

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Countdown to the Apocalypse?

Just three months from now — or six newspapers from now, as we reckon things — those Granite Staters who manage to rise from the comfort of their Bernie & Phyl's "Atlantic Wall"* recliner and exercise their franchise at their assigned polling place will set in motion and, to a not-inconsiderable extent, steer the process of selecting the next man or woman to control the levers of the Executive Branch and thus the most powerful entity ever to exist on Planet Earth.

We do not wish to be unduly alarmist about the matter, but we are a little concerned.

Unlike the vast majority of our confreres and consorores in the news racket who labor in the barely-invisible shackles of commercial concern, we are independently impoverished and therefore free to report flatly the obvious: most of the candidates of one of the parties competing for the Presidency are exhibiting signs of mental derangement.

Making matters worse, there appears to be a direct and positive correlation between the extremes of those symptoms and the candidates' ranking in the polls.

Rounding out the existential horror of this situation, not even the least-mad among this cohort — all of whom wholeheartedly endorse economic theories

which were long ago exposed as utter bunkum — can seem to muster the requisite courage or honesty to admit to their rivals' lunacy.

This does not bode particularly well for the nation or the world as a whole, especially since, over the last 75 years, voters have elected a new President of the same party as an outgoing two-term President a grand total of exactly once. A poll released Tuesday indicates that likely Republican voters are far more engaged in the 2016 Presidential election than likely Democratic voters.

A List of Peculiarities

A decent respect for the opinions of mankind requires that anyone asserting such troubling news provide evidence backing it up. That, sadly, will not be very difficult.

Ladies first: In a debate, Carly Fiorina graphically described the contents of a video that does not exist. After members of the media pointed out that the video she had described did not exist, she said, "I find it amazing, actually, that all these supposed fact-checkers in the mainstream media claim this doesn't exist. They're trying to attack the authenticity of the [non-existent] videotape. I will continue to dare anyone who wants to continue to fund Planned Parenthood, watch the [non-existent] videotapes."

Florida Senator Rafael Edward "Ted" Cruz is similarly disconnected from the available factual evidence. Following the October 28th debate, Cruz accused its moderators — business reporters from the cable network CNBC — of being "a bunch of left-wing operatives." He then character-



ized Sean Hannity, Rush Limbaugh and Mark Levin as "real journalists." We rest our case.

The latest product offering from the nation's most persistent political dynasty, John Ellis "Jeb" Bush, appears less subject to outright delusions, but he has his own unique set of liabilities, apparently including a tendency towards self-destruction.

This being America, everyone has the right to run for President; and, the human condition being what it is, everyone has reason to be depressed. Most Americans would probably oppose giving a depressed person the keys to our nuclear arsenal. Yet Bush told charter school students in Manchester recently, "All he [Bush's father] would have to say is 'I'm disappointed in you' and it would send me into a deep spiraling depression for days." Also, with his

new slogan, "Jeb Can Fix It," he is subtly undermining himself by reminding voters that as Governor of Florida he helped throw the 2000 election to his brother, George W.[MD] Bush.‡

Marco Rubio, who played Brutus to Bush's Caesar during the October 28th debate, showed as much ill will towards the facts as he did towards his former mentor. When John Harwood correctly observed that Rubio's proposed tax cuts would primarily benefit the rich, Rubio simply contradicted Harwood and mathematics. That's all just numbers, though — until Rubio dares to venture into total fantasy, he'll continue to lag behind

‡ While we generally eschew superstition, we find it deeply unsettling that Bush's "Right to Rise" super PAC has made a deal with the Devil: on November 4th, that PAC paid \$6.66 million to Rupert Murdoch's Fox News Channel.

the front-runners.

With Ben Carson and Donald Trump competing for the lead, it's clear that the ability to transcend reality is the qualification GOP voters care about most.

Diagnosis: Dire

In the American body politic, the Republican Party is an intestinal blockage: nothing else is going to work properly as long as it persists. Left to its own peculiar devices, the volume of its obfuscatory bafflebagg may someday reach a state of critical mass, eventually imploding.

R

For those desiring more immediate relief, expose potential voters to as much of the unvarnished truth as they can stand. In a rare bit of good news, a considerable supply is now available from a known and reliable source in Vermont.

A FISTFUL OF DECADES SINCE THE IA DRANG

Tomorrow will be the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley. The following paragraph, coming as it does from the Department of Defense's United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration website (www.vietnamwar50th.com), seems to be the nation's official line regarding that shindig:

"From November 14 to 18 [1965], the first major clash between American and North Vietnamese troops [took] place when elements of the 1st Cavalry Division [battled] several regiments of the North Vietnamese Army in the Ia Drang Valley of the Central Highlands. Although casualties on both sides [were] high, General William C. Westmoreland, the Military Assistance Command Vietnam commander, would say that the battle vindicated the concept of airmobile operations."

Let's flesh that out a little bit, since some details are likely to be overlooked by more-profitable media outlets.

The "elements" cited above were battalions of the 7th Cavalry Regiment — Lt. Col. George A. Custer's old unit, which had famously lost 268 men at Little Bighorn.

As Custer had 89 years earlier, Lt. Col. Harold Moore, the commander at Ia Drang, found that he faced a far more formidable force than expected based on available intelligence. Seventy-nine men of the 1st Battalion were killed at LZ X-Ray, most on the first day.

Thanks to massive artillery, air power, and reinforcements, Moore still had troops to withdraw on November 16th, having killed more than 1,000 NVA regulars.

Lt. Col. Moore's immediate commander, Col. Thomas Brown, advised the withdrawal of all units from the area. General William Westmoreland, the top commander in Vietnam, rejected that advice, not wishing to be seen as retreating. On November 17th, Westmoreland ordered the newly arrived 2nd Battalion to march out from under a scheduled B-52 strike and on to LZ Albany, four kilometers away. They were ambushed en route by a full NVA regiment, and lost another 155 KIA's.

At a press conference the next day Moore's commander, Brig. Gen. Richard Knowles, characterized losses at LZ Albany as "light to moderate." Joe Galloway, a reporter who had just returned from Albany, stood up and told the General, "That's bull___t, sir, and you know it."

As of November 13th, about 1,100 Americans had died in

Vietnam. The Battle of the Ia Drang Valley added another 234.

Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara flew to Vietnam and was briefed by Lt. Col. Moore, then wrote a memo for the President laying out two options: either withdraw the troops, or put in 200,000 more and keep on fighting indefinitely. The latter option would cost 1,000 U.S. lives a month [overly optimistic by a factor of three, it turns out] and achieve nothing more than "a military stalemate at a much higher level of violence."

