

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

And In This Corner ...

Let us briefly break this spell, wrench our gaze from the bizarre and sordid spectacle of the Republican primary nomination, and focus instead on something ... even more distressing.

Who, after all, would expect much from the GOP after decades of misogyny, xenophobia, and what John Kenneth Galbraith called “one of man’s oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness”?

Democrats, on the other hand (fiercely prodded by organized labor, of course) brought us the minimum wage, the eight-hour day, overtime pay, Social Security, Medicare — essentially, the whole middle class package. It would only be natural for us to expect something more from them. At least, for those of us with long memories, it would.

More recently, say for the last 30 or 40 years, they’ve been a disappointment, to put it mildly. After the drubbing administered to Jimmy Carter, the Democrats seemed to go on a prolonged, preemptive retreat. The most politically successful among them — not mentioning any names here — seemed to fall into the ideological category of Republican Light, or Democrat In Name Only.

The rot spread relentlessly. Eventually a Democrat became that Party’s equivalent of Bob “Bob Dole” Dole or Yuri Andropov: the inevitable candidate,

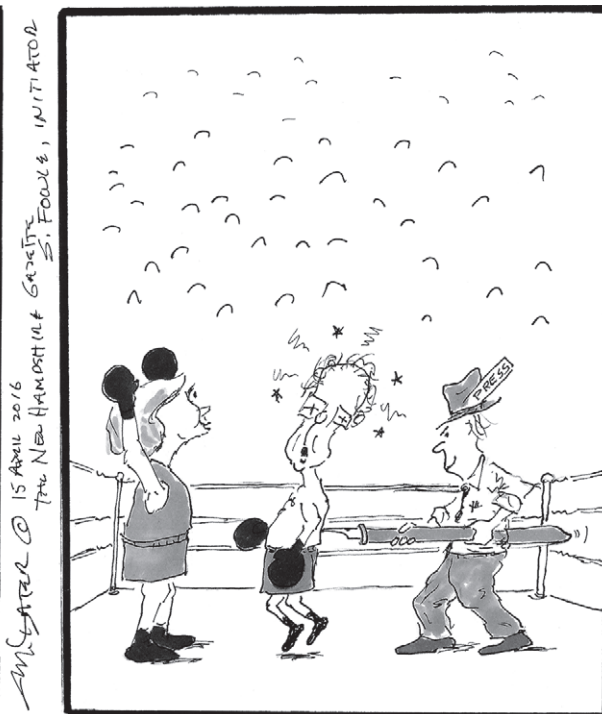
thanks to longevity and the hide-bound rules of dutiful succession. Naturally, since she began her political life as a Goldwater Girl, that candidate turned out to be Hillary Clinton.

In September of 2014, with Clinton’s campaign for President well into its third decade, Senator Bernie Sanders — or, as he was known to most Americans then, “Senator Who? From Where?” — let it slip to Chuck Todd that he was “thinking about running for President.” *New York Magazine’s* Margaret Hartmann spoke for the entire punditocracy when she wrote, matter-of-factly and dismissively, “America isn’t going to elect a self-described Socialist.”

That was not, at the time, a particularly bad call. Sanders was polling at 4 percent while Clinton clocked in at 60.

Fifteen rather surprising months later, despite a debate schedule engineered to favor Clinton, and despite early primaries in southern states where Clinton had a significant edge, and despite Party rules on delegate distribution favoring candidates with early leads, Clinton has won only two more states than Sanders, and Sanders has won all of the last seven contests.

Needless to say, this is not the way things were supposed to go. Not according to the Standard American Political Playbook,® anyway. How did an old Jew from Brooklyn by way of Vermont —



an interloper in the Democratic Party — manage to pull this off?

After careful consideration we can only conclude that he did it by applying a radical new approach. Rather than following the standard Democratic line of attempting to moderate Republican crazy, Sanders boldly borrowed Dr. Emmett “Doc” Brown’s DeLorean, went back in time forty years, and started being right on the issues.

He was right about the Iraq War — it was a huge mistake. He was right about deregulating banks — it did lead to chaos. He was right about bad trade treaties — they did cost American jobs. He was right about the VA — we should have funded it adequately. He was right about stupid tax policies — they have given the rich a free ride and blown up the

budget. He was right about ... [bzzt crackle pop] Sorry, the ol’ memory bank just blew a fuse.

For example, Sanders said on October 12, 2011, “Panama is a world leader when it comes to allowing wealthy Americans and large corporations to evade U.S. taxes by stashing their cash in offshore tax havens. The Panama free trade agreement will make this bad situation much worse. Each and every year, the wealthiest people in this country and the largest corporations evade about \$100 billion in taxes through abusive and illegal offshore tax havens in Panama and in other countries.”

The next day Clinton said the Panama free trade agreement would “open markets, level the playing field for our businesses and workers, and champion

America’s working families in an age of tough global competition.”

Clinton supporters argue that Sanders wouldn’t be able to get anything through Congress. That presumes she could. Clinton may be the only white person Republicans hate as much as they hate Barack Obama, and she would meet the same level of obstruction from Congress.

Sanders has said it will take a revolution to put him in the White House. With a revolution behind him, Congress would be less able to stop him. He’s still a very long shot for the Democratic nomination, and people still scoff — but it took a revolution to get him where he is now.

If Sanders does make it into the White House, maybe he can break this spell for good.

The Alleged News®

Caring for Those Who Have Borne the Battle?

For reasons seemingly lost in the mists of amnesia (but just possibly linked to the ruinous expense of the Southeast Asian War Games of 1964-1973) Congress has been unable to fund veterans’ services adequately for about fifty years.

During the intervening years, the nation has shifted from occasionally mounting big wars manned by the Selective Service System to constantly fighting smaller ones staffed through an economic draft. Given the overall drift from real jobs with real benefits to McJobs, the recruitment arm has been the one component of the Military-Academic-Industrial-Media [MAIM] Complex which has functioned reliably.

On several occasions since the beginning of the Global War on Terror, depending in equal parts on the facts and which party holds the White House, the national media have showed an intermittent interest in the effectiveness of the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA].

Since truly vast sums of money move through that system

— second only to the Pentagon itself — clever folks with time on their hands have been tempted to devise ways to tap into it. The national news media have been following this particular angle about as well as we have come to expect.

Just as an inadequate number of poorly-armored troops were sent into Iraq to satisfy neocon ambitions, so was the VA asked to care for too many returning veterans with too few resources. This fundamental bit of mismanagement created a situation bound to create convenient villains — obscure VA bureaucrats — who could easily be paraded before the media: a spectacle which deftly steered viewing audiences towards the MAIM Complex’s sought-after conclusion: the VA’s busted, somebody do something, even if it’s wrong. Working dutifully to fulfill the needs of its constituents — which is to say, its donors — Congress passed the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014.

One provision of that act called for the creation of a fifteen-member

blue-ribbon Commission on Care panel to “examine veterans’ access to Department of Veterans Affairs health care and to examine strategically how best to organize the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), locate health resources, and deliver health care to veterans during the next 20 years.” In March, seven members of the Commission unveiled a “strawman document” outlining a proposed “bold transformation” to solve the VA’s problems. The document came as a complete surprise to the other eight members, who had been unaware it was being created.

That sudden revelation didn’t sit particularly well with certain observers of the process, namely, all eight major Veterans Service Organizations [VSO]. Directors of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Veterans [AMVETS], Vietnam Veterans of America, and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

of America all signed a joint letter saying in part, “We are greatly alarmed by the content of the ‘proposed strawman document’ that was developed and drafted outside the open Commission process by seven of the Commission’s fifteen members without the input or even knowledge of the other Commissioners.”

OK, they didn’t like the process. How about the content?

“This document,” they wrote, “proposes to privatize veterans’ health care and completely eliminate all VA health care treatment facilities within the next twenty years.”

Most unsettling, according to the VSO Directors, was “the utter lack of consideration that veterans would want to improve and expand the VA health care system.” The VA is actually rated pretty highly by those who use it, most of whom believe it’s just overworked and underfunded.

“Instead,” wrote the Directors, “the proposed ‘Summary’ section of the document simply asserts that, ‘...the current VA health care

system is seriously broken, and ... there is no efficient path to repair it.’ In addition, this provocative statement, repeated in different forms several times throughout the 34 - page document, is not backed up by any evidence or data to sustain such a broad and unequivocal condemnation.”

“But ... but ... but ...” an astonished reader might sputter, “how could a Congressionally-appointed committee ever lurch towards such a bizarre proposition?”

