

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Crazed New World

Well? Are we great again yet? Clearly it is time to once again roll out our mantra for hard times. Funny, we had always thought that Vietnam would be its ultimate test. Wrong again. Here goes: It's not funny, but that's no reason not to laugh.*

The consequences of this election may be worse than we can imagine. Thank God for that — it'll be bad enough when it gets here. Let's enjoy this fool's paradise while we can.

Always Look on the Bright Side

Our hymn for today is "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" — and, difficult as it may be to believe, there actually is one.

We got where we are because so many elements of our political system stopped functioning long ago. Now we can throw them over the side and replace them — perhaps — with something useful.

It's Party Time

First and foremost, of course, is the Republican Party. Now in charge of nearly every branch of government with the exception of a few major cities, it is grotesquely enfeebled by its slavish addiction to its unique brand of bullsh_t, opposed, not just by every Democrat who hasn't turned on the gas pipe, but, to some degree, by our incoming Chief Executive. It has as much chance of actually satisfying its base as a naked mole rat does of flying a 747.

Equally eligible for a walk off the plank is the party that blocked Bernie Sanders. Granted, he squeaked through the Democratic door with just minutes to spare; but it's still hard to believe they let him in at all. The intra-party dynamics should have made the choice obvious: the calculating

*Thank you, Sergeant Jones. Hang in there. You never know, we might get through this.

technocrat who read spreadsheets for entertainment or the mensch inspiring millions of the previously dispirited?

Half the country thinks that Trump is unfit for the office, including a lot of the people who voted to put him there. Even more will find out soon.

It can no longer be denied: the two-party system for selecting our Presidents, in use since the Civil War, is busted. In fact, the evidence suggests that it has been since 2000. That's bad.

The good news is, we can no longer deny it.

Now we are like the passengers in the film *Flight of the Phoenix*: stranded in the Sahara with our plane broken to pieces. We have no choice but to do what they did: salvage whatever parts we have and try to cobble together something that will fly.

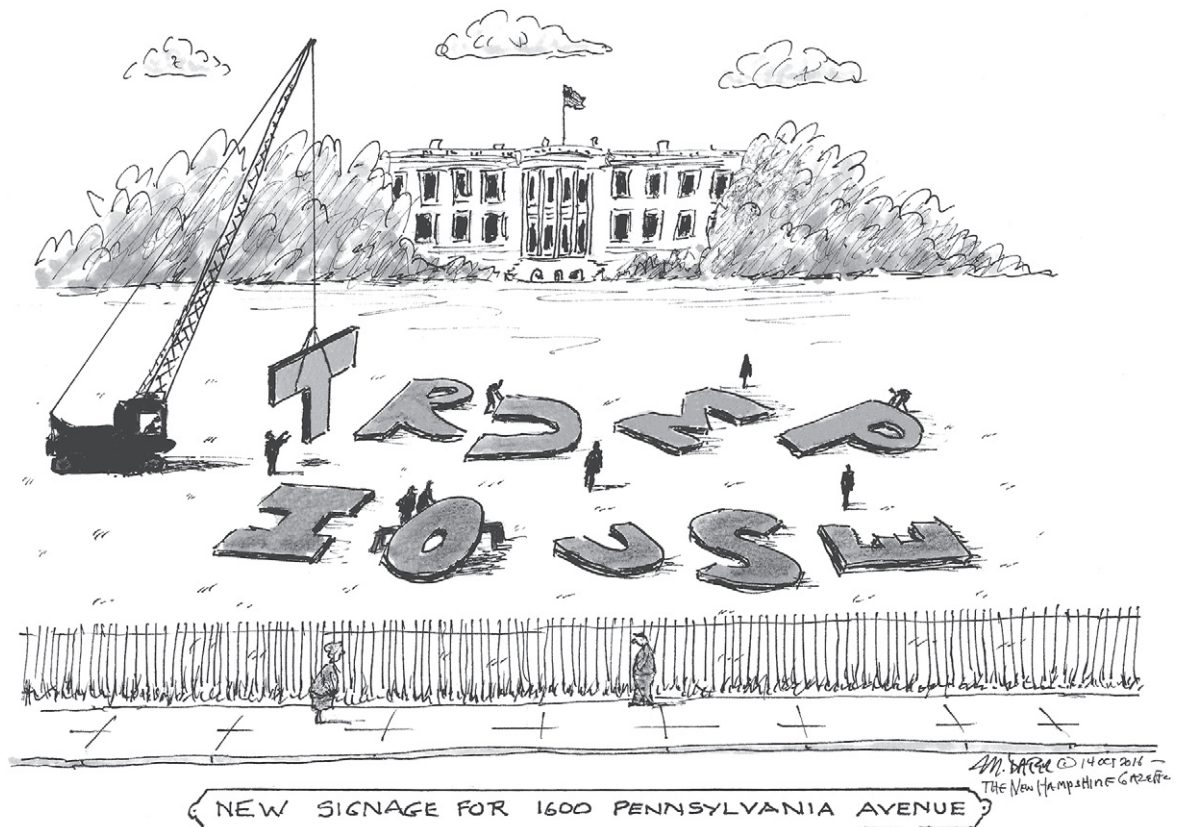
Our job will no doubt be complicated by the inconvenient fact that we don't live in a Hollywood screenplay. All the same, what else have we got to do?

Dysfunction Junction

By all rights — and we will be reading the fine print and calling our lawyer if we find there's any cheating going on here — November 8th should mark the end of the political careers of both William Jefferson Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Turning the Democratic Party into GOP Lite and putting its leash in the hands of Wall Street, is quite enough of a career, thank you very much. Goodbye.

Henceforth, not only should we be spared the Clintons, but we will cease to be subjected to the tedium of Darryl Issa and Trey Gowdy attempting to put Hillary behind bars.

That's a job for Comey now.



The Race is On

Can we all agree — excepting, of course, those of us in complete denial — that not only is slavery barely past, but Jim Crow is alive and well, in the South and pretty much everywhere?

It's really rather impressive: despite the burden of having to work so hard just to keep body and soul together, there are an awful lot of white people in this country with vast amounts of energy left over for blaming their troubles on the innocent.

That's Disinfotainment!

We are spared, for the nonce, the agony of a new cable channel, competing with Fox News for the know nothing/know-what's-not-true demographic. Who knows what horrors might have lain therein?

Just don't think about the speeches our next Chief Executive

will deliver from the Oval Office. Pro tip: as we have been composing this screed, we have found great solace in both Beethoven's Ninth and Cosmo's Factory.

While we attempt to assemble political parties that are somewhat less suicidal, we need to devote at least as much effort to de-contaminating our infosphere.

As some clever soul said after the guillotine fell, "it turns out that the pissed off didn't need a GOTV machine — all they needed was CNN treating Trump like a profitable infomercial."

This may be our biggest challenge. We face a handful of giant media corporations with all the brains and the heart of a broken ATM. They are locked in a symbiotic embrace with big pharma, big oil, and all our other destructive, wasteful big industries, susceptible to all the wiles and snares of

our oligarchy's reigning lizards.

Bring On Bernie and Friends

When last we checked, Bernie Sanders was still a free man — and, for what it's worth, serving in the U.S. Senate. Elizabeth Warren, we suspect, is not yet ready to go gentle into that good night. In fact, a large part of the Democratic Party, freed from vassalage and freshly dope-slapped, has no excuse but to show up and salute. If these two don't have the moral authority to lead the Party's remnants, it's time to torch it and start from scratch.

Watch This Space

Obviously, things have suddenly gotten rather strange. Several schemes and daydreams, long suppressed, now seem somewhat less absurd. This is as good a time as any to risk opprobrium and laughter.

Watch this space.

The Alleged News®

Is a draft-dodger's salute a sign of respect?

Yesterday, assuming that all went as planned, local philanthropists assembled at Great Bay Community College to attend the Eagle Parade, a fundraising project for Veterans Count.

The venue was certainly appropriate. A few decades ago, Great Bay was called a "vo-tech." The name connoted an institution which trained high school graduates who were never expected to rise to a position from which they might dictate American foreign policy — just, perhaps, to carry it out.