Johnson asked McNamara a month later, "You mean to tell me no matter what I do I can't win in Vietnam?" McNamara just nodded.

Withdrawal, though, was unacceptable. The corrupt Nationalist regime in China had fallen to the Communists just 16 years earlier, and Republicans were still howling about that. So, another

56,861 Americans had to die. As for the Vietnamese

This ultimately sprang from France's desire for an empire. By the late 19th century, coffee, tea, and rubber plantations in French Indochina were proving very profitable. There were administrative costs, though. Early in the 20th century, enterprising minds realized that an opium monopoly would defray those expenses. Given the dismal living conditions on French plantations, and harsh colonial policing, indigenous spirits were low and opium sales were high.

Politically-minded abstainers, finding these conditions intolerable, formed the Viet Minh. By the time the Japanese occupation ended in 1945, they were ready to take over. The world was not ready to let them, though. They were Communists, after all. So 75,000 Frenchmen died, before the Americans took over.

it seems to provide job security. How long have we been in Afghanistan?

Sam Smith, a Maine resident who's been reporting on man's folly for at least fifty years, recently offered these thoughts on how to fight these new wars more cost-effectively.

"There is one way to deal with guerrilla warfare and that is to resolve the problems that allow it to thrive. The trick is to undermine the violence of the most bitter by dealing honestly with the problems and complaints of the most rational.

"Of course, there can be peace with so-called terrorist organizations; it's just a matter of whether one waits the better part of a century, as the British did in Northern Ireland, or whether you start talking and negotiating now."

Gone and Forgotten

Sheldon Wolin died on October 21st at the age of 93.

Who? Exactly.

According to the semi-infallible *Wikipedia*, Wolin was born in Chicago, raised in Buffalo, New York, interrupted his studies at

Oberlin College to serve as a U.S. Army Air Force bombardier/navigator in the Pacific during World War II, and was married to Emily Purvis Wolin for over sixty years. He therefore meets many of the criteria for Right Wing sainthood. He insisted on thinking independently, though, and so was allowed to exit this life in relative obscurity.

It was Wolin who first explained the sadly disregarded concept of inverted totalitarianism:

"Antidemocracy, executive predominance, and elite rule are basic elements of inverted totalitarianism. Antidemocracy does not take the form of overt attacks upon the idea of government by the people. Instead, politically it means encouraging what I have earlier dubbed 'civic demobilization,' conditioning an electorate to being aroused for a brief spell, controlling its attention span, and then encouraging distraction or apathy. The intense pace of work and the extended working day, combined with job insecurity, is a formula for political demobilization, for privatizing



the citizenry. It works indirectly. Citizens are encouraged to distrust their government and politicians; to concentrate upon their own interests; to begrudge their taxes; and to exchange active involvement for symbolic gratifications of patriotism, collective self-righteousness, and military prowess. Above all, depoliticization is promoted through society's being enveloped in an atmosphere of collective fear and of individual powerlessness: fear of terrorists, loss of jobs, the uncertainties of pension plans, soaring health costs, and rising educational expenses."

A standard totalitarian government tells everyone, including businesses, what to do.

In an inverted totalitarian government, business tells government what to do.

Who Runs This State?

Former N.H. Chief Justice John Broderick and Daniel Weeks, Executive Director of Open Democracy, are teaming up to promote nonpartisan campaign finance reform solutions to the much-discussed problem of

money in politics. Here's a fragment of their assessment of the problem:

"Just two percent of the American people currently contributes to politics and a small fraction of one percent provides the lion's share of campaign cash. In fact, the top five spenders in 2014 provided more money nationally than 98% of Americans combined. At the state level, just 591 individuals representing 0.06% of New Hampshire's population provided the majority of campaign funds last year."

Flotsam & Jetsam

A recent scientific study of male monkeys has found about what you might expect. The louder the monkey, the smaller his testes.

Eighteen million Americans live in food deserts (areas in which at least 500 people and/or at least 33 percent of the census tract's population reside more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store, or, for rural census tracts, more than 10 miles).

The Wreck of the Lizzie Carr

In January, 1905, a storm broke the anchor chains of the *Lizzie Carr* and drove her onto the rocks — it was the last shipwreck of a schooner in New Hampshire waters. For years, the wreck was forgotten — until 1998, when wreckage from an unknown ship reappeared at Wallis Sands Beach. A few years later, thanks to old photographs, the wreckage was identified as coming from the *Lizzie Carr*.

Wendy Lull, President of the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, will tell this dramatic tale at the Portsmouth Athenæum on November 18th, complete with first-hand accounts of the Wallis Sands Life Saving Station surf men's attempts to rescue the craft and crew in the bitter cold.

The event will be held in the Research Library and is free to Athenæum Friends and Members. \$10 will be charged for the general public. Space is limited; reservations are requested. Call (603) 431-2538, ext. 2, at least 48 hours in advance.



In a stunning achievement, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation is expected to open today something it's calling a "bridge." If all goes well, automobiles will be able to carry themselves from the east side of the Route 1 Bypass to the west side, without crashing into vehicles on that restricted-access roadway. And that's not all! If that succeeds, a second lane may be opened leading in the other direction! This bold experiment has been in the works for longer than many residents can recall.

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"Your Fish Wrap"

Dear Mr. Fowle:

First, I have to say I had heard about your newspaper, and I use that term loosely, but have never picked it up to read it. I had the occasion to actually read through you [sic] October 30th issue. I happen [sic] to need some bathroom reading while waiting for a take out order. If the TP dispenser was empty, I soon discovered I had a wealth of back up.

I always thought your newspaper was just a rag for left wing wackos and low grade advertisers, ambulance chasing attorneys and other weirdoes. After reading the paper, I feel I was proven correct.

You must be a valuable publication since your entire back page is a tidal guide and almanac. The Mail Section in [sic] nothing more than the rants of the lunatic fringe, low grade kindergarten cartoons.

I did find the Allege [sic] News section comically interesting since it is in an alleged newspaper. Thank God, you only have a fortnightly rant and not more frequent.

I hope I never have the pleasure of having to read your rag, but should I need to wrap fish or line the bottom or [sic] my cat's litter box, I know where to find the proper material. At least your rag is useful for something. It certainly is not good for news.

Gordon Oliver
Rochester, N.H.

Gordon:

Thank you for your letter, which so clearly validates the standing head of this department. Hate mail is harder to come by than you might think; yours is the truest example we've had in some time.

That said, we're disappointed. Most of your insults were already cliches in the days of H.L. Menck-en, who once wrote, "Running the newspaper letters column I always let in anyone who denounced me violently, because I believe people like to read abuse, and I didn't care what they said of me. I was much too vain to care what such idiots believed about me."