Perhaps it’s a coincidence, but lead author David Blom is CEO of OhioHealth, a “not-for-profit, faith-based system of hospitals and healthcare providers,” which has a net revenue upwards of \$2 billion.

Assisting Dr. Blom in this attempted evisceration of the VA was Dr. Toby Cosgrove, CEO of the Cleveland Clinic. In 2012, *Consumer Reports* rated 105 hospitals in Ohio. The Cleveland Clinic came in 98th. Another

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from page one

hospital rating agency found it among the “most hazardous environments for patients in need of care.” Those problems jeopardized, for a time, the Clinic’s \$1 billion in annual reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid. (According to *Mother Jones*, the plan “also called for private doctors to be reimbursed at 5 to 10 percent higher than the Medicare rate, so they would have a greater incentive to participate.”)

Also participating was Maj. Stewart M. Hickey, United States Marine Corps (Retired), National Executive Director of AMVETS — apparently there is some disagreement amongst AMVETS top brass on the strawman proposal. Hickey was appointed to the commission by Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, which may tell us something. A statement from a health care workers union may tell us more: “On Monday February 29, members of AFT Healthcare-Maryland went to Annapolis to fight back against threats to privatize the West-

ern Maryland Hospital Center. For union members employed at WMHC, this would mean a loss of hard-fought rights and protections for workers.”

The presence of Darin S. Selnick on the Commission is the dead giveaway, though. Selnick’s bio says he is “an independent consultant who provides a variety of services to organizations in the areas of government and community relations, business development, and veterans’ issues” — how’s that for vague? More specifically, he is “currently the Senior Veterans Affairs Advisor for Concerned Veterans for America and served as Executive Director of the Fixing Veterans Health Care Bipartisan Taskforce.”

Concerned Veterans for America, aka CV4A, is a recently-minted [2012] tax-exempt 501(c)4 whose primary source of funding is — prepare to be shocked, *shocked* — the Koch brothers. Its Fixing Veterans Health Care Bipartisan Taskforce no doubt produced the blueprint for the “strawman document.”

Carlo Valle, an Iraq vet, commented, “having @Concerned-



Unit D302 at Piscataqua Landing is now available. Let’s see ... estimated mortgage, \$8,315.17; property taxes, \$3,202.69; condo fees, \$955; grand total, \$12,472. All the prospective buyer needs is about \$600K a year, or almost ten times the state’s median income.

Vets on a VA commission is like having a morticians lobby draft healthcare.”

Support Screw the Troops

While we’re screwing past and present members of our all-volunteer military, let’s remember that Air Force brasshats still plan to ground its fleet of A-10 “Warthogs.” A titanium bathtub sitting atop the biggest gatling gun ever to leave the surface of the planet, the “Warthog” is the most successful provider of close air support ever built. Somehow the incredibly expensive (around \$100 million per) F-35, which still just barely flies, is supposed to outperform a nearly-bullet-proof plane beloved of pilots and ground-pounders alike. And some say the military is the part of the government that works.

Six Flags Over Ho City

The most disorienting news item we’ve seen in a while comes from *Amusement Today* (“Your Amusement Industry News

Leader”). “Six Flags Entertainment Corporation, the world’s largest regional theme park company, announced a new strategic partnership with NaVi Entertainment, a private company based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to build a theme park and a water park in Vietnam using the Six Flags and Six Flags Hurricane Harbor brand names, respectively. Both are expected to open in the next three to four years.”

What’s New In Nukes?

The UK’s *Independent* reports that “Radioactive boars are running wild and breeding uncontrollably in the northern region of Japan contaminated by the Fukushima nuclear disaster. The animals have been devastating local agriculture and eating toxic, nuclear-contaminated food from around the accident site. Mass graves and incinerators have been unable to cope with the quantity of boar corpses, shot by local hunters.”

Roll Me Over, Do It Again

Yet again, page three of the Monday’s Award-Winning Local Daily was filled with a free advertisement for the pre-eminent violator of Chapter Three, Section 406 of the City Ordinances.

Readers were treated to the usual full-color photo of an all-too-familiar Robinson R22 helicopter, tail number N4471G, accompanied by a 900-word sales pitch for the “two-year Aviation Technology program offered through a partnership with Great Bay and Seacoast Helicopters of Portsmouth.”

We are not being in the least bit metaphorical or hyperbolic. The text of the article would be right at home in a slick sales brochure. We looked for a byline, but didn’t find one. That lead us to suspect it was written by Karen Cultrera.

According to the company website, “Karen has been a leader in marketing and strategic development for over 30 years. As

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Vice President of Marketing and Strategy, Karen will implement the [blah blah] grow and become a leader [blah blah] vision of the future state and ability to bridge between the present state and the future state [what?] will provide the modest but consistent growth that ensures success."

A little-headed City Ordinance provides that vehicles which cause "discomfort or annoyance to reasonable persons of normal sensitivity or which endangers the comfort, repose, health or peace of residents in the area ... may be subject to abatement summarily by a restraining order or injunction issued by a court of competent jurisdiction."

Instead of a cease and desist order from the City's lawyers, though, Bruce Cultrera gets another free advertisement for his aerial empire, in the form of a goggle-eyed paean to the life-changing wonders of rotary-winged flight.

Cultrera, relentless self-promoter that he is, understands that the AWLD is under-staffed, over-worked, and easy to play. We hope he didn't imagine, as a relatively new subscriber to this newspaper, that his \$25 a year was going to buy his operation immunity from our scrutiny. The AWLD rarely mentions the downside of rota-

ry-winged aircraft, so we thought we'd provide a little journalistic balance.

According to a headline at *KTLA.com*, a Robinson R22 "crashed" at Riverside Airport in California on March on St. Patrick's Day. Their accompanying photo suggests that a hard landing did little more than wreck the craft's right skid.

Less than a week later a Brunswick County, North Carolina pilot wasn't quite so lucky. His Robinson R44 dropped about 20 feet and flipped over on its side. A photo shows the unit's rotors are destroyed and its tailboom is way out of line; it's hard to imagine it will ever fly again. The pilot was taken to the hospital, treated, and released.

On March 27th, a Robinson R44 went down in Pike County, Pennsylvania. According to the County Coroner, it hadn't been determined whether "the crash killed the pilot or if he suffered a medical incident beforehand." If the pilot died in the air, that would seem to exonerate the aircraft. That would have been little consolation, though, if it had landed on a school playground instead of off in the boondocks, especially considering the "significant post-crash fire."

A Bell helicopter crashed on



April 4th during a twelve-minute sightseeing tour of the Smoky Mountains, leaving four passengers and the pilot dead. A pettifogger might argue, of course, that since this machine wasn't a Robinson, the incident is irrelevant to Portsmouthians. On the other hand, "[t]he fact that the wreckage was consumed by the fire," as noted by the National Transportation Safety Board, not only "make[s] things more complicated," but more universal.

Meanwhile, public safety officials at the aptly-named Cape Tribulation in Queensland, Australia are still searching for the body of the pilot of a Robinson R22 that went down offshore on April 6th. His passenger managed to swim to safety.

Other than those five incidents in a three-week period, things are looking up in the rubbernecking racket.

Criminal Urinators for Ayotte

The *Portsmouth Herald's* news columns are not entirely bereft of illuminating news stories. Here's one from the Portsmouth Police Log for April 6th: "4:04 p.m. — Responded to Pleasant Point

Road for a call about a suspicious man walking around the area and who urinated in a neighbor's yard. Police determined he was handing out brochures for U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte, that he was concealed behind bushes when he urinated and said he wouldn't do it again."

Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo

Veterans In Performing Arts [VIPA] will present the Portsmouth premiere of "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo," by Rajiv Joseph, for its second production at The Players' Ring.

Called "smart, savagely funny and [a] visionary new work of American theater" by the *New York Times* after its 2011 Broadway debut, the play takes place in the months following the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003-2004, centering around several American soldiers, their Iraqi interpreter and a lone Bengal Tiger in the ruins of the Baghdad Zoo. As the play unfolds, the Tiger observes the carousel of war while American Infantryman Kev and his platoon-mate Tom search for the gold-plated pistol and gold-plated

toilet seat rumored to be salvaged from Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusay. Their interpreter, Musa, finds himself wading through his own bog of cognitive dissonance, and eventually all must confront their ghosts, real or imaginary, in the form of Uday Hussein and others come to haunt them.

Several of VIPA's performers were part of 3/172nd Mountain Infantry and fought in some of the battles involved in this play, and for a time were in possession of the gold-plated pistol depicted in the show, bringing this story to a different level for them and for the audience.

