

The Fortnightly Rant

Taxing Our Patience

An organization responsible for a recent campaign of televised attack ads, targeting First District Congress member Carol Shea-Porter and others, received about ten percent of its 2005 funding from the U.S. State Department. So much for the oft-touted political advantages of incumbency. Judging from this, it looks like holding an elected office can't even protect you from your own government, never mind a challenger from the other party.*

The ad campaign began airing during the last week of February. In the ad, images of the Capitol dome, Osama bin Laden, and a high-tech "War Room" play against a dark background. A dramatic voice-over accuses House members of "refusing to vote" on the extension of a terrorist surveillance bill. They went on vacation instead, we're told. "New surveillance against terror is crippled," leaving Americans vulnerable.

At this point different versions of the ad, customized for different districts, display the relevant Congress member's telephone number. The terrified viewer is then admonished to call Representative X. No specific script for that phone call is offered, but the implication is that something along the lines of "For God's sake, please! Save me and my defenseless children from that horrible boogie man!" might be in order.

In addition to New Hampshire's First, the ads are being run in the districts of sixteen other lucky Democratic Congress members.** With the exception of Illinois's Melissa Bean (elected in 2004) they are all first-term Democrats who are seen as "vulnerable," holding seats that often go Republican. According to an article on *Newsweek* magazine's

website, the total budget for the campaign is around \$2,000,000.

Picking up the tab for this barrage of rampant scare-mongering is a recently-formed non-profit calling itself Defense of Democracies (DD). According to its website, DD is a "non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization [whose] mission is to support and encourage policies, procedures and laws necessary to defeat terrorism." In other words, you're either with DD, or you're with the terrorists.

Defense of Democracies is perhaps the newest volunteer in the terror-fighting phalanx, too young even to have its own logo. It was spawned just three weeks ago by another non-profit, the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies (FDD). Perhaps something with a baby and a sub-machine gun would do ...

What a Difference a Digit Makes

FDD, the proud parent, is registered as a 501(c)(3) with Internal Revenue Service (IRS). DD, FDD's offspring, is a 501(c)(4). It's just a one-digit distinction, but one digit can be significant.

"Contributions to a 501(c)(3) organization can be claimed against income tax but donations to a 501(c)(4) entity cannot," according to SourceWatch.org. "While 5 0 1 (c) (3) groups ... are more attractive to individual donors, the tax code places restrictions on the amount of funds that can be spent on lobbying and bans funds being used on election campaigns."

FDD spun off DD "in response to the House's refusal to bring up" a bill in Congress, Brian Wise, DD's Director of Media Relations, told Jeff Cagle, of the *Owatonna (MN) People's Press*. FDD apparently felt constrained enough by those restrictions to require the creation of a transparent alter ego, one better suited to eye-gouging and fear-mongering during the Congressional election season. The ad does show some restraint. It does not advocate voting for a different candidate. Nor does it call for the incumbent's defeat. It doesn't advocate lynching them, either—perhaps we should be grateful they showed the restraint they did. All the ad campaign does is say the incumbents—all of them Democrats—are leaving America defenseless before its



enemies, and tell viewers to call them up on the telephone and harass them.

(Now, why does that sound so familiar?)*

You Say Surveillance, I Say Immunity

There is some disagreement about what the bill in question would actually do.

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Political Fact Check, "a nonpartisan, non-profit, 'consumer advocate' for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics," has analysed the ad, and concluded it "makes several misleading claims."

Fact Check found that while DD's ad "says the law allowing government eavesdroppers to intercept al Qaeda communications has expired ... the main, 30-year-old law that lets them listen in, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), is still on the books."

DD's ad charges that "the House refuses to vote" to replace the lapsed law. Fact Check says "the House passed its own version of the legislation months ago. The House and Senate are now in conference to resolve the differences in their bills, which is the normal legislative process."

According to DD, "new surveillance against terrorists is crippled." Fact Check says that to the contrary, the "administration has admitted that surveillance authorized under the expired bill will extend at least into August. It has also admitted that when a new member of a known terrorist organization is discovered, that person can be surveilled via authorizations granted under the expired law. And at any rate, FISA itself hasn't expired, and any time the government has

strong evidence that someone is a member of a terrorist organization, it can still get a court order to eavesdrop on that person."

In simpler terms, DD's ad is fast and loose with the facts. "We wish to make clear," Fact Check's Viveca Novak writes, "that we neither support or oppose Defense of Democracies' position. What we object to are the use of appeals to fear, false claims and twisted facts in support of this or any other legislation."

DD responded by filing a lawyerly rebuttal of Fact Check's analysis, written by DD's Andrew C. McCarthy. Fact Check duly posted the rebuttal on its website, with this comment: "McCarthy's arguments leave us still convinced that the ad contains false claims and twists the facts."

When he is not busy defending democracy's defenders, McCarthy writes a column for the late William F. Buckley's *National Review*—a fact we have not seen mentioned in the "bi-partisan" DD's literature.

McCarthy's rebuttal is perhaps more illuminating than DD's original ad; at least he gets to the real heart of the matter. McCarthy says the House bill "has long been known to be unacceptable—the Administration announced that the president would not sign it and the Democrat [sic] controlled Senate overwhelmingly supported the necessity of immunizing the telecommunications industry for prior good-faith cooperation with the government, a provision the House bill rejected."

In other words, who cares what the House says? What George W. Bush says goes, and to hell with the separation of powers. Be fair, be bi-partisan—do it our way.

And why would Bush not sign? Because the bill did not immunize the telecommunications industry. Without the bill we're in terrible, great danger, they tell us. The House is practically committing treason if they won't give

Bush a bill he'll sign. But Bush is doing the right thing by exposing Americans to that alleged danger—because otherwise somebody might sue the phone company over warrantless wiretaps.

In fact, the American Civil Liberties Union *has* sued over warrantless wiretaps. They got kicked out of court because they couldn't show they'd been harmed. They couldn't prove they'd been harmed because ... the Bush administration wouldn't release the relevant documents. As George once said, it's good to be dictator—as long as he's the dictator.

The Usual Suspects

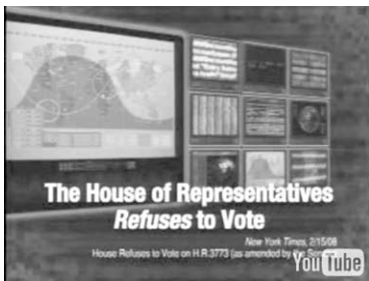
Who *are* these people? One is Richard Mellon Scaife. The same year the State Department gave FDD half a million bucks, Scaife gave about the same amount—money that he might otherwise have paid in taxes, helping to cover the cost of our \$3,000,000,000,000 war in Iraq.

Other FDD High-Muckety-Mucks include such non-partisan folks as Bill Kristol, Richard Perle, Newt Gingrich, Gary Bauer, Frank Gaffney, Steve Forbes, Zell Miller, and Mark Foley. Oh, yes, and Joe Lieberman. The rest of the Democrats once associated with the outfit all bailed out when the ad campaign began.

Where's Carol?

And where is the target of all this wrath? Working, apparently.

While looking for something else entirely, we stumbled across this reference to Rep. Shea-Porter in *Stars and Stripes*, the official Army newspaper. In a story about a House Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee hearing, headlined "Lawmakers appear resigned to strains of war," Tom Philpott wrote, "[o]nly Rep. Carol Shea-Porter, D-N.H., a former military spouse, brought tough questions, pressing [Dr. David Chu, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness] hard on a couple of points including a continuing drop in Army recruit quality."

