

The Fortnightly Rant

Catastrophe Averted(?)

The global economic picture Monday morning was nearly heart-stopping. Over the week-end, the Federal Reserve and J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. had both taken drastic steps to defibrillate the shaky economy: the Fed “air-dropped” \$200 billion onto Wall Street to keep credit from seizing up altogether, and Morgan paid \$236 million for a company on the brink of collapse.

By the time the sun rose over New York, markets had wobbled all the way around the world, from Asia to Europe. When the New York Stock Exchange opened the Dow Jones was down by nearly 200 points. But the desperate measures seemed to work. At the end of the day, the Dow was up slightly. Wall Street hadn't crashed. Yet.

The immediate cause of the panic was an old-fashioned “run,” late last week, on the assets of The Bear Stearns Companies. Jittery investors and Fed officials had visions of falling dominos. If Bear Stearns went under, what else would it take down—and where would it end?

First Morgan stepped in—much as its founder did in a similar situation 101 years ago*—

and agreed Sunday to acquire Bear Stearns for \$236 million—less than the value of its headquarters building. The Fed would put up about ten percent of the cash—and accept the staggering company's dubious assets as collateral.

A year ago Bear Stearns had been the “Most Admired” securities firm in the country, according to *Fortune* magazine, and was valued at \$20 billion. Now it's a gruesome train wreck. Nineteen billion dollars, most of it invested in mortgage-backed securities, have somehow ... evaporated. And if Morgan can't follow that disappearing act by pulling a big rich rabbit out of that battered top hat, the Fed is going to bail them out—and send the bill to the taxpayer.

And that's just the beginning. Shortly after the Morgan/Bear Stearns deal was announced, the Federal Reserve declared that it would “open the discount window” to investment houses like Lehman Brothers, which had not previously been eligible for such loans. And, as in the Morgan/Bear Stearns deal, it would accept mortgage-backed securities as collateral.

Bear Stearns's missing \$19.7 billion were invested mostly in mortgage-backed securities—like the ones the Fed will now accept as collateral.

As far as we can tell,** there are two things that distinguish Bear Stearns's unfortunate investments from the Fed's new lending plan: 1) When Bear Stearns

** Disclaimer: Nothing in this article, or indeed in this newspaper, is intended to be construed as sound or competent financial advice. For that matter, the reader should consider him or herself lucky to find a subject and a predicate in every sentence. The editor does not have a degree in economics, and is not authorized to handle any financial instrument larger than a \$20 Federal Reserve Note.



bought the securities, they didn't know that they were worthless; and, 2) When the Fed accepts the securities as collateral, it will be the taxpayer whose money is at risk, not some high-flying investor with money to burn.

The markets closed up a little bit on Monday. National Public Radio (NPR) ran a segment on the day's financial excitements. When their interviewer carefully broached the touchy subject of “bailout,” the canned expert dispensed the standard palaver: “What would be the pain for taxpayers if the Fed did not step up ... they'd pay more at the end of the day if Bear Stearns went into default.”***

“They'd pay more at the end of the day,” because the taxpayers *always* pay. They paid \$124 billion *the last time* this happened, in the Savings and Loan bailout.

The Deja Blues

During the Carter administration, Savings and Loan institutions, called “S&Ls,” or “thrifts,” were leaking money badly. High inflation was luring depositors'

*** The quote may not be exactly verbatim; it's difficult to take perfect notes while hurling invective at the radio.

money into new money-market accounts that paid higher rates. Tight federal regulation prevented the thrifts from paying more.

Late in his term, Jimmy Carter's administration lifted the rate caps and broadened deposit insurance for the thrifts. But that wasn't good enough for the free marketeers. Carter's successor, Ronald Reagan, pushed for the Garn-St Germain Depository Institutions Act of 1982, which loosened the regulations further. It even allowed the thrifts to take an ownership position in real estate ventures.

Incredibly, in this newly-de-regulated atmosphere, thrift supervisors actually began to behave imprudently.

Take Neil Bush, for instance. Hired as a director by Silverado Savings and Loan—surely for his MBA, not because his “Poppy” was Vice President at the time—Bush loaned more than \$100 million of Silverado's money to his own business partner.

Inexplicably, Silverado went broke—just about the time of the 1988 election.

S&L regulators had wanted to shut Silverado down *before* the

election, but that action was delayed by pressure from Washington. Naturally, the delay meant that more money was lost.

Neil Bush was never indicted on criminal charges in the Silverado collapse, but he was sued by the government in civil court. Then he was allowed to settle out of court, after paying a \$50,000 fine. Bailing out Silverado alone cost taxpayers \$1 billion—20,000 times the amount of Bush's fine.

The Redistribution of Wealth

When citizens suggest that the government might expend a few bucks on behalf of the lowly working stiff, that's the cue for wails from Wall Street: “Class warfare!” When the money goes in the other direction, from working stiff, to the government, to the high-rollers who buy mortgage-backed securities, that's just business as usual.

Since there's no chance it would ever be enacted, we feel free to offer a suggestion of our own: a new lottery system.

The winner goes to Vegas or Atlantic City and gambles. If he wins, he gets to keep the money. If he loses, the Fed picks up the tab. Fair's fair.

News Briefs

Five Years and Bleeding

This past Wednesday marked the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

The total number of American service members killed was approaching four thousand, the war had been going on longer than all previous American wars except the Revolution and Vietnam, and its total cost had recently been computed to be three trillion dollars, but for some reason this historic milestone was not marked by an official White House celebration with bands, parades, banners, and fireworks.

Senator John McCain, the Republican candidate for Presi-

dent, is running on a platform that includes staying in Iraq for the next 100 years. Democrats observe that a win for McCain would amount to a third term for George W. Bush. With Bush's approval ratings hovering around twenty, a win for McBush would seem to be impossible—except for one thing: he's running against two Democrats. Throw in the Nader factor, and we're looking at a tenth anniversary in March of 2013.

Richard Nixon had to promise peace in Vietnam in order to win re-election in 1972. He was lying, of course; you could tell

because his lips moved. But despite Nixon and the hawks, the Democratically-controlled Congress, with broad support from the public, refused to continue funding the war. U.S. troops were pulled out of Vietnam, and the corrupt puppet government we left behind promptly caved in as the North Vietnamese Army marched south. An austere sort of peace came to Vietnam.

And ever since, the battle has raged on in America. America's hard right maintains that if we had stayed, we would eventually have prevailed; in their view, gutless Democrats needlessly hand-

ed the Communists an undeserved victory.

It's a proposition that cannot be proven either way, right or wrong. Perhaps another ten or twenty or thirty thousand dead American GIs, and untold billions of American dollars, *would* have brought peace, although Vietnam's two thousand year record of eventually repelling all foreign invaders, at any cost, argues against the theory.

Eventually, of course, America could have imposed a non-Communist peace in Vietnam. We had the technology. But the complete eradication of the Viet-

namese people would have carried with it a substantial loss of American prestige.