VIPA is a 501 (c) (3) whose mission is to involve Veterans from all services with the performing arts. More information can be found on its Facebook page, [facebook.com/JRHVIPA](https://www.facebook.com/JRHVIPA).

The play will be presented Friday, April 15th through Sunday, May 1st. Tickets are available at playersring.org. Shows which appear sold out online may still have tickets available directly through the box office. Call (603) 436-8123 to inquire.



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Trump and the American Spring
To the Editor:

In spite of all the shouting and drama, the process is very simple: If you liked the Bill Clinton/George W.[MD] Bush/Dick [Dick] Cheney/Barack Obama/Hillary Clinton/neo-con era of globalization, job loss, and destruction of the Middle Class, along with perpetual war and the destabilization of the Middle East that gave rise to, and supported terrorism; the de-industrialization and replacing of the productive economy with a finance economy that transfers wealth upward to the one-percent; then you will love Hillary Clinton, and the non-Trump candidates, as will the banks, Wall Street and The Military-Industrial-Media Complex.

But if you want real change it must be Donald Trump. Yes, he is brash and outspoken, but if you listen you will hear his America First message of disengagement from the Middle East, a program to bring real jobs back to America by introducing tariffs if necessary, ending the European, Japanese, South Korean, Israeli, reliance on America to defend them, while with the billions in defense costs saved they are able to have free education and medical care for their citizens, while Americans go wanting for these benefits.

And as for his persona, this too will serve America well. Think of the time Mr. Netanyahu, disregarding protocol and civilized behavior, visited America, insulted the President, and by ex-

tension the American People, then appeared before thundering ovations by the Congress. Does anyone think this would happen with Donald Trump in the White House?

And about that racism; Well, as far as I know The Donald was not responsible for the loss of hundreds of thousands of Muslim lives and the creation of millions of refugees. Furthermore, there is already a fence along the Mexican border, and perhaps Mexico, a wealthy nation, should take care of its own citizens and not create the conditions in their country that foster emigration. And as far as I know David Duke is an American citizen and can vote for whomever he wants, unlike those dual nationals who have at best divided loyalties, with some saying outright that their loyalty is not primarily to the United States, and who are large contributors to both parties. Of course few, if any, mention that the greatest impact on minorities is the loss of, or inability to find a job, a situation that arises from those trade deals that are so dear to the hearts of the Clintons, and the rest of the establishment, while Donald Trump wants to re-negotiate those deals. But it's the same old agenda that hides the racism of a Hillary Clinton and those like her who were out in front of Obama in pressuring for the invasion of Libya. This disaster was traditional liberal racism that supports blacks only if they are in their proper place of being the power base of white liberals, while functioning as nannies to their kids and maids for their houses; but when they challenge that power structure are beaten down. Mr. Gadaffi, after giving up on Arab trans-nationalism, was seeking to establish an African trans-nationalism that would use the resources of that continent to benefit the people, and at the same time he wanted to establish a gold-backed currency to replace the Franc and the Amer-

ican dollar. This of course could not be permitted; Hillary and the commodity exploiters would not have it. The rest, as they say is history, with Hillary becoming the mother of ISIS in the process of removing Gadaffi's threat to the multi-national companies, and his threat of creating truly independent minorities.

Then there are those female issues as only the pampered Ivy League females know them. To think they represent the average woman is ridiculous. The hypocrisy of these elites, as always, is revealing. For isn't it they who preach that if a senior military officer, a coach, a teacher, or other figure of authority has an intimate relations with a subordinate female he is automatic guilty of abuse? This is true except of course if it's Bill Clinton who had the highest position of authority but, being politically useful to the Ivy League sorts, was defended, while his victims all of a sudden became trailer park trash. Of course that is what those pampered elites really think of them. But, these are the women who are not looking at a glass ceiling, that metaphor of the wealthy, but are standing on a glass floor that is ready to shatter because their husbands have lost their jobs in the factory along with benefits, and are now working for minimum wage — if they're lucky. It is Donald Trump who speaks for these woman and wants to restore their families to Middle Class status.

So it's Donald Trump and an American Spring, or the same old system that serves only a very small elite. So listen to the message of the man, and not the propaganda of his opponents and the court media. If I had the dismal record of the other candidates with regard to economic, social, and military policy I would be running from my record and hiding behind trivialities.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL**

John:
Lacking your sangfroid and apparent nihilism, we'll continue to put our faith in Bernie. You have heard of him, right? We couldn't be sure.