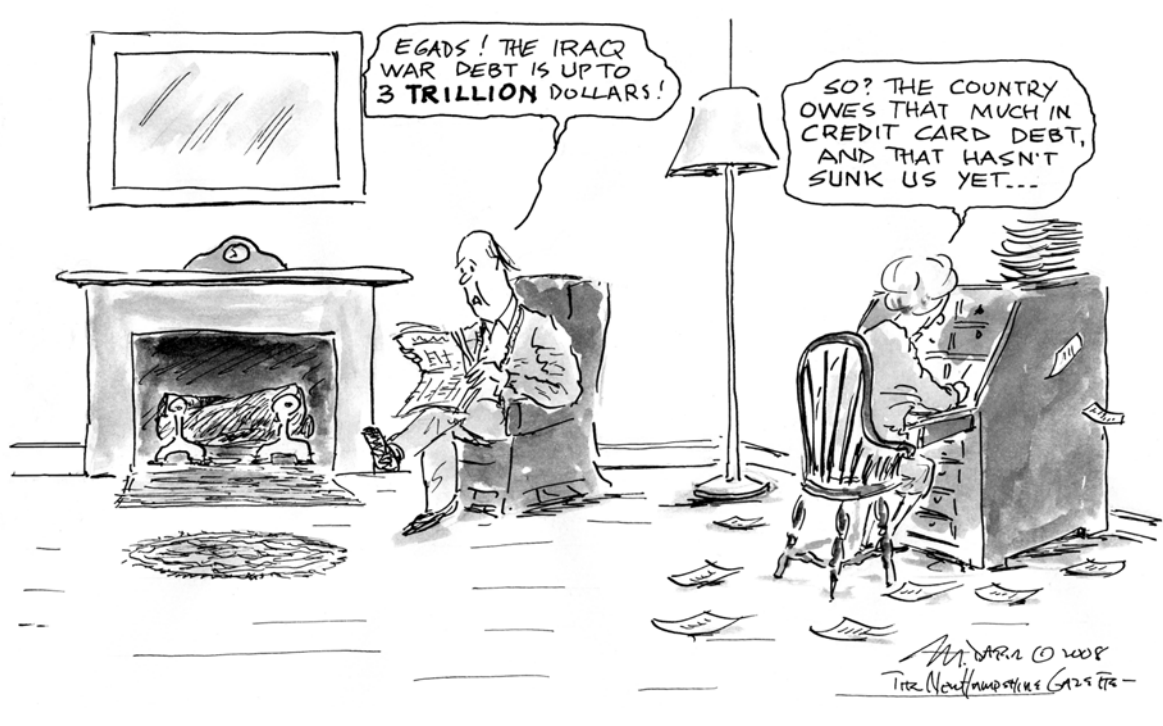


Screen shot of
"Defense of Democracies" ad

* The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies (FDD) IRS Form 990 for the year 2005 lists a federal grant of \$487,058. That amounts to 10.3 percent of the non-profit's \$4,703,599 total revenue for that year. We don't mean to imply that any of that federal grant money was used to pay for DD's ad campaign. We doubt they're that stupid. But it's clear that the federal government is providing substantial support to a supposedly non-partisan organization engaged in clearly partisan politics.

** The full list, as given by bluestemprairie.com, is as follows: AZ: Gabrielle Giffords, Harry Mitchell; CT: Joe Courtney, Chris Murphy; CA: Jerry McNerney; FL: Ron Klein, Tim Mahoney; IL: Melissa Bean (2nd term); IN: Joe Donnelly; KS: Nancy Boyda; MN: Tim Walz; NH: Carol Shea-Porter, Paul Hodes; NY: Michael Arcuri, Kirsten Gillibrand; PA: Jason Altmire; WI: Steve Kagen.

*** For any of our readers who may have been stuck in Guantanamo for the past six years, officials of the New Hampshire Republican Party (and an undetermined number of unindicted co-conspirators in the White House) conspired to suppress opposing voter turnout in 2002—by jamming Democratic telephone lines.



News Briefs

Another Fortnight, Four More Primaries

Primarily Politics

Both dominant political parties are running true to form after Tuesday's elections.

The Democratic Party is still fighting like mad, showing no sign of coming to any concrete conclusion, perhaps until the convention. In a year when the White House was theirs to lose, they're doing their damndest.

On the Republican side, with the lone exception of Ron Paul, who's really a Libertarian, people are lining up in their appropriate and pre-ordained places in relation to the power structure, now that John McCain has scooped

up all the marbles in their winner-take-all, devil-take-the-hindmost contests, to kiss the ring of the nominee, including the last holdout, Mike Huckabee.

Huckabee, many say, as a southern, social conservative, would be an ideal running mate for McCain. The two are well matched. Huckabee thinks evolution is a Godless error. He believes in the Creation, which may have happened as recently as 6,000 years ago. And McCain ought to know—hell, he was there!

McCain & Ethics

McCain seems to be weathering well the latest ethical charges against him. The flap began last month when the *New York Times* published an article based on interviews with some of his former aides. They were said to

have been worried, during the 2000 Presidential campaign, about his apparent closeness to an attractive young female lobbyist named Vicki Iseman (born the same year McCain was shot down over North Vietnam).

The *Times* article was relatively circumspect. It didn't actually allege an "improper personal relationship," it merely alluded to one, by reporting that his aides were concerned about the potential appearance of one.

McCain, despite his well-known love of hijinks and tomfoolery, is also capable of displaying quite effectively the high moral pose required to deliver the sort of denial he did last month in Toledo: "At no time have I ever done anything that would betray the public trust or make a decision which in any way would not be in the public interest or would favor anyone or organization."

Practice makes perfect, of course, and McCain has had practice denying improper behavior. For one to accept his lofty



Museum of Bibliographical Detritus Opens—Some time ago Liberty Hardy began collecting miscellaneous items found in used books brought in to SecondRun on Commercial Alley. More recently, Liberty and her cohorts have begun displaying the items on the wall. They include: a variety of newspaper clippings; a picture of two dancing polar bears; a matchbook from the Oasis Motel in Farmington, NM; a boarding pass for a flight from SeaTac to Anchorage; an inspection slip for a B.C.B. Basic Brewing Kit ("assembled accurately by Hope"); a recipe involving strawberries; and a note in a juvenile hand saying, "Dear mother and daddy i love you and i wish you would ..."

statement of unimpugned moral purity *literally* would require ignoring or forgetting the meticulous consideration the Senator formerly showed to his early patron, Charles Keating.

Keating was sentenced to 22 years in prison. Thanks to his lawyers, he served just four, an outcome that may still have brought some moral satisfaction to the tens of thousands of elderly people who lost their life's savings in his flimsy, unregulated institution. Their financial satisfac-

tion came at the expense of the American taxpayer, to the tune of about \$3 billion. The Senate Ethics Committee criticized McCain in 1991 for "questionable conduct."

Despite the chastening effect of that earlier experience, in 1998 and 1999 McCain wrote some "highly unusual" letters to the FCC, advancing a position Iseman's clients favored. He also introduced a bill that coincided with her client's wishes. But, he says he did those things on their



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LATE NIGHT MENU TUES-SAT



Officer Murph of the Flag Police is back from a well-deserved spell of R & R on the Dalmatian coast, and raring to go. Patrolling onto West Rd., from Peverly Hill Rd., he reports finding a flag frayed on the fly end, and another flag flying by the top grommet only. "Then," he reported, "on the left, a little farther on, I spotted THIS!" Headquarters inquired whether the site might be the local al Qaeda HQ. Officer Murph responded that it appeared to be a landscaping company.

own merits, not as a *quid pro quo*. Military life instills in a person the habit of certitude. Surprisingly minor matters can have life or death consequences; there is no place for the familiar civilian attitude, "whatever." McCain has that military certitude in spades. A lot of people find it attractive and reassuring. Connoisseurs of ambiguity, on the other hand, may not.