"The Eagle Parade launched in the spring as a unique fundraising initiative for the Seacoast Chapter of Veterans Count, an organization that provides emergency aid and services to military members and their families across the state

of New Hampshire," according to an apparently official press release.

The press release does not explain why, in a country with a defense budget greater than the next seven nations combined, any members of our military could find themselves in a position where their needs could possibly go unmet. Has the day finally come when our schools are adequately funded and the Pentagon has to hold bake sales?

"Painted and adorned by selected artists," the press release continues, "the four-and-a-half-foot tall fiberglass eagles were placed on public display across the region this summer as a tribute to our military community" — again conflating those on active duty and those who may have been demobilized half a century ago.

Apparent ambiguities such as this are to be expected in a culture that's clearly comfortable with exploiting its veterans to achieve the recruitment goals of its all-volunteer military — a symbiotic relationship that seems to have overcome the laws of physics and formed a perpetual destruction machine.

The confusion over who it is the organization serves is finally resolved in the release's last paragraph, which reads, in part, "Veterans Count strives to bring comprehensive, emergency aid to veterans and their families, and to provide critical and timely financial assistance and services when no other resource is available, to ensure their dignity, health[,] and overall well-being."

That's a relief — we need not

pass the hat to supply our active-duty servicemembers with the bullets and bombs they need to ply their trade. But how can so many veterans be in need today? Didn't the country swear, a few decades ago, that it would always support the troops? Did that oath contain some silent codicil saying "active duty only"? Surely not, and yet the need obviously exists. It seems those needs are being met by the sale of fiberglass eagles.

The press release provides a few additional details, one of which is rather troubling. "A number of the Eagles are 'celebrity status,' [including a few] musically-themed eagles ... which come with autographed guitars by Jimmy Buffett, Gary Sinise, Charlie Daniels, and Ted Nugent." Nugent once confessed, in a 1990 magazine

interview, that he succeeded in dodging the draft during the Vietnam War by defecating in his pants before reporting for his induction physical. More recently he's been appearing at campaign rallies with Donald Trump. Monday, on stage in Michigan, he grabbed his crotch and shouted, "I got your blue state right here, baby. Black and blue."

Back in October, Veterans Count hired the Music Hall for a fundraiser built around a screening of the movie, *13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi*. The film was directed by Michael Bay, the producer of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, which grossed a whopping \$493 million and won April

The Alleged News®

to page two

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from page one

O'Neil a Golden Raspberry for Worst Supporting Actress.

Tod Robberson writes editorials for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, which is a pretty good paper. He wrote this about *13 Hours*:

"Today some Americans are busily convincing themselves that ... *13 Hours* was a real depiction of the events that unfolded during the Sept. 11, 2012, siege of the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi.

"The film got a big push from Fox News, and now conservative groups around the country are using it for fundraising purposes. Why? Because Public Enemy No. 1 for the conservatives this year is Hillary Clinton, whose name will increasingly become synonymous with Benghazi as the presidential campaign progresses."

Surely such considerations had nothing to do with Veterans Count's decision to screen the film.

Twisted History

These days, anyone who reveals to a stranger that he once was in the service is almost sure to hear

the phrase, "Thank you for your service." The generally-accepted explanation for the ubiquity of this expression appears to be that the nation, in its remorse for the sorry treatment once received by Vietnam veterans — spit on by hippies as they returned from the jungle — is now trying to make amends. There are two major flaws in that story; one of commission, and one of omission.

First, commission: it never happened. Jerry Lembcke, himself a Vietnam veteran, spent months if not years scouring newspapers, magazines, and other news reports of the time, and could not find a single documented incident. This search is detailed in his book, *The Spitting Image*, published by NYU Press in 2000. In the words of the publisher, "[r]ather, the anti-war Left saw in veterans a natural ally, and the relationship between anti-war forces and most veterans was defined by mutual support. Indeed, one soldier wrote angrily to Vice President Spiro Agnew that the only Americans who seemed concerned about the soldier's welfare were the anti-war activists."

A review in the *San Francisco*

Chronicle said, "Lembcke builds a compelling case against collective memory by demonstrating that remembrances of Vietnam were almost at direct odds with circumstantial evidence."

Even people who lived through those days have tended to forget: the resistance of active-duty GIs had as much to do with ending the war as all those hippies and protestors. Common sense also bears Lembcke out. What are the odds any returning veteran would suffer such treatment from a long-haired, sandal-wearing pot smoker, anyway?

Also, omission: what's left out of our collective memory is the poor treatment meted out to Vietnam veterans by — say it ain't so — our Greatest Generation. Many a Vietnam veteran who visited an American Legion post or VFW halls was summarily told to get lost.

Veterans To Parade No More

Portsmouth's Veterans Day parade has not been robust, at least during the past couple of decades. Now it is history.

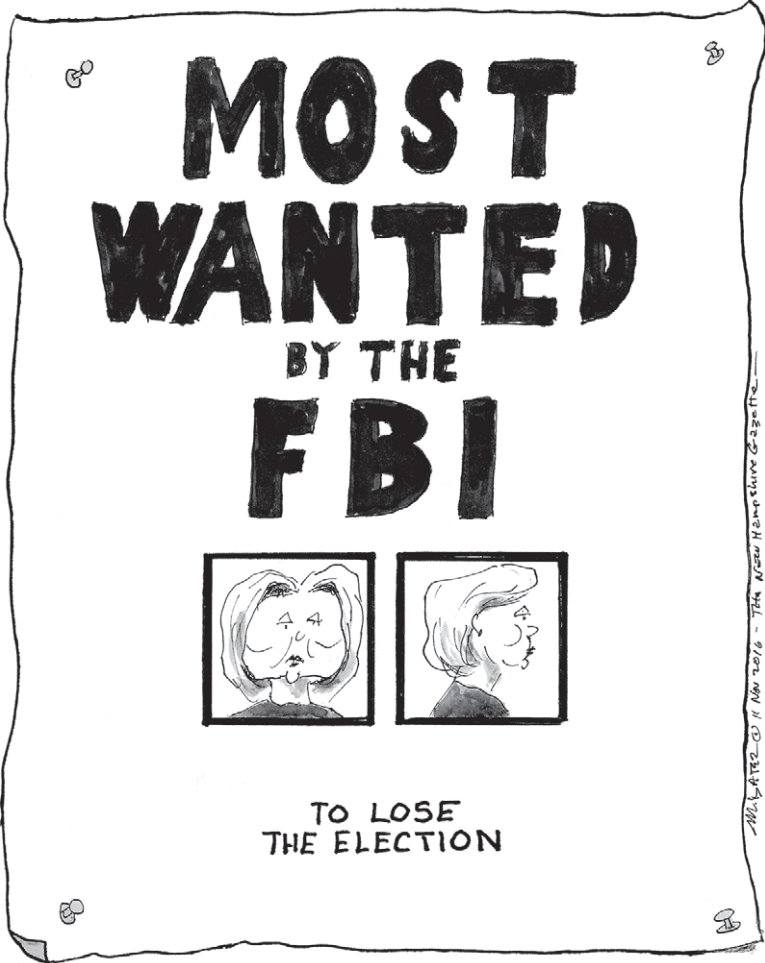
The news came in a rather ignominious fashion: this sentence in the November 2nd *Portsmouth Herald*: "The Annual Veterans [sic] Day celebration will be followed by a light luncheon at the Legion hall."

Considering the source, we checked the City's website. It corroborated: "The City thanks all of those who have served and sacrificed in order to protect our liberties and our homeland. A Veterans Day ceremony including a wreath laying will take place on November 11th at 11 a.m. at Goodwin Park. If there is rain, the ceremony will be held at the upstairs hall at the American Legion at 96 Islington Street."

Sic transit ingloria mundi.

A Tale of Two Races

A jury in Oregon recently sprang the Bundy gang, which occupied Federal property for weeks



and bulldozed Native American graves, all the while armed to the teeth.