The Editor
~~~~~

**Be Careful With the Truth**  
To the Editor:

Nothing gets a politician into hot water quicker than speaking the truth, especially when that inconvenient truth applies specifically to their own party. Such was the case when Donald Trump stated that if abortion was made illegal in America women who have abortions should be punished. The response from Republicans like Ted Cruz was full of hypocrisy and contradictory to their own positions. Cruz, like most Republicans, does not support abortions for cases of incest or rape, his only exemption is in the case of life endangerment.

While Republicans have repudiated Trump's comments, what he said is already taking place in America as a result of the many laws passed by Republican States to restrict access to, and to punish women seeking abortions. Women are being punished by having to submit to mandatory counseling, state-mandated ultrasound examinations, long waiting periods, parental notification and requirements to take anesthetic drugs. Women are also currently being prosecuted as a result of "fetal homicide" and "fetal personhood" laws passed in Republican states. In fact, 38 states have some version of these laws on the books, according to the *Daily Beast*. In Indiana, a women is appealing a 30-year prison sentence after being convicted of feticide resulting from her ordering abortion pills online. In Tennessee, a women was charged with attempted murder because she attempted a self

induced abortion using a coat hanger (MSNBC). The case is still pending.

It is the stated position and platform of the Republican Party to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, and make almost all abortions illegal in America. If any of the current Republican candidates become President and Republicans retain control of the Senate, they will appoint and confirm Supreme Court Justices who would support overturning *Roe v. Wade*. If this happens, almost all abortions will become illegal, and considering the "fetal homicide" and "fetal personhood" laws that already exist and will become national laws, performing an abortion would be an accessory to feticide, or conspiring to commit feticide. How could these crimes not be prosecuted, and who will stop aggressive anti-abortion prosecutors like those in Indiana and Tennessee from doing so? And just imagine who a President Trump or Cruz would select for Attorney General and how aggressive he/she might be on prosecuting abortion crimes. Why would Republicans make abortion a crime if they had no intention of enforcing the law they created? They will want to set some examples of women being punished to help deter other women from attempting abortions.

The Republicans have been waging a war on women's reproductive rights for years. Women are already suffering across the nation under the heavy hand of Republican controlled state governments and their legislative actions. To think that women will not face even harsher penalties if Republicans have their way with abortion is naïve and dangerous.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

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# And Other Correspondence

### “Black Lies Matter”?

To the Editor:  
The Black Lives Matter movement and various other leftist leaders, politicians, and groups try to deceive us about the threats to black children from police, *e.g.*, “hands up, don’t shoot,” is based on a lie. The threat to people who obey police commands, as responsible parents teach their children, is essentially zero.

The top three killers, responsible for over 77 percent of black male deaths ages 15-24, are homicide, accidents, and suicide. HIV kills three times more black males, 20-24, than legal intervention. The top two killers of black females ages 15 -24 are accidents and homicide. Number five is suicide.

The main causes of death for all young people, 15-24, in 2013 were 11,619 from accidents, 4,878 from suicide, 4,329 from homicide (most victims and killers are the same race), 3,796 from drugs, 149 from alcohol, and 109 from HIV. These lethal results are influenced by family, friends, acquaintances, teachers, &c., not by police.

Concerned fathers, involved in their children’s lives, significantly reduce the likelihood of their children being harmed. The children of single mothers are much more at risk (studies vary but suggest): five times more likely to commit suicide, nine times more likely to drop out of high school, 10 times more likely to abuse drugs, 14 times more likely to commit rape, 20 times more likely to end up in prison, and 32 times more likely to run away from home.

Police pursue criminals. Considering the populations of criminals (not the general population) police kill whites at a greater rate than blacks.

The frustration of the black community is understandable,

they have been deceived by the promises of Democrat politicians whose policies and promises sound good but lock many people in lives of poverty, broken families, high crime areas, and despair. Obviously Democrat [sic] politicians don’t care about black lives; one wonders why the black community keeps re-electing these politicians?

Concerned parents should focus on real threats to their children’s lives and success; poor schools, bad friends and acquaintances, and self-interested leaders and politicians who disparage education, encourage self-defeating behavior (*e.g.*, drugs, crime), and steal people’s opportunities for better lives.

To fulfill our nation’s promises of freedom and opportunity, our children deserve and our country needs every child to get a good education, to learn good citizenship, and to become a self-supporting citizen who enjoys, supports, and passes on to the next generation the blessings of being an American.

Only when Americans elect politicians who benefit from, and therefore assist, people’s success not their poverty, and who implement policies that encourage, rather than break up, families will we demonstrate that black lives and all lives matter.

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.  
*Don:*  
*Sometimes we wonder if we should run your letters. We like to hear from those who think differently from us, but you’re pushing it. When does selective blindness become flat-out racism? “The threat to people who obey police commands”? Now, really. What plantation did you grow up on, and in what century? Time for you to check your empathy tank — you may have run dry.*  
The Editor

### McConnell’s Magical Thinking

To the Editor:  
What is the magic number? Is it 342? 365? 393? or maybe 730 days? Just what is the exact number of days before his term ends that a president is no longer able to carry out his duties as prescribed by the Constitution?

Whatever the answer, clearly the same rule needs to be applied to the Senate: the people must be heard, they must vote. That would be the straightforward conclusion to the “logic” of Mitch McConnell, Obstructionist-in-Chief. Since 24 Republican Senators *vs* 10 Democratic Senators are up for reelection in 2016, then according to McConnell’s magical thinking, the Democrats would have a majority of Senators who have not lost their powers!

This requires that committee chairs such as Chuck Grassley, of the Senate Judiciary Committee, step down and yield their chairmanships to the top ranking Democrats. Mitch would have to go too, sigh.

Mitch, Chuck (and our own Kelly Ayotte) are struggling to explain the logic of their ridiculous insistence that they won’t consider any Obama nomination to the Supreme Court because it’s his final year in office. They should just tell the truth: they just don’t want a change in the balance of what has been a radically activist conservative Supreme Court.

Republican Senators are grasping at straws to justify their unjustifiable actions. They have put party over country. Fully one-third of all U.S. Presidents nominated Supreme Court justices in their final year in office! All 21 nominees were considered by the Senate!

This is pure obstructionism!  
Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
*Michael:*  
*Clearly the magic number is however many it takes to suit McConnell’s purposes — logic and the*

*Constitution be damned.*  
*We love your point about GOP Senators stepping down — would that they would!*  
The Editor

### Downfall or Windfall?

To the Editor:  
The candle is lit and the chardonnay decanter refilled, so here comes another fantastic voyage into late-night conspiratorial speculation.

As the Republican convention draws near and the delegate count mounts, the dynamics for the mother of all negotiations are beginning to take shape. On one side comes Donald Trump, hoarding delegates like a blackmailer gathering juicy photos through a motel window. The more he collects, the more difficult and costly it will become to deny his claim.

On the other side sit not one, but two parties, both hungry for Mr. Trump’s position. Under great pressure to withdraw and with no particular interest in actually running the country, can there be any doubt Donald-the-negotiator will release his delegates to the highest bidder?

In one chair sits the Republican National Committee [RNC], plagued by a terribly toxic candidate-disposal problem they can’t resolve without Trump’s delegates. Although the RNC may have deep pockets and a deeper dislike for The Donald, the other bidder has cavernous resources and an even stronger political agenda. That group is the KPN (Koch Political Network). Made up of billionaire Oligarchs from around the world and operating in the shadows, the KPN is nonetheless America’s wealthiest and most highly organized political party. Moreover, founder Charles Koch has already publicly anointed Paul Ryan as his personal choice to run against the Democratic candidate.

Alas, it appears Mr. Trump has two YUGE fish on the line with a vested interest in purchasing his



acquiescence, a perfect political storm guaranteed to drive the bidding sky high! Not legal you say? Read up on the Panama Papers. In the world of international finance, all things are possible.

Meanwhile, imagine having the vision and foresight to dredge up all of the fear, hatred, racism and loathing festering below America’s fluffy warm comforter and selling it for a staggering amount of cash? Not to mention the boat-load of torts for “unfair treatment” to be mounted against the media, RNC, and anybody else who might be remotely culpable in causing Trump’s “downfall”? He may act like a buffoon, but only a genius could fashion such a powerfully simplistic scheme. Please give the man credit!

So how does our national nightmare end? As the hour grows late and the candle of American Democracy flickers, we offer the following dank assessment. Come that crucial fourth convention ballot (and barring a Jimmy Hoffa moment), expect Trump to graciously step back and allow Mr. Ryan to very reluctantly accept his nation’s highest calling. This, of course, will signal the fall of the Republican Party to the KPN.

Moving on to November, expect the KPN to push for Federal indictments that will ship Hillary off to Danbury, or at least make her unelectable. Should those efforts fail, Clinton may win the

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

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Cruel April

by William Marvel

A member of the audience at a recent meeting of the library trustees made the offhand comment that Shakespeare tells us “April is the cruellest month.” Misinformation grates on my nerves, and my instinct was to interrupt her with the correct source of the quote — T. S. Eliot, in “The Wasteland.” However, my wife has spent years trying to train me not to let every thought that comes into my head leap out of my mouth; considering the thought I had at the time, I guess it’s just as well that her efforts are having at least a sporadic effect.

More than two decades ago, back when you had to know your literature and couldn’t just google something, I used that very quote as a chapter title in a book about the Confederate prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia. At the beginning of April in 1865, that stockade was still occupied by thousands of gaunt Union pris-

oners of war, most of whom had been held for months on the same slim rations as Confederate soldiers. Even in their confinement they knew that the war was about over, and their captors even tried to deliver them to Union lines in Florida, only to be rebuffed on a bureaucratic technicality. As weakened and ill-clad as they were, they all had to march back to Andersonville, where nearly 13,000 of their comrades had died over the previous year. Some of them would die there yet, even after most of the Confederate armies had surrendered.

That was pretty cruel. April is also the month when the United States most often goes to war. The first shots of the Revolution were fired in April of 1775, and those of the Civil War in April of 1861; declarations of war against Spain and the Axis Powers were passed in April of 1898 and April of 1917, respectively. In April of 1846, American dragoons who had been sent into disputed ter-

ritory near Brownsville, Texas, finally provoked the skirmish that President Polk and his fellow expansionists were hoping for to justify their war of annexation against Mexico. That first battle of the Mexican War took place just a few miles from the site of the last battle of the Civil War, which might never have been fought had we left Mexico alone.

That’s all pretty cruel, too — especially the way one war seems to beget another — but I suspect it was a different sort of cruelty that Eliot contemplated about a month that was always “breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire.” Evidently lilacs bloom in April in England, where Eliot was living, or perhaps in St. Louis, where he came from. The first time I ever smelled them in April was in Southside Virginia, about 35 years ago; until then, I supposed that the Civil War veterans whose memoirs alluded to blooming lilacs at Appomattox were making it up — and the

same with Walt Whitman, in his lilac lamentations. Here in New Hampshire we never know lilacs in April. We’re lucky if we can even see the ground.

April was always the starving season in old New England. The supply of smoked meat and root vegetables or preserves was usually running out by then, and meals consisted mainly of bread, unless a family member had run across some game.

It was a good month for pneumonia and epidemics, too, with all that wet snow and rainfall amid such lingering cold, and with people coming out of hibernation just in time to spread communicable diseases. Most of the old family cemeteries have some tombstones indicating April burials, including the ones in the woods across from my house. Nancy Kennard, who lived in the dilapidated house that stood where mine does now, died on April 26, 1865 — the same day Union cavalrymen caught up with John Wilkes Booth. Nancy’s son

Frank, who had just spent seven months in Andersonville prison himself, only reached home after she died, and before he left South Conway for good he bought a stone with the inscription “Beloved Mother thy troubles are over.”

For us today, with grocery stores and social safety nets and antibiotics and legions of poor to fight our incessant wars for us, the cruelty of April is reduced to the weather. The last day of March passes with 70-degree temperatures and bare ground, but April brings back the snow and salted roads. No sooner do we mix the memory of summer with the desire for spring than winter gives us another icy blast down the back of the neck.

Shakespeare may not have coined the phrase, but he did see the cruelty in the uncertain glory of April. Robert Frost knew it, too, while splitting wood in the yard. So do we all.

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

Presidency amid thunderous applause from the canyons of Wall Street. However, a Paul Ryan/Nikki Haley ticket will make her job far more difficult. At the same time, with the death of the Republican Party, expect many former Clinton enemies to be flipping burgers while admonishing themselves for not supporting the 15-dollar an hour minimum wage.

Of course, the real winner will be the man with the funny hair and pockets bursting with a fresh infusion of tax-sheltered off-shore cash. America! Damn, what a country!

Just speculating, of course.

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.  
Rick:

*It's all quite absurd, of course — if only it were not so plausible! We'll be stashing a few extra copies of this issue in the Bunker. They should be quite valuable if this comes to pass.*

The Editor

~~~~~

Change the Station, Luther
To the Editor:

The March 18th screed by SSGT Luther W. Lassiter, of Plant City, Fla. (that alone would make one unhappy unless you grow berries), suggests, in my humble opinion, that he suffers from overexposure to Rush Lim-

baugh and Fox News.

