had been thoughtless enough to join the IWW.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—At 11:11 a.m., the War to End All Wars ends — too late for the 2,738 who die on this day.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—“The Great Blue Norther” strikes the midwest. In Springfield, Mo. the temperature drops from 80 degrees at mid-afternoon to 13 at midnight.</p> <p><b>1889</b>—Marcel Proust, 18, enlists in the French Army.</p> <p><b>1887</b>—The anarchist Haymarket Martyrs are hanged in Chicago.</p> <p><b>1880</b>—Rebellious Australian bushranger Ned Kelly is hanged.</p> <p><b>1778</b>—British troops and their Iroquois allies massacre dozens of American settlers and soldiers at Cherry Valley, N.Y.</p>                             | <p><b>2001</b>—Flight 587 falls apart and crashes off Queens, N.Y., killing 261.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—New York City Mayor Ed Koch admits he tried marijuana.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The Berkeley City Council votes symbolically to provide sanctuary for draft resisters.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—The Oregon Highway Dept. discovers that half a ton of explosives isn’t enough to dispose of a dead eight-ton whale.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—Abe “Kid Twist” Reles earns the posthumous sobriquet “the canary who sang but couldn’t fly” when he autodenestrates (or is defenestrated) from the sixth floor of a Coney Island hotel while under the protection of six cops.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—The first photo is taken of the Loch Ness Monster.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—Stalin reigns alone after Trotsky is expelled from the Communist Party.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—A feud between rival beer and rum factions in Illinois results in the aerial bombing of a farmhouse by a civilian plane.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—Former Senator Preston King (R-N.Y.) ties a bag of bullets around his neck and leaps to his death from a ferryboat.</p> <p><b>1815</b>—Birth of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, suffragette.</p> <p><b>1779</b>—Twenty slaves petition the New Hampshire legislature to abolish slavery to no avail. Primus Fowle, Daniel Fowle’s enslaved pressman, is not among them.</p> | <p><b>2003</b>—Because he would not remove a monument to the Ten Commandments from his courthouse, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore is himself removed.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Iraq agrees to submit to UN Resolution 1441 and allow weapons inspectors into the country. Fat lot of good it did.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, and Robert McNamara are no-shows.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Disgruntled Kerr-McGee worker Karen Silkwood conveniently turns up dead.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Up to half a million die as a cyclone hits Bangladesh.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The <i>U.S.S. Juneau</i> is sunk. Five sons of Thomas and Allea Sullivan, of Waterloo, Ia. are aboard. Several survive the sinking but die due to belated rescue.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Hormel workers in Austin, MN invent the sit-down strike.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—The Supreme Court rules that Japanese persons cannot become naturalized citizens because they are “not Caucasian.”</p> <p><b>1887</b>—British police charge a demonstration by the unemployed in Trafalgar Square, killing 3 and arresting 300.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—A locomotive and three freight cars plunge from an open drawbridge into the Piscataqua, just missing three ships; no injuries.</p>                                                                          | <p><b>2002</b>—Donald Rumsfeld predicts the Iraq War will last “five days or five weeks or five months, but [no] longer than that.”</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris certifies George W.[MD] Bush’s dubious electoral lead.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Three battalions of the First Air Cavalry chopper into the Ia Drang Valley. They’re greeted by six battalions of the NVA.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—In Apalachin, N.Y., a meeting of important businessmen is interrupted by cops.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—A campaign to collect 10 million signatures petitioning the Senate not to censure Joe McCarthy begins. It fails by 9 million.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—Workmen in Pittsburgh’s industrial center, using an open flame blowlamp to fix a leak in the world’s largest gasometer, ignite 5 million cubic feet of natural gas, effectively clearing a one square mile area killing 28 people.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—“Put out the bloody cigarette!” says H.H. “Saki” Munro to another soldier in a trench. Seconds later a sniper’s bullet extinguishes him.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—Birth of Joseph R. McCarthy, “a great American [whose] stature will grow with the passage of time,” according to a memorial tribute from N.H. Sen. Styles Bridges.</p> <p><b>1831</b>—“Only one man ever understood me,” says Hegel on his deathbed, “and even he didn’t understand me.”</p> |
| <p>8:57 9:21</p> <p>2:36 3:05</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      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<p>12:26 12:29</p> <p>6:17 6:49</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      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