When the American experience in Vietnam is brought up these days, as often as not it's to argue that we should stay in Iraq. The *Washington Times*—an influential paper in the nation's capital, despite the bizarre beliefs of its owner, the Korean religious fanatic Sun Myung Moon—published an article to that effect on March 5 headlined “Iraq

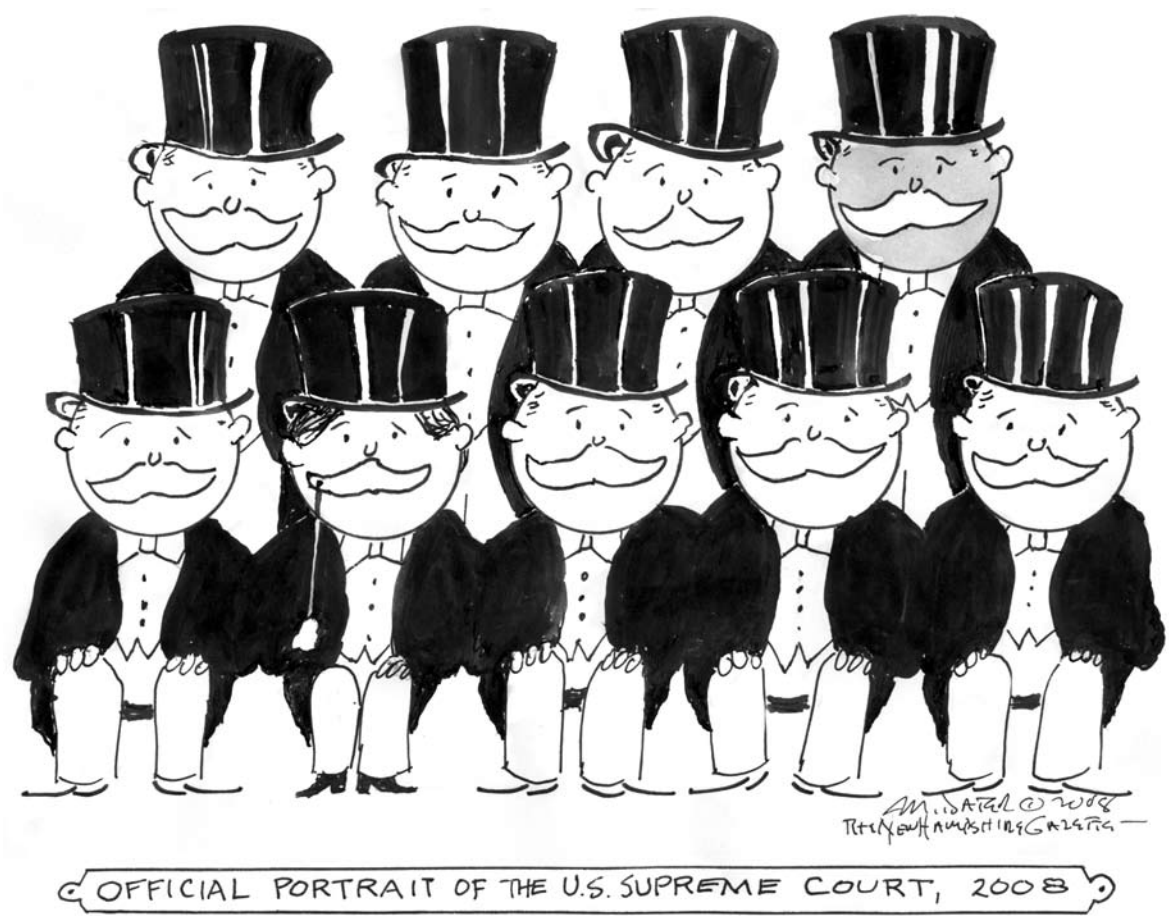
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 Five Years and Bleeding
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Plus 10 Years." Its author, James Lyons, a retired Admiral, said of Iraq that the "surge" had "been a success," and we have "turned an important corner," but "significant work remains to be done."
 "It is immaterial how we got into Iraq," Lyons writes, "What's important is how we leave and when. The worst scenario would be a precipitous withdrawal as we have done in the past. Here, I believe we need to take some lessons from Vietnam and Lebanon. The late Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap who was the leader of the North Vietnam military stated in his memoirs: 'What we still don't understand is why you Americans stopped the bombing of Hanoi. You had us on the ropes. If you had pressed us a little harder, just for another day or two, we were ready to surrender. It was the same at the battles of Tet. You defeated us. We knew it, and we thought you knew it. But we were elated to notice your media were definitely helping us. They were causing more disruption in America than we could in the battlefields. We were ready to surrender. You had won.'"
 Lyons argument would have more weight if it were based on fact, rather than an Internet hoax. It's not just a hoax, it was debunked long ago. It first emerged during the 2004 Presidential election, when it was used to attack the Democratic candidate, John Kerry. The facts are readily available at the authori-

tive hoax-debunking website, snopes.com. Snopes cites Clemson University History Professor Ed Moises, who wrote:
 "Supposedly, General Giap had written in How We Won the War that in the aftermath of the Tet Offensive of 1968, the Communist leaders in Vietnam had been ready to abandon the war, but that a broadcast by Walter Cronkite, declaring the Tet Offensive a Communist victory, persuaded them to change their minds and fight on. This rumor was entirely false. Giap had not mentioned Cronkite, and had not said the Communists had ever considered giving up on the war."
 "Several variants of this rumor appeared in 2004. In these, Giap is supposed to have credited either the American anti-war movement in general, or John Kerry's organization (Vietnam Veterans Against the War) in particular, for persuading the Communist leaders to change their minds and not give up on the war. Giap is sometimes said to have made this statement in How We Won the War, sometimes in an unnamed 1985 memoir. All versions of the rumor are false. Neither in How We Won the War, nor in any other book (the 1985 memoir is entirely imaginary), has Giap mentioned Kerry or Vietnam Veterans Against the War, or said that the Communist leaders had ever considered giving up on the war."
 According to the article, prior to his retirement, among his other assignments, Admiral Lyons was "principal adviser on all Joint Chiefs of Staff matters."
 Perhaps if the Democrats manage once more to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, and John McCain is our next president, he'll find a place in the administration for Admiral Lyons.

The War

The war in Iraq is going splendidly, according to George W. Bush, Dick "Dick" Cheney, John McCain, and a few other as-yet-unrestrained nut cases in high



governmental positions. Other than Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and Ann Coulter, the rest of the world seems unconvinced.
 Early this past fortnight the Associated Press reported that the defense contractor KBR—at the time still a part of "Dick" Cheney's old outfit, Halliburton—had supplied discolored, vile-smelling water to U.S. troops in Iraq. Dozens of them subsequently "experienced skin abscesses, cellulitis, skin infections, diarrhea and other illnesses."
 Documents from an internal Army investigation show that top officers, including General David Petraeus, were aware of the problem early in 2004, but it was not corrected until late 2006.
 KBR "took exception to many of the inspector general's assertions," according to the AP story, but apparently failed to disprove any of them.
 The water in question was not intended for human consump-

tion, but was used for for laundering clothes, general cleaning, and showers.
 At least when the soldiers got out of the showers, they could dry off in style. A KBR whistleblower told a Senate committee last week that his supervisor had nixed a purchase of plain white towels, and insisted on buying towels embroidered with the KBR logo. The cost will be three or four times as high, he objected. Don't worry, his supervisor replied—it's a cost plus contract, the Pentagon will pay it.
 "Will Work for Bombs"
 Signs of looming recession are everywhere, even in the military. Admiral Fallon, the former Commander in Chief of CENTCOM, is out of a job.
 Lo, how the mighty are fallen: Fallon had been in charge of waging two wars, in Afghanistan and Iraq, but he was persuaded to fall on his sword after carelessly telling Esquire magazine that a third war, against Iran, was prob-

ably not a good idea.
 Apparently the Admiral is not too old to learn—rather than speaking the truth and saying his boss was a fool, he merely said his resignation was due to a "perception of differences."
 So much for the Bush administration's stated policy of taking its guidance from the top-ranking officers in the field.
 General Petraeus, meanwhile, had better heed the fate of Admiral Fallon—he could be replaced, too. Petraeus seemed to be straying into forbidden territory when he told the Washington Post last week that Iraqi leaders are failing to make political progress during the hard-won period of reduced violence wrought by "the surge."
 It's Nice At the Top
 In Fantasyland
 None of these issues seem to be troubling the man who set the mess in motion.
 President George W. Bush took time recently to meet in the



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LATE NIGHT MENU TUES-SAT



The Flag Police have recently suffered a relapse. Prone as they always have been to fits of self-doubt and spells of existential uncertainty, the sight of this tattered banner flying over a State Street financial institution put them right into what the boys at the sawmill used to call a high-speed wobble. It wasn't the shock of seeing Old Glory up there tearing itself apart in the March breezes, like some hard-working old duffer plugging away long past retirement age, just to fill the tank of his pickup truck; they're pretty well hardened to that sort of thing. What stung was the realization that they had busted the very same institution more than two months earlier (December 28, to be precise) to no apparent effect.