It’s amazing he survived his service time, let alone reached the rank of SSGT, considering the attitude he exhibits.

Some folks are color blind, others obviously blinded by color. Thank you for your service, Sgt., but the executive orders issued by President Obama are few in number compared to George W.[MD] Bush or Bill Clinton. Tune in to real news.

Gene Murphy
Former Sgt. U.S.M.C., Korea
Melbourne, Fla.

Gene:

Thanks for writing. It's always good to hear from one of Uncle Sam's

Misguided Children. Sadly, we fear neither of us will make much of an impression on disgruntled SSGT Lassiter.

The Editor

~~~~~

It's Her Theory, Which Is Hers

To the Editor:

Enclosed is a check to resuscitate my expiring subscription, along with a pittance to encourage you to continue your subversive ways (telling the truth). At a time when more and more of our citizens seem to be descending into foaming insanity, every sane voice, no matter how small, helps.

It seems that nowadays the entire ruling echelon of the Re-

publican party is overrun with people who would have been, 40 years ago, locked in the attic and spoken of in whispers, lest anyone find out there was insanity in the family.

Now they are out, loud and proud, (mis)governing and (mis)representing, (not to mention ruining) entire states, according to the dictates of *their* god (Mammon) and *their* constitution. (Little-known fact: written by Moses and found engraved on golden tablets in Cheney’s back garden when he was burying a body. These no longer exist because Cheney melted them down and sold the gold.) That’s MY theory,

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## What Happened To America's Train System?

by Jim Hightower

Why are we Americans stuck with an out-of-date railroad system, while nations with a small fraction of our resources are cruising on High Speed Rail (HSR) networks?

Because our leaders sold us out to corporate hucksters who destroyed our once-great passenger train system by telling us that we Americans deserve the "independ-

dence" that comes from a glorious new doctrine of one-person/one-car. Yeah — the independence of being stuck in traffic jams! As early as the 1930s, giant corporate consortiums formed to buy out more than 100 of America's networks of streetcars and inter-urban train systems. Not to run them, but to rip out the tracks and pave over the rail right-of-ways to make roads.

The biggest of these consor-

tiums combined the enormous political and PR power of General Motors, Standard Oil, Firestone, and Mack Trucks. Likewise, corporate profiteers mounted a new offensive in the 1990s to undermine the higher-speed potential of Amtrak's Acela trains, funding such Koch-headed front groups as Cato Institute and Heritage Foundation to push hokey "analyses" branding Amtrak as a slow train to collectivist hell.

They also bought trainloads of politicians, who're still promoting the fabricated studies and talking points of the petro-cabal to wreck as much of Amtrak as they can and derail fast-train proposals. Railroad executives themselves, preferring the oligopolistic and very profitable freight business to passenger travel, play along.

There is no economic, technological, geographic, budgetary, or conceptual barrier to our country

having the best, most effective, state-of-the-art HSR service in the world. The reality is the US is in the caboose of transportation innovation only because special-interest politics continue to thwart our national will, leaving us with a rail system that is a national embarrassment.

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which is mine, and according to Republicans, everyone is entitled to their own facts.

Keep up the good work.

Cynthia Yabut

Albuquerque, N.M.

Cynthia:

It has long been our pleasure to mail our little paper out to Albuquerque. Your amusing note serves to enhance that effect.

The Editor

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### @WernerTwertzog Tweets:

Judging those your policies destroyed. #FamilyValuesIn5Words [Note — This one is for you, Don Ewing. The Ed.] — April 9

Those who hunger and thirst for justice often suffer from synesthesia. — April 4

More wealthy Americans have died on Mount Everest than in the Vietnam War. — April 2

And then they came for the nihilists, and I said nothing, because, you know, nothing really matters. Everyone dies at some point. — April 1

I have decided that life and nature are fundamentally benevolent. #AprilFools — March 31

New discovery: gene for being "morning person" linked to gene for "smugness." — March 31

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"Keep up the excellent work! Tell more about the 'Zika' farce/scam."

— N.J., Durham, N.H.

"Thank you for the greatest paper — tears and laughter — w/ perspective."

— D.T., Sierra City, Calif.

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## Stopping Climate Change: A Practical Plan

by Roy Morrison

Stopping climate change is like the weather. We complain. But nothing changes. The problem is global. How can I make a difference? Each of us is in the same place as the other 319 million Americans, or the more than 7 billion people in the world.

The good news is that there's a practical standard we can use to measure if we're living sustainably.

It's simple. It's three tons of carbon dioxide emissions per person per year. At the average individual rate of three tons, yearly total global carbon dioxide emissions would be 21 gigatons. That's equal to the global natural carbon sinks in the ocean, soil, biomass that keeps the amount of global carbon dioxide in the atmosphere level.

The global average is now 4.5 tons carbon dioxide a person per year. Drop from 4.5 tons of carbon dioxide per year to 3 tons and game over. Seven billion people times three tons each is 21 gigatons. That's it for climate change. Forget about rising seas, crop failures, Miami and New York underwater. Back to watching football.

But the devil is in the details. While the global average is 4.5 tons, the U.S. average per person is 17.5 tons a person per year. China is 6.4 tons a person per year. Since there's a lot more people in China, they have now passed us as carbon dioxide champ.

For the big rich emitters like the U.S., reaching three tons a person means a transformation of our polluting ways. Fossil fuels must be used without carbon pollution or left in the ground if there's any hope of getting to three tons a person.

For small poor emitters, it means following a development path that goes directly to sustainable renewable resources and skips the high pollution fossil fuel road.

If everyone followed the path of the U.S., and now China, relying on polluting fossil fuels, we would need several Earths to deal with the consequences of our pollution. If we do not pursue a global convergence on emissions of three tons per person of carbon dioxide, and instead continue our mega-pollution, we will destroy our civilization and ourselves.

A global convergence on three tons per person per year of carbon dioxide emissions is the real global measure for social and climate justice. This should be the basis for policy, diplomacy, and action.

### The Three Tons Solution

The solution is an aggressive pursuit of an ecological global growth initiative that makes economic growth mean ecological improvement, makes us all sustainably richer and tackles climate change.

We need to invest trillions in building the renewable resource infrastructure and the sustainable ecological industrial systems

where all outputs are used as inputs in other systems.

Trillions of productive investment over the next thirty years means enormous profits, millions of sustainable jobs in sustainable communities. It means transforming agriculture, and forestry as well as industry. It means using existing proven technology which is only getting better by the day.

For example, the U.S. coal generating plant "fleet" of 1,309 plants, with a capacity of 343,757 megawatts, produces 1.6 trillion kilowatt hours of electricity a year. This amounts to 5.32 tons of carbon per American per year all by itself. This represents 177 percent of the U.S. sustainable carbon allowance.

Investment of \$90 billion a year in photovoltaics for 20 years, at \$1.50 per watt with storage, could replace coal generation. It would cover a block of land 137 miles on each side, or 217.5 square miles per state. This can be from roadways, rooftops, or other marginal land. Renewables will increasingly come not in big plants but in building materials, from roads and small vertical axis wind turbines.

Reality is that we'd build a mix of complementary wind, solar, and other renewables and link the systems with High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) power lines and storage.

### Global Climate Club

The United States and China,

the world's two biggest economies and biggest emitters, can lead the way by starting the Global Climate Club and committing to meet the sustainable three ton carbon dioxide per person target.

The stick is that nations who don't join the Climate Club will be subject to stiff import tariffs.

The carrot is the establishment of a means to transfer capital and technology for renewable energy and sustainability from rich polluters to poor nations. A Basic Energy Entitlement (BEE) would place assessments on all energy use, one cent per kilowatt hour equivalent, and invest in renewables in poor nations. A commitment of one percent of GDP will support global investment in renewable transformation and drive the global convergence on three tons of carbon.

This is the basis for a sustainable and prosperous future. Each of us can pursue the three tons solution for our homes, or, if we are Barack Obama and Xi Jinping, for the planet.

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Roy Morrison's latest book, *Sustainability Sutra: An Ecological Investigation*, will be published March 7, 2017 by Select Books in New York. The Chinese translation of his book *Ecological Democracy* will be published in 2016 by China Environmental Press in Beijing.