Unarmed Native Americans in North Dakota, on the other hand, trying to protect their water and sacred sites, have been getting pepper-sprayed and shot with rubber bullets by modern-day Pinkertons hired by Big Oil.

And Chief Wahoo got to play the World Series.

More Gems from the AWLD

On October 23rd, the Award-Winning Local Daily endorsed Kelly Ayotte for the Senate. It was a bit of a shock, but not a complete surprise. Our theory is that the newspaper endorsed the Senator because of something they have in common: contempt for the English language.

The paper considers words to be nothing more than a commodity. The prosecution offers Exhibit

A: On Friday, October 28th, the AWLD ran a color photo which took up more than a quarter of page B6. It was a stock photo of a young boy in a Halloween costume. The caption read — this is verbatim — "32624930 Happy young red-hair boy with skeleton costume holding and eating colorful candies. Studio portrait over black background."

For her part, Ayotte had just spent the previous month struggling to back away from her ticket-topper — a Brueghelian grotesque just caught on tape bragging about his hobby of sexual assault — without alienating his voters, whom she desperately needed. The only way she could hope to do that was to pummel, twist, and violently abuse her native tongue.

The brutality she displayed was something the AWLD — always



A visit to Portsmouth's Ward Two — the center of the political universe — at about 1:20 p.m. seemed to reflect the national trend: a solid turnout.

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indifferent if not actively hostile to the medium which makes its existence possible — just had to respect.

Also, the Ayotte endorsement allowed the paper to avoid a deeply troubling alternative: a Hassan endorsement would have inflamed the passions of the Seacoast's most rabid Republicans.

Four days later the AWLD endorsed Shawn O'Connor for the First Congressional District — a truly startling move. We would quote the piece but it was rendered indecipherable by a mouthful of coffee and spontaneous, uncontrollable digital shredding.

The chameleonic O'Connor had exactly zero percent of a chance to win the three-way race, having by then alienated all but 34,030 Democrats in the District. Apparently none of them heard him say November 4th that he'd make a "game-time decision" on his vote for President. So much for his allegiance to Bernie Sanders, who stumped indefatigably for Clinton.

O'Connor's 34K nearly deprived the District of the best Representative it's had in ages, to return to Congress one of its most

corrupt.

Kiwis Ground All Robinsons

A helicopter pilot and a forestry worker were killed October 31st when their Robinson R44 went down in Glenbervie Forest, north of Whangarei, New Zealand. The crash prompted the island nation's Department of Conservation to suspend its use of Robinson helicopters.

The crash came just four days after the Torrance, Calif., *Daily Breeze* reported, "New Zealand's aviation safety watchdog Thursday added Torrance-made Robinson Helicopter Co. choppers to its 'watch list of most pressing concerns,' citing 14 'mast bumping' accidents that have killed 18 people in the past 20 years."

"In its report, the Transport Accident Investigation Commission said that, because four recommendations to reduce that type of accident had not yet been put in place, it remained concerned about more fatal accidents in the future."

King Tides Coming Tuesday

Our source for tidal data, Dean Pentcheff at the Biological Sciences Department of the University of South Carolina, predicts



NOVEMBER 8, 2016



A dashing gentleman standing upon a vintage wooden soap box addresses participants in the annual Portsmouth Tweed Ride. Appropriate for the occasion, his text was a selection from Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky."

that the most extreme tides of this year will come next Tuesday, November 15th. High tide is expected at about 11:08 a.m., and low tide about 5:28 p.m.

Meanwhile, Eric Fisher, a meteorologist at CBS TV in Boston, says some models are showing a good possibility that the tides may coincide with a significant storm — a combination that could provide an interesting preview of future conditions.

The Portsmouth Tweed Ride

This year's annual Portsmouth Tweed Ride, billed as "A Vintage Autumnal Bicycle Excursion," concluded, appropriately enough for the times, with a raucous political rally in Market Square on Sunday, in support of Boss Tweed, the infamous Grand Sachem of Tammany Hall.

Addressing the stylishly-attired crowd, Adam Irish said, "I am proud to stand here today to

support my candidate for President, Boss Tweed. He may have died more than 100 years ago, but his legacy lives on in each and every American politician. The two candidates that are offered this election cycle [A voice from the crowd interjects: 'Suck!'] embody Boss Tweed like nobody else. So no matter who you're voting for, you're voting for Boss Tweed: the epitome of political corruption, the master of nepotism, who valued profits over people [Another voice from the crowd: 'Hear! Hear!'] and ... uh ... yes, Boss Tweed."

As Irish's prepared remarks — such as they were — petered out, a suffragette in the crowd yelled, "Now we're going to discuss socialist communism at a coffee shop, like we should."

An industrious grifter — clearly a devotee of George Washington Plunkett, the "Tammany Philos-

opher" and champion of "honest graft" who "seen his opportunities and took 'em" — worked the crowd, crying, "Five dollars a picture, ten dollars a vote. We were just down at the graveyard, we've got plenty of names."

On that sordid note the anachronous mob drifted northwards towards Cafe Vonsolln, a sponsor of the event, which offered riders complimentary coffee or tea.

While the Ride certainly had its frivolous side, it also achieved some good, we suspect. Participants were asked to make donations to the Wentworth-Lear Historic Houses. The Lear House, in particular, requires substantial restoration.

Also sponsoring was Old as Adam Antiques & Vintage Haberdashery, on Ceres Street. Full disclosure: the alleged Editor purchases all of his formal wear at Old as Adam.

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Long ago, Americans successfully internalized the message: ‘Support the Troops,’ but ...
To What End?

The armed forces of the United States, according to popular opinion, exist to protect our freedoms. To that end we maintain 800 military bases scattered across every continent on Earth except Antarctica, where they are prohibited by international law. We spend more money every year on what we call defense than do the next next seven nations combined.

Exactly why or how Canada or Mexico would or could attempt to conquer us are questions too absurd to ask. Farther-flung nations might have more reason to attack, but the odds against their success would be heightened by severe logistical challenges. If defending the homeland were the *raison d'être* for our enormous military, we could safely cut its budget in half, and build schools and bridges with the savings.

No, this extraordinary expenditure of money, effort, and lives is necessary to protect “American interests,” we are told. That rather vague term is rarely defined, perhaps because a more precise definition would produce a different answer. The facts suggest a more obvious but less palatable explanation: the purpose of our military machine is to protect a global corporate empire.

William Blum is a former State Department employee who left in 1967 because of his opposition to what the United States was doing in Vietnam. He has since been a freelance journalist in the United States, Europe and South America. In 1999, he was one of the recipients of Project Censored’s awards for “exemplary journalism” for writing one of the top ten censored stories of 1998, an article on how, in the 1980s, the United States gave Iraq the material to develop a chemical and biological

warfare capability. In April, 2003, he began publishing his *Anti-Empire Report*. The following are selected excerpts from *Anti-Empire Report #146*, published November 6th, 2016:

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How our never-ending mideast horror began: Radio Address of George W.[MD] Bush, September 28, 2002: “The Iraqi regime possesses biological and chemical weapons, is rebuilding the facilities to make more and, according to the British government, could launch a biological or chemical attack in as little as 45 minutes after the order is given. The regime has long-standing and continuing ties to terrorist groups, and there are al Qaeda terrorists inside Iraq. This regime is seeking a nuclear bomb, and with fissile material could build one within a year.”

Yet ... just six weeks before 9/11, Condoleezza Rice told CNN: “Let’s remember that his [Saddam’s] country is divided, in effect. He does not control the northern part of his country. We are able to keep his arms from him. His military forces have not been rebuilt.”

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Since 1980, the United States has intervened in the affairs of fourteen Muslim countries, at worst invading or bombing them. They are (in chronological order) Iran, Libya, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Sudan, Kosovo, Yemen, Pakistan, and now Syria.

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A successful American regime change operation in Syria would cut across definite interests of the Russian state. These include the likely use of Syria as a new pipeline route to bring gas from Qatar to the European market, thereby

undercutting Gazprom, Russia’s largest corporation and biggest exporter. Assad’s refusal to consider such a route played no small role in Qatar’s pouring billions of dollars in arms and funds into the Syrian civil war on behalf of anti-Assad forces.

