

The Fortnightly Rant

Heck of a Legacy, Bushie

Since the person currently taking up space in the Oval Office has publicly denied on numerous occasions that he is concerned about his historical legacy, it is probably safe to assume that he is obsessed with the topic. That would explain why he is doing everything in his power to extend his presidency beyond the next inauguration and make the American occupation of Iraq permanent. After we've turned him out of office, we'll still have something horrible to remember him by.

Reuters news service reported on April 8 that "[a] planned agreement between Washington and Baghdad is expected to rule out permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq and will not tie the next American president's hands." Reuters attributed that assertion to Ryan C. Crocker, the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq.

Crocker had made the "no permanent bases" assertion that very

morning to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Sadly, Reuters failed to report whether the Senators had required Crocker to testify under oath. In passing along his claim at face value, bereft of any bold-faced caveats regarding its truthfulness, the news service played directly into the hands of the administration—as the administration no doubt anticipated that it would.

When it comes to U.S. military bases abroad, Catherine Lutz, a professor of anthropology at Brown University, wrote the book (it's called *The Bases of Empire: The Global Struggle against U.S. Military Posts*). Lutz read Crocker's testimony, and she thinks it's, well, a crock. She told the Institute for Public Accuracy:

"To have Ambassador Crocker or General Petraeus say there will not be 'permanent bases' is entirely misleading. The U.S. government has taken to calling bases it intends



to build and hold for the indefinite future 'enduring bases' or 'cooperative security locations' or other such euphemisms. The Bush administration is attempting to circumvent Congressional Defense bills' provisions by characterizing any Iraq bases as 'temporary' or 'enduring' rather than 'permanent.' The administration appears determined to evade both the intent of the bill barring permanent bases as well as the democratic authority of Congress and the Iraqi Parliament—not its



Cabinet—to approve what is de facto a basing treaty. Maintaining bases in Iraq is also a veiled way to prevent the withdrawal of U.S. forces against the wishes of large and growing majorities in both the United States and Iraq."

Despite this apparent compulsion to permanently mire the U.S. in Iraq, Bush himself seems to feel no great need to involve himself too deeply—he's outsourced his own job as Commander-in-Chief to General Da-

vid Petraeus, the Constitutional stipulations of civilian control of the military be damned.

Bush is essentially a spoiler; a husband who would kill his own wife before he would let another man have her; a child who clings to a toy to prevent another child from playing with it. Determined to dictate U.S. policy in the Middle East for decades to come, he is too lazy to work at it—which may be just as well. The less he does, the better off we'll all be.

News Briefs

"War Horse?" Horse's Ass!

Is Bush an "Old War Horse?"

George W. Bush recently converted a few truckloads of jet fuel into greenhouse gasses so he could visit his old pal, Vladimir "Pooty-Poot" Putin. Bush, or one of his sycophants, characterized the meeting as one between "a couple of old war horses getting ready to retire." Since we only have 277 more days to kick around the worst president in American history, we'll take this opportunity to list a few of the things that are wrong with this "war horse" characterization.

To begin with, Putin isn't retiring, he is consolidating his power. He has parked his protégé Dmitry Medvedev in the Presidency, taken the reins as Prime Minister, and now heads United Russia, the party holding 70 percent of the seats in the Duma.

George Bush, meanwhile, will be going into internal exile in godforsaken Crawford, Texas, where he'll probably be shunned by even his Republican neighbors. Bush will be flailing away at the underbrush—taking honest work away from an undocumented Mexican—while Putin is flying around the world in private jets, negotiating multi-billion-ruble deals for multi-national gas pipelines.

Comparisons to his vastly more competent cohorts aside, the whole topic of horses is one that Bush and his gang ought to assiduously avoid anyway.

Timothy Noah wrote recently for Slate.com about a painting by Western artist W.H.D. Koerner, which Bush had hanging in the Texas governor's office and later in the Oval Office. It depicts a man on horseback, riding up a rough trail with several other riders close behind. The lead rider in the painting resembles Bush, which probably explains his inordinate fondness for it.

Bush has claimed for years that the horseman represents a circuit-riding Methodist preacher. As usual with this guy, the facts are otherwise. Koerner's painting was commissioned to illustrate a short story in the *Saturday Evening Post*; the man Bush resembles is no minister—he's a horse thief.

Furthermore, if you want to qualify as an "old war horse," you get points for having fought in a war first, and extra points if your side won. You lose points for having started a war that other people have to fight, and you lose even more points if that war is unwinnable.

And, finally, has anyone ever seen a photograph of Bush on a horse?

No. Why is that?

Because, as former President of Mexico Vicente Fox so amusingly pointed out in his autobiography, Bush is a "windshield cowboy"—one who travels about his ranch in a pickup truck because he is afraid of horses.

How Un-American Can You Get?

At the age of nineteen, a student at an historically black university was so inspired by the challenge in John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address to "ask what you can do for your country," that he gave up his student deferment and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Two years later he transferred to the Navy and trained to become a corpsman. He excelled in that training and was assigned to the Navy's top hospital at Bethesda, Maryland, where he was part of the team that cared for President Lyndon Johnson after his surgery in 1966.