The Editor

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**Don't Fear The "S" Word**

To the Editor:

Why I identify as a socialist and I support Bernie Sanders.

In a democracy, a government of, by, and for the people, we are required to participate in the democratic process if it is to work for the people it represents. Bernie Sanders and I identify as social democrats, and he stands by this conviction without concern for the propagandized version of socialism put out by the American press and the American politicians. I have benefited from a socialist system, being a dual citizen of the U.S. and of France, in terms of education and job training and healthcare. These things are not free in a socialist system but they are for the most part non-profit.

Bernie and I believe that if our government can provide interest-free loans to billion-dollar banking institutions that "we the people" just bailed out, then our government can provide interest-free loans to our students. Anyone with a kid in college can understand that the primary motivation in our university system in this country is *not* education, it has become profit, along with immense endowments that are managed to generate capital first

and help poor students second.

Bernie and I believe that if we can afford to house the largest inmate population in the world to the tune of \$40K per year per inmate, we ought to be willing to maybe spend that much per child in education and perhaps save us that incarceration cost in their future.

He talks about a tax system that is fair to everyone. My wife and I are not poor by any sense of the word and we pay quite a bit of taxes. But unlike in a socialist system, we don't seem to get a lot of return on our investment here in America. I don't believe Bernie is talking about the "new middle class" when he talks about the billionaire class. The scare tactics of the right are to have us believe that wealth redistribution is taxing anyone making a couple of hundred thousand a year. That is disinformation. The way I understand it to be is, that if a family is making 10 or 20 million dollars a year, that is great and should be heralded and supported. But I believe that, let's say after the 20th million, taxed like everyone else's income, the 21st million, and millions thereafter, *can* be taxed at a much higher margin, say 60 percent or even 75 percent, and help to contribute to the rest of society without affecting that family's lifestyle or security for itself and its descendants. I'm not talking about a corporation's income, I'm talking about personal income. Isn't \$10 billion enough, or at least enough that one can be asked to share a greater portion of the 11th billion without fear of not having enough?! This is how I understand socialism. And from what I've heard from Bernie Sanders, he understand socialism from an American perspective not from a Scandinavian perspective. We can make it work.

My experience living in a socialist country is this: we pay taxes, maybe a bit more than the

U.S., I say "a bit" because here in the U.S. we have a lot of fees that are not called "taxes" but they are, nonetheless, payments to a government; city, state or federal. So when compared, the taxes in a socialist country are not that much more than here. What is different is what you receive for those taxes. Affordable healthcare for everyone (not free), affordable higher education for everyone (not free), utilities are non-profit, a lot like the local co-ops utilities in this country, which have their own grid, protected from the hacker-vulnerable national grid. I wouldn't mind paying say \$800 or even \$1,000 more in taxes if I could then send my kids to college for say \$3,000 a year as opposed to \$60,000 a year. And for those of you who say, "I have no kids in college, why should I pay for yours," I say we, as a society, would all benefit from a better-educated population. We are paying for the consequences of poor education with our tax money through welfare, childcare, crime and an unconscionable incarceration rate. In a socialist country, your tax dollar pays for subsidized, paid time off. In France, for instance, everyone gets a month vacation per year, as soon as you start work, not six or eight years in. Also, we have family paid leave for moms and dads.

For those of you who say that corporations would run in droves out of a socialist U.S.; again, propaganda and disinformation. As one of the top five foreign investors to the United States, France's commercial dealings with the United States form a central component of bilateral relations. Over 4,600 French companies conduct business in the U.S., providing over 650,000 American jobs. And in France; There were 64 French companies on the 2013 Forbes Global 2000

*Mash Notes, HATE MAIL*

list. Collectively, the companies had a combined market value of \$1.377 trillion, with \$11.6 trillion in assets; generating \$2.1 trillion in revenues and \$72.5 billion in profits.

Again I return to education. If our schools really educated our children rather than indoctrinated them with skewed American history, we would have a real concept of what socialism is and we would know what communism is and we would know that they are not at all the same. And we would be able to make educated choices as to what type of government "we the people" want, and not rely on the corporate-owned media to feed us whatever propaganda the corporations who now fund our politics want us to believe.

There's a reason why Bernie would make voting day a national holiday. It is because the best way a democracy works is by having the most participation from its citizens. The oligarchy that is burgeoning in the United States knows this and it is working hard to suppress the vote in certain demographics. And I don't think that the way campaigns are run today, bombarding us with negative messages that turn us off the whole process is unintended. Inform yourselves and vote, please.

Patrice Gerard  
Portsmouth, N.H.

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Enough With the Screeches

To the Editor:

When Barack Obama was running for president we heard screeches from Limbaugh, Hannity, and the rest of the right go on and on about how inexperienced he was, that being a State Senator for seven years and a U.S. Senator for three was just not enough, He's just too inexperienced, damn it!

Let's look at the front runners,

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when asked why gender parity was a priority
in his cabinet appointments

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And Other Correspondence

shall we? Ben Carson has *no* experience whatsoever and neither does Donald Trump. But hey, Republicans want an outsider now, they're just sick of politicians! Experience doesn't matter now, don't you get it? Soft-spoken guys like Ben who say the craziest crap but can say it in a low-keyed and mellow voice are it. As are bellicose narcissists who also say crazy things like rounding up and shipping off 11 million people. It's simple, Trump can do it — because he says so!

Ted Cruz, who has more than hinted that Obama was not a U.S. citizen, and is himself (surprise), not born in the U.S. but in Canada! Yes, don't bother Republicans with facts.

This theme of making up their own set of rules, and believing their own illogic based on their gut "common sense," is a hallmark of the right. Climate change is all liberal hogwash, Rush Limbaugh said so, and I'm not going to believe some commie scientist who wants us to all drive Prius cars! Besides, it still snows and is cold in the winter.

I think I'll vote for the best qualified, and experienced candidate: Hillary Clinton.

Fernando DiFronzo
Concord, N.H.

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## "Thank You" Is Not Enough

To the Editor:

For openers, please don't thank me for my service because I was drafted and didn't have much to say about it. Besides, caring for America's returning vets is not a courtesy awarded in return for favors rendered. It's a solemn obligation. Fortunately, I walked away in one piece and remain grateful for it.

The sad truth is, many weren't as fortunate and America has never fully lived up to her obligation to help them, citing every

excuse from inadequate funding to political gridlock and bloated bureaucracy. To make matters worse, callous adventurism on the part of our leaders only serves to compound the nation's task going forward. In fact, if Marco Rubio and his fellow saber-rattlers have their way, we should count on a rich new crop of veterans in need of care for decades to come. Meanwhile, our leaders in Concord haggle over drug-treatment strategy even as many New Hampshire vets are forced to self-medicate for lack of professional care.