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A million refugees from Washington’s warfare are currently over-running Europe. They’re running from Afghanistan and Iraq; from Libya and Somalia; from Syria and Pakistan.

Germany is taking in many Syrian refugees because of its World War Two guilt. What will the United States do in the future because of its guilt? But Americans are not raised to feel such guilt.

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Vladimir Putin, speaking at the UN in 2015, addressing the United States *re:* its foreign policy: “Do you realize what you have done?”

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“I don’t believe anyone will consciously launch World War III. The situation now is more like the eve of World War I, when great powers were armed and ready to go when an incident set things off. Ever since Gorbachev naively ended the Cold War, the hugely over-armed United States has been actively surrounding Russia with weapons systems, aggressive military exercises, NATO expansion. At the same time, in recent years the demonization of Vladimir Putin has reached war propaganda levels. Russians have every reason to believe that the United States is preparing for war against them, and are certain to take defensive measures. This mixture of excessive military preparations and propaganda against an “evil

enemy” make it very easy for some trivial incident to blow it all up.” — Diana Johnstone, author of *Queen of Chaos: The Misadventures of Hillary Clinton*

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On October 28, 2016 Russia was voted off the UN Human Rights Council. At the same time Saudi Arabia won a second term, uncontested. Does anyone know George Orwell’s email address?

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“War with Russia will be nuclear. Washington has prepared for it. Washington has abandoned the ABM treaty, created what it thinks is an ABM shield, and changed its war doctrine to permit U.S. nuclear first strike. All of this is obviously directed at Russia, and the Russian government knows it. How long will Russia sit there waiting for Washington’s first strike?” — Paul Craig Roberts, 2014

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Many ISIS leaders were former Iraqi military officers who were imprisoned by American troops. The fight isn’t against ISIS, it’s against Assad; at the next level it isn’t against Assad, it’s against Putin; then, at the next level, it isn’t against Putin, it’s against the country most likely to stand in the way of U.S. world domination, Russia. And it’s forever.

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Seymour Hersh: “America would be much better off, if 30 years ago, we had let Russia continue its war in Afghanistan ... The mistake was made by the Carter administration which was trying to stop the Russians from their invasion of Afghanistan. We’d be better off had we let the Russians beat the Taliban.” (*Deutsche Welle*, April 2, 2014 interview)

We’d be even better off if we

hadn’t overthrown the progressive, secular Afghan government, giving rise to the Taliban in the first place and inciting the Russians to intervene on their border lest the Soviet Islamic population was stirred up.

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The former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in an interview in 1998 summed up exactly what the U.S. thinks of the UN: “The UN plays a very important role. But if we don’t like it, we always have the option of following our own national security interests, which I assure you we will do if we don’t like what’s going on.” She is now a foreign-policy advisor to Hillary Clinton.

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“I refuse to believe that a little fourth rate power like North Vietnam does not have a breaking point.” — Henry Kissinger, at the Paris Peace Talks, September 1970.

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“It is more or less impossible to commemorate the war dead without glorifying them, and it is impossible to glorify them without glorifying their wars.” — Paul Craig Roberts

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Louis XVI needed a revolution, Napoleon needed two historic military defeats, the Spanish Empire in the New World needed multiple revolutions, the Russian Czar needed a communist revolution, the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires needed World War I, Nazi Germany needed World War II, Imperial Japan needed two atomic bombs, the Portuguese Empire in Africa needed a military coup at home, the Soviet Empire needed Mikhail Gorbachev ... What will the American Empire need?

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God Help Us

To the Editor:

I wrote this letter on November 4th, praying that I would never need to send it. Unfortunately, the results of the November 8 “election” require that all patriotic and loyal Americans speak out in the face of this travesty and Right Wing Republican coup.

As Oliver Hardy used to say to his sidekick Stan Laurel, “another fine mess you’ve gotten me into,” can now be applied to the Republican Party. However, what the Republicans have done is not a comedy show, this is a real life tragedy.

First, the Republicans gave us Nixon and Watergate. Then the “election” of George W. Bush in 2000 got America into a big mess starting with the intelligence failures and ignoring the warnings of 9/11, the Iraq War, the two tax cuts which have ballooned our national debt, and the economic meltdown of 2008. The mess created by the Nixon and Bush administrations continue to impact America and the world to this day, and will continue well into the future.

Now Republicans have gotten America into a mess that makes the Nixon and Bush messes look like child’s play, and one from which we may never recover. The “election” of Donald Trump, with the illegal assistance from the rogue FBI, and a mixture of a complicit and an irresponsible, comatose media, will be a catastrophe which will place the fu-

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL**, And Other Correspondence

ture of our Republic in grave peril. Republicans have thrust into the most important position within the free world a man totally unprepared from a moral, psychological, emotional, experience, ethical and intellectual perspective. Even more frightening are his possible ties to Russia, and his possible criminal behavior.

It is impossible to fully appreciate at this point how far-reaching and long-lasting this catastrophe will be on the nation and the world. However, for starters, America has demonstrated to the world that we have rejected the values and principles on which the nation was founded, and which so many gave their lives to defend. That beacon of liberty and justice for all, that the world looked upon with envy and admiration, has been extinguished — for how long depends on what we Americans do over the next few years. While many of us are suffering and mourning our nation today, we must pick ourselves up and fight even harder to insure that, as President Kennedy said, the beacon of America once again “truly lights the world.”

As Americans have in the past, we will endure and recover from this tragedy. Unfortunately, before that happens, millions of people will suffer, the environment will be severely compromised, our economy destroyed, and America will lose its once great respect around the world. Once the full magnitude of this disaster is fully appreciated, I am sure that as with Germans in 1945, we will be hard pressed to find Americans who admit they supported Trump. God help us, although the Almighty may, as a lesson to a nation ungrateful for all we have been given, simply let us reap what we have sown.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

The Real Surprise

To the Editor:

Lee Atwater, consummate dirty trickster and father of the October surprise, must be cheering from his grave over the barrel bomb dropped Friday by FBI Director James Comey on the campaign of candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton. The timing was flawless, and Comey’s ambiguous letter stands wide-open to Machiavellian misinterpretation by anyone intent on burning down Clinton’s lead in the polls.

The FBI is, as a matter of policy, apolitical. However, the same can’t be said for its current director, who brings to the job a Wall Street pedigree worthy of Westminster Kennel Club recognition. Formerly a Lockheed Martin Vice President, Comey later served as General Counsel to the darkly cult-like Bridgewater Associates which, at the time, was the world’s largest hedge fund. He also sat on the board of HSBC (Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation), a multinational financial giant recently cited for laundering Mexican drug cartel money. A life-long big-business Republican, Comey is hardly apolitical.

Despite this backdrop, several months ago Democrats rejoiced when Comey recommended against a Clinton indictment. No one appeared to notice that the FBI investigation was never closed and the trap door of “new developments” remained in play. Now we must ponder the possibility that Director Comey and Pro-Wall Street Congressional Republicans conspired all along to hold the investigation open and use it to blow Clinton off her left-leaning platform at the most inopportune moment. After all, that’s how good old Lee Atwater would do it!

Truth be told, this unseemly

turn of events should surprise no one. Still, as a child of the Cold War, I never thought I’d live to see the Director of the FBI and the Russians playing on the same team. That’s the real October surprise!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Boethius Who?

To the Editor

He was a philosopher in Imperial Rome, a long time ago, one of the first Christian Apologists and the author of “The Consolation of Philosophy.” He’s been dead for about 1500 years. I still had to read him in grad school. I’m 50 years out of grad school. But, I still think about what he said — him and Bill Parcells both.

Boethius said, “The only consolation we will have in this world is the knowledge that the person who does wrong knows it in their heart and is unhappy.” Bill Parcells said, “You are what your record says you are.”