As Lawrence Korb and Ian Moss point out in a recent column published April 3 in the *Chicago Tribune*, this patriotic young fellow later became a minister in Chicago, and was pastor of Senator Barack Obama's church: Jeremiah Wright.

Reverend Wright has, of course, been denounced by "right-thinking" people across America as a man who hates his country, and his former parishioner has been forced to renounce Wright's criticisms of the country that he served.

McCain's Pastor: More Profit Than Prophet

Late in February, the Pastor of Cornerstone Church in San Antonio endorsed Senator John McCain for President. The endorsement came in response to a request from the candidate, according to news reports. This endorsement is likely to improve McCain's chances in November

of picking up Texas's 34 electoral votes; the Cornerstone Church has 19,000 active members. But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

John C. Hagee, the pastor in question, is also one of America's most popular—and prosperous—televangelists. He can be heard on 160 television stations and fifty radio stations around the country; his preaching is available in some 92 million homes.

Hagee is well paid for his good works. He makes over a million dollars a year, and says "I deserve every dime I'm getting."

That same self-confidence seems to extend to his personal morality. In 1975, he was divorced by his wife of 15 years on grounds of his infidelity. His divorce prompted the Assemblies of God Church that he had founded to defrock him. Hagee is a resilient man, though—he successfully sued his old church for defamation of character, walked away with millions, and built a new church seven miles down the road. For reasons we cannot discern, none of these incidents in Hagee's life seem to give John McCain qualms about his endorsement.

And neither have Hagee's colorful theological views. He has said that God smote New Orleans with Hurricane Katrina because the Crescent City was too accommodating of its homosexual population, and he has referred to Catholicism as a "theology of hate." And just for good measure, he has written that the head of the European Union is the Anti-

Christ. Perhaps the soul of Hagee's allure, in McCain's eyes, is his belief in the need for a pre-emptive military strike against Iran.

Just in case someone might get the crazy idea that the game of politics is played on a level field, Reverend Wright's verbal excesses were used by the media as the foundation for a fortnight of hysteria, while Hagee's rantings have been largely ignored.

McCain Fails to Keep Faith

The Iraq and Afghanistan veterans' organization VoteVets.org presented a petition to Senator John McCain on Monday, signed by 30,000 veterans, asking him to become a co-sponsor of Sen. Jim Webb's "21st Century GI Bill."

ABC News reported the same day that McCain "seemed to give a thumbs down to [the] bipartisan legislation."

"McCain indicated," ABC went on, that "he would offer some sort of alternative to the legislation *to address concerns that expanding the GI Bill could lead more members of the military to get out of the service.*"

According to Webb's office, "under the bill, [The Webb-Hagel "Post-9/11 Veterans' Educational Assistance Act" (S.22 in the Senate, H.R.2702 in the House)] service members returning from Iraq or Afghanistan could earn up to 36 months of benefits, equivalent to four academic years, which would include payment of tuition, books,

News Briefs, Continued
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and fees, as well as a \$1,000 a month living stipend for those veterans whose military service qualifies them for the program.”
 The last time a generation of American veterans received anything like the level of educational benefits provided by Webb’s bill, World War II had just ended. By the time Korean veterans re-



On Sunday evening, our Wandering Photographer drifted westwardly along Hanover Street, little suspecting that it was the 2nd Annual International Sidewalk Astronomy Night. Then he stumbled across Ted Blank and Steve Loring, operating in their capacity as Seacoast Sidewalk Astronomers. The pair had set up two distinctly different telescopes near the entrance to the High/Hanover Parking Garage. One was a large, shiny black Celestron C-9. The other was an

turned, the program’s educational benefit had been deeply cut.
 As Brandon Friedman writes at VetVoice.com, “John McCain wants to ... [move] the goalposts—and [make] life as a civilian so difficult for returning troops that they have no choice but to stay in. The idea being promoted by McCain and the Bush administration is that by making the GI Bill pay out so little—by making it basically useless—the

troops will have no choice but to stay in the military.”
 File under, “Supporting the Troops.”
Hillary’s Other “Family”
 Faith mixed with politics makes for an unsavory cocktail, but we’re not quite through with it yet—the religious practices of the third major Presidential candidate has also raised a few eyebrows.
 As Kathryn Joyce and Jeff Sharlet reported in *Mother Jones* last fall, when Hillary Clinton feels the spirit come upon her, she’s often in unlikely company for a Democrat.
 “When Clinton first came to Washington in 1993,” write Joyce and Sharlet, “one of her first steps was to join a Bible study group. For the next eight years, she regularly met with a Christian ‘cell’ whose members included Susan Baker, wife of Bush consigliere James Baker; Joanne Kemp, wife of conservative icon Jack Kemp; Eileen Bakke, wife of Dennis Bakke, a leader in the anti-union Christian management move-