Oval Office with some of our local "Pease Greeters," who welcome home returning service members. One greeter, quoted in the Award-Winning Local Daily, said that "Bush was joking around with them, that the mood was very light. 'He was cutting up, I'll tell you.'"

In one of the most poignant incidents yet of weirdly inappropriate behavior from a member of the Bush family, Reuters reported last week that during a videoconference with American troops in Afghanistan, Bush told the GIs that he was "a little envious."

"If I were slightly younger and not employed here," he said from the safety of the Oval Office, "I think it would be a fantastic experience to be on the front lines of helping this young democracy succeed."

If only he had not been AWOL,

perhaps South Vietnam would be a capitalist paradise today.

"It must be exciting for you," the Leader of the Free World babbled on, "in some ways romantic, in some ways, you know, confronting danger."

Sadly, Reuters did not report on the reaction of the GIs to sight of their Commander in Chief pining for the battlefields of Afghanistan.

The One-Man Depression

Bush may not be depressed, but the rest of the country is—thanks in no small measure to the tripling of the price of a barrel of oil during his maladministration.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported on February 29 that "the dollar sank to a new record low against the euro, deepening a six-year slide in which it has fallen more than 40% versus the European currency and more than

20% against a broader basket of currencies."

Dumb and Dumber

Speaking of wrecking things, the *Boston Globe* revealed last week that, "[a]lmost 32 years to the day" after his predecessor Gerald Ford created an Intelligence Oversight Board to "ferret out illegal spying activities" Mr. Bush gutted it with an Executive Order.

The Board, for example, used to have the duty and the authority to recommend questionable activities by intelligence agencies to the Attorney General.

Now they are restricted to notifying the president. Right. *He'll* get to the bottom of it.

And Dumber Still ...

Wrapping up our alleged coverage of our ongoing national catastrophe, we note that on March 8, Corpwatch.com reported that the Carlyle Group was lining itself up to buy Booz Allen Hamilton, "one of the biggest suppliers of technology and personnel to the U.S. government's spy agencies," for about \$2 billion.

The Carlyle Group is an investment company with approximately \$80 billion in assets. The

upper tiers of its management are thoroughly infested with names familiar from various Bush administrations such as James A. Baker III, Frank Carlucci, Richard Darman.

This proposed acquisition may have run into a snag, though. Last week Carlyle Capital failed to meet a margin call and defaulted on a \$16 billion debt.

Nottingham Votes "Yes" On Water Article

At Town Meeting last Saturday, Nottingham voted on a proposed Water Rights and Local Self-Government Ordinance. We called Gail Mills to find out how it went. Some days, putting this paper together is almost more fun than we can stand.

As C.W. Wolff reported for us in our February 8 paper, the ordinance doesn't just prohibit water companies like USA Springs from exporting the town's water for a profit. It "challenges corporate power, redefines home rule and asserts that the natural environment has rights."

"We believe," the ordinance states, "that the corporatization of water supplies would constitute tyranny and usurpation; and

that we are therefore duty bound, under the New Hampshire Constitution, to oppose such tyranny and usurpation."

Nottingham does Town Meeting the old-fashioned way: they start at 9:00 a.m. on a Saturday—March 15, this year—and keep on going 'til they're done.

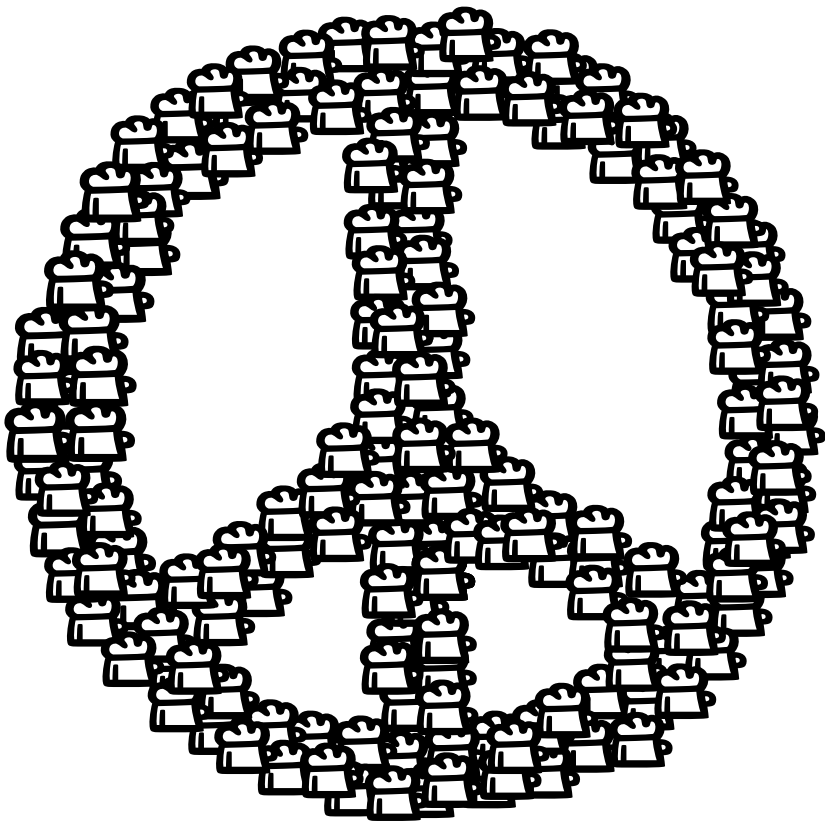
The water ordinance was the first item on the agenda. Advocates for it gave a 45 minute presentation, then the debate began. As one might expect, discussion was lively. Both sides of the issue were represented. When the article was put to a vote, the people of Nottingham voted 173 to 111 in favor of adopting the new ordinance. But the excitement wasn't over.

There were 23 articles on the warrant, so the meeting kept going well into the afternoon. As various items of business were dealt with, people drifted off. By 5:30, the crowd was down to a third of what it had been earlier.

Then came a challenge from the floor: a motion to reconsider. If it passed, the earlier vote

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"WHEN THE POWER OF LOVE OVERCOMES THE LOVE OF POWER,
THE WORLD WILL FINALLY KNOW PEACE." -- JIMI HENDRIX



Moving Pictures

The King is The Thing

by Rodman Philbrick

Just so you know, the idea of royal misbehavior didn't start with Prince Charles pondering the life of a tampon. His ancestors have always been more naughty than nice, and their antics have inspired books by the acre, all but one of the history plays of Shakespeare, and hundreds of movies, the latest of which is in theaters as we speak. *The Other Boleyn Girl*, starring Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson as the high-born sisters offered up to a king, is in a long tradition of flicks about Henry VIII and his many wives and mistresses.

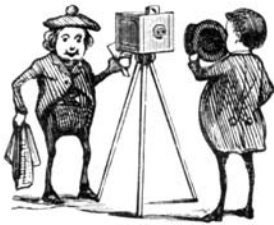
Talking pictures were only six years old when legendary filmmaker Alexander Korda scored a lavishly produced hit with *The Private Life of Henry VIII*. The great Charles Laughton soaks up all the heat and light as the pouty king who would kill—

and does, repeatedly—for a son. Merle Oberon plays the ill-fated Anne Boleyn, whose daughter by Henry (Elizabeth) eventually becomes, arguably, Britain's greatest monarch, but chop-happy Henry just didn't get it, gender-wise. Laughton is fabulous, of course, and you won't begrudge him all the scenery he chews, especially when he's bedding the young, pre-*Bride of Frankenstein* Elsa Lancaster.