Think about it. How do Rage, Envy, Insecurity, Getting Even, Gluttony, Sexual Excess and Avarice bring happiness, set the heart at peace, or build Community that works for all of us?

Deadlines are tight. This letter may not get printed by 11/8/16. No matter, it may not be about politics at all, just Football — Boethius and Bill Parcells on how to pick a quarterback.

Larry Brown
Milton, N.H.

Larry:
Missed the deadline, hit the mark.
The Editor

They’ve Lost Him

To the Editor:

I don’t very often feel moved to write letters to the editor, but a recent article in the *Portsmouth Herald* really got my ire up. It was about New Hampshire polling



places preparing for possible repercussions from openly armed voters at voting places. Whatever happened to common sense? How did we get to the point where we condone having people brazenly carrying weapons into public settings where emotions are already at a fever pitch? Think there might be some attempt at intimidation? I’m a long-time registered Independent who has often voted Republican, but the blame here is clear. This is a result of the lock-step Republican Party mentality that forces their candidates to back irrational gun legislation and other special interest legislation clearly contrary to public interest.

Until the Republican Party makes some big changes, they’ve lost me. With regard to the Senate race, I think Kelley Ayotte has many good qualities, but her unwillingness take common sense stands on issues like gun legislation means that if she gets re-elected it’ll just be more of the same. I’m voting for Maggie Hassan. I miss the old GOP — we need them back.

Arlo Gambell
Rye, N.H.

Here It Comes ...

To the Editor:

Are you tired of the mess in Washington? [165 words deleted for lack of space. — The Ed.] A vote for Donald Trump is a vote for change [and a] government that works for the American people.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

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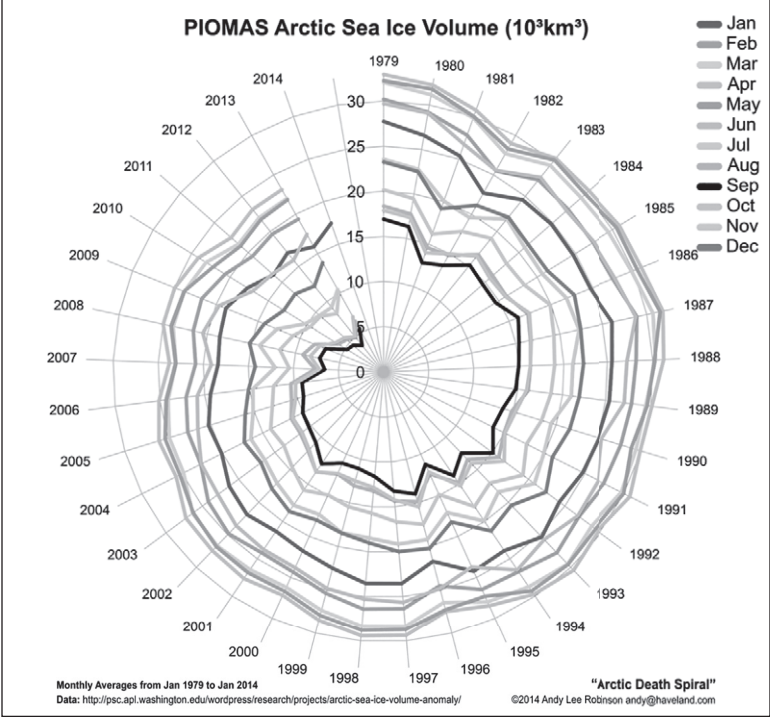
Civilization's Climate Catastrophe

by Josh Denton

Climate change has only begun with droughts killing our crops, populations of numerous species crashing, and deep-sea creatures washing up on our shores. My greatest fear is not for those displaced by severe droughts, extreme precipitation events, or the forecasted sea level rise due to our atmosphere having absorbed 365 billion tons of CO₂ extracted from the earth's crust and 180 billion tons of CO₂ from deforestation. My greatest fear is for society as we know it if we continue to add nine billion tons of CO₂ annually to our atmosphere which, by the 22nd century, will destabilize the earth with a 3½ to 7-degree Celsius temperature increase endangering the very diversity of our oceans, forests, and food supply. A third of the atmosphere's CO₂ is absorbed by our oceans which cover 70 percent of our planet, absorb 2½ billion tons of CO₂ annually, and dissolve the CO₂ to form an acid. Our oceans' pH levels — which have dropped from 8.2 to 8.1, making them 30 percent more acidic than they were in 1800 — are expected to drop to 8.0 by mid-century, and to 7.8 by the end of the century, making our oceans 150 percent more acidic than before the industrial revolution. Acidification dramatically alters our ocean's makeup by reducing the number of carbonate ions available to join with calcium ions, which calcifying organisms like corals, crustaceans, and mollusks all require to form calcium carbonate to build their skeletons and shells. Some species would theoretically thrive under these conditions — if calcifying organisms were not the basis of the marine food chain. Ironically, plankton, one of the most com-

mon sources of carbon in our fossil fuels, will not only fare better with acidification, their increased numbers will deny nutrients from other remaining sea life. The populations of our beloved syrup-producing maples, flower-pollinating bees, and vector-eating bats are starting to plummet as well, yet climate change will have the greatest impact at the lower latitudes where the greatest diversity of life exists due to a curved species-to-area relationship. More than half of the 50 million square miles of ice-free land on Earth is already farmland, suburbs, or cities, and only three-fifths of the remaining 23 million square miles are forests, which have greater diversity than the remaining mountains, tundra, or deserts. The earth is warming at least ten times faster than during the last glaciation, and while various wild plants and animals can adjust by ascending mountains or migrating towards the poles, some that can will become invasive species to their new environments, such as kudzu, which is already choking off native plants, trees, and habitats as it moves north. Life will not disappear right away, but as habitats deteriorate from climate change, an estimated 24 percent of species will be headed towards extinction by 2050. Crop diversity has been agriculture's biological foundation since crops and humans began coevolving 12,000 years ago, after the last ice age. Yet today's food supply relies on just more than 350,000 species of plants with a narrower genetic base being used every year. Scientists anticipate pre-rice, pre-wheat, and pre-potato climates as these crops, already exacerbated by rapidly evolving pathogens and pests, must double yields by 2050 to meet population growth. Huge numbers of identifiable varieties

of species have already gone extinct since the 1800's, and higher temperatures may cause germination to unsync with rainfall patterns, flowering to unsync with pollinators, and some pollen to even become sterile. A one-degree Celsius temperature shift during rice flowering lowers crop production by 10 percent, and larger temperature fluctuations could cause market insecurity, government services breaking down, and civil strife. Not only has an insecure food supply from severe droughts and mismanagement allowed the Islamic State in Syria and the even deadlier Boko Haram in Nigeria to flourish, but the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas' seed bank, which was established to preserve crop diversity during droughts, is besieged in Aleppo. If civilization as we know it collapses due to the lack of biodiversity, heavy rains would first clog our sewers with leaves, plastic bags, and debris. Then the freezing and thawing of precipitation would cause our asphalt and cement streets to split, allowing surviving weeds, plants, and eventually trees to take root and wreak havoc. Long before the return of forests, however, the freezing and thawing cycle would cause our pipes to burst, concrete floors to buckle, and wall joints to expand and contract until they separate. In this dystopia, it could take only one unlucky lightning bolt to ignite our wooden structures, farmland could eventually revert back to wilderness, and surviving coyotes, bears, and eventually wolves could return to our neighborhoods where even the mortar between the bricks and stones of our oldest masonry would succumb to the freezing and thawing cycle. In the absolute worst case scenario, improperly decommissioned oil



This chart, titled, "Arctic Death Spiral," documents the decline in the volume of Arctic sea ice since 1979. Each radial line represents one year; each of the 12 concentric rings represents one month of the year. A moment's study will make quite plain the apparently inexorable reduction in volume.