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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, APRIL 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       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| <p><b>2013</b>—A fertilizer plant uninspected since 1985, located next to a middle school in West, Texas, blows up killing 15, mostly volunteer firemen, and injuring 250 others.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—G.W.[MD] Bush flip-flops again, vowing to rebuild Afghanistan.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Peace is declared between the Netherlands and the Isles of Scilly, ending a bloodless 335-year war.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—The Supreme Court decides banning the use of peyote as a religious sacrament doesn't violate the First Amendment.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Cambodia slips into the abyss.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—<i>Apollo 13</i> makes it home.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—"[T]he defeat of the Communists forces in South Vietnam is inevitable," says ex-Veep Richard Nixon. "The only question is, how soon?"</p> <p><b>1966</b>—G. Gordon Liddy busts Tim Leary for pot possession.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In New York City, 25,000 march against the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Transports chartered by the CIA deliver 1,511 Cuban exiles to the Bay of Pigs.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—In Times Square, 22 weirdos are arrested for declining to participate in an air-raid drill.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Affable old Ike threatens to nuke Red China.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—Sun Myung Moon has a revelation: Jesus Christ asks him to complete His mission.</p> <p><b>1850</b>—In the U.S. Senate, Henry S. Foote (D-Miss.) pulls a pistol on Thomas Hart Benton (D-Mo.).</p> <p>8:52 9:25</p> <p>2:32 3:04</p> | <p><b>2006</b>—"I'm the decider," says George W.[MD] Bush. "What's best is for Don Rumsfeld to remain as the Secretary of Defense."</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Four Canadian soldiers die and eight are wounded when a U.S. Air National Guard F-16 pilot using "go pills" drops a 500-pound bomb on Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry regiment.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—The federal frame-up of Leonard Peltier succeeds.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—As Professor Irwin Corey accepts Thomas Pynchon's National Book Award for <i>Gravity's Rainbow</i>, a streaker runs across the stage.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The Army admits nerve gas from Dugway Proving Grounds killed 6,400 Idaho sheep.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Eighty men in 16 bombers take off from the <i>U.S.S. Hornet</i>, bomb Tokyo, and ditch their planes in China; 90 percent survive.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—The BBC's newscast reports that "there is no news," then plays piano music.</p> <p><b>1906</b>—An earthquake and fire destroy much of San Francisco, killing 500 to 700 people.</p> <p><b>1891</b>—A fast mail train and the Toledo Express collide in Kipton, Ohio due to a four-minute watch error.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—For a second time, believers in William Miller's Doomsday prediction are disappointed.</p> <p><b>1689</b>—Bostonians ditch Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of the short-lived Dominion of New England.</p> <p>9:47 10:13</p> <p>3:28 3:54</p>                 | <p><b>2004</b>—A government spokesman reveals that NORAD had run a training exercise based on a hijacked airliner crashing into a building.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—A Right Wing "militiaman" murders 168 souls in Oklahoma City.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—For the good of the children, who end up among the 80 dead, the FBI attacks David Koresh's compound at Waco, Texas.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Officials at Arlington National Cemetery turn away Gold Star Mothers and Vietnam veterans participating in Operation Dewey Canyon III.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—In a grandiose fit of mock humility, Gen. Douglas "Dugout Doug" MacArthur tells Congress, "Old soldiers never die," leaving unspoken the obvious corollary, "that's what the young ones are for."</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Costa Rica disbands its army.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—A Nazi attack on the Warsaw Ghetto meets ferocious resistance.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—After some study, Connecticut OKs the Bill of Rights.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Birth of Ole Evindrude, inventor of the outboard motor.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—The Union Army loses its first soldiers to hostile action; four are stoned to death by a Baltimore mob.</p> <p><b>1775</b>—Minutemen and British soldiers battle in Lexington and Concord. Two days later a report is published in the <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i>.</p> <p>The probable writer: eyewitness Isaiah Thomas, former apprentice of Daniel Fowle's peculiar brother Zechariah.</p> <p>10:35 10:56</p> <p>4:18 4:38</p> | <p><b>2010</b>—<i>Deepwater Horizon</i> explodes and burns; 11 die, the world's largest oil spill ensues, and wrists are slapped.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—<i>The New York Times</i> reveals that many "independent military analysts" appearing on TV are really Pentagon puppets.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—Adelir Antonio de Carli, a Brazilian Catholic priest, in a chair suspended from 1,000 party balloons, reaches 19,685 feet before disappearing over the Atlantic.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The Peruvian Air Force, with some help from CIA "contract workers," fires on a plane they think is full of dope. Nope. It's full of proseletyzing American Baptists. Two die.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—Two shooldchildren murder 13 in Columbine, Colo.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—While canoeing near Plains, Ga., Pres. Jimmy Carter successfully defends himself from a deranged swamp rabbit.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The U.S. Supreme Court rules New Hampshire citizens can cover up the state motto "Live Free or Die" on their license plates.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Mistaking the National Mall for their lawn, Supreme Court Justices tell Vietnam Veterans Against the War to get off it.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Maryland building contractor Lester Matz pays a \$2,500 bribe to Vice President and freelance media critic Spiro "Ted" Agnew.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—The <i>New York Times</i> says youth groups have adopted a yellow submarine as a religious symbol.</p> <p>11:18 11:34</p> <p>5:02 5:17</p>                                | <p><b>1999</b>—To honor those killed at Columbine the day before, NRA president Charlton Heston says the gun lobby will cut short its Denver convention by one day.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—At about 3:00 a.m., Robert Alton Harris is strapped into San Quentin's gas chamber. Twelve minutes later amid legal wrangling, he's taken back out. At 6:00 a.m., he's put back in and gassed.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Chinese students demonstrate in Tiananmen Square.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—On live TV, Geraldo Rivera opens Al Capone's vault, discovering naught but his own credentials.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—<i>Newsweek</i> quotes R. Reagan inaccurately saying that Vietnam vets aren't eligible for the GI Bill because their war wasn't declared.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Nguyen Van Thieu, last president of South Vietnam, resigns after ten years of misrule and bugs out of Saigon.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—In El Paso, former commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam General William Westmoreland is pelted with tomatoes.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—In Washington, D.C., Vietnam Veterans Against the War defy the Supreme Court and stay on the National Mall. Park police decline to arrest. Tomorrow's headline: "Vets Overrule Supreme Court."</p> <p><b>1918</b>—After shooting down 80 Allied planes, Manfred von Richthofen, aka The Red Baron, is shot down—by an Australian on the ground.</p> <p>11:57</p> <p>5:41 5:53</p>                                                                                                            | <p><b>2004</b>—In Afghanistan, U.S. soldiers shoot former NFL football player Specialist Pat Tillman.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Dick "Dick" Cheney, fundraising in Florida, says "The Taliban is out of business permanently."</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Federal agents snatch political pawn Elian Gonzalez from his colorful Miami relatives.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Guilford Co., N.C. postpones Earth Day to April 28th so as not to interfere with the K-Mart Greater Greensboro Open Golf Tournament.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—After two jolts in Alabama's electric chair John Louis Evans caught fire, but his heart was still beating. Third time was the charm.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Capitol police arrest 110 Vietnam veterans for serenading the Supreme Court with <i>God Bless America</i>.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Former Navy Lieutenant John Kerry asks Congress, "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Cops shoot and kill Huey Newton, Black Panther.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—South Vietnam is "steadily moving toward a constitutional system resting upon popular consent," says Secretary of State Dean Rusk.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—TV coverage of the Army-McCarthy hearings begins; the end of McCarthyism looms.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—A restaurant sit-in by 400 blacks in Washington, D.C. begins; result: desegregation.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Charles Mingus is born in, of all places, Nogales, Ariz.</p> <p>12:09 12:34</p> <p>6:18 6:27</p> | <p><b>1993</b>—RIP Cesar Chavez.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, on the phone with Allen Ginsberg, agrees to a personal meeting, but draws the line at doing so naked on television.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—In D.C., Vietnam Veterans Against the War return their medals to Congress by heaving them over a fence in front of the Capitol, as Operation Dewey Canyon III concludes.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Anti-war students, including 'Nam vets, occupy Columbia.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Five paratroopers are killed and 137 injured in a mass jump at Ft. Campbell, Ky.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—The USSR announces it's got an H-bomb.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—In Montana, the Flathead reservation is divided; half ends up in non-Indian hands.</p> <p><b>1880</b>—Charles De Young, Editor of the <i>San Francisco Chronicle</i>, is shot dead by the son of the city's mayor.</p> <p><b>1868</b>—"I don't have to forgive my enemies," says the dying Duke of Valencía Ramon Maria Narvacz y Campos, "I had them all shot."</p> <p><b>1860</b>—Birth of Charles H. Kerr, founder of a radical publishing cooperative that's still going.</p> <p><b>1693</b>—Birth of William Caslon, English typefounder [This is Caslon].</p> <p><b>1014</b>—Vikings are defeated at the Battle of Clontarf. High King Brian Boru is slain by Brodir, but Brodir is soon disembowelled by Brian's brother Wolf the Quarrelsome.</p> <p>12:42 1:08</p> <p>6:52 7:00</p>                                                                               |