But Who Will Tell Hillary?

As we said, on the Democratic side of the ledger it appears that the fight could go on until the dog days of summer. Unless, that is, the Dems pay heed to Hooksett's Dick Marple.

It seems that, according to a

letter from Dick to the *Concord Monitor*, Hillary Clinton is *Constitutionally ineligible to be President!*

"The language and syntax of the 19th Amendment," Marple wrote, "merely removed the barriers that prevented women from voting. It did not identify women to be qualified to become elected president."

"The text of both the House and Senate deliberately avoided any language that would allow or permit women the right to seek the highest office in the land! It was the considered opinion of senators on both sides of the aisle that if language de-genderized the presidency, the amendment's



ratification by the necessary 36 states would be in great doubt."

American Girl\$

Hillary's ineligibility will no doubt come as a shock to the throngs of young American girls—make that Girls™—who will throng to the American Independence Museum in Exeter on April 12. According to a press release (which the relevant parties may wish they had not sent) American Girl™ will be taking over the Museum on that day to enhance their already lucrative franchise.

American Girl™ is a division of Mattell, the world's largest toy company, based on revenue. The historically-themed dolls sell for \$90. That might sound like a lot, but that's really just the cover charge. By the time you get little Sophronia or Mehitable or Hep-sibah dressed, and get her an official American Girl™ bed, and desk and whatnot, you could have taken scores of starving African children off of Sally Struthers' endangered list.

Penn State's Jeanne Brady, a

professor of education, has criticized the doll brand for appealing "to the anxieties of modern parents by whitewashing history to a series of periods when well-dressed, middle-class girls could triumph over war, poverty and slavery in 50 pages or less."

We never thought we'd see the day, but somehow this event makes us nostalgic for a certain former Strawberry Banke director who used to cook up unauthorized knock-off events based on Harry Potter.

"You Don't Miss Your Water, 'Till ..."

Save Our Groundwater, a regional grassroots organization, is co-sponsoring a talk and book-signing with author and international water justice activist Maude Barlow. The public is invited, the event is free.

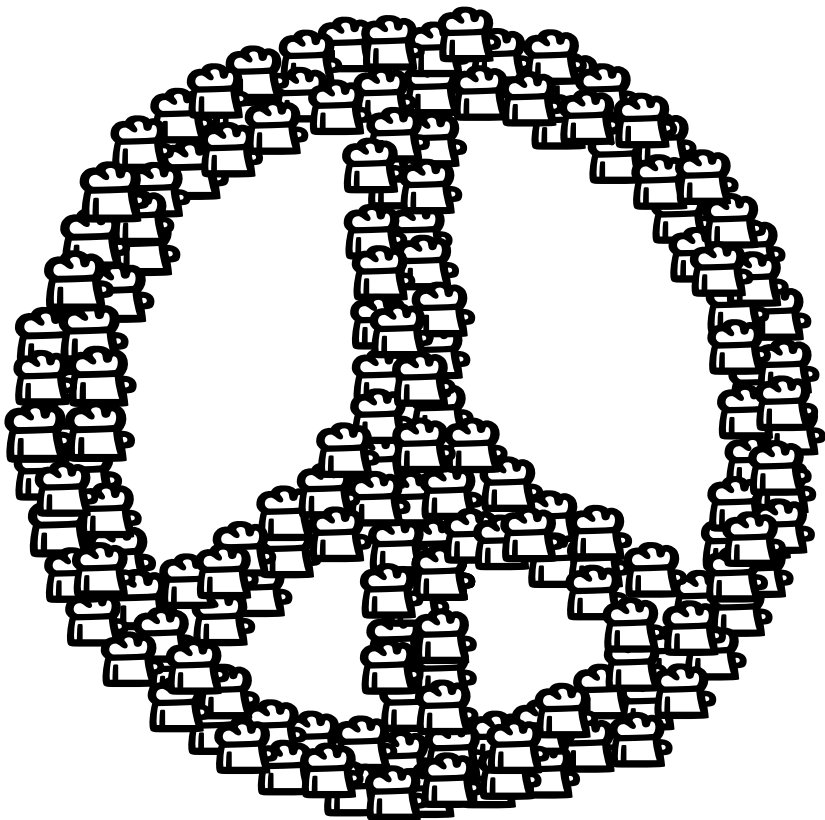
Barlow, who is the national chairperson of the Council of Canadians, will discuss her latest book, *Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water*. It investigates the environmental issues

pertaining to the world's fresh-water supply, and the political struggle to control this natural resource on which all life depends. Her talk will look at the links between climate change and the displacement of water, the growing corporate cartel seeking to control water resources, and the movement to conserve and protect water as a human and ecological right. Ms. Barlow will speak at the Levenson Room of the Portsmouth Public Library, at 175 Parrott Ave., on March 31, at 7:00 p.m.

The Annals of Justice

We were going to close with the Boston judge, appointed by George W. Bush, who was popped for drunk driving after he rear-ended a pickup truck in Manchester ... while wearing a black cocktail dress and fishnet stockings. But that seemed cruel.

So we'll end with former GOP bigwig Jim Tobin, who was just spared a new trial for his part in the 2002 phone-jamming scandal—because a Bush-appointed prosecutor mischarged him.



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Guest Diatribe

Kick That Barrel

by Mike Ferner

Washington, DC, February 23, 2008—In a town awash in irony, this particular example of it couldn't have been more striking. Yesterday, in Washington, D.C., former Marine Corps Sergeant and Iraq War vet, Adam Kokesh, kick-rolled a 55-gallon oil drum lettered "Hands Off Iraqi Oil" across K Street—an avenue that has become synonymous with the power of corporate lobbyists. Kokesh, former Army National Guard Sergeant Geoff Millard, and former Army Private Marc Trainer, in the center of a knot of demonstrators, took turns kicking the barrel up 16th Street towards Lafayette Park, adjoining the White House, for a protest

sponsored by U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW) (www.uslab-oragainstawar.org), Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) (www.ivaw.org), and Oil Change International (priceofoil.org). The protest and an earlier news conference at the Institute for Policy Studies (www.ips-dc.org) was called to bring public attention to the Oil Law passed by the Iraqi Cabinet one year ago and now waiting approval by Parliament. Citing a letter USLAW sent yesterday to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and George Bush, Gene Bruskin, co-convenor of USLAW, said that under Paul Bremer, the man Bush put in charge of running Iraq right after the invasion, the Hussein administration laws were wiped

off the books—except for Law 150 and Law 151, which prohibit Iraqi workers from organizing unions in the public sector, some two-thirds of the nation's economy. "For there to be freedom in Iraq," Bruskin said, "working people have to have representation. And not just on labor contracts but on social policy." He pledged the continuing support of USLAW, whose member organizations represent some three million U.S. workers, to Iraqi oil workers and their union, the Iraqi Federation of Oil Unions. Kokesh, who said his time in Iraq taught him that "we are making enemies faster than we can kill them," called the U.S. presence in Iraq a military and an economic occupation, and that

they are "inherently tied." Trina Zahller, representing Oil Change International, stated, "No law passed under the U.S. occupation can have legitimacy. Iraqi oil is not a resource for the oil companies, it is for the Iraqi people." She said her group's position is that there should be an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq; that no oil law or long term contracts law be passed under the U.S. occupation; and that international oil companies should be prohibited from owning Iraqi oil. She added that the pending Oil Law provides that currently operating fields stay under Iraqi control, but that future profits from "undiscovered" oil—estimated at 50 percent of all Iraq's oil—be controlled by oil

corporations. Maintaining its tradition of largely ignoring events critical of U.S. policy in Iraq, U.S. corporate news outlets were conspicuously absent from yesterday's news conference and protest. United Press International, Talk Radio News, Voice of America and a D.C. television station were the only U.S. news media present. Representing the international press were Reuters; Agence France Press, one of the world's top newswires; Telesur, a TV network serving much of Latin America; Al Jazeera; and the Japanese newspaper, *Akabata*.