refineries, chemical plants, and nuclear power plants would cook off when their backup power was expended, throwing enough particles into the atmosphere to cause a mini-chemical nuclear winter, eventually leaving just our radiation, refined glass, and plastic pellets as our only legacy. Humankind's destructive short-sighted nature has already thrown the earth's equilibrium off balance and the planet's biodiversity is currently relying solely on the efforts of forward thinking scientists. The San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research houses the world's largest collection of animal cell lines representing nearly 1,000 species suspended above pools of liquid nitrogen, while the Cincinnati Zoo has a CryoBioBank, and England's University has a Frozen Ark. Meanwhile, a 130-me-

ter-long tunnel chiseled into a solid stone mountain in the Norwegian Arctic leads to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault that houses nearly half a billion seeds, the largest and most diverse collection in the world, as an insurance policy for plant breeders to maintain wheat, rice, and corn's genetic diversity. As the stewards of our planet, we can still confront climate change now and prevent the earth's biodiversity from crashing towards catastrophic levels.

~~~~~  
Josh Denton is an Iraq War veteran who used the GI Bill to become an attorney and currently serves as a Portsmouth City Councilor. He is better known downtown for his two dogs.  
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The Northcountry Chronicle

Calling Lord Chesterfield

by William Marvel

In the spring of 1747 the Fourth Earl of Chesterfield wrote a long, encouraging letter to his son, who was away at school. Perhaps the best-known maxim from that letter was his adjuration about “never putting off anything till to-morrow that could be done to-day,” but the wisest of his advice had come a couple of sentences earlier. “There is time enough for everything, in the course of the day,” Lord Chesterfield assured the boy, “if you do but one thing at once; but there is not time enough in the year, if you will do two things at once.” For the benefit of a student faced with studying both Homer and Horace in the original on the same day, he added that “steady and undissipated attention to one subject is a sure mark of a genius; as hurry, bustle, and agitation, are the never-failing symptoms of a weak and frivolous mind.”

I wouldn't give Chesterfield much credit for punctuation, but he postulated a stellar work ethic. His paean to concentration also served as a reproach to the bad habit we now call multitasking.

When my wife first took over

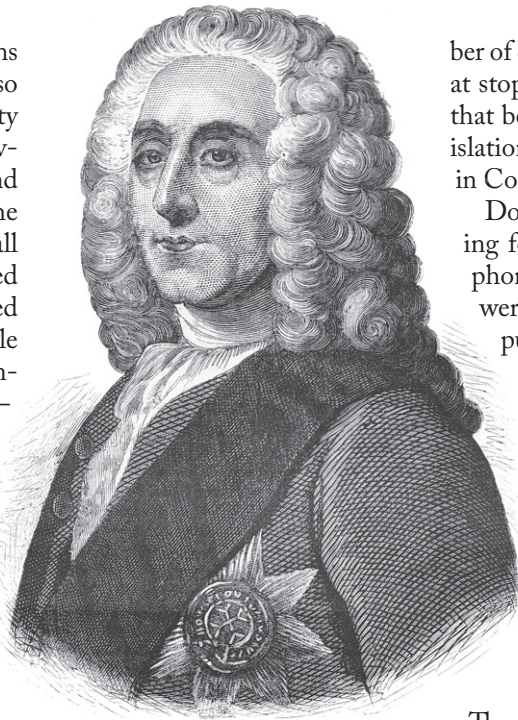
the little school where she now works, she had to be the director, receptionist, administrative assistant, bookkeeper, janitor, and teacher all at once, and I often heard her explain to questioners how she managed it all. “I do one thing until it's finished,” she would invariably say, “and then I go on to the next thing.” It was surprising to hear that from her, although I knew it was true, because she worked like a whirling dervish at home, and still does. Sometimes she still congratulates herself on her capacity for multitasking, too. That word makes me cringe, because I associate it with the smell of incinerated vegetables, or with the image of her car barreling out of the driveway with a coffee mug on the roof.

We won't go into my own remarkable ability to concentrate for days or weeks at a time — partly because it would seem smug and partly because it might get me killed in my sleep. However, I do find that my most productive working hours fall late at night or early in the morning, when the phone isn't ringing and the world is quiet.

It's been perversely gratifying to read of one study after another

confirming my early suspicions that the obsessive multitasking so common in our electronic society would destroy worker productivity, trivialize relationships, and cripple the intellect. Perhaps the most perverse gratification of all was the first news that controlled experiments had demonstrated that talking on a cell phone while driving was almost exactly as dangerous as driving while drunk — even with a hands-free phone.

As early as 2006, a controlled test of 40 drivers found at least equal impairment among those talking on cell phones as driving over the legal alcohol limit; in fact, three of those with cell phones crashed their cars, while none of the drunks did. Subsequent studies have produced similar results, and have recently added the inescapable conclusion that hands-free phones are just as dangerous. As many safety advocates have been arguing for a decade or more, the danger lies not in having one hand busy, but in having one's brain out of action. A British study concluded, among other things, that the driver visualizes the person on the other end of the line, while the



people, objects, and situations in front of the car often don't register.

Our solicitous guardians in the legislature, who were so intent on forcing us to wear seat belts just a few years back, waited an unseemly long time to muster enough courage just to protect us from drivers using hand-held cell phones. Judging by the frequency of that sight today, and the num-

ber of drivers glancing at their laps at stoplights or on the road, even that belated and perfunctory legislation isn't being enforced much, in Conway or anywhere else.

Don't hold your breath waiting for them to ban hands-free phones. If our legislators really were more concerned about public safety than their own electability, they would impose some serious penalties on the highway use of all cell phones. Automobile accidents, rather than guns, are the most common cause of death for American teenagers, and most of those accidents are alcohol or cell-phone related.

Those same legislators who are so anxious to restrict guns might show a little interest in a much more widespread threat. Few Americans have ever had a gun pointed at them, but most have had close calls — or worse — with motorists who are more interested in their telephone conversations than in anyone else's safety. Maybe some of our representatives could concentrate on one thing at a time, and choose the most important first.

Why Big Money Is Winning The National Election — Again.

by Jim Hightower

In Arthur Conan Doyle's *Silver Blaze*, the key clue that solved the whodunit was not something that happened, but something that didn't take place — specifically, a dog did not bark.

That plot fits one of the great mysteries of this year's Trump-Clinton race for president: There was no barking at the democracy-murdering power of big

corporate money in our politics. A record expenditure of at least \$6.6 billion flooded into this national election, most of it from a handful of plutocratic interests blatantly buying controlling shares of the White House and Congress. That's why a phenomenal 78 percent of the public is united in support of overturning the Supreme Court's disastrous *Citizens United* decision. It opened the floodgates to this corrupting torrent of cash,

producing public policies that profit corporations at the expense of the common good.

With so much at stake and such overwhelming public agreement for stopping this wholesale purchase of America's democracy, how odd that both major candidates have been unwilling to bark at Citizens United. Of course, what we have here is a neon example of the political cowardice created by the politics of Big Money.

Hillary Clinton has relied almost entirely on Super PAC and Wall Street funding of her campaign. And The Donald, who started out bragging about being rich enough to self-finance his run, has in fact been backed by millions of dollars from sleazy billionaire oligarchs like casino baron Sheldon Adelson.

Rather than running on this fundamental issue of democratic power, the two top candidates

are running from it. But they can't hide from it. This is a “We the People” moment when the grassroots bipartisan majority must take charge from craven politicians, not only barking ferociously at them, but also biting them. To join the effort, go to www.DemocracyIsForPeople.org.

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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 13	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