| SUNDAY, APRIL 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       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| <p><b>1980</b>—Operation Eagle Claw fails: 8 Americans die and 5 are wounded in an attempt to extract American hostages from Teheran.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—"The military situation [in South Vietnam] is favorable," says U.S. Commander Gen. William C. Westmoreland, but protests at home might lose the war.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—After a troubled 26-hour orbital mission, <i>Soyuz 1</i> crashes into Earth at 200 mph, killing Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—President Kennedy authorizes high-altitude nuke tests.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—The ship <i>El Estero</i>, fully loaded with high explosives, catches fire in New York Harbor. Coast Guardsmen board the ship to put out the fire.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—The Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood proclaim the Irish Republic, and the Easter Rising begins.</p> <p><b>1800</b>—The Library of Congress is established.</p> <p><b>1778</b>—<i>Ranger</i>, under John Paul Jones, captures <i>HMS Drake</i>—the first U.S. naval victory over a British ship in British waters.</p> <p><b>1704</b>—<i>The Boston News-Letter</i>, the first successful newspaper in the colonies, begins publication under John Campbell who insists on publishing all the old news he had before going on to the more recent. By 1718 his news is a full year behind. The paper eventually adopts Tory politics and perishes during the Revolution.</p> <p>1:14 1:43</p> <p>7:27 7:35</p>                        | <p><b>2005</b>—Charles Duelfer, the CIA's man in charge of finding WMDs in Iraq, says there are none.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Secretary of the Army Thomas White gets fired for saying we need more troops in Iraq.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—At his Texas "ranch," George W.[MD] Bush plays kissy-face with Saudi Prince Abdullah.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Asked if he's ever been to a communist country, James A. Baker III replies, "Well, I've been to Massachusetts."</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The "Little Mermaid" in Copenhagen harbor is decapitated.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Test-ban negotiations having failed, the U.S. says it will resume atmospheric nuke tests.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—RIP George Herriman.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—Australian and New Zealand troops under British command attack Turks at Gallipoli and die in droves.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—The U.S. obliges W.R. Hearst by declaring war on Spain.</p> <p><b>1847</b>—The remnants of the Donner Party make it out of the wilderness.</p> <p><b>1846</b>—Obliging Mexican troops attack a U.S. "scouting party;" Congress has an excuse to declare war.</p> <p><b>1523</b>—Henry VIII of England forbids private ownership of guns by anyone with an income of less than 100 pounds a year.</p> <p><b>1507</b>—The German Cartographer Martin Waldseemuller erroneously credits Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci with the "discovery" of "North America."</p> <p>1:47 2:18</p> <p>8:03 8:11</p> | <p><b>1986</b>—A meltdown at Chernobyl renders a bunch of Ukrainian real estate worthless, contaminates a large part of the northern hemisphere to one degree or another, and condemns thousands to death.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—A dynamite blast damages the State House in Louisiana.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Radioactive rain falls on Troy and Albany, N.Y.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—The captain of the <i>U.S.S. Hobson</i>, disregarding an underling's advice, takes his destroyer across the bow of the <i>U.S.S. Wasp</i>. Cut in half, the <i>Hobson</i> sinks with more than half its crew, captain included.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Edna Rose Ritchings, 21, a Caucasian-Canadian, marries Father Divine, 65, an African-American religious figure.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The U.S. Government takes over the national headquarters of Montgomery-Ward after it defies the National Labor Relations Board.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—German and Italian planes destroy Guernica, Spain.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—Lou Gehrig hits a home run but is called out for passing another runner on the basepath.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—"I'll be in Hell before you start breakfast!" says train-robber Tom "Black Jack" Ketchum, whose head flies off after the hangman drops him.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—Boston Corbett, a hater-turned-cavalryman who had earlier castrated himself with scissors to better resist prostitutes, shoots and kills John Wilkes Booth.</p> <p>2:23 2:56</p> <p>8:41 8:50</p>                          | <p><b>2011</b>—On the worst day of the largest tornado outbreak in history, 317 people are killed from Texas to Ontario.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—In South Africa, ex-prisoner Nelson Mandela is elected President.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—An HBO transmission is interrupted by a TV pirate calling himself "Captain Midnight."</p> <p><b>1981</b>—The first computer mouse roars.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—A scaffold fails inside a nuke plant under construction in West Virginia; 51 workers die.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Ten thousand people march in Washington, D.C. for the impeachment of Richard Nixon.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Heavyweight boxing champ Rocky Marciano retires undefeated.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—The first Social Security check is mailed to Ida May Fuller: \$22.54.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Saying "Goodbye, everybody," Hart Crane leaps from the <i>Orizaba</i> into the Gulf of Mexico. His body is never found.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—About 1,450 recently freed Union POW's are among 1,800 who die in the explosion of the steamboat <i>Sultana</i> on the Mississippi River.</p> <p><b>1667</b>—Old, blind, and broke, John Milton sells <i>Paradise Lost</i> for £10.</p> <p><b>1773</b>—The British Parliament passes the Tea Act. Oops.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of <i>habeas corpus</i>.</p> <p><b>1825</b>—In Boston, carpenters strike for a 10-hour day.</p> <p><b>1791</b>—Birth of Samuel F.B. Morse, inventor of the eponymous code.</p> <p>3:02 3:39</p> <p>9:24 9:35</p> | <p><b>2011</b>—During a speech in Las Vegas, Donald Trump drops about seven f-bombs, promising to tell the Chinese, "listen you mother____s, we're going to tax you 25 percent."</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Rush Limbaugh's lawyers announce that their fine work will keep their dope-addled client out of prison.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—The Securities and Exchange Commission votes to let banks risk more money and keep less in reserve.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Frank Lautenberg [D-N.J.] says on the floor of the Senate, "We know who the chickenhawks are. They talk tough on national defense and military issues ... but when it was their turn to serve, they were AWOL."</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Aloha Airlines 737 develops a 20 foot hole in its fuselage; stewardess Clarabelle Lansing falls to her death.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Contras in Nicaragua, "moral equivalent of our Founding fathers" according to President Reagan, murder American volunteer Ben Lindner.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Richard Nixon authorizes U.S. troops to fight in Cambodia.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Muhammad Ali refuses induction into the armed forces.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—For vague but pious-sounding reasons, U.S. Marines invade the Dominican Republic.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Having successfully overthrown the elected government of Iran, the CIA installs a Shah.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—German naval forces alerted by radio traffic attack Operation Tiger, a D-Day rehearsal off Devonshire, and kill 946 GIs.</p> <p>3:47 4:27</p> <p>10:11 10:25</p> | <p><b>2015</b>—The Orioles beat the White Sox 8-2 in Baltimore, before an empty stadium. It was closed due to riots.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—At the White House Correspondents Association Dinner, in front of the alleged president, Stephen Colbert shows how it's done.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—George W.[MD] Bush and Dick "Dick" Cheney "testify" together, without taking an oath, before the 9/11 Commission™.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—A mostly-white jury in Simi Valley finds LA police not guilty of assaulting Rodney King. Four days later soldiers and Marines quell the rioting.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—The last American combat troops leave Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Italian partisans turn Ezra Pound over to U.S. troops.