Mike Ferner is an independent journalist and author of *Inside the Red Zone: A Veteran For Peace Reports from Iraq*.

A Rant of a Different Color: Army Green

A Moment Captured

[Note: We received the following letter in a package recently. Also in the package was a ceramic tile, about five by five inches square, glazed in Army green. A photograph of the tile appears at the end of this piece.—The Ed.]
[Salutation]
Enclosed is your very own "Veteran Returning Bronze Star" commemorative ceramic tile. It is my gift to you. I am a senior at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. My father is a Vietnam War veteran. I started making these tiles after taking a course at my school called "Images of Vietnam," taught by Dr. Martin Novelli. Aftyer seeing a short clip in *Hearts and Minds* of some vets returning their medals, I was shaken. I thought: "There needs to be a statue of one of

these guys." Bill Ehrhart,* an ex-Marine (sic)** who served in Vietnam and spoke with our class directed me to John Kerry's *The New Soldier*, where I came across the remarkable photograph of Rusty Sachs returning a Bronze Star. Although I cannot currently make a public bronze statue (approx. \$50,000), I am able as a ceramist to make a relief of the image and reproduce it in limited quantities with my skills. We study ancient cultures through their ceramics—there is an archival quality of the material that is unrivaled. Tiles last because the clay is made denser as a result of packing it into the mold. I make a point of this because this tile could potentially outlast our species. It is my intention to preserve the voice of Vietnam Veterans Against the War: to forever commit theirs and your cry of the truth to the legacy of our country and the legacy of mankind. I feel compelled to work towards ensuring this goal by making very many tiles. I am sending them to veterans in hopes that they might respond. Bill Ehrhart has recommended that I send one to you. I am very interested in what

veterans, especially those who [were] part of the GI Movement, think about what it means to return a medal. When people ask me, "Why are you making these tiles?" I feel like I have been unable to explain the profound significance that the image of Mr. Sachs symbolizes. I believe that someone or several people collectively can put into words the argument that has convinced me to take on this project. I am going to display the tile(s) along with the letters from veterans voicing their opinions of it at my Senior Thesis show in May. It is an opportunity to raise your bit of the truth from the bogs of viewers' memories. Your feedback would be greatly appreciated. With my thanks and a wish for peace,

Alex Irvine
1326 S. Carlisle St.
Philadelphia, PA 19146
Dear Alex:
Thank you for your tile, for your letter, and for requesting my thoughts. The tile is a unique attempt to capture a moment—April 23, 1971—as fraught with meaning as any in my lifetime; wild horses could not restrain me. The conventional wisdom on Vietnam veterans today is that we were misunderstood and badly treated when we returned. We are supposed to have been spat upon by smelly hippies when we disembarked from the "Freedom Birds" that flew us home. Cooler heads having since prevailed, of course, and now we are all warm and snugly in the bosom of a grateful nation. To quote the Sex Pistols, "Bollocks."

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Northcountry Chronicle

Good Guys and Bad Guys

by William Marvel

My mother-in-law was born in Medicine Lodge, Kansas, to two descendants of pioneer clans. The Marions, on her father's side, came to Kansas from Virginia after the Civil War. Her great-grandfather's story serves as an excellent argument against capital punishment, but his descendants are all Kansans, so they probably don't put that argument to much use.

The said great-grandfather, William Jackson Marion, left his wife and children to migrate to Gage County, Nebraska. Apparently a stranger passed through the county seat, Beatrice, wearing some conspicuous clothing and boots, and a while after he left town a decomposed body was found on the prairie wearing the noteworthy haberdashery. The unfortunate W. J. Marion then came into Beatrice wearing the stranger's boots, which seemed like good enough evidence that

he had disposed of the original owner, and a jury convicted him of murder despite his protest that he had obtained the boots in a trade. He was hanged in Beatrice on March 25, 1887, and buried in the pauper's portion of the cemetery there.

To the embarrassment of Gage County, the presumed victim of the murder returned to Beatrice at a later date and, when informed that his murderer had already been executed, he confirmed the story of the boot swap. Evidently he had also traded his fancy clothing with an Indian, whom some unknown party had been unkind enough to dispatch. Thirty years ago the governor of Nebraska issued a pardon, but the recipient's reaction was not discernible. To appease eye-for-an-eye advocates of capital punishment, though, let it be said that W. J. Marion's daughter-in-law remarked that while he may not have committed the murder in question, he certainly deserved

hanging.

On the other side of the family tree, the McCrackens moved from North Carolina to Cooke County, Texas, in 1860, to raise cattle. Their Confederate loyalty emerges in the middle name of the boy born there in 1863, who was christened Enos Lee McCracken. He and his brother Caswell took the cattle enterprise to Barber County, Kansas, in 1881, and there they remained the rest of their lives.

Family legend had it that Uncle Bud (as Enos Lee was known in the family) became sheriff of Barber County and was killed chasing outlaws who robbed the bank in Medicine Lodge. The *Barber County Index* told a different tale, but it was an understandable distortion. After all, Medicine Lodge was the scene of a notorious and deadly bank robbery in 1884, for which the townspeople suspended four suspects from the rafters of a stable. There were no trees.

Uncle Bud McCracken was instead killed arresting a bootlegger who had taken refuge in an outhouse. It was March 18, 1908. Sheriff McCracken rode the train down to Kiowa to arrest James Clark, enlisting the city marshal to confront Clark at his home, but Clark hid in the privy and refused to emerge. After considerable argument McCracken grew impatient and told Clark to come out or he would come in after him, and Clark threw the door open. As the sheriff grabbed for him, Clark shot him in the chest and slammed the door again. McCracken and the marshal stepped back and filled the outhouse full of lead, wounding Clark severely, but as they were dragging him to the doctor the sheriff collapsed. He died three days later, leaving a wife and eight children, including a daughter born two days before the shooting.

The family legend did accurately record that Barber County

citizens held their sheriff in high regard. The county contained fewer than 2000 people, but 1200 of them came to the funeral, even though less than half the crowd could fit into the church.

The sheriff's killer died in custody. Doctors operated on him, but he failed to recover from the anaesthetic—much to the relief of those who feared another lynching. "This death was most fortunate," remarked the editor of the *Index*.

It was only a hundred years ago, yet most of the McCracken brothers' great-grandchildren, including my mother-in-law, grew up riding ponies across a wide-open landscape, so happy that they never realized they were poor. In a single generation, though, their prairie paradise has been closed in upon by homogenized suburbia, which dismisses the plains as a desolate interlude between two converging tidal waves of junk culture.

A Moment Captured (continued)

For Vietnam veterans who were against the war—I hardly knew any other kind—the nation's Capitol was rightly perceived as hostile territory in the hands of the generation that had sent us to war. The fact that that earlier generation has since been christened "The Greatest Generation"—by a television news anchorman, of all people—goes to show just how desperately needed your effort is.

When Rusty Sachs threw that medal, I was not in Washington getting the evil eye from Capitol cops—I was living at Ground Zero for the anti-war movement: Berkeley, California. According to the CW, I should have been perpetually drenched in hippie sputum. I was not, and neither was the former

Marine who roomed in the same house. The only hostility I remember receiving in Berkeley was from cops, usually in the form of tear gas grenades.

As to medals as artifacts suitable for hurling—or not—I don't recall ever receiving any medals to speak of. I was eligible for the usual three basic ribbons of the era, and wore them. I probably bought them at the PX. I don't think I was ever issued the medals that the ribbons represented. If I had been in Washington that day, I'd have hurled them with a vengeance; duct-taped to a brick, perhaps.