<p>2003—Because he would not remove his Ten Commandments monument from the courthouse, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore is himself removed.</p> <p>1982—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, and Robert McNamara are no-shows.</p> <p>1974—Karen Silkwood, a disgruntled Kerr-McGee worker, conveniently turns up dead.</p> <p>1970—Up to half a million die as a cyclone hits Bangladesh.</p> <p>1965—The dysfunctional tinderbox <i>Yarmouth Castle</i> burns en route to Nassau; 90 passengers burn or drown, deserted by captain and crew.</p> <p>1963—Three workers escape with minor injuries after they accidentally cause 55 tons of TNT to explode as they're dismantling a hydrogen bomb.</p> <p>1942—The torpedoed cruiser <i>U.S.S. Juneau</i> sinks in 20 minutes, 100 of 673 surviving the explosion. Two other cruisers depart, assuming all are lost. Eight days later, ten are rescued. Among the dead are the five Sullivan brothers, of Waterloo, Iowa.</p> <p>1933—Hormel workers in Austin, Minn. invent the sit-down strike.</p> <p>1887—On the original Bloody Sunday, British cops, soldiers, and cavalry charge the unemployed in Trafalgar Square, killing 3 and arresting 300.</p> <p>1877—A locomotive and three freight cars plunge from an open drawbridge into the Piscataqua, just missing three ships; no injuries.</p> <p>9:28 10:00 3:09 3:45</p>	<p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld predicts the Iraq War will last “five days or five weeks or five months, but [no] longer than that.”</p> <p>2000—Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris certifies George W.[MD] Bush's dubious electoral lead.</p> <p>1965—Three battalions of the First Air Cavalry chopper into the Ia Drang Valley, where they're surprised to discover six battalions of the NVA.</p> <p>1957—In Apalachin, N.Y., an important meeting of entrepreneurial businessmen is interrupted by cops.</p> <p>1954—A petition asking the Senate not to censure Joe McCarthy aims to get 10 million signatures. It falls only nine million short.</p> <p>1927—Workmen in Pittsburgh's industrial center, using an open flame blowlamp to fix a leak in the world's largest gasometer, ignite 5 million cubic feet of natural gas, effectively clearing a one square mile area and killing 28 people.</p> <p>1916—“Put out the bloody cigarette!” says H.H. “Saki” Munro to another soldier in a trench. Seconds later a sniper's bullet extinguishes him.</p> <p>1909—Birth of Joseph R. McCarthy, “a great American [whose] stature will grow with the passage of time,” according to a memorial tribute from N.H. Sen. Styles Bridges.</p> <p>1831—“Only one man ever understood me,” says Hegel on his deathbed, “and even he didn't understand me.”</p> <p>10:18 10:52 4:00 4:36</p>	<p>2008—The Dow loses 7.87 percent of its value.</p> <p>2006—Formerly a top lobbyist in Washington, D.C., Jack Abramoff takes up residence at a federal prison near Cumberland, Md.</p> <p>1996—British officials return the Stone of Scone to the Scots from whom they stole it 700 years earlier.</p> <p>1995—President William J. Clinton behaves improperly with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.</p> <p>1969—Two million in the U.S. protest the war, 250,000 in Washington, D.C. Nixon vows to ignore 'em.</p> <p>1967—“I have never,” says General Westmoreland, “been more encouraged in my four years in Vietnam” — 11 weeks before Tet.</p> <p>1929—Bernard Baruch cables Winston Churchill, “Financial storm definitely passed.”</p> <p>1917—The Bolsheviks take Moscow, ending the Russian Revolution.</p> <p>1908—Teddy Roosevelt becomes the first sitting President to travel abroad, visiting Panama.</p> <p>1887—F(ranklin) P(ierce) Adams, a namesake of New Hampshire's only president (so far) and the godfather of the newspaper column, is born in Chicago.</p> <p>1864—General William Tecumseh Sherman burns Atlanta, Georgia, thereby inspiring a popular movie.</p> <p>1805—Lewis, Clark, Sacajawea, and the rest of the mob reach the mouth of the Columbia River.</p> <p>11:08 11:44 4:50 5:28</p>	<p>2000—Bill Clinton goes to Vietnam — finally, when it's safe, as President.</p> <p>1989—U.S.-backed pro-government forces in El Salvador murder six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and the housekeeper's daughter.</p> <p>1969—President Nixon's Communications Director Herb Klein says he opposes government intervention in the news but the networks are asking for it if they don't regulate themselves.</p> <p>1966—Strasbourg students blow the student government's annual budget on a Situationist pamphlet, “On the Poverty of Student Life.” Hilarity ensues.</p> <p>1965—Mission accomplished with 79 KIA & 121 WIA, U.S. units in Ia Drang propose withdrawal. Gen. Wm. Westmoreland says “stay.”</p> <p>1907—The first taxi cab meter goes into service.</p> <p>1890—George Seldes, journalist and media critic, is born. He'll live to be 105, working all the way.</p> <p>1856—Siding with Britain and its opium smugglers, the <i>U.S.S. Portsmouth</i> bombards a Chinese fort on the Pearl River in Canton, China.</p> <p>1849—Fyodor Dostoevsky is sentenced to death for spreading “impudent words.”</p> <p>1776—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>1384—Jadwiga, a ten year-old girl, is crowned King of Poland.</p> <p>11:58 12:37 5:41 6:19</p>	<p>2008—Citigroup announces it will sack 52,000 workers.</p> <p>2006—“We'll succeed [in Iraq] unless we quit,” says George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>2003—An Austrian musclemán becomes California's governor.</p> <p>1995—Multitasking President Clinton speaks on the phone with a Congressman while violating his marriage vows with an intern.</p> <p>1995—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>1992—<i>Dateline</i> broadcasts a rigged video of a GM truck exploding.</p> <p>1973—Speaking to newspaper editors at Disney World, Richard M. Nixon says, “I am not a crook.”</p> <p>1965—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>1953—An Air Force C-119 “Flying Boxcar” kills nine Fort Bragg paratroopers in mid-air; six more die when the C-119 subsequently crashes.</p> <p>1917—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>1747—Rioting sailors, laborers, and free blacks fed up with naval press gangs take British officers hostage and shut down the city of Boston.</p> <p>1558—In celebration of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth I, several bags of cats are burned.</p> <p>12:37 12:49 6:32 7:12</p>	<p>2005—Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-Ohio) apologizes to 'Nam combat vet Rep. Jack Murtha (D-Pa.) on the House floor for implying he's a coward.</p> <p>1997—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>1978—Jim Jones and 913 followers drink cyanide-laced Flavor-Aid in Jonestown, Guyana.</p> <p>1964—Snubbing Richard Nixon, J. Edgar “Mary” Hoover calls Martin Luther King Jr. “the most notorious liar in the country.”</p> <p>1961—JFK authorizes a troop surge in Vietnam.</p> <p>1929—Marshall Ratliff, sentenced to the chair for a fatal bank robbery in which he wore a Santa Claus suit, kills a man in a failed breakout from the Cisco, Texas jail.</p> <p>1916—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>1755—The strongest earthquake in New England history [Richter 6.2] occurs off Cape Ann, Mass.</p> <p>1686—Pioneering surgeon Charles Francoix 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>1:30 1:43 7:25 8:06</p>	<p>1998—Adulterers in Congress ponder the impeachment of Bill Clinton.</p> <p>1969—Congress undercuts the opposition to the Vietnam War by introducing a draft lottery.</p> <p>1967—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>1962—Dick “Dick” Cheney racks up his first drunk driving conviction in Cheyenne, Wyo.</p> <p>1961—Michael Rockefeller disappears in Papua, New Guinea, and is probably eaten by cannibals.</p> <p>1960—At a party in New York, Norman Mailer stabs his second wife, Adele Morales.</p> <p>1929—A Cisco, Texas mob busts Marshall Ratliff out of jail and lynches him behind a theater at which the play “The Nose” is running. The first rope breaks, the second doesn't.</p> <p>1924—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>1915—A firing squad executes IWW organizer Joe Hill; his last words: “Don't mourn, organize.”</p> <p>1874—Tammany Hall Grand Sachem William Marcy “Boss” Tweed is convicted of 204 counts of fraud.</p> <p>1863—The nation's Chief Executive dedicates a new cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa.</p> <p>2:26 2:40 8:21 9:02</p>