A Man For All Seasons still stands as one of the best of the Henry films, with Paul Scofield in the title role as Sir Thomas More, who started all the trouble when he refused to sanction the bad-boy king's break with the Catholic Church. Most people put a dollar on the collection plate—Sir Thomas More willingly put his head. Based on the play by Robert Bolt, who also wrote the screenplay and won an Oscar for it. Sumptuously filmed and produced, with a well-deserved

Oscar-winning performance by Scofield, and rip-snortingly good turns by Robert Shaw as the fiesty king, Leo McKern as Thomas Cromwell, and Orson Welles as the odious Cardinal Wolsey. A young John Hurt plays the deliciously named Richard Rich, twenty-nine-year old Vanessa Redgrave is Anne Boleyn, and her brother Corin has a few scenes before going on to establish his own dynasty as a producer of future Redgraves.

While we're on the subject of successful, non-Shakespearean Henry plays, *Anne of A Thousand Days* is surely the best of the dramas that focus on the doomed Boleyn girl. The screen adaptation of the Maxwell Anderson play still rocks, with Oscar-nominated Genevieve Bujold as Anne, battling and bedding Richard Burton's rapacious Henry VIII.



Just one of the many great lines is spoken by John Colicos (*Star Trek's* first-ever Klingon), as he advises the king on how to get rid of his current wife: "We used the incest excuse last time. We can't make a habit of it."

Ray Winstone has played many a heavy, but none quite so murderous as his version of *Henry VIII*, for a two-part BBC production. This has a great tagline: "Heads will roll." and the usual twitchy-witchy performance by Helena Bonham Carter as Anne Boleyn, or is she Ophelia? Doesn't matter, she's got enough energy to light up an entire asylum. Joss Ackland plays dear-old Dad, Henry VII, and Charles Dance is Duke of Earl. Excuse me, Duke of Buckingham, who was kind of a drag, a man without mercy, mercy, mercy. No wait, that

was the 1960's band of the same name. All musical puns aside, it boils down to this: We love ya, Ray, but Burton wins on points, and for getting to speak much better dialogue.

If you haven't already run screaming from the room, this may get your little feet moving. The original mini-series *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* has a running time of nine hours. That's ninety minutes for each wife—longer than some of the marriages lasted. On the upside it features talented English character actors by the ton, including TV staple Keith Michell (who won an Emmy) and it must be said the fellow makes for a very credible Henry VIII. Masterpiece Theater liked it so much the first time they recently produced it again, this time as a docu-drama, complete with a lecturing historian.

That did it. Elvis has finally left the building.

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Live Local!

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would be thrown out, and the article would have to be voted on again, at least seven days later. It's a parliamentary maneuver that inevitably elicits groans from the audience.

"This is not democracy," was heard, and "This is not fair." One man got up and said that he had voted against the article when it first came up, but he was going to vote against reconsideration on principle.

The motion to reconsider was defeated by a vote of 54 to 35.

RPM Challenge
Global Listening Party

Our ink-stained pals over at *The Wire* have just completed

their third annual RPM Challenge: record an entire album (well, a CD) of new music during the month of February. This year, more than 2,400 groups took the challenge, from all around the world, and they have received more than 750 completed CDs.

The Wire will be (virtually) hosting a global listening party at the Music Hall on Friday, March 28, starting at 7 p.m., then fanning out to five simultaneous listening rooms around town for the rest of the evening: The Press Room, The Coat of Arms, RiverRun Bookstore, and The Red Door. The Music Hall upper lobby will also be a listening area.

The public is encouraged to attend. The events are all free, and a great way to be exposed to some local music.

In addition, simultaneous listening parties hosted by local volunteers will be held around the country in Atlanta, the Bay Area, Cleveland, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New York City, and Seattle, and internationally in St. John's, Newfoundland, Toronto, and Edinburgh. There will also be a Virtual Listening Party online at Second Life.

All of 2008's music will be added to *The Wire's* RPM Challenge's incredible online jukebox—one of the largest free jukeboxes of independent music online in the world—at www.rpmchallenge.com/jukebox.

The jukebox currently has "just" the 8,500 songs from the 2007 Challenge. The songs from 2008 and 2006 will be added for

the March 28 event, bringing the total to more than 15,000 songs available for the public to hear online for free!

Calling All
Gundalow Enthusiasts

Our sources tell us that The Gundalow Company will be holding a small celebration to welcome the new season on Thursday, April 3, at the newly-restored Remick Barn, at the Museums of Old York, in York Village. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. Those of a mind to attend are asked to RSVP Barbara Maurer at The Gundalow Company, (603) 433-9505. Sadly, we'll be busy finishing off the next paper. Perhaps a reader will send us a note about the event.

BaileyWorks Art Project

The folks at BaileyWorks—

the world-famous, Portsmouth-based manufacturer of indestructible messenger bags—recently got the crazy idea to take thirteen of their signature "253" messenger bags, and give them to local artists to use as both raw material, and canvas—just to see what would happen. And, as they so often do with crazy ideas, they went ahead and carried it out.

The results will be on display at the ellO Gallery, 110 State St., through the month of April. An opening reception will be held at the gallery, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., on Friday, April 4.

We're proud to say that one of the artists chosen for this project is Megan Stelzer, one of the stalwart volunteers on our Downtown Distribution crew. Congratulations, "Moonbeam."

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Northcountry Chronicle

Restoration

by William Marvel

Our home here on Davis Hill always included at least one tarpaper structure. It was an easy temporary siding, and my father’s economy always leaned toward ephemeral materials. The trouble was that he considered them permanent, or at least failed to rekindle his interest in a project until many years after it had been temporarily completed. Our front porch consisted of an eight-by-twelve tarpaper entry-way from my first year at Pine Tree School until after I left the army, and a somewhat larger tarpaper shed protected the back door and sheltered the woodpile for a dozen years after that.

Indirectly, it was my father’s tolerance for half-finished and extemporized domestic facilities that brought us to this house in the first place. As he began to consider retiring from the navy he started looking for a house

near here, where he had lived as a boy, and the choice came down to two South Conway homes that were both priced well under \$4000. The first was an early 19th-century farmhouse with a barn, 125 acres of land, and no flush toilet, but my mother vetoed it because of the privy. Doubting that my father would ever install a modern bathroom if it didn’t exist when we moved in, she insisted on this 1928 house with a fraction of the acreage.

I therefore grew up with what one of my less fortunate neighbors called an “inside outhouse.” Despite that rural status symbol, however, I considered our situation a step down from the rented village houses and navy officers’ quarters I had known until then, and by the time I reached high school I had grown reluctant to let too many people know exactly where I lived. Tarpaper decorated the front and back of our house, as well as all the dog houses and

the goose shed: only the chickens escaped the Tobacco Road motif, luxuriating in the tongue-and-groove splendor of the original ice house on this place.

The last shantytown addition was the low-slung garage that my father built from scrap lumber. He sank timbers right into the dirt and nailed on ragged boards, sheathing it in tarpaper and roofing it with corrugated steel salvaged from the house next door. He finished it in October of 1962, with me handing him tools and materials. It would, he said, serve the purpose until he could build something more lasting. In fact, it outlasted him.

That garage marked the end of the maintained road when it was first finished, so its dilapidated condition and proximity to the road offended no one. Then our selectmen thought they would do some developers a favor and rebuild the neglected portion of the road. The snow plows that

had been turning around in our driveway all those decades started blowing on through, and it was only a few weeks before one of them knocked out the garage windows with a billow of snow thrown off the wing. Snow piled up against the roadside wall, creating a perennial tilt, and makeshift braces aggravated the overall impression of impermanence.

Nine years after my father’s death I was still using that building, promising (as he had promised) to restore it when I could find the time. I knew that the exceedingly rustic architecture revolted would-be buyers of houselots in this vicinity, so I determined to prop it up for as long as it would last, but this spring it wobbled a little too precariously for my taste. There wasn’t much to be saved from it, and three days with a wrecking bar left most of it lying on next winter’s burn pile.

While digging piers for the

replacement, I discovered that the floor of the old garage had been filled several feet above the original elevation. “Clean fill” must have meant something different in 1962, and just beneath the sand stood an entire cast iron 1890 Crawford Jubilee kitchen range, with doors and temperature gauge only slightly corroded. There it remains, just inside the perimeter of the new garage, waiting to puzzle some amateur archaeologist a century hence.