In Vietnam, as I was getting short, a rumor reached my ears: the Colonel had put me in for some minor medal, which one I don't re-

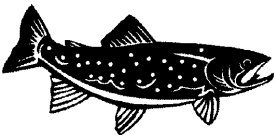
member. Perhaps if I had kept my trap shut then I would be able to remember it now. Being me, though, even in uniform, I told my fellow peons that if the Colonel hauled me up in front of the company during morning formation, and tried to pin some gong on me, I was going to refuse it.

Alas, I never got the chance. Either the rumor was bogus, or someone tipped him off.

You refer to the book, *The New Soldier*. I agree wholeheartedly with the unnamed veteran who is quoted in it saying, "I earned a Good Conduct Medal in Vietnam. In the words of another son of Massachusetts, Henry Thoreau, the only thing I regret is my good conduct."

The Editor





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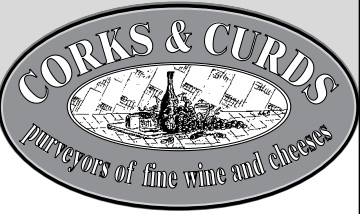
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Missing Pages?
To the Editor:
As a long-time reader of the Gazette, I've been disappointed to see its size reduced by half beginning with the Feb. 8th issue. Though the editor warned readers of forthcoming changes in the January 25th issue, the column remained just vague enough about the details to allow one to speculate ...

Loss of advertisers related to the economic slowdown in general, and/or the historically slow first quarter after the holidays? Plausible, though most businesses in the Portsmouth area seem fairly busy.

Has the past month or so been a slow news period? Highly doubtful, considering the continuing domestic and international Bush administration scandals, and the most exciting election cycle in decades.

And then, in the middle of the night, it hit me:

At the risk of sounding unduly paranoid, I believe the Bush cabal might be the most likely culprit.

In an era when the Republicans have made illegal wiretapping, lost or deleted e-mails, and mysteriously vanishing votes routine, it's a very small leap to imagine the nefarious hand of the GOP in the sudden disappearance of half the biweekly output of one of their foremost—and deservedly strident—critics.

Alan Grossberg
Durham, NH

Alan:
Advertising is down slightly, but that was not a deciding factor by any means; our advertisers are entirely innocent. Incredibly, the Bush administration is also, on this admittedly narrow front, also blameless. The cause for the reduction in the number of pages was the editor's determination to carve more time out of his schedule to make the paper more of a threat to the illegitimate power structure which perverts our democracy.

A minor point regarding usage: for something to be missing, it must have previously existed. Ergo, the pages to which you refer cannot be "missing," even under the Pythonesque "every sperm is sacred" doctrine. Speaking of missing, we don't find you listed in our secure, classified, need-to-know only database. Are we in error?

The Editor

Don't Ignore Israel's Crimes

To the Editor:

If we are to understand why there is no peace in the Middle East then we must understand both sides of the story and not just the Israeli side.

Israel illegally occupies Palestine. Israel sends bulldozers into Palestinian villages and knocks down Palestinian houses, occasionally killing an American protester in the process, and uproots Palestinian olive groves. Israel cuts Palestinian villages off from water, hospitals, farmlands, food, electricity, employment and schools. Israel builds special roads through Palestine on which only Israelis can travel. Israel establishes checkpoints everywhere to hinder Palestinian movement to hospitals, schools and from one enclave or ghetto to another. Many Palestinians die from the inability to get through checkpoints to medical care. Israel builds illegal settlements on Palestinian lands. Israeli "settlers" take it upon themselves to evict Palestinians from

their villages and towns in order to convert them into Israeli settlements. A huge wall has been built to wall off the stolen Palestinian lands from the remaining isolated ghettos. Israeli soldiers shoot down Palestinian children in the streets. Israeli missiles have killed over 700 Palestinians in recent years to just one Israeli killed by Palestinian rockets.

All of this has been documented many times by so many organizations. It is not something made-up or intended to stir up hate. It is factual and honest. Ignoring these facts has been the biggest contributor to the ongoing violence. Isn't it time that we give peace a chance and take off the blinders?

James J. David, BGEN, Ret.
U.S. Army
Marietta, GA

Some Straight Talk for John McCain

Dear John:

We liked you much better when you were still a straight-talker. Even though I am not a Republican, when you ran for President in 2000 I went to hear you speak, together with my son, who recently returned from Iraq. We both came away from your town meeting in Amherst impressed with your direct answers and your honesty, even if we did not agree with everything you said.

What a difference eight years makes. Gone is your humility about getting involved with the dubious Savings and Loan scandal. You no longer crusade for cleaning up the election process or stopping the corruption of Washington lawmakers by lobbyist. Gone is the honest and accurate descriptions you gave of the radical extremist right-wing Christians who were so moved by some spirit to defame you and your family during your 2000 campaign. Gone is the candidate who did not hesitate to stand up

to dumb ideas promoted by President Bush regarding tax policies and his disdain of environmental issues, whether local or global.

These days you are not giving us straight talk but pander talk, aimed at pleasing the right wing of the Republican Party. While just a year ago you considered torture immoral, useless and a stain on our country's reputation; a year later you cannot bring yourself to vote to end its use by agencies of the US government.

I hate to tell you this, my friend, but you will lose and lose big in November.

Are you really convinced that we may need to be in Iraq for 100 more years? What were you thinking when you envisioned more wars, more deaths and more maimed soldiers in our future? Can't these wars be avoided by diplomacy and some common sense?

Do you honestly want us to believe that, extremist Islamic terrorism is the greatest threat to our country? More harmful than environmental dangers, campus shootings, highway deaths, lax drug safety regulation by the FDA, inadequate food safety, unsafe imported products, leaky border security, or loose nuclear weapons?

You don't need to know much economics to realize that we are currently spending two billion dollars each week for the Iraqi war. Don't you think that this could bankrupt our country, especially when we have to borrow it from a non-democratic Chinese government so we can pay it to a non-democratic Saudi government? Couldn't we spend that money better for Americans in America?

No, my friend, you have lost your integrity and respectability. Unlike your Republican friend, Senator Chuck Hagel (also a veteran), you chose not to challenge President Bush on his failed Iraqi war policy or his poor economic

policies. Instead you have embraced most of the failed Bush policies.

A friend of mine, the Czech writer Gabriel Laub, once wrote in a book of wise sayings:

"As he finally reached a position where he could say what he thought, he thought only of his position." You may not like to hear this, my friend, but Senator McCain this describes you. And you want to be our next president?

Peter Somssich
Portsmouth NH

Down on Super Delegates

To the Editor:

What ever happened to the adage, "one person, one vote?" Super Delegates and the grossly outdated Electoral College negate the will of the majority of the people. Primaries and national elections should be by popular vote on paper ballots.

Ed Peltz
Rush, KY

Compare and Contrast: Bush and Osama

To the Editor:

In my opinion, the "Decider," the leader of the free world, has lost touch with reality. Compare him with Osama bin Laden, who is still plotting acts of terrorism against the United States and others, and is convinced his God wants him to kill all infidels. It is well known that Bush says he believes in God and that God has chosen him to bring democracy and freedom to the world. But Bush has blind eyes, is weak-minded, and has no heart when it comes to the disastrous setbacks and death he has caused to be heaped upon the world. This is truly terrifying and shows just how inept Bush really is. Both Osama bin Laden and Bush are very wrong when it comes to religion because in nearly all the different religions in the world, their God does not condone

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hurting or killing innocent people no matter what their reasons are. Neither of these men adhere to their own beliefs and religious doctrines. It is time folks to elect Hillary Clinton to clean up this mess and get American back on the right track again.