Over the next few weeks, New Hampshire will be at the center of national attention as primary hopefuls spread out across the state and press the flesh. It's a great opportunity to confront each candidate face-to-face and pound home the importance of following through and fully funding veterans' services. Ask for specifics, be relentless, and let our politicians from both sides of the aisle know that "thank you" isn't nearly enough!

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

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Rebranding a Peace Day

To the Editor:

As an Army, infantry veteran of the U.S. war against the people of Viet Nam I look at 11/11 with discerning eyes. Originally called Armistice Day, it marked the end of WW I and the beginning of world peace. The Congressional resolution read in part that this date is "designed to perpetuate peace through good will and

mutual understanding between nations" and "friendly relations with all other peoples."

Now rebranded as Veterans Day, we will not hear about "mutual understanding" on 11/11. Instead, veterans will be used to promote the military model of conflict resolution by violence and the business of war. Over \$600 million of our tax dollars are spent each year on the promotion of militarization. The

Veterans' Day

I went halfway around the world to kill, maim, and make miserable a people who had never done me or my country any harm, nor ever would or could. Do you really want to thank me for that?

Dr. Ehrhart, ex-Marine

To the Editor:

I will be putting up the attached sign [above] on my classroom door Tuesday in anticipation of Wednesday's "holiday."

My students, high school boys, know me as Dr. Ehrhart (or just Dr. E).

Bill Ehrhart

Master Teacher of History & English, The Haverford School, Philadelphia, Pa.

results can be seen in our combat-trained and equipped police, our militarized schools, and our war zone streets. Martin Luther King said that the U.S. is the greatest purveyor of violence in the world. He understood that it is ludicrous to believe that the promotion and use of the military model against other people will not spill over to our own people.

Veterans Day is good for the weapons makers and the business of war. I will celebrate Armistice Day. Please join me.

Arnold Stieber
Chicago, IL

Arnold:

Thanks for once more injecting a little clarity and truth into an occasion that every year seems to become more heavily laden with convenient obfuscation.

The Editor

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## Commander Bernie

To the Editor:

A favorite quote of mine was contained in former President Jimmy Carter's 2002 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech: "War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other's children."

As a retired career serviceman who unabashedly considers himself a reluctant warrior, I fully concur with President Carter's premise. It's my hope that the next Commander-in-Chief of the most powerful and capable military in the history of the planet agrees with me that war, due to its human cost, must always be a last resort. For that reason, I believe Senator Bernie Sanders must be the next CIC.

During the recent Democratic debate, Senator Sanders reminded us that he, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, voted "yes" to go into Afghanistan to hunt down and eliminate the threat of Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, and was one of only 23 Congresspersons to courageously stand up to the warmongering Bush/Cheney Administration by voting "no" on invading Iraq. Bernie encouraged the audience to read the House floor speech (October 9, 2002) he gave during the debate over the authorization to go to war in Iraq, in which he provided five



reasons as to why invading Iraq would only result in disaster.

Reading Bernie's speech, I discovered him to be a prophet regarding matters of war and peace as his predictions, sadly, couldn't have been more correct. He had the foresight to predict: the heavy death and casualty toll of both Americans and Iraqis, the expansion of our national debt, the loss of all gains made in Afghanistan and the War on Terror due to the draining of vital resources, the breakout of sectarian violence and civil war in Iraq and the emergence of extreme Jihadist groups, like ISIS, in the Middle East.

Senator Bernie Sanders, certainly not a pacifist, has already demonstrated, far more than any of his rivals, that he possesses the strength, courage, judgement and enlightened thinking required to know when and when not to lead this country to war.

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, N.H.

## Ayotte's Electric Slide

To the Editor:

The Electric Slide is a line dance created in 1976 which begins with two steps to the right, then two steps to the left. Metaphorically speaking, Sen. Kelly Ayotte has resurrected the Electric Slide and adopted it to her re-election campaign. Ayotte begins with her usual position on the political right.

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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*The Northcountry Chronicle*

## Considering Hillary

by William Marvel

About three weeks ago a young man pulled into my driveway just as I was dropping a tree behind the house. Raising no one at the front door, he apparently followed the sound of the chain saw, and while it was idling I heard a voice behind the rose garden fence calling inquisitively for "Will." Assuming that the unfamiliar nickname was intended for me, I switched off the saw and found him rounding the grape arbor in a white shirt. He extended his right hand and gave me his name (which passed in one ear and out the other), and I noticed a sheaf of political pamphlets clenched in his left fist.

First he asked if he could help. Judging by the crispness of his clothing and the quality of his shoes I saw that he probably could not, but he won points for asking. He soon lost those points when he explained that he had come to talk to me a little about Hillary Clinton. I am not inclined to talk a little about Hil-

lary Clinton, however; I either don't discuss her at all or do so with escalating volume, verbosity, virulence, and gesticulation. He seemed like a nice fellow, and I didn't want to subject him to the unexpurgated version, so I tried to brush him off with a discouraging mumble.

He was too tenacious for that, asking if I had considered voting for Hillary, and I confessed that I wrote her off the moment she voted to support the invasion of Iraq. He replied that he thought she had learned a lot since then. I think he said she has since admitted that voting for the war was a mistake, and I distinctly remember his remark that, “as a senator coming from New York, she made the best decision she could with the information she had at the time.”

There were so many things wrong with those two clauses that I felt the unabridged edition of my Hillary Clinton screed welling up and begging to be disgorged. First of all, she wasn't "a senator coming from New

York." She was a politician's wife from Arkansas. She only moved to New York because there was a Senate seat she thought she could win, as the first giant step in the political career that was to be her reward for tolerating Bill Clinton's bimbo decades.

Then there was that malarkey about “the information she had at the time.” She had the same information as every other senator. Some of them — including two of her challengers for the nomination — were conscientious enough to vote against the invasion without credible evidence of the weapons of mass destruction it was meant to interdict. The WMD myth was just as apparent to common citizens who bothered to examine the issue, rather than swallowing the administration line. Even Secretary of State Colin Powell discredited some of the alleged evidence in a muttered epithet inadvertently caught on microphone.

On top of all that, the decision she made was only the “best” in the sense that it was best for her

political career. She is too smart to have fallen for the WMD fantasy, and there was no party pressure to consider, but she fully understood how effectively the Bush-Cheney propaganda machine had fixed the malleable minds of a gullible, nationalist majority. She was calculating enough to reason that a morally laudable vote against starting a war might later jeopardize her political viability, and she was cynical enough to serve her own interests instead of her nation's.