For roofing I used more of the corrugated steel from my father’s salvage pile. Some of the sheets still bore the penciled name “S. C. Hatch, Conway Centre.” Samuel Hatch owned the next house; he died in 1912, but his used roofing is still stronger than anything made today. It reveals a veneer of rust, but I’m not proud. It will serve the purpose until I can apply something more permanent.

More Hate Mail, &c.

from page seven

torture and murder. I gave that free pass to the military, too, and one to throw people in prison throw away the key so it seems to me the companies that help spies tap into their customers’ private lives should also be immunized. Washington is such a fun place to be especially when I go on a spending spree for the military that takes us for a ride down the slippery slide to insolvency. Whee!

“My man’s John McCain he’s a military hotshot whose job before he got shot down was bombing Vietnam. He’s so gung-ho he won’t stop in Iraq until it’s drained to the very last drop and may have plans to bomb oth-

er lands like Iran and Pakistan. We’re both on a committee where we dance to the tune of the Big Brass Band it’s grand to be close to the military suits that put stars in my eyes and command salutes so I’ll keep on hoppin’ to Maine to campaign and play the odds I’ll get sent again to Washington to be a happy handmaid of the war gods.”

Marjorie Gallace
Camden, ME

It Is Hard Not To Be Inspired
By Senator Obama

To the Editor:

It is hard not to be inspired by Senator Obama, as he is offering this nation a choice between continuing to do the same old thing, the same old way, and continuing to see the same old results and

failures.

Indiana is but one state in a nation of fifty, but is suffering from the same old stuff, the same old way, being lead by a former Washington insider spreading division across this state.

On the local level, Governor Daniels has been a tax and take Governor. Be it business inventory taxes, increase cigarette taxes, leasing out or outright selling assets of Indiana, pushing hard for increased sales taxes, or local increases in income taxes, this Governor (Daniels) has brought to Indiana what Senator Obama is working hard to break.

Senator Obama wants to break, throwaway this learned behavior in favor of promise and hope for the future.

With this nation, this state in

a recession, further taxing of it’s people will only deepen and prolong the road to recovery. As a former lifelong Republican, I would strongly ask that you consider Senator Barack Obama as our next President of the United States, and at the same time retire failures to reform at the Federal, State, and Local levels without regard to political affiliation.

Barry Fox
Elkhart, IN

Barry:
Hey, don’t fight the feeling.
The Editor

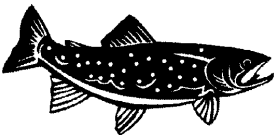
Why Barack Obama and
Not Hillary Clinton?

To the Editor:
Teaching America to fish ... again.

Barack Obama, with his intellectual background, can effectively teach the younger generation to fish with more competitive educational skills in the world market and renew the training skills of the older generation with new ideas for economic revival. Unlike his competitor, who is simply promising people “loaves and fishes,” as well as a potential atomic bomb blast from the Sixties, and other throwback fear mongering.

Unfortunately, the less educated and emotionally driven voters of Ohio fell for it. Nevertheless, while in the process of scurrilous attacks of character, she would do well to admonish herself with the proverb, “beware of casting stones.”

Bobby Buck



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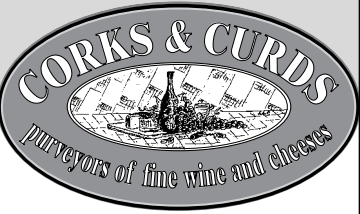
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Broken Arrows Everywhere
Dear Rev. Fowle:
It must have been a real bear of a week back in 1950 for Curtis LaMay the Commanding General of the Strategic Air Command.

Imagine the poor old cigar chewing cold-warrior losing one B-36 off the coast of Vancouver Island on February 13th, and exactly one week later losing another in exactly the same spot.

It makes you wonder if there might be some other explanation?

Interspersed with the stories about raining B-36s off the coast of B.C. I noted with interest your obit-of-sorts for French President Felix Faure. I feel certain you will similarly commemorate the passing of New York's beloved ex-Governor Nelson Rockefeller who died in a somewhat similar position or should that be pose?

Finally, since the damn puppy still isn't housebroken. I have no choice but to re-up for another year.

Bill Miller
Yonkers, NY
Dear Bill:
We doubt that losing two nukes a week apart would have thrown old Curtis off his feed—he was a tough old bird. Now, if they'd both exploded, that might have caught his attention.

Be that as it may, the most likely explanation for the sudden rash of nuclear calamities is probably the ineptitude of your humble corre-

spondent. In fact, according to globalsecurity.com, after the February 13, 1950 incident, there was no other accident involving an American nuclear weapon until April 11—nearly two months later. The remaining accidents involving nukes that year took place on July 13, August 5, and November 10.
As for your snide insinuation about Nelson Rockefeller, we hardly know what to say. Just because the former New York Governor expired in the townhouse of a comely female aide some 44 years his junior, and his corpse was subsequently transported, apparently in a surreptitious manner, to his office at Rockefeller Plaza, is no reason to presume that there was any sort of hanky panky going on.
The Editor

Bushie Brilliance Revealed
To the Editor:
Well they've finally done it. After almost eight years of blunders and failed policies this administration seems to be headed towards saving the Bush legacy with a victory in the fight against illegal immigration. Many believed there was no way to stem the waves of illegal immigrants who for decades have been crashing over our borders. I, for one, feel embarrassed to have missed the clever Strategy of the Bush "War on Illegal Immigration." But, like a chess master, Bush has been making all the right moves.
To put the wheels in motion, Bush and Cheney understood they needed to first spend down the U.S. budgetary surplus inherited from the Clinton administration. With history as their teacher, they realized there is no better or faster way to achieve this then to spend it on a war. Afghanistan provided an opportunistic option.

However, without enough legitimate targets or enough resistance from the local population, a war in Afghanistan would not sustain the required level of

spending to meet their objectives. Quickly the choice was made inside the White House when the dart flying from G.W.'s hand landed on Iraq. With a pledge of no new taxes, normally required to pay for war, and compounded further by actual tax cuts for the wealthy, they rolled into Iraq.
With Shock and Awe—at how much money can be siphoned off to Cheney's friends at Halliburton—the "War on the Budgetary Surplus" has continued for over five years. With Phase One of the plan in motion it was time to launch into Phase Two—Draining the U.S. economy.

To reach this objective, Bush turned to his friends in Saudi Arabia, and to the world's major oil companies. Beginning slowly at first, so as to not tip us off, and now with ever increasing intensity, they have managed to suck the wealth from the country by raising the price of gasoline from the starting point of \$1.45 per gallon in 2001 to what is projected to be \$4.00 per gallon this summer. I can picture them now down at the Crawford Ranch, high-fiving each other with that big ol' "Mission Accomplished" banner waving proudly in the background.

With his plan working so well it's easy to look back at the confusing policies and seemingly bad decisions with new clarity. By spending down the U.S. Treasury, draining the economy and becoming the world's largest debtor, Bush has managed to weaken our U.S. dollar to the point of becoming worthless.

Soon, migrant workers and illegal immigrants will refuse to cross the U.S. border. "You want to pay me in dollars?" they'll protest, "Adios Amigo!" It won't be long now before we can get back to mowing our own lawns, cooking our own food, mopping our own floors and fixing our own cars. Pure genius!
Bill DeCarolis
Eliot, Me

The GI Bill, Then and Now
To the Editor:
The original G.I. Bill is credited for creating the middle class after the Second World War. The bill paid not only the educational costs for all veterans to go to college, but included a stipend for the veteran's cost of living expenses. The current Montgomery G.I. Bill that veterans are eligible for is meant for a peacetime military, not for a military at war. This relic requires that eligible soldiers pay \$100 a month for a year to receive up to \$800 a month towards an education. This payment, known as the "combat tax," does not even go towards the Veterans Administration. Worse, \$800 a month is not enough money for a veteran to go to even a state school due with rising inflation and education costs.