William Alford Perry

West Blocton, AL

William:

We were with you right up until the end there. Talk about a non sequitor.

The Editor

A Heavenly Idea

To the Editor:

A February, 2001 *New York Times* article quoted Ariel Sharon as saying to some visiting Jewish-Americans: "Not only can you interfere, you have to interfere when it comes to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims but it was promised to the Jews." In March, when he came to the U.S. to get more money, I wrote to him at the Israeli embassy asking when, where and by whom the promise was made. Getting no answer, I later learned Jews believe a Land of Israel, not just a city, was promised by a God.

That got me thinking: if I could convince people I had the text to prove that all the land from my house down to the shore, including the public park, had been promised to me by a God, I might get some nice waterfront property. The neighbors might object at first to being moved, but with enough prodding and the U.S. government backing my claim, they could be made to go. If any stubborn ones acted against me to get back their homes and land, they could be denounced and dismissed as terrorists.

Then all would be well in my little seaside paradise, as long as there were those who believed I had a warranty deed signed "God," and vowed to fight for

the holy claim. To make sure there would always be plenty of recruits, my Heavenly Promise Network would broadcast around the clock on radio and television, with pulpитеers ranting that anyone who said there was no deed would burn in hell. As for the neighbors who were in the way of a divine promise—tough luck!

Marjorie Gallace

Camden, ME

Israel Threatens a Holocaust

To the Editor:

Last week Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilnai threatened a "holocaust" in Gaza if rocket fire continues. I was appalled that a Jewish person could even conceive of using that word.

Israel claims that it is defending itself. I call it genocide. The ratio of Palestinians killed to Israelis is 300 to 1. In the last seven years Palestinian rockets have killed 13 Israelis. 31 Palestinians were killed by Israel in two days last week. Palestinian land has and is being stolen. UN Resolutions are being defied. International law is being defied. Democratic elections in Palestine are ignored. Peace proposals are ignored. The US government sends over \$6 billion to Israel every year. Many other billions are sent from other sources in the US. Israel has the fourth most destructive army in the world and has nuclear weapons.

Genocide and another holocaust are not defense.

Arnold Stieber

Grass Lake, MI

Cowardly "Conservative" Radio Talk Jockeys

To the Editor:

In light of the hoopla about Barack Obama's not wearing the American flag lapel pin, which amounts to no more than wearing one's patriotism sanctimo-

niously on one's sleeve; it is not only hollow, but oft times hypocritical. Barack Obama has exhibited true American courage by putting his "life on the line" in the political process. Not one of these talk jockeys has the guts to do the same. In the claim of supporting the troops in Iraq, not one of these jockeys will spend one year from the comfort of their secured stateside locations to spend a year in a secured green zone in Iraq to broadcast with the troops. For those of them that did not serve in the military, a normal tour is considered four years, but they are being asked to give only one year from their comfortable lifestyle. I'd bet the farm that not one of these cowards has the guts to step forward. So much for the hollow patriotism of conservatism or more specifically, the braying asses of radio ... in the business to feed off of the gullible.

Bobby Buck

Help Me Out (of Iraq)

Dear Sir/Madam,

With a very desperate need for assistance, I have summed up courage to contact you. I am from (will disclose this later), presently working in Iraq with an international organization that I will also disclose later, I found your contact particulars in an address journal. I am seeking your assistance to evacuate the sum of (U.S. \$18.523 Million Dollars) Eighteen Million, five Hundred And Twenty Three Thousand U.S. Dollars to your country or any other safe country of your choice, as far as I can be assured that my share will be safe in your care until I complete my service here, this is no stolen money, and there are no dangers involved.

SOURCE OF MONEY:

Some money in various currencies was discovered concealed in barrels with piles of weapons and ammunitions at a location near

one of Saddam's old palaces during a rescue operation, and it was agreed by all party present that the money be shared amongst us. This was quite an illegal thing to do, but I tell you what? No compensation can make up for the risks we have taken with our lives in this hell hole. The above figure was given to me as my share, and to conceal this kind of money became a problem for me, so with the help of a German contact working here, and his office enjoys some immunity, I was able to get the package out to a safe cation entirely out of trouble spot.

He does not know the real contents of the package, and believes that it belongs to an Asian-American who died in an air raid, and before giving up, trusted me to hand over the package to his business associate. I have now found a secured way of getting the package out to a safer country for you to pick up, and will discuss this with you when I am sure that you are willing to assist me. One passionate appeal I will make to you is not to discuss this matter with a third party, should you have reasons to reject this offer, please destroy this mail as any leakage of this information will be too bad for us. I do not know for how long we will remain here, and I have survived two suicide bomb attacks by the special grace of God, this and other reasons I will mention later has prompted me to reach out for help, I honestly want this matter to be resolved immediately. and kindly fill up this requirements like:

Your full name, Your country, Contact phone number, Age, & Occupation.

I await your urgent reply

Regards,

Capt. Chidpong

Capt. Chidpong:

We'll get right back to you.

The Editor



Missing Mr. Robinson

To the Editor:

I am enclosing a check for \$20 for the upcoming renewal (6/27/08) of my subscription.

I must say however that I have missed the history articles by [J.] Dennis Robinson. I know the size of the *Gazette* has been temporarily reduced but might you have space for one Robinson article an issue or month?

Richard S. Blake

Apex, NC

Richard:

We miss him too, but the changes we have made in the operation of this old institution are working too well for us to go back. Local readers, we're pleased to say, can now find his articles in the Award Winning Local Daily, aka the Portsmouth Herald. And, as always, they are available to the world at large on the famous Intertubes, as www.seacoastnh.com.

The Editor

Is There a "C" On Your Mailing Label?

From the Editor—Every publication, from time to time, adds people to its mailing list for a variety of reasons. We have accumulated many such "Comp" names on our list. Now that we are mailing First Class, we are trimming that list. If there has been a "C" on your mailing label, your next three papers will also have an "Expiring" stamp. We hope you will consider converting your subscription.

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

Portsmouth is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River. Depending on which tour boat captain you believe, it's the second, the third, or the fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country.

The Piscataqua's remarkable current is caused by the tide which, in turn is caused by the moon. The other major player is a vast sunken valley, about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon drags roughly seventeen billion gallons of salt water from the ocean, up the river, into Great Bay. (If the moon ever stopped moving that water for us, it could be replaced with 2,125,000 tanker trucks.)

The moon's meddling creates a roving hydraulic conflict as incoming sea and outgoing river collide. The skirmish line moves from the mouth of the river, past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on towards Great Bay. This spectacle can best be seen when the chart below shows the tide rising. A good place to watch is the little deck near the sterns of the tugboats, off Ceres Street. Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the salt water that just fought its way upstream goes back to rejoin the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. A good place to observe this is from Bow Street, up by St. John's church. Look up the river, from one of the little parking lots between the buildings. (Don't try to drive or park there, that won't work.) You'll see a red

buoy, at the upstream end of Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. That buoy weighs several tons, is nine feet wide, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork! The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. Often when the river rests, its tugboats and drawbridges work their hardest. Ships coming in heavily laden with coal, oil, and salt generally do so at high tide, for maximum clearance under their keels. When they leave empty, riding high in the water, they tend to go at low tide, for maximum clearance under Memorial Bridge.