I said I would be voting for Bernie Sanders in the primary. He said he liked Bernie, but pointed out that Hillary and Sanders differed in some respects. Evidently taking me for an outright pacifist, he specifically noted her call for gun control. I could understand his mistake, as my nearest firearm lay several yards away, but I launched into such a tirade that he fell back on respectfully disagreeing with me, noting that he had just moved here from Chicago. I volunteered that I never ventured into his city

without packing heat — Illinois gun laws be damned — but I was polite enough not to ask why he had left the safety of Chicago for the gun-nut capital of New England if he was so damned afraid of armed citizens. My guess was that he came here to vote for Hillary in the primary, but I didn't say that, either, and I didn't bring up any of the other blatantly contradictory statements Hillary has made lately. We therefore parted cordially.

He carried away my request to tell Hillary that if she won the Democratic nomination I would vote for the Republican. The yawning chasm between Sanders and Clinton merely accentuates the similarity between her and any of the Republicans. Her one political advantage over all her rivals may lead her to victory, but it wins her no honors: Hillary Clinton's long apprenticeship under Bill made her the most accomplished liar of them all.

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

For example, Ayotte voted for the FY 2014 Ryan Budget which would partially privatize Medicare, slash Medicaid and food stamps by turning them into block grants, abolish the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”), roll back the 2010 Wall Street reform legislation, and throw open federal land in all places to all kinds of drilling and gouging proposed by Big Oil and Big Coal (Senate Vote 46, 3/21/13; Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 3/21/13.

Now, as her next election approaches, Ayotte is sliding to the political center to attract more

votes. Some examples follow:

“She was one of five Republicans who earlier this year backed a Senate resolution that stated ‘climate change is real’ and is ‘significantly’ caused by human activity. That represents a much firmer position than one she took in 2010, when she told the *Portsmouth Herald* that she didn’t believe the evidence of climate change was ‘conclusive.’” (NHPR, 1/8/2015).

“The Senate confirmed (Loretta) Lynch (for Attorney General) in a 56-43 vote on Thursday ... The margin of today’s vote was

larger than expected ... Lynch actually picked up 10 Republican supporters — twice as many as expected ... It is no coincidence that (Kelly) Ayotte, (Ron) Johnson, (Mark) Kirk, and (Rob) Portman are seen as vulnerable GOP incumbents, and they're eager to demonstrate their mainstream bona fides." (Steve Ben-  
em, 4/23/2015).

Ayotte has even gone to the extreme of avoiding being publicly visible at conservative gatherings lest she be seen as too far to the political right. “Vulnerable Republicans Avoiding CPAC

(Conservative Political Action Committee). Sens. Patrick J. Toomey of Pennsylvania, Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin — all of whom are top Democratic targets in 2016 — are not addressing the conference this year ... Ayotte gave the conference's keynote address in 2013 and Johnson spoke in 2012.” (Huffington Post, 2/25/2015).

Well, you might say, isn't Ayo-tte's shift to the center a good thing? Hasn't she become less extreme and more moderate? Oh, if it were only so. The Electric Slide

goes both ways; in this case from the center back to the far right. A U.S. Senate term of office is six years long. Once elected, Senate office holders don't have to face another election for six years, so they are pretty much free to ignore the public and return to their original political positions, particularly as party discipline and the demands of political contributors are felt.

So, if Ayotte is re-elected, her return to the far political right seems inevitable. The solution? Turn off the political dance music and remove Ayotte from the

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Moneyed elites get richer the old-fashioned way: Stealing

by Jim Hightower

Get ready to swallow your “Statistic of the Day!” But first, to help you absorb the big one, here’s a preliminary statistic for you: 158,000. That’s the number of kindergarten teachers in America, and their combined income in 2013 was \$8 billion. Now, here’s your Big Stat of the Day (even though it seems smaller): Four. That’s the number

of America’s highest-paid hedge fund operators whose combined income in 2013 was \$10 billion. Yes, just four Wall Street greed-meisters hauled off \$2 billion more in pay than was received by all of our Kindergarten teachers. Now, which group do you think pays the lowest rate of income tax? Right ... the über-rich Wall Streeters! Incredibly, Congress (in its inscrutable wisdom) gives preferential tax treatment

to the narcissistic money manipulators who do practically nothing for the common good. Even the flamboyant celebrity narcissist, Donnie Trump, sees through the gross inequality of this tax scam: “The hedge fund guys didn’t build this country,” The Donald recently barked. “These are guys that shift paper around and they get lucky. The hedge fund guys are getting away with murder.” Indeed, dodging

through a loophole called “carried interest,” they pay about half the tax rate that kindergarten teachers are assessed. In effect, Wall Street’s puppets in Congress let this tiny group of moneyed elites steal about \$18 billion a year that they owe to the public treasury to finance the structure and workings of America itself. The inequality that is presently ripping our society apart is not the result of some incompre-

hensible force of nature, but the direct result of collusion between financial and political elites to rig the system for the enrichment of the few — i.e., themselves — and the impoverishment of the many. There’s a word for those elites: Thieves. ~~~ Copyright 2015 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laura@jimhightower.com).

dance floor — vote her out of office. Gary Patton Hampton, N.H. Gary: Ayotte seems to be running scared — justifiably, too. The Editor

Don’t Diss District One To the Editor: Republican Dan Innis is running again against disgraced Congressman Frank Guinta in the Republican Primary for Congress. Innis told WMUR that Guinta’s campaign finance violations were a “major factor” in his decision to run. However, those violations weren’t a problem for him in 2014, when he endorsed Guinta. Since all the facts about Frank have been in plain view since a Republican first filed the complaint against Guinta in 2010, it tells voters plenty about Innis’ ethics as well. He was against Frank before he was for Frank, before he was against Frank. Innis’ views on Guinta have had nothing to do with ethics and everything to do with ambition and opportunity. Voters beware!