Senator Webb (D-VA) and Senator Hagel (R-NE) have co-sponsored the bipartisan "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act." This revised G.I. Bill is similar to the original. It eliminates the "combat tax," pays the full amount of the education, and offers a cost of living stipend to eligible veterans. All veterans, National Guard and Army Reserves included, that served on active duty after 9/11 would be eligible for benefits proportional to the amount of time they served. For example, if a National Guard soldier served a total of three years on active duty for two tours in Iraq he or she would be eligible for three years of benefits.

The current G.I. Bill is now in committee. I have met with Governor Shaheen and she said she would support the bill as a Senator. I met with the legislative assistant of Senator Sununu who said the Senator is uncommitted at this point. I am calling for both Senator Sununu and Senator Gregg, neither of whom have served in the military, to support

the "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act."
Joshua David Denton
VoteVets.org
New Hampshire State Team Captain
Portsmouth, NH
Joshua:
We suspect that you will not be the only one to be calling on our Senators to support this act.
The way the government lures young people into the military with the promise of an education, then stiffes them if they survive their enlistment, is, hands down, the most odious case of "bait and switch" we have ever seen. If Gregg and Sununu can't see their way to support this bill, they ought to be thrown out of office and have their pensions revoked.
The Editor

Two Books To End The War
To the Editor:
I have two books that I highly recommend.

Tom Hayden has just published a new book, *Ending the War in Iraq*. It has the best critique of both the war and the peace movement that I have seen yet. There is some information you already know, but presented with keen insights born of his lifetime of organizing for peace. There is also some information that you may not know (unless you closely read the alternative media and direct activists' reports), particularly of peace offers made by our "enemies" in Iraq. Tom also presents a concrete strategy by which the peace movement can end the war. Check it out at: akashic-books.com/endingthewar.htm.

The second book I highly recommend is Col. Ann Wright's new book, *Dissent - Voices of Conscience: Government Insiders Speak Out Against the War in Iraq*. The title says it all. She chronicles the personal stories and statements of insiders from high level diplomats to generals to FBI agents to GI resisters. During the Viet-

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nam war, it was mostly the enlisted troops and lower ranked officers who came out publicly against the war. This time it's different. The generals' list alone is astonishing—the list of names of generals who have publicly opposed at least some aspect of the war—is four pages long. The stories of the resisters—of all categories—is awesome in outlining the risks some of them took and the sacrifices they made. Reading this book, one begins to get a small sense of how it was that the 16 intelligence agencies could possibly get together and “suddenly” pull the rug out from under Bush's drive to attack Iran. Check it out at: www.koabooks.com.

Mike Wong
San Francisco, CA

Hillary? No Way

To the Editor:
Being vehemently against Hillary, (or Hillbilly, either one) I feel compelled to answer the last part of Mr. Perry's letter of 3/7/08.

Hillary is basically a Bush clone, and a waffler to the Nth degree. She started her campaign stating it would take seven years to get out of Iraq. She change that to one year. Now its three months. She touts 35 years of experience. She only got out of college in 1975, and at that time she was a Repugnican (sic), so you do the math. She actually did nothing in Ireland, contrary to what she suggests. Reports are that she was just an onlooker, probably because she had a free ride to get there. She touts being on the Armed Forces Committee. Where was she when our troops were sent there with faulty equipment, insufficient protective armor, weapons that did not fire, and insufficient Humvees? She has not yet said anything about the wretched cconditions at Walter Reed, or the reduction of GI benefits, or the poor care

at Walter Reed. I haven't heard anything about the polluted water our troops are getting from KBR, or the radiation disease that our troops are getting from exposure to the radioactive weaponry we have. Russ Feingold and Congressman Murtha have complained, but not Clinton. She is too busy being negative with derogatory remarks. She has supported Bush many times, and now we find her supporting McCain, and making a fiasco of this campaign with racist remarks. Whether or not she will be capable of answering the red phone at midnight will probably depend on whether or not Bill is home, or out looking for Monica. All of the Democratic wannabes would make a better president than Hillary. It takes more than artifical tears to make a president.

If her name is on the ballot for anything I will vote for McCain.
Ed Peltz
Rush, KY

Eliminating the Social Security and Medicare Surplus Debt

To the Editor:

There is method in the Bush/Cheney Imperial madness. They, like the Reagan clones—the present batch of rabid, conservative Republicans—are running our country into bankruptcy so they can cancel the Social Security and Medicare multi-billion dollar surplus debt that they have been stealing ever since they found the key to the SS/Medicare lock box. Yes, stealing. If you think they ever planned to put it back you have not been paying attention.

In the desperate days of a bankruptcy the financial burden of our social entitlements would spell the end of these safety nets that have saved the health and quality of life for our retired senior citizens.

We cannot wait untill January 20th 2009. Call, write or E-Mail your Senators and Representa-

tive and tell them to support the Bush and Cheney Impeachment process now.

Wilbur N. Rhodes
Kittery, ME

Let's Roll Them Bones

To the Editor:

This letter is not necessarily a pro-casino letter. As a matter of fact as a Portsmouth resident I would oppose any proposal to build a casino in Portsmouth? Call me a not in my backyard voter, but I just think Portsmouth is able to grow without a casino. However, maybe there are citizens in our state who want casino gambling in their town? Maybe there are towns like Berlin or Seabrook who would flourish with increased revenue and jobs from casinos?

Most if not all statewide charitable non-profits stand for helping out the needy of our state and many of these excellent organizations are using gambling through Texas hold-em poker nights as a revenue stream. A short list of these groups includes child and family services, police, firemen, church and school organizations all benefiting from gambling dollars. Are these groups being hypocritical by funneling gambling money back to the needy? I don't think so. Gambling is taking place in New Hampshire with or without the presence of casinos. Why shouldn't the state capture some of the money going to Connecticut or the Internet gaming sites?

When are we going to realize people make moral decision based on their own value systems? The state already has horse, dog and lottery gambling. By saying casinos will cultivate an environment for problem gambling is like saying by eliminating all “hard” liquor and only selling wine at our state run liquor stores we will eliminate alcoholism. Problem gambling regardless of our state environment

will always exist. It's a disease; the state isn't going to cure lung cancer by eliminating cigarettes and it isn't going to cure a gambling disease by eliminating casinos. Why shouldn't we use some of the casino revenues to expand our support services for those addicted to this disease?

My interest in expanded state gaming is not to fuel gambling vices. My interest is finding a solution to solving some of our state's revenue shortfall. I've heard all the anti-gambling rhetoric. One of which is gambling will breed corruption and crime and harm New Hampshire's quality of life. These statements are easy to make, because it seems logical, but show me some proof. I say our revenue shortfall is harming our quality of life. So how do we address it? Do we raise taxes? Do we implement a sales or income tax? Our one true advantage over all other New England states is our lack of a sales and income tax. If you want to see a spike in corruption and crime, implement a sales or income tax. I'd be willing to suggest that the increase in cases of tax fraud will be far greater than the corruption brought on by casinos. It's just a suggestion like the anti casino lobbyist I don't have the proof.

All I'm asking for is the anti-gambling legislatures to come forward with their revenue shortfall solutions. I've heard your anti-gambling press statements; now I put the onus back on you to show us how you will fund necessary programs now facing cuts. If there is an alternative to casinos I would likely support that alternative. For now we have many nationwide cases of states that have adopted casinos. What has been the effect on these states? Let the citizens of New Hampshire see the data and hear actual accounts from these casino states. Let's devise a plan that adopts the positive and



eliminates the negative decisions these casino states have made. Let's have a forum to educate us, rather than trying to be our moral compass. Let the issue go to the ballot for the voters to decide once and for all.

Wayne Barrows
Portsmouth NH
Wayne:

We think you're dead wrong. This state was a pioneer in leading the rest of the country down the wrong path when it OK'd a lottery more than forty years ago. And your position that it might be fine for Berlin but not for Portsmouth does your argument no good. How to fund state government? A progressive income tax.