Sunday, March 9	Monday, March 10	Tuesday, March 11	Wednesday, March 12	Thursday, March 13	Friday, March 14	Saturday, March 15
2005—Dan Rather signs off. 1994—RIP Bukowski. 1986—U.S. Navy divers locate the sunken crew compartment of the Space Shuttle <i>Challenger</i>. 1982—The <i>Washington Post</i> reveals \$19 million in covert aid has gone to the Contras. 1969—Afraid of the consequences of even the mildest sedition, CBS-TV cancels the Smothers Brothers. 1964—First Mustang rolls off the assembly line. 1954—WMUR-TV in Manchester begins broadcasting. 1946—Ted Williams turns down \$500,000 to play ball in Mexico. 1932—Ford Motor Co. makes its first production Flathead V-8. 1916—Pancho Villa and 1,500 guerrillas raid Columbus, NM and kill 17 Americans. 1864—U. S. Grant is appointed Commander of the Union Army. 1862—The <i>Monitor</i> defeats the <i>Merrimack</i> in the first clash of iron ships. 1841—The <i>Amistad</i> mutineers are declared free men by the U.S. Supreme Court. 1776—Adam Smith publishes <i>The Wealth of Nations</i>, once a treatise on economics, now a license to steal. 1737—A mob of reformers destroys a Boston warehouse.	2004—Alberto Gonzales hovers over the hospital bed of John Ashcroft, trying to coerce the critically ill man to help him shred the Constitution. 1992—Injected with poison by Oklahoma state workers, Robyn Lee Parks gasps and gags for eleven minutes, then dies. 1977—Astronomers declare that rings of debris circle Uranus. 1974—Crime Commission in Philadelphia says police corruption is "systematic at all levels." Mayor Frank Rizzo tried to block its investigation. 1951—Genial old Ike declares America's willingness to launch a first-strike nuclear attack. 1945—American bombers drop nearly 2,000 tons of incendiary bombs on Tokyo, killing approximately 100,000 civilians and leaving 1,500,000 homeless. 1945—A Japanese firebomb balloon lands on electric wires in Hanford, WA, temporarily shutting down a nuclear reactor making plutonium destined for "Fat Man," the Nagasaki A-bomb. 1913—RIP Harriet Tubman. 1906—A coal mine explosion in France kills 1,060, sparking a strike by 45,000 miners, which is suppressed by the Army. 1849—Abraham Lincoln applies for a patent for a device to lift boats over shoals.	2005—Pentagon documents reveal that some Abu Ghraib prisoners were as young as 11. 1966—Viet Cong overrun a Special Forces camp at A Shau, survivors escape by U.S.M.C. helicopter. 1958—A B-47 accidentally drops a Mark 6 A-bomb, minus its core, on Mars Bluff, SC. Six people on the ground are injured by the explosion and a house is destroyed. 1954—The U.S. Army charges Sen. Joe McCarthy & aide Roy Cohn with using threats to get special treatment for Private G. David Schine. 1942—At Corregidor in the Philippines, "Dugout Doug" MacArthur bugs out. 1930—In India, a march protesting a tax on salt, let by M. Gandhi, begins. 1926—In Parliament, George Lansbury proposes the abolition of the Royal Navy. 1917—Baghdad falls to an Anglo-Indian force. 1847—Death of John "Johnny Appleseed" Chapman, Daniel Fowle's 3rd cousin, twice removed. 1812—British Luddites suffer a first defeat at Rawkolds Mill. 1811—Luddites begin attacking machines designed to replace them in the weaving industry.	2007—Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA) cops to atheism. 2006—In Fordland, MO, Matt Suter is sucked out of his house trailer by a tornado and dropped, alive, in a pasture 1/4 mi. away. 2005—Middletown, Va. Police Chief Roger Ashley is arrested twice in one day for drunken driving, once in his cruiser. 2003—<i>The Guardian</i> reports that Halliburton is still paying VP Dick Cheney up to \$1 million a year in "deferred compensation." 1968—Eugene McCarthy places second in the New Hampshire Democratic Primary, convincing President Lyndon Johnson to drop out. 1956—The Dow breaks 500. 1955—Charlie "Bird" Parker dies, lives. 1928—Near Los Angeles, the St. Francis dam collapses, killing more than 400. 1922—Birth of Jack Kerouac, Lowell, Mass. 1912—Captain Albert Berry becomes the first man to jump out of an airplane and live. 1888—The New York Weather Bureau predicts "light snow" just before a blizzard kills hundreds. 1804—Insane New Hampshire federal district judge John Pickering is impeached by the U.S. Senate for "drunkenness, profanity, & violence" on the bench.	2003—Iraq's dreaded pilotless drone looks "more like something out of ... Rube Goldberg ... than anything that could threaten Iraq's foes," reports <i>The New York Times</i>. 2002—George W. Bush says of Osama bin Laden, "We haven't heard much from him ... I don't know where he is ... I truly am not that concerned about him." 1968—Clouds of nerve gas drift outside the Army's Dugway Proving Grounds in Provo, Utah, poisoning 6,400 sheep in nearby Skull Valley. 1964—Kitty Genovese is stabbed to death in Queens as thirty-seven witnesses do nothing. 1962—The Joint Chiefs of Staff sign off on Operation Northwood—a "terror campaign" on U.S. soil to build support for an attack on Cuba. 1957—Georgia's General Assembly votes to impeach five U.S. Supreme Court justices. 1954—Viet Minh forces besiege French troops at Dien Bien Phu. 1921—The "unstable" Baron Ungern-Sternberg becomes dictator of Mongolia. 1881—Russian nihilists assassinate Czar Alexander. 1877—Chester Greenwood, 18, of Farmington, Maine, receives a patent for earmuffs, his first of 130.	2002—The Justice Dept. charges accounting firm Arthur Andersen with obstruction of justice for shredding Enron documents. 1984—<i>New York Times</i> headline: "Youth robs woman trapped underneath bus in Trenton of \$2,000." 1965—"Except for Vietnam," the AP reports Richard Nixon says, "U.S. foreign policy is in a shambles." 1964—We still don't know who killed JFK, but on this day a jury decided Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald. 1961—A B-52 carrying nuclear weapons on a routine training flight crashes in CA. 1927—Birth of Edward Abbey, writer, anarchist. 1912—In Lawrence, Mass., strikers win both "Bread and Roses." 1891—A New Orleans mob lynches 11 recently acquitted Italian immigrants. 1883—Karl Marx, 64, dies in London, impoverished. 1879—Birth of Albert Einstein. 1864—Birth of John Luther "Casey" Jones. 1757—British Admiral John Byng, convicted of not "doing his utmost" at Minorca, is shot. 1471—Sir Thomas Malory, author of <i>Le Morte d'Arthur</i>, dies in Newgate Prison.	1989—To flatter veterans without incurring actual expense, the Veterans Administration is elevated to Department status. 1982—CIA-trained forces in Nicaragua blow up commie bridges. 1980—A <i>Boston Globe</i> editorial about a speech by Pres. Jimmy Carter appears under the headline, "Mush from the Wimp." 1962—A Lockheed Constellation carrying 96 U.S. soldiers to Vietnam disappears over the western Pacific. No cause for the disappearance is ever disclosed. 1955—Col. Tom Parker takes over as Elvis's manager. 1952—On the island of Réunion, east of Madagascar, 73 inches of rain fall in 24 hours. 1939—Carpatho-Ukraine gains its independence from Czechoslovakia (see 3/16). 1917—Czar Nicholas II abdicates the Russian throne. 1916—President Woodrow Wilson sends 16,000 soldiers into Mexico to chase Pancho Villa. They fail to catch him. 1874—A French 'protectorate' takes over in Annam (Vietnam). 1869—The first bill granting women the right to vote is introduced to Congress, where it dies, naturally. 1820—Maine quits being part of Massachusetts.
1:12 6:58 7:18	1:32 1:58 7:44 8:00	2:16 2:46 8:32 8:46	3:03 3:38 9:24 9:36	3:56 4:36 10:21 10:32	4:55 5:54 11:23 11:35	6:02 6:54 12:32
Sunday, March 16	Monday, March 17	Tuesday, March 18	Wednesday, March 19	Thursday, March 20	Friday, March 21	Saturday, March 22