Beth Olshansky Durham, N.H. Beth: We are grateful to you for point-

ing out something that we had missed. The Editor ~~~ Change or More of the Same To the Editor: From what I’ve seen of elections, each year voters want one of two things: change or more of the same. Twenty sixteen is shaping up to be a year when people very much want change. My concern is that if the Democratic nominee is seen as more of the same, more status quo, and the Republican nominee is seen as the agent of real change, that puts Democrats at a real disadvantage and seriously threatens our democratic form of government as we know it and as our founders envisioned. The Republican front-runners now are in that position because they want to shake things up. The appeal of people like Ben Carson and Donald Trump is because they are non-establishment and would upset the old apple cart. I think these candidates present a clear and present danger to basic essential American traditions like separation of church and state, freedom of religion and speech, and government of, by, and for the people. But they are not the same old same old, and thus their appeal. Meanwhile there is quite a

choice on the Democratic side. One is clearly the candidate of the establishment and is all about more of the same. The other, Bernie Sanders, has stunned the establishment with his massive and intense appeal. He is all about change: about restoring our devastated middle class, a government of, by, and for the people — no longer owned and controlled by Wall Street and the greediest of the one percent. He is popular because he is not changing positions to suit the moment but is entirely consistent and has been for all his years of public service. Sanders wins support from Republicans because he is unquestionably authentic and is not beholden to party bosses. His unquestioned independence and honesty is a great breath of fresh air and given the deeply held insistence on change, he is the Democratic candidate who can win. Burt Cohen New Castle N.H. ~~~ Legislators Take a Stand for N.H. Community Rights To the Editor: New Hampshire Community Rights Network (NHCRN) is pleased that Rep. Susan Emerson (R-Cheshire District 11) has introduced the N.H. Community

Rights Amendment. If approved and passed, it would guarantee the people in towns throughout New Hampshire the authority to enact local laws to protect their natural environment, as well community and individual rights, free from state preemption and corporate interference. Rep. Emerson immediately saw the importance of this amendment saying, “The amendment is needed because when it comes to protecting the unalienable rights of citizens in our local communities, neither they nor their local governments should be told they cannot enact local laws to do just that. Too often the interests of big corporations are considered and the rights of our constituents are ignored by preemptions that forbid local lawmaking. And too often wealthy corporations threaten to bankrupt towns that stand up to them. This amendment will put self-government at the local level back into the hands of the people.” The N.H. Community Rights Amendment has gained bipartisan support from co-sponsors Sen. Jeanie Forrester, and House Reps. Stephen Darrow, Mary Cooney, Suzanne Smith, and Wayne Burton. These legislators are willing to represent the rights of the people, communities, and

the natural environments they depend upon for survival. Too often local rights-based laws are resisted or rejected due to misguided concerns over whether people have the authority to legislate locally to protect their own health, safety, quality of life and natural environments when state-issued permits to corporations purport to “legalize” those harms. The goal of the N.H. Community Rights Amendment is to codify, as a state constitutional guarantee, the right of self-government at the local level. Then, and only then will the rights of people, communities, and nature be protected from, rather than be made subordinate to, corporate power and privilege. If you, your community, Select Board, or Representatives are interested in supporting the N.H. Community Rights Amendment with a Resolution for your next town meeting, or learning more about the N.H. Community Rights Amendment through a workshop, contact info@nhcommunityrights.org. Michelle Sanborn Alexandria, N.H. Michelle: Putting actual power in the hands of communities — what a great concept! The Editor