The Editor

Song and Dance of Susan Collins

To the Editor:

In a January *Knox County Times* interview Senator Collins said she enjoys her job in Washington and proudly cited her 3,679 roll call votes, without mentioning her notorious ones like the war resolution that let Bush invade Iraq. Her singing self-praises and dancing around her record made me write a rap “Song and Dance of Susan.”

“Hi I'm Susan and I'm groovin' to keep my job and keep hanging out in Washington, where I reformed the intelligence community by giving it immunity for

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page five

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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 23	Monday, March 24	Tuesday, March 25	Wednesday, March 26	Thursday, March 27	Friday, March 28	Saturday, March 29
2006—Adwaita, a giant tortoise alleged to be 250 years old, dies at the Calcutta Zoo. 2004—Before 18 other Congressmen of both parties, in the Dirksen Senate office building, Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) helps place a gold crown on the head of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. 2003—A convoy of the 507th Maintenance Co. gets lost, then ambushed near Nasiriyah; eleven soldiers are KIA, five are wounded, and six taken prisoner. A U.S. missile downs a British fighter jet over Iraq. 1983—Acting president Ronald Reagan, flashing back to his “Brass Bancroft” role in 1940’s film <i>Murder in the Air</i>, proposes a space-based anti-missile system. 1925—The Tennessee legislature bans the teaching of evolution. 1901—Filipino rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo is captured by U.S. troops. The U.S. had earlier backed him in his fight against Spanish colonial powers. 1842—Congressman Joshua R. Giddings is censured by the House of Representatives. He had the audacity to introduce a resolution opposing slavery. 1815—Three months after the signing of the Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812, the American sloop <i>Hornet</i> seizes the British sloop <i>Penguin</i>.	2004—At a black-tie dinner, President Bush cracks up A-list broadcast journalists with gags about “his” failed search for WMDs. Less amused: families of dead GI’s; death toll: 691. 1989—Exxon demonstrates its commitment to the environment in Prince William Sound. 1984—The Baltimore Colts sneak out of town in the wee hours of the morning. 1975—Alex Mitchell, a British bricklayer, dies of laughter while watching BBC’s “The Goodies.” 1971—Operation Lam Son 719, the ARVN invasion of Laos, ends. Huge U.S., VC, and ARVN casualties, but no winners. 1898—Robert Allison becomes the first American to buy an American-built automobile. It’s a Winton. 1834—The Bank of Maryland collapses, the victim of “stupendous fraud;” depositors lose between \$2 and \$3 million. 1832—Mormon prophet Joseph Smith is beaten, tarred, and feathered in Ohio. 1829—In Boston, the eccentric George Francis Train is born. 1788—Rhode Island rejects the proposed Constitution, thanks to boycotting Federalists. 1669—Henry Sherbourne gets a license for Portsmouth’s first tavern, at State and Water streets.	2003—George W. Bush signs an Executive Order giving Dick “Dick” Cheney unprecedented power to classify—or declassify—information. 2003—The top four generals at the Air Force Academy sacked after a massive rape scandal. 1997—Florida’s “Old Sparky” does it again, setting Pedro Medina’s head on fire as it kills him. 1971—Three dairy coops get \$600 million in milk price supports for a \$427,000 “contribution” towards Nixon’s reelection. 1966—Fifteen WWII and Korean War veterans burn their discharge papers in NYC to protest the Vietnam War. 1965—In Montgomery, AL, 25,000 civil rights marchers complete a march from Selma. 1955—The U.S. Customs Service seizes Allen Ginsburg’s “obscene” “Howl.” 1931—In Alabama, the Scottsboro Boys are arrested. 1916—Ishi, the last living native Californian, dies. 1911—The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire kills 146 sweatshop workers. Fire doors were locked to enhance productivity. 1894—“Coxey’s Army” sets out for Washington, DC. 1874—Quintessential Yankee poet Robert Frost is born—in California.	1993—Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev returns to Earth after 300 days in orbit, during which time the country that sent him aloft dissolved. 1984—Once and future U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visits Baghdad where he schmoozes with Iraq’s Foreign Minister and gives him Ronald Reagan’s best wishes. 1982—Ground is broken in Washington, DC for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. 1968—A dozen “Wise Men” visit LBJ and tell him it’s time to get out of Vietnam. 1967—A Love-In is held in Central Park. 1965—Gen. Westmoreland asks for 40,000 more men in ‘Nam. 1920—Carried back up onto the scaffold after the rope breaks, James Johnson tells his executioners in Poplar Bluff, MO, “Hurry up, boys, and get me out of my misery.” 1918—A “Slacker Raid” in Minneapolis rounds up men without draft cards. 1910—Congress bars, among others, paupers and anarchists from immigrating. 1892—Walt Whitman utters his last words, “Hold me up, I want to s_u_t.” 1827—Ludwig von Beethoven begins decomposing.	2003—“Iraq ... can really finance its own reconstruction and relatively soon ... There’s a lot of money to pay for this that doesn’t have to be U.S. taxpayer money,” U.S. Undersecretary for Defense Paul Wolfowitz tells Congress. 1986—Congress slashes welfare; approves \$100 million for drug gang “The Contras.” 1980—A Norwegian oil platform collapses in the North Sea, killing 123. 1977—Two Boeing 747’s collide on the ground in the Canary Islands, killing 580. 1964—The “Good Friday” earthquake and tsunami destroy a large part of Anchorage, Alaska. 1953—The U.S. State Department cleanses its overseas libraries of the works of WWI vet Dashiell Hammett. 1952—Sam Phillips establishes Sun Records in Memphis, TN. 1814—Gen. Andy Jackson leads a massacre at Tohopeka, AL. According to the final tally, accomplished by counting severed noses, the victors killed 557. 1800—Federalist Senators find Philadelphia <i>Aurora</i> editor William Duane in contempt for publishing the truth about them. 1513—Searching for the Fountain of Youth, Ponce de Leon sights Florida—now the land of geriatrics.	2003—“The enemy we’re fighting [in Iraq],” General William S. Wallace admits to the <i>Washington Post</i>, “is different from the one we’d war-gamed against.” 1979—A nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania melts. 1964—Radio Caroline, the first pirate radio station, goes on the air. 1960—Rep. Emmanuel Celler of NY introduces anti-payola bills, and blames payola for the popularity of cacophonous rock ‘n roll among teenagers. 1958—RIP W.C. Handy. 1939—The Spanish Civil War ends as Franco takes Madrid. 1920—On Palm Sunday, 38 tornadoes in 8 states kill 380 people. 1911—Bonnot, the anarchist bandit whose gang was said to be the first to use a getaway car, is caught and killed by police. 1884—In Cincinnati, townspeople unsatisfied with lenient treatment of a confessed murderer torch the courthouse. As the State Militia restores order, 42 die and 128 are injured. 1871—In Paris, the Commune takes over. 193—Didius Julianus becomes Emperor of Rome by outbidding his fellow Praetorians in an auction.	2003—<i>Newsweek</i> publishes a poll saying 74 percent of Americans think the Bush administration has “a well thought-out military plan.” 1992—Presidential candidate Bill Clinton says that in his younger days he smoked marijuana “a time or two,” but “didn’t inhale.” 1973—U.S. forces withdraw from Vietnam. Later designated Vietnam Veterans Day, observance of which has been universally and assiduously avoided. 1972—The EPA lays off enforcement for a lead smelter in Idaho in exchange for a \$100,000 “contribution” to the Nixon reelection campaign. 1971—A court martial elects Lt. W. Calley No. 1 scapegoat for My Lai. For at least 22 murders, Calley gets three years confinement to his apartment. 1960—For reasons which remain unfathomable, France launches a nuclear submarine. 1951—Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are convicted of espionage. 1945—Germany makes one last V-1 attack on England. 1903—A regular wireless news service begins between New York and London. 1847—U.S. troops under Gen. Winfield “Old Fuss & Feathers” Scott take Vera Cruz.