2003—On "Meet the Press," Dick "Dick" Cheney claims that Saddam Hussein "has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons," and that "we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators." It's a fact. 1993—A blizzard kills 184 in the Northeast. 1990—On his deathbed, Lee Atwater claims to repent; sadly, there are no lie detectors present. 1988—Kurds in Iraq are gassed with ingredients Saddam Hussein bought from U.S. and European companies. 1971—Lava Lamp gets patent. 1968—GIs in Vietnam kill hundreds of civilians at My Lai. 1965—In Montgomery, AL, police attack civil rights marchers. 1939—Carpatho-Ukraine is absorbed by Hungary (see 3/15). 1926—Robert Goddard demonstrates a practical liquid-fueled rocket in Auburn, Mass. 1904—James Joyce is awarded a bronze medal in a Dublin singing competition. He throws it in the river. 1889—A possible confrontation between warships of the U.S., British, and German navies is averted when all but one are sunk as a hurricane hits Samoa. 1827—<i>Freedom's Journal</i>, the first black American newspaper, begins publication.	2007—<i>The Navy Times</i> reports that chronic Fox News guest and U.S.M.C. Corporal Matt Sanchez had an earlier career as a gay porn star. 2005—"[B]ased on a review of the video footage [Terri Schiavo] certainly seems to respond to visual stimuli," says Sen. [Dr.] Bill Frist on the Senate floor. An autopsy later reveals she was blind. 2004—Local narcs and off-duty cops celebrate St. Patrick's Day by duking it out in the parking lot at Paddy's on the Pease Tradeport. 2003—George W. Bush tells Saddam Hussein that Iraq isn't big enough for the both of them, and gives Hussein 48 hours to get out. 1992—Dick Cheney and two other members of George H.W. Bush's cabinet admit they had written rubber checks on the House bank while members. 1972—Dita Beard, hospitalized by Nixon goons, is forced to recant a statement she'd made linking an ITT campaign contribution with the settlement of an anti-trust suit. 1966—<i>Alvin</i> the submersible finds a missing H-bomb off the coast of Spain. 1962—The National Security Council OKs plans to spy in and bomb North Vietnam.	2004—Narcs and off-duty cops resume their fisticuffs at Gilley's in Portsmouth. 2003—The U.S. names its "Coalition of the Willing," which counts among its members Latvia and Estonia. 2003—"Why should we hear about body bags and death and how many?" Barbara Bush asks Diane Sawyer on "Good Morning America." "It's not relevant... why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?" 1992—Bizarre Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot says he'll run for President if his supporters get him on the ballot in 50 states. 1990—A dozen paintings are stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. 1972—A Congressional study says the income gap between the richest and the poorest has doubled since 1952. 1970—Country Joe McDonald is convicted and fined \$500 for leading a Massachusetts crowd in the infamous Fish Cheer. 1969—The U.S. begins secretly bombing Cambodia. 1963—The Supreme Court rules that states must provide lawyers for indigent defendants. 1953—The State Department orders overseas libraries cleansed of books by authors of "suspect" loyalty.	2006—Former Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi says his country is in a civil war. 2004—<i>USA Today</i> admits that its Pulitzer-contender Jack Kelley ought to have competed in the fiction category. 2003—George W. Bush kicks off his new war by sending 40 Tomahawk missiles into a residential neighborhood in Baghdad, killing innocent civilians instead of his nemesis, Saddam Hussein. 2002—Scientists report "alarming" melting of the Larsen Ice Shelf. 2002—The Pentagon's top Cuba expert admits she spied for Cuba. 1983—Appearing on NBC's "Diff'rent Strokes," Nancy Reagan tells "a true story" about "a boy we'll call Charlie." "Burned out on marijuana" at 14, Charlie "brutally beats" Sis when she won't steal money to feed his weed habit. 1968—President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Wise Men," a little slow on the uptake, suggest the U.S. get out of Vietnam. 1954—The U.S. government burns books by Wilhelm Reich. 1945—Off Japan, Kamikaze attacks kill 800 sailors on the <i>U.S.S. Franklin</i>. 1937—Birth of Clarence "Frogman" Henry.	2003—U.S. ground troops invade Iraq to protect The Homeland from Saddam's innumerable weapons of mass destruction. 1995—Religious fanatics release nerve gas in Tokyo subway. 1992—UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus says Iraq has agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction. 1976—Press Baron William R. Hearst's granddaughter Patricia is convicted of bank robbery. 1954—"If the [Vietnamese] Communists continue to suffer the losses they have been taking," says French Chief of Staff Gen. Paul Ely, "I don't know how they can stay in the battle." 1933—Germany opens its first concentration camp at Dachau. 1933—"Goodbye to all poor peoples everywhere!" says Giuseppe Zangara before his electrocution for killing the mayor of Chicago. "Lousy capitalist ... bunch of crooks." 1899—Martha Place becomes the first woman to be executed by electrocution, in New York. 1896—U.S. Marines invade Nicaragua for the first time. 1863—Treasury official L.E. Chittendon signs 12,500 U.S. bonds in 48 hours to get them aboard a ship before it sails. He suffers years of pain as a result, but the bonds are never used.	2003—Richard Clarke, the senior U.S. counter-intelligence officer since Bush I, says Bush II ignored al Qaeda until 9/11/01. 1995—At its own stately pace, Mississippi ratifies the 13th amendment outlawing slavery. 1962—Over Edwards AFB, a bear becomes the first living thing ejected from a plane traveling at supersonic speed. 1960—In South Africa, police kill 89 black protesters in the Sharpeville Massacre. 1952—In Cleveland, disk jockey Alan Freed throws the "Moon-dog Coronation Ball"—the first rock 'n roll concert. 1947—New York Police find compulsive hoarder Homer L. Collyer dead in his junk-crammed Harlem townhouse. 1907—U.S. Marines land in Honduras to "protect American interests." 1857—An earthquake destroys much of Tokyo; subsequent fires kill more than 100,000. 1851—Josiah Warren and others form "Modern Times," an anarchist colony, in New York. 1844—Millerites are again disappointed: the world once more fails to end as their religious leader had predicted. 1843—Millerites are disappointed: the world fails to end as their religious leader had predicted.	2003—A U.S. maintenance unit convoy gets lost in Iraq; seven are KIA, five captured, including Pvt. Jessica Ryan. 1987—A barge filled with 3,168 tons of NYC garbage begins a futile 162-day, 6,000 mile odyssey; it finally returns to the Big Apple for incineration. 1986—In Florida's electric chair, David Funchess, a black former Marine with a Purple Heart and PTSD, becomes the first Vietnam veteran executed in the U.S. 1975—A technician looking for air leaks with a lighted candle starts a fire causing \$100 million in damages at the Brown's Ferry nuclear power plant in Alabama. 1972—National Commission on Marijuana recommends that marijuana be legalized. 1966—An Undersecretary of Defense warns his boss bombing North Vietnam is useless. 1954—U.S. Admiral A. Radford announces that the French are going to win in Indo-China. 1947—Truman orders FBI loyalty checks on gov't workers. 1933—FDR signs a bill legalizing beer & wine. 1820—In a duel with a fellow naval officer, Stephen "Our Country, Right or Wrong" Decatur is mortally wounded. 1765—Great Britain imposes the Stamp Act on the colonies.
7:13 8:05 12:45 1:43	8:23 9:09 1:56 2:49	9:26 10:05 3:03 3:47	10:22 10:53 4:02 4:37	11:11 11:36 4:53 5:21	11:56 6:01 5:39 6:01	12:16 12:37 6:21 6:38

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