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Americans liberate Dachau.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—In Dublin, Irish nationalists surrender.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—Striking miners blow up the Bunker Hill Company mill at Wardner, Idaho.</p> <p><b>1895</b>—U.S. warships are sent to Nicaragua to "protect American interests."</p> <p><b>1886</b>—As the Boston Beaneaters pose for a team photo on Opening Day, Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourne gives the finger to a rival New York Giant; it is the first documented use of that gesture by an American.</p> <p><b>1429</b>—Female "cheese-eating surrender monkey" Joan of Arc arrives at the besieged city of Orleans, France. Nine days later the English run away.</p> <p>4:38 5:21</p> <p>11:03 11:21</p>                    | <p><b>1993</b>—The first website [<a href="http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html">http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html</a>] goes online. It's back up.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—The Clamshell Alliance assembles at Seabrook to fight the construction of the nuke plant.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Saigon falls.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Announcing their resignations, Richard Nixon calls convicted felons John D. Erlichman and H.R. Haldeman "two of the finest public servants I have ever known."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—In Detroit, Medal of Honor recipient Dwight H. Johnson is shot to death while robbing a grocery store.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Rep. Melvin Laird (R-Wisc.) says that the problem with Vietnam is "an administration that fails to inform the people fully and frankly about the objectives and progress of the war."</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Leonid Ivanovich Rogozov, the sole doctor at the Novolazarevskaya Research Station in Antarctica, uses local anesthetics as he removes his own appendix in a two-hour operation.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Ex Veep Alben Barkley finishes his keynote speech to the Washington and Lee Mock Convention, then immediately drops dead.</p> <p><b>1900</b>—The Illinois Central's <i>Cannonball Express</i> slams into a freight train at Vaughan, Miss. Engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones is the only fatality.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—Five hundred unemployed workers led by Jacob Coxey arrive in Washington, D.C. from Massillon, Ohio, demanding work.</p> <p>5:36 6:19</p> <p>11:59</p> |

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**2005**—Charles Duelfer, the CIA's man in charge of finding WMDs in Iraq, says there are none.

**2003**—Secretary of the Army Thomas White gets fired for saying we need more troops in Iraq.

**2002**—At his Texas "ranch," George W.[MD] Bush plays kissy-face with Saudi Prince Abdullah.

**1984**—Asked if he's ever been to a communist country, James A. Baker III replies, "Well, I've been to Massachusetts."

**1964**—The "Little Mermaid" in Copenhagen harbor is decapitated.

**1962**—Test-ban negotiations having failed, the U.S. says it will resume atmospheric nuke tests.

**1944**—RIP George Herriman.

**1915**—Australian and New Zealand troops under British command attack Turks at Gallipoli and die in droves.

**1898**—The U.S. obliges W.R. Hearst by declaring war on Spain.

**1847**—The remnants of the Donner Party make it out of the wilderness.

**1846**—Obliging Mexican troops attack a U.S. "scouting party;" Congress has an excuse to declare war.

**1523**—Henry VIII of England forbids private ownership of guns by anyone with an income of less than 100 pounds a year.

**1507**—The German Cartographer Martin Waldseemuller erroneously credits Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci with the "discovery" of "North America."

**1986**—A meltdown at Chernobyl renders a bunch of Ukrainian real estate worthless, contaminates a large part of the northern hemisphere to one degree or another, and condemns thousands to death.

**1970**—A dynamite blast damages the State House in Louisiana.

**1953**—Radioactive rain falls on Troy and Albany, N.Y.

**1952**—The captain of the *U.S.S. Hobson*, disregarding an underling's advice, takes his destroyer across the bow of the *U.S.S. Wasp*. Cut in half, the *Hobson* sinks with more than half its crew, captain included.

**1946**—Edna Rose Ritchings, 21, a Caucasian-Canadian, marries Father Divine, 65, an African-American religious figure.

**1944**—The U.S. Government takes over the national headquarters of Montgomery-Ward after it defies the National Labor Relations Board.

**1937**—German and Italian planes destroy Guernica, Spain.

**1931**—Lou Gehrig hits a home run but is called out for passing another runner on the basepath.

**1901**—"I'll be in Hell before you start breakfast!" says train-robber Tom "Black Jack" Ketchum, whose head flies off after the hangman drops him.

**1865**—Boston Corbett, a hater-turned-cavalryman who had earlier castrated himself with scissors to better resist prostitutes, shoots and kills John Wilkes Booth.

**2011**—On the worst day of the largest tornado outbreak in history, 317 people are killed from Texas to Ontario.

**1994**—In South Africa, ex-prisoner Nelson Mandela is elected President.

**1986**—An HBO transmission is interrupted by a TV pirate calling himself "Captain Midnight."

**1981**—The first computer mouse roars.

**1978**—A scaffold fails inside a nuke plant under construction in West Virginia; 51 workers die.

**1974**—Ten thousand people march in Washington, D.C. for the impeachment of Richard Nixon.

**1956**—Heavyweight boxing champ Rocky Marciano retires undefeated.

**1937**—The first Social Security check is mailed to Ida May Fuller: \$22.54.

**1932**—Saying "Goodbye, everybody," Hart Crane leaps from the *Orizaba* into the Gulf of Mexico. His body is never found.

**1865**—About 1,450 recently freed Union POW's are among 1,800 who die in the explosion of the steamboat *Sultana* on the Mississippi River.

**1667**—Old, blind, and broke, John Milton sells *Paradise Lost* for £10.

**1773**—The British Parliament passes the Tea Act. Oops.

**1861**—Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of *habeas corpus*.

**1825**—In Boston, carpenters strike for a 10-hour day.

**1791**—Birth of Samuel F.B. Morse, inventor of the eponymous code.

**2011**—During a speech in Las Vegas, Donald Trump drops about seven f-bombs, promising to tell the Chinese, "listen you mother\_\_\_\_s, we're going to tax you 25 percent."

**2006**—Rush Limbaugh's lawyers announce that their fine work will keep their dope-addled client out of prison.

**2004**—The Securities and Exchange Commission votes to let banks risk more money and keep less in reserve.

**2004**—Frank Lautenberg [D-N.J.] says on the floor of the Senate, "We know who the chickenhawks are. They talk tough on national defense and military issues ... but when it was their turn to serve, they were AWOL."

**1988**—Aloha Airlines 737 develops a 20 foot hole in its fuselage; stewardess Clarabelle Lansing falls to her death.

**1987**—Contras in Nicaragua, "moral equivalent of our Founding fathers" according to President Reagan, murder American volunteer Ben Lindner.

**1970**—Richard Nixon authorizes U.S. troops to fight in Cambodia.

**1967**—Muhammad Ali refuses induction into the armed forces.

**1965**—For vague but pious-sounding reasons, U.S. Marines invade the Dominican Republic.

**1953**—Having successfully overthrown the elected government of Iran, the CIA installs a Shah.

**1944**—German naval forces alerted by radio traffic attack Operation Tiger, a D-Day rehearsal off Devonshire, and kill 946 GIs.

**2015**—The Orioles beat the White Sox 8-2 in Baltimore, before an empty stadium. It was closed due to riots.

**2006**—At the White House Correspondents Association Dinner, in front of the alleged president, Stephen Colbert shows how it's done.

**2004**—George W.[MD] Bush and Dick "Dick" Cheney "testify" together, without taking an oath, before the 9/11 Commission™.

**1992**—A mostly-white jury in Simi Valley finds LA police not guilty of assaulting Rodney King. Four days later soldiers and Marines quell the rioting.

**1975**—The last American combat troops leave Vietnam.

**1945**—Italian partisans turn Ezra Pound over to U.S. troops.

**1945**—Americans liberate Dachau.

**1916**—In Dublin, Irish nationalists surrender.

**1899**—Striking miners blow up the Bunker Hill Company mill at Wardner, Idaho.

**1895**—U.S. warships are sent to Nicaragua to "protect American interests."

**1886**—As the Boston Beaneaters pose for a team photo on Opening Day, Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourne gives the finger to a rival New York Giant; it is the first documented use of that gesture by an American.

**1429**—Female "cheese-eating surrender monkey" Joan of Arc arrives at the besieged city of Orleans, France. Nine days later the English run away.

**1993**—The first website [<http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html>] goes online. It's back up.

**1977**—The Clamshell Alliance assembles at Seabrook to fight the construction of the nuke plant.

**1975**—Saigon falls.

**1973**—Announcing their resignations, Richard Nixon calls convicted felons John D. Erlichman and H.R. Haldeman "two of the finest public servants I have ever known."

**1971**—In Detroit, Medal of Honor recipient Dwight H. Johnson is shot to death while robbing a grocery store.

**1966**—Rep. Melvin Laird (R-Wisc.) says that the problem with Vietnam is "an administration that fails to inform the people fully and frankly about the objectives and progress of the war."

**1961**—Leonid Ivanovich Rogozov, the sole doctor at the Novolazarevskaya Research Station in Antarctica, uses local anesthetics as he removes his own appendix in a two-hour operation.

**1956**—Ex Veep Alben Barkley finishes his keynote speech to the Washington and Lee Mock Convention, then immediately drops dead.


**1900**—The Illinois Central's *Cannonball Express* slams into a freight train at Vaughan, Miss. Engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones is the only fatality.


**1894**—Five hundred unemployed workers led by Jacob Coxey arrive in Washington, D.C. from Massillon, Ohio, demanding work.

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