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

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

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

Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

| SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  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                                                                              | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   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| <p><b>2008</b>—The Dow loses 7.87 percent of its value.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Formerly a top lobbyist in Washington, D.C., Jack Abramoff takes up residence at a federal prison near Cumberland, Md.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—British officials return the Stone of Scone to the Scots from whom they stole it 700 years earlier.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—President William J. Clinton behaves improperly with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Two million in the U.S. protest the war, 250,000 in Washington, D.C. Nixon vows to ignore 'em.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—"I have never," says General Westmoreland, "been more encouraged in my four years in Vietnam" — 11 weeks before Tet.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—Bernard Baruch cables Winston Churchill, "Financial storm definitely passed."</p> <p><b>1917</b>—The Bolsheviks take Moscow, ending the Russian Revolution.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—Teddy Roosevelt becomes the first sitting President to travel abroad, visiting Panama.</p> <p><b>1887</b>—F(ranklin) P(ierce) Adams, a namesake of New Hampshire's only president and the godfather of the newspaper column, is born in Chicago.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—General William T. Sherman burns Atlanta, inspiring a well-known movie.</p> <p><b>1805</b>—Lewis, Clark, Sacajawea, and the rest of the mob reach the mouth of the Columbia.</p>                                                    | <p><b>2000</b>—Bill Clinton goes to Vietnam — finally.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—U.S.-backed pro-government forces in El Salvador murder six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and the housekeeper's daughter.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Nixon's Communications Director Herb Klein says he opposes government intervention in the news but that the networks invite it if they don't regulate themselves.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Strasbourg students blow the student government's annual budget on a Situationist pamphlet, "On the Poverty of Student Life." Hilarity ensues.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Mission accomplished with 79 KIA &amp; 121 WIA, U.S. units in Ia Drang propose withdrawal. Gen. Wm. Westmoreland says "stay."</p> <p><b>1890</b>—George Seldes, journalist and media critic, is born. He'll live to be 105.</p> <p><b>1849</b>—Fyodor Dostoevsky is sentenced to death for spreading "impudent words."</p> <p><b>1811</b>—An earthquake causes the Mississippi to flow backwards.</p> <p><b>1776</b>—The American brig-of-war <i>Andrew Doria</i> receives the nation's first salute from a foreign power at Fort Oranje, St. Eustatius.</p> <p><b>1747</b>—In Boston, sailors, laborers, and free blacks protest against British naval press gangs.</p> <p><b>1665</b>—The <i>Oxford Gazette</i>—the world's oldest surviving periodical—is founded.</p>                                                               | <p><b>2008</b>—Citigroup announces it will sack 52,000 workers.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—"We'll succeed [in Iraq] unless we quit," says George W.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—An Austrian muscleman becomes California's governor.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—President Clinton multi-tasks, speaking on the phone with Congressman while violating his marriage vows with an intern.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—The commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific calls the rape of an Okinawan girl "stupid," and says the culprit should have patronized a prostitute instead.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—<i>Dateline</i> broadcasts a rigged video of a GM truck exploding.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Speaking to newspaper editors at Disneyland, Richard M. Nixon says, "I am not a crook."</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Lyndon Johnson tells the nation "we are making great progress" in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—U.S. troops at Ia Drang march away from a pending B-52 strike and into an ambush; 155 are killed and 120 wounded.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—An Air Force C-119 "Flying Boxcar" kills nine Fort Bragg paratroopers in mid-air; six more servicemen die when the C-119 subsequently crashes.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—The destroyers <i>Fanning</i> and <i>Nicholson</i> sink the U-58 off Ireland, the first sub sunk by the U.S. Navy.</p> <p><b>1558</b>—In celebration of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth I, several bags of cats are burned.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—U.S. Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-Ohio) apologizes on the floor of the House for implying Vietnam combat veteran Rep. Jack Murtha (D-Pa.) is a coward.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—A 1962 document, outlining Operation Northwoods, a Pentagon plan to build support for an invasion of Cuba by staging fake terrorist attacks, including shooting innocent people on U.S. streets, is declassified.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—Jim Jones and 913 followers drink cyanide-laced Flavor-Aid in Jonestown, Guyana.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Snubbing Richard Nixon, J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover calls Martin Luther King Jr. "the most notorious liar in the country."</p> <p><b>1961</b>—JFK signs National Security Memo 111 authorizing a troop surge in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—The Battle of the Somme peters out. The Allies have gained 125 square miles at a cost of 1,250,000 British, French, and German casualties—one for every 2.5 square yards. Germans later re-take most of it.</p> <p><b>1755</b>—The strongest earthquake in New England history [Richter 6.2] occurs off Cape Ann, Mass.</p> <p><b>1686</b>—Pioneering surgeon Charles Francois Felix operates on King Louis XIV's anal fistula, having practiced on peasants to hone his skills. Unlike some of the peasants, Louis survives.</p>                                                                    | <p><b>1998</b>—Congress begins considering whether to impeach Bill Clinton for his sexual escapades.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Congress undercuts opposition to the Vietnam War by introducing a draft lottery.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—A 500 lb. bomb from a U.S.M.C. F4 Phantom kills 45 paratroopers of the 173d Airborne Brigade and wounds 45 more during the Battle of Dak To.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Dick "Then Dick" Cheney gets his first drunk driving conviction in Cheyenne, Wyo.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Michael Rockefeller disappears in Papua, New Guinea and is presumed eaten by cannibals.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—At a party in New York, Norman Mailer stabs his second wife, Adele Morales.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—A Texas mob takes Marshall Ratliff from the Cisco, TX jail to lynch him. The first rope breaks, the second doesn't.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Pioneering Hollywood producer Thomas Ince dies at 42, officially from a heart attack; but more likely from a [William Randolph] Hearst attack—a bullet to the head.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—A firing squad executes IWW organizer Joe Hill; his last words: "Don't mourn, organize."</p> <p><b>1874</b>—Tammany Hall Grand Sachem William Marcy "Boss" Tweed is convicted of 204 counts of fraud.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—The nation's Chief Executive dedicates a new cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa.</p>                                                                                                     | <p><b>2008</b>—Sarah Palin gives a TV interview while, in the background, turkeys are being slaughtered.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Five hundred fundamentalist Muslims seize the Grand Mosque in Mecca, then being renovated by the bin Laden construction company. Troubles ensue.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—After stalling for years, Spanish dictator Francisco Franco dies. He is still dead.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Eighty-nine American Indians attempt to occupy Alcatraz; 14 evade a Coast Guard blockade and achieve their objective</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The Cuban Missile Crisis blows over, rather than up.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Defying his host's orders, Bo Diddley sings "Bo Diddley" on the Ed Sullivan Show. An irate Sullivan bans Diddley forevermore.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Nuremberg trials begin.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Buenaventura Durruti, the Spanish anarchist, dies defending Madrid from fascists.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—In northeastern France, British forces use tanks in battle for the first time.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—The U.S. invades Nicaragua.</p> <p><b>1820</b>—A whale attacks the Nantucket whaling ship <i>Essex</i>, inspiring the greatest fish story ever told.</p> <p><b>1816</b>—Striking members of the Albany Typographical Union use the term "scab" for the first time.</p> <p><b>1772</b>—In Boston, Samuel Adams assembles the first Committee of Correspondence.</p> | <p><b>2004</b>—Donald Trump files his third bankruptcy, this time for his Atlantic City casinos.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—An ABC exposé temporarily reduces televangelist Robert Tilton's \$80 million/yr. scam to the butt of a video titled "Pastor Gas, the Farting Preacher."</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Ollie North and Fawn Hall start shredding evidence of criminal arms-for-hostages deals.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—In Louisiana, an oil rig on Lake Peigneur accidentally drills into a salt mine, creating a whirlpool that drains the lake and takes the oil rig with it.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—The Texas Air National Guard gives George W. Bush an inexplicably honorable discharge.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—The Freedom of Information Act passes despite Gerry Ford's veto.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Nixon's Chief of Staff Al Haig accurately attributes an 18.5 minute gap on an audio tape to "sinister forces."</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Fifty-six Green Berets raid the previously emptied Son Tay POW camp 23 miles west of Hanoi.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Vietnamese commies are "unable to mount a major offensive," says Gen. Wm. Westmoreland. "We have reached an important point when the end begins to come into view."</p> <p><b>1927</b>—The first Columbine Massacre: striking miners are machine-gunned by state cops in plain clothes.</p>                                 |