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

2008—Sarah Palin gives a TV interview while, in the background, turkeys are being slaughtered.

1980—In Louisiana, an oil rig drilling in the wrong spot hits a salt mine under Lake Peigneur. The rig, 11 barges, and a tugboat disappear.

1979—Five hundred fundamentalist Muslims seize the Grand Mosque in Mecca, then being renovated by the bin Laden construction company. Complications ensue.

1975—Spanish dictator Francisco Franco dies. He is still dead.

1969—Eighty-nine American Indians attempt to occupy Alcatraz; 14 evade a Coast Guard blockade and achieve their objective

1962—The Cuban Missile Crisis blows over, rather than up.

1955—Defying his host's orders, Bo Diddley sings “Bo Diddley” on the Ed Sullivan Show. An irate Sullivan bans Diddley forevermore.

1945—The Nuremberg trials begin.

1917—In northeastern France, British forces use tanks in battle for the first time.

1894—The U.S. invades Nicaragua.

1820—A whale attacks the Nantucket whaling ship *Essex*, inspiring the greatest fish story ever told.

1816—Striking members of the Albany Typographical Union use the term “scab” for the first time.

1772—In Boston, Samuel Adams assembles the first Committee of Correspondence.

3:26 3:41
9:21 10:01

2004—Donald Trump files his third bankruptcy, this time for his Atlantic City casinos.

1991—ABC runs an exposé of the \$80 million/yr. scam being run by televangelist Robert Tilton, previously best known as the butt of a video titled “Pastor Gas, the Farting Preacher.”

1986—Ollie North and Fawn Hall start shredding evidence of criminal arms-for-hostages deals.

1974—The same day the Texas Air National Guard gives George W.[MD] Bush an inexplicably honorable discharge, the Freedom of Information Act passes over Gerry Ford's veto.

1973—Chief of Staff Al Haig ascribes an 18½ minute gap on an audio tape to “sinister forces,” which, of course, abound in Richard Nixon's White House.

1970—Fifty-six Green Berets raid the Son Tay POW camp 23 miles west of Hanoi, which had been evacuated three weeks earlier.

1967—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.”

1927—The first Columbine Massacre: striking miners are machine-gunned by state cops in plain clothes.

1801—For the 2nd time in 13 days, a suspicious fire destroys Treasury records after Republicans demand proof of Federalist Thomas Pickering's expenses.

4:28 4:46
10:26 11:03

2000—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.

1987—Chicago TV viewers see “Dr. Who” and a Chicago Bears game interrupted for 90 seconds by a man in a Max Headroom mask

1975—*U.S.S. John F. Kennedy* and *U.S.S. Belknap* collide in the night near Sicily. A two-hour fire aboard the *Belknap* stops 30 feet short of the nuclear weapons magazine.

1972—The U.S. loses its first B-52 over Vietnam.

1967—The UN adopts a resolution calling for Israel to leave the occupied territories.

1963—President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas; at whose bidding, exactly, is still a matter of much debate.

1941—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.

1930—Prophet Elijah Mohammed founds the Nation of Islam.

1909—A New York judge tells strikers from the ILGWU “You are on strike against God.”

1718—Shot, stabbed, and slashed across the throat by British sailors, pirate Edward “Blackbeard” Teach dies fighting at Ocracoke Inlet.

5:31 5:52
11:33 12:04

1990—A Robinson R22 helicopter flying over Simi Valley, Calif., makes a loud “thwack-thwack” sound, falls apart, and crashes. The pilot perishes in the ensuing inferno.

1986—Two men escape from a maximum-security prison in Rome in a hijacked helicopter.

1984—BC's Doug Flutie throws history's most famous “Hail Mary.”

1976—Jerry Lee Lewis is arrested outside Graceland for waving a pistol and demanding to see Elvis.

1970—A Lithuanian radio operator jumps from a Russian trawler onto the deck of the Coast Guard cutter *Vigilant*. Commander Ralph Eustis allows Soviet sailors to board the cutter and seize the radioman.

1958—On TV: Ron & Nancy Reagan in “A Turkey for the President.”

1946—French ships shell the harbor at Haiphong killing 6,000.

1936—In San Antonio, bluesman Robert Johnson begins a legendary three-day recording session.

1918—In Scapa Flow, the German submarine *U-18* is sunk by the fishing trawler *Dorothy Gray*.

1903—U.S. troops under Gen. Sherman Bell are sent to Cripple Creek, Colo. to put down a rebellion of striking miners.

1899—The first jukebox plays in a San Francisco saloon.

1876—After a year on the lam in Cuba and Spain, Tammany Hall's “Boss” Tweed is jailed in NYC.

6:32 6:56
12:04 12:38

2011—After a passenger aboard a Robinson R22 hears a loud “boom,” the craft pitches over and sinks in a Minnesota lake. She is able to swim ashore, the pilot drowns.

2006—“The only way we can win [in Iraq],” says George W.[MD] Bush, “is to leave before the job is done.”

1979—The U.S. admits troops in 'Nam were hit by Agent Orange.

1971—Toting \$200,000 in ransom cash, “D.B. Cooper” parachutes from a hijacked 727 over Washington State, into oblivion and America's heart.

1965—*The New York Times* runs a full-page ad signed by 500 WW II and Korean War vets protesting escalation of the Vietnam War.

1963—Strip joint proprietor Jack Ruby, to spare Jackie Kennedy's feelings, shoots Lee Harvey Oswald under the watchful eye of the Dallas Police Department and the TV cameras.

1961—An overheated electric motor in Colorado cuts off all communications between SAC and NORAD.

1953—Sen. Joe McCarthy (Lunatic-Wisc.) claims the Truman administration is “crawling with Communists.”

1947—All but 17 Congressmen vote to cite the Hollywood Ten for contempt after they take the 5th.

1922—Erskine 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.”

7:28 7:54
1:02 1:38

2002—George W.[MD] Bush signs the Homeland Security Act, which coincidentally provides security from lawsuits for Eli Lilly & Co., on whose board his father and Ken Lay had sat.

1997—In Plymouth, Mass., police serve Native American demonstrators pepper-spray.

1986—As Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese confesses that profits from illegal arms sales to Iran went to Nicaraguan *contras*, a reluctant Ronald Reagan fires Lt. Col. Oliver North.

1974—Britain outlaws the IRA after two bombs kill 21 and injure over 100 in Birmingham.

1970—After tying up their commandant, Japanese novelist and Nobel nominee Yukio Mishima exhorts military cadets to revolt; but they jeer him instead. He then commits *seppuku*.

1968—Death of Upton Sinclair, writer and media critic.

1947—For refusing to rat out their friends to Congress, the Hollywood Ten are fired by studio bosses.

1915—At Stone Mountain, Ga., William J. Simmons founds the new, improved Ku Klux Klan: it hates Catholics and Jews, too.

1910—French anarchist Jules Durrand is sentenced to die after a bum trial. He's later exonerated, but 40 days in a strait jacket have driven him mad.

1783—Redcoats under Carleton evacuate New York as General George Washington and the victorious Continental Army arrive.

8:20 8:47
1:56 2:32

2000—Katherine Harris, Florida's Secretary of State and, coincidentally, the Bush campaign's state co-chair, declares Dubya the winner.

1970—In Basse-Terre, on Guadalupe, an inch and a half of rain falls in one minute—the heaviest rainfall ever recorded.

1983—Thieves at London's Heathrow airport take 6,800 gold bars worth \$38.7 million. About a third are still missing.

1976—The Sex Pistols release “Anarchy in the UK,” their first single.

1973—Rose Mary Woods takes the fall for the 18½ minute gap.

1958—A B-47 with an A-bomb aboard burns in Lake Charles, La.

1948—The first batch of 50 Polaroid cameras sells out in one day.

1942—To cash in on the invasion of North Africa, *Casablanca* premieres ahead of schedule in New York. *The New Yorker's* critic says it is “pretty tolerable,” but “not quite up to *Across the Pacific*.”

1942—A two-day battle begins between hundreds of U.S. and Aussie troops in Brisbane, Australia.

1932—Will Rogers wittily rebuts Herbert Hoover's absurd theory of “trickle-down economics.”

1922—Howard Carter and his employer Lord Carnarvon desecrate the tomb of King Tutankhamun.

1921—Charles W. Whittlesey, who commanded the “Lost Battalion,” drowns himself in the Atlantic.

9:05 9:34
2:44 3:19

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