12:53 1:17  7:01 7:13	1:28 1:55  7:39 7:49	2:04 2:33  8:18 8:26	2:41 3:14  8:59 9:05	3:22 3:58  9:43 9:49	4:07 4:49  10:32 10:38	4:59 5:46  11:27 11:34
Sunday, March 30	Monday, March 31	Tuesday, April 1	Wednesday, April 2	Thursday, April 3	Friday, April 4	Saturday, April 5
2003—Donald Rumsfeld claims “we know where” Iraq’s WMDs are. “[I]n the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south, and north somewhat.” 1981—John Hinckley Jr., son of a major supporter of Vice President Bush, fires several shots at President Ronald Reagan. Alexander Haig soon declares he’s in charge. 1975—North Vietnamese forces close in on Saigon. 1972—Hanoi launches the Easter Offensive; the heaviest attack since Tet ‘68 crosses the DMZ. 1965—A Viet Cong car bomb explodes outside the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, killing 22 and injuring 183. 1870—Fifteenth Amendment passes, giving the right to vote regardless of race (not gender). 1869—Emma Goldman is born. 1867—Some damned fool bureaucrat named Seward pays \$7 million dollars of the taxpayers money to Russia for Alaska. 1853—Hyman Lipman patents a pencil with an eraser. 1842—Dr. C.W. Long uses ether as an anesthetic for the first time. 1492—Ferdinand and Isabella expel the Jews from Spain. 1282—Irate with occupying Frenchmen, Sicilians start a six week killing spree.	2004—In Fallujah, four American contractors are ambushed, killed, and displayed from a bridge. 1990—More than 100,000 people gather in London to protest Maggie Thatcher’s Poll Tax. The demonstration morphs into the Battle of Trafalgar Square. 1980—The American banking industry is deregulated, paving the way for a grand looting spree. 1968—Lyndon Johnson, to the surprise and delight of millions who have no inkling of who’s about to replace him, announces he won’t run for re-election. 1966—In New York City, 200,000 gather to protest the Vietnam War. 1951—U.N. troops fight their way back to the 38th parallel in Korea. 1930—Hollywood adopts the “Production Code,” scrubbing all “offensive” content from the movies. 1880—In Wabash, Ind., the first electric street lighting is turned on. 1862—The Battle of Shiloh begins. 1854—Persuaded by Commodore Perry’s cannons, Japan opens two ports to foreign trade. 1774—Britain orders the port of Boston closed.	2003—Bush administration propagandists claim Special Forces have “rescued” PFC Jessica Lynch. 1997—A blizzard dumps 18 inches of snow on Portsmouth. 1976—Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs found Apple Computer. 1968—U.S. Army begins Operation Pegasus to try to reach besieged Marines at Khe Sanh. Two months after the siege is lifted, the base is abandoned. 1966—RIP Flann O’Brien. 1965—LBJ authorizes combat patrols, two more battalions of Marines, and 20,000 more REMF’s for Vietnam. 1954—U.S. H-bombs Bikini. 1954—Ezra Taft Benson, Sec. of Agriculture, fiddles with cheese price supports, handing distributors a \$2.2 million windfall. 1946—In Hilo, Hawaii, a tsunami kills 159 people. 1939—The U.S. government recognizes Francisco Franco’s fascist government of Spain. 1924—Hitler gets five years for the Beer Hall Putsch. 1920—Five duly elected members of the New York legislature are expelled. And why not? They’re only socialists. 1826—Samuel Morey patents an internal combustion engine. 1778—Irish immigrant Oliver Pollock invents the dollar sign.	1992—It is revealed that Secretary of State James Baker III (R.—Bush) made 11 personal trips at the taxpayer’s expense at an average cost of \$33,781.72. 1982—Argentina invades the Falkland Islands. 1969—Chicago riots are quelled by National Guard troops. 1963—Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. leads a voter registration drive in Birmingham. Police Chief “Bull” Connor responds with dogs and fire hoses. 1942—Three soldiers, two black and one white, are shot to death, and five are wounded, near Ft. Dix, New Jersey, in a fight over a telephone. 1932—Charles Lindbergh pays out \$50,000 ransom for his son. 1917—Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R-MA) punches a constituent in the jaw. 1865—Jefferson Davis flees Richmond as Grant takes Petersburg. 1863—In Richmond, women rioting for bread are dispersed at gunpoint. 1834—Birth of Frederick Bartholdi, sculptor of the Statue of Liberty. 1725—Birth of Giovanni Casanova; lover, spy, and librarian. 1250—The Seventh Crusade ends. This one goes to the Muslims.	2004—Asked at a press conference to name his biggest mistake, George W. Bush is unable to answer. 2003—U.S. Marines cross the Tigris River on their way to Baghdad. 1996—Ted “The Unabomber” Kaczynski is arrested in his Montana cabin. 1992—Having recently been outed on any number of grotesque little scams, the Congressional “leadership” announces it’s suddenly opposed to free health care for solons. 1974—Thirteen states are hit by 148 tornadoes, killing 315 people and injuring 5,484. 1966—Three thousand South Vietnamese troops protest against the Ky regime. 1954—In Wisconsin, a strike begins at the Kohler bathroom fixture factory. It lasts six years. 1936—Bruno Hauptmann is electrocuted for the Lindbergh kidnapping. 1910—Mt. McKinley scaled for the first time. 1882—Bob Ford shoots Jesse James for a \$5,000 reward. 1868—In Hawaii, an intrepid soul rides a 50 foot tidal wave. 1860—Pony Express begins operating between St. Joseph, Mo. and Sacramento, Calif. It lasts 27 weeks.	1984—Congress denies funding for the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, leaving President Reagan with no choice but to illegally sell arms to Ayatollah Khomeini. 1975—Operation Babylift begins. Just after the first C-5A leaves the runway at Tan Son Nhut, it crashes into a rice paddy, killing 140 kids and 50 adults. 1968—Martin Luther King Jr. is murdered in Memphis, perhaps by James Earl Ray, perhaps with a little help from shadowy unknown figures. 1967—Martin Luther King preaches against the Vietnam War and calls for common cause between civil rights and antiwar movements. 1933—Navy dirigible <i>Akron II</i> crashes in New Jersey, killing 73. 1914—The unemployed riot in Union Square, NY. 1896—Gold is discovered in the Yukon. 1887—In Argonia, Kansas, Sussanna M. Salter is elected America’s first female mayor. 1877—First home phone installed. 1841—President William Henry Harrison dies of pneumonia after one month in office. 1818—In the interests of good graphic design, Congress limits the number of stripes on the flag to 13.	1962—LBJ crony Billy Sol Estes is indicted for selling fraudulent mortgages on nonexistent fertilizer tanks. 1958—Fidel Castro declares war against Cuban dictator Batista. 1956—A hired thug throws acid and blinds Victor Riesel, New York newspaper columnist and crusader against labor racketeers. 1955—The Farmers Home Administration announces it will issue mortgages to finance home bomb shelters. 1952—Howard Hughes closes down MGM temporarily, because the authors of all eleven stories on his shooting schedule are suspected communists. 1926—H.L. Mencken is arrested in Boston for selling his magazine, <i>American Mercury</i>. 1815—In Java, Tambora volcano explodes with dire consequences. 1800—According to contemporaneous newspaper reports, a luminous flying ship appears over Baton Rouge. 1794—“Be sure you show my head to the mob,” Georges Jacques Danton says to his executioner. “It will be a long time ere they see its like.” 1792—George Washington casts the first veto. 1531—To stop Richard Roose from poisoning archbishops, he is boiled to death.
5:58 6:48  12:26	7:00 7:47  1:26	7:59 8:40  1:36 2:20	8:54 9:28  2:34 3:10	9:45 10:12  3:26 3:56	10:32 10:54  4:15 4:39	11:18 11:37  5:03 5:22



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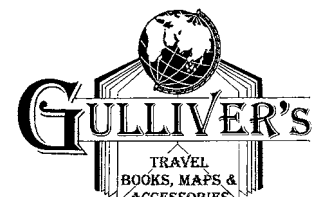
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