| <p>1:04 1:09</p> <p>6:57 7:31</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      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| SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    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                                                                              | Wednesday, NOVEMBER 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   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                                                                                                                                      | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            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| <p><b>2000</b>—In Miami, two dozen well-dressed hooligans, half a dozen of them on the Republican payroll, stage the "Brooks Brothers Riot," intimidating election officials into shutting down a recount.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Chicago TV viewers see "Dr. Who" and a Chicago Bears game interrupted for 90 seconds by a man in a Max Headroom mask</p> <p><b>1975</b>—U.S.S. <i>John F. Kennedy</i> and U.S.S. <i>Belknap</i> collide in the night near Sicily. A two-hour fire aboard the <i>Belknap</i> stops 30 feet short of the nuclear weapons magazine.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The U.S. loses its first B-52 over Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The UN adopts a resolution calling for Israel to leave the occupied territories.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas; at whose bidding, exactly, is still a matter of much debate.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—Germany's top fighter pilot, Werner Mölders, dies as a passenger in a plane crash on his way to the funeral of the Luftwaffe's Generaloberst Ernst Udet, a suicide.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—Prophet Elijah Mohammed founds the Nation of Islam.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—A New York judge tells strikers from the ILGWU "You are on strike against God."</p> <p><b>1718</b>—Shot, stabbed, and slashed across the throat by British sailors, pirate Edward "Blackbeard" Teach dies fighting at Ocracoke Inlet.</p> | <p><b>1986</b>—Two men are sprung from a maximum-security prison in Rome by way of a hijacked helicopter.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—BC's Doug Flutie throws history's most famous "Hail Mary."</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Jerry Lee Lewis is arrested outside Graceland for waving a pistol and demanding to see Elvis.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—A Lithuanian radio operator jumps from a Russian trawler onto the deck of the Coast Guard cutter <i>Vigilant</i>. Commander Ralph Eustis allows Soviet sailors to board the cutter and seize the radioman.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Ron &amp; Nancy Reagan appear on "GE Theatre" in "A Turkey for the President."</p> <p><b>1946</b>—French ships shell the harbor at Haiphong killing 6,000.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—In San Antonio, bluesman Robert Johnson begins a legendary three-day recording session.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—In Scapa Flow, the German submarine <i>U-18</i> is sunk by the fishing trawler <i>Dorothy Gray</i>.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—U.S. troops under Gen. Sherman Bell are sent to Cripple Creek, Colo. to put down a rebellion of striking miners.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—The first jukebox plays in a San Francisco saloon.</p> <p><b>1876</b>—After a year on the lam in Cuba and Spain, Tammany Hall's "Boss" Tweed is jailed in NYC.</p> <p><b>1869</b>—<i>Cutty Sark</i>, last of the clipper ships, is launched.</p> <p><b>1859</b>—Birth of William "Billy the Kid" Bonney.</p> | <p><b>2006</b>—"The only way we can win [in Iraq]," says George W. Bush in Greeley, Colo., "is to leave before the job is done."</p> <p><b>1979</b>—The U.S. admits troops in 'Nam were hit by Agent Orange.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—"D.B. Cooper," carrying \$200,000 in ransom cash, parachutes from a hijacked plane over Washington State into oblivion and America's heart.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—<i>The New York Times</i> runs a full-page ad signed by 500 WW II and Korean War vets protesting escalation of the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Strip joint proprietor Jack Ruby, seeking to spare Jacqueline Kennedy's feelings from the rigors of a trial, shoots Lee Harvey Oswald under the watchful eye of the Dallas Police Department and the TV cameras.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—An overheated electric motor in Colorado cuts off all communications between SAC and NORAD.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Sen. Joe McCarthy (Lunatic-Wisc.) claims the Truman administration is "crawling with Communists."</p> <p><b>1947</b>—All but 17 Congressmen vote to cite the Hollywood Ten for contempt after they take the 5th.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Ersine Childers, Irish patriot guilty of illegally carrying a revolver, says to his firing squad, "Take a step forward, lads. It will be easier that way."</p>                                                                                                 | <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush signs the Homeland Security Act, which coincidentally provides security from lawsuits for Eli Lilly &amp; Co., on whose board his father and Ken Lay had sat.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—In Plymouth, Mass., police serve Native American demonstrators pepper-spray.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—A reluctant Ronald Reagan fires Lt. Col. Oliver North as Ed Meese announces profits from illegal arms sales to Iran went to Nicaraguan <i>contras</i>.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Britain outlaws the IRA after two bombs kill 21 and injure over 100 in Birmingham.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—After tying up their commandant, Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima exhorts military cadets to revolt; but they jeer him instead. He then commits <i>seppuku</i>.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Death of Upton Sinclair, writer and media critic.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Chinese troops cross the Yalu River in Korea.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—For refusing to rat out their friends to Congress, the Hollywood Ten are fired by studio bosses.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—French anarchist Jules Durand is sentenced to die after a bum trial. He's later exonerated, but 40 days in a strait jacket have driven him mad.</p> <p><b>1783</b>—British troops under Commander in Chief Guy Carleton evacuate New York as General George Washington and the victorious Continental Army arrive.</p> | <p><b>2000</b>—Katherine Harris, Florida's Secretary of State and, coincidentally, the Bush campaign's state co-chair, declares Dubya the winner.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—In Basse-Terre, on Guadalupe, an inch and a half of rain falls in one minute—the heaviest rainfall ever recorded.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Thieves at London's Heathrow airport take 6,800 gold bars worth \$38.7 million. About a third are still missing.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The Sex Pistols release "Anarchy in the UK," their first single.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Rose Mary Woods takes the fall for the 18 1/2 minute gap.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A B-47 with an A-bomb aboard burns in Lake Charles, La.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—The first batch of 50 Polaroid cameras sells out in one day.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—To cash in on the invasion of North Africa, <i>Casablanca</i> premieres ahead of schedule in New York. <i>The New Yorker's</i> critic says it is "pretty tolerable," but "not quite up to <i>Across the Pacific</i>."</p> <p><b>1942</b>—A two-day battle begins between hundreds of U.S. and Aussie troops in Brisbane, Australia.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Will Rogers wittily rebuts Herbert Hoover's absurd theory of "trickle-down economics."</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Howard Carter and his employer Lord Carnarvon desecrate the tomb of King Tutankhamun.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—Charles W. Whittlesey, who commanded the "Lost Battalion," drowns himself in the Atlantic.</p> | <p><b>2002</b>—Donald Rumsfeld signs off on "Category III" interrogation techniques—namely, torture.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—As Gen. Tommy Franks tries to concentrate on catching Osama bin Laden, Donald Rumsfeld distracts him with an order to revise plans to attack Iraq.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—At the 71st Evac. Hospital in Pleiku, 100 soldiers fast on Thanksgiving to protest the war.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Washington, 25,000 march for peace in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—For the sixth time, Winnie Ruth Judd, the Trunk Murderess, escapes from the Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Edward Marshall, future beat poet, is born in Chichester, N.H.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Businessman Sherwood Anderson, 36, leaves wife, family, and job to become a writer.</p> <p><b>1900</b>—To get information from the president of a Filipino town, U.S. troops force salt water down his throat and burn his town.</p> <p><b>1868</b>—General George A. Custer and his troops massacre Black Kettle and 102 other Cheyenne survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre in the Battle of the Washita.</p> <p><b>1726</b>—Jonathan Swift writes to Alexander Pope that an Irish Bishop found <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> to be "full of improbable lies."</p> <p><b>1095</b>—Pope Urban II launches the Crusades, promising salvation for those who die slaying pagans.</p>             | <p><b>2005</b>—Ex-Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-Calif.) pleads guilty to selling votes and dodging taxes.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Fun-loving Bill Clinton signs a highway bill ending the 55 mph speed limit.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Relying on outdated navigational data during a sightseeing flight over Antarctica, <i>Air New Zealand Flight 901</i> flies into Mount Erebus with 257 souls on board.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—<i>Time Magazine</i> reports that 20 months earlier, things got out of hand at My Lai.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—British pub-owner and hangman Albert Pierrepoint slips a noose around the neck of his former customer and drinking buddy James "Tish" Corbitt.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—In Boston, the Coconut Grove nightclub burns; 498 are killed and 172 injured.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Ex-RAF pilot Cyril Turner gives the first demonstration of skywriting in NYC. He uses the technique to advertise—skywriting.</p> <p><b>1895</b>—Six cars compete in the U.S.'s first auto race. The winner averages seven m.p.h.</p> <p><b>1859</b>—Ailing Washington Irving asking "When will this end?" answers his own question.</p> <p><b>1795</b>—On George Washington's watch, the U.S. pays \$800,000 to Tunisian pirates, with a promise to pay \$25,000 a year in future.</p> <p><b>1545</b>—Printer Jacob van Liesveld is beheaded for heresy.</p> |
| <p>7:22 7:51</p> <p>12:57 1:35</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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