ment; and Grace Nelson, the wife of Senator Bill Nelson, a conservative Florida Democrat.”
 Hillary’s “cell” is one of many that make up a publicity-shy organization variously known as “The Family,” “The Fellowship,” or “The Fellowship Foundation,” whose reason for being is to infuse American politics with its own particular brand of faith.
 Interviewed by the Guerilla News Network in 2003, Jeff Sharlet, who spent several weeks living with The Family, said, “Their goal is a worldwide invisible organization. That’s their word, and that’s important because it sounds so crazy.”
 “What they mean when they say ‘a world organization led by Christ’ is that literally you just sit there and let Christ tell you what to do. More often than not that leads them to a sort of paternalistic benign fascism. There are a lot of places that they’ve done good things, and that’s important to acknowledge. But that also means they might be involved with General Suharto in Indo-

nesia and if that means that God leads him to kill half a million of his own citizens then, well, it would be prideful to question God leading them.”
 Considering how close-mouthed Hillary has been about The Family, it seems unlikely that her fifteen years of prayer with this bunch have been for show.
Impeachment Bill Tabled
 New Hampshire House Resolution 24, which would have called for the impeachment of the criminal enterprise presently occupying the top slots of the Executive Branch, was tabled on Wednesday by a roll call vote of 227 to 95, after about an hour of debate. According to a comment by Portsmouth Rep. Jim Splaine (D-Portsmouth), 91 of the 95 voting for the resolution were Democrats, while “just over 100 of those voting against” were also Democrats. WMUR’s website reported late Wednesday that as the debate began, “a group of Republicans left the chamber.” Perhaps they went out to the lawn in front of the State House, and

even larger, home-made affair built of plywood and a large-diameter cardboard tube. The Celestron was aimed at Saturn, and gave a thrillingly crisp, clear view of the planet in all its ringed glory. The home-made rig provided an equally impressive view of the Moon. Pointed at the limb, the line dividing day from night, the ‘scope showed jagged mountains in bold relief. From Ted’s Astro Blog, at at beachastro.blogspot.com, we later learned that “about 75 people stopped by, including several families with kids,” and that the “sharpest-eyed observer was a Portsmouth policeman who spotted four of Saturn’s moons and may have seen a fifth.”





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buried their heads in the dirt.
General Giap: Still Not Dead
We noted in our March 21 paper that the *Washington Times*, in a piece by Admiral James Lyons, had fallen for an urban legend in which “the late” General Vo Nguyen Giap is supposed to have said that the North Vietnamese had been on the verge of surrender, but rallied due to anti-war demonstrations in the U.S. At the time, our alleged editor failed to note that the supposed death of General Giap was being greatly exaggerated by the *Times*.

Paul Nichols, of Loudon, one of our most faithful readers, wrote, “I’ve searched the Internet and can’t find any reference to Giap’s death—his birth date and tons of info about his astounding military successes is prevalent, but no date of death. Hence, I think the good general is still quite alive and sound of mind and spirit. From what I can see, Admiral Lyons is wrong, most likely about everything he’s ever thought, dreamed and uttered!”

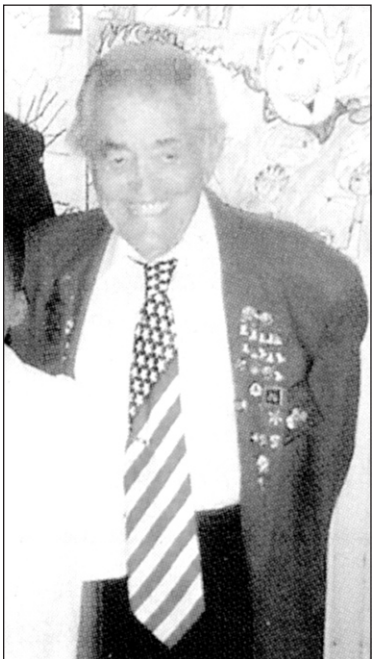
To which Jean Stimmell, of Northwood, an equally esteemed reader of long standing, replied, “[o]ne of the reasons that it is difficult to find anything about

Giap is that half the Google entries are planted lies.”
“Continuing to look around on the Internet, I found another reason we don’t hear much about the general: Apparently, after the Vietnam War, the Communist Party wanted to take all the credit for winning the war. General Giap was marginalized and pushed to one side because he was first and foremost a nationalist. Hence not much was written about him. Finally I hit the mother lode ... an interview with General Giap, who is still alive and in good health, [having celebrated] his 95th birthday in August of 2006: www.guardian.co.uk/world/2006/aug/25/1.

“As the Black Panthers like to say, ‘Power To The People.’”
Note: Anyone disturbed by the respect shown above for Gen. Giap, might bear in mind that to have a great enemy is no disgrace; on the contrary, it does a man honor.

The Persevering Flag Police
Our friend Jim Kilcoyne writes, “*Elks Magazine* always holds a rich store of Flag Code violations. These [five photos clipped] from the 4/08 issue, are typical. Since many Elks are

veterans, you’d think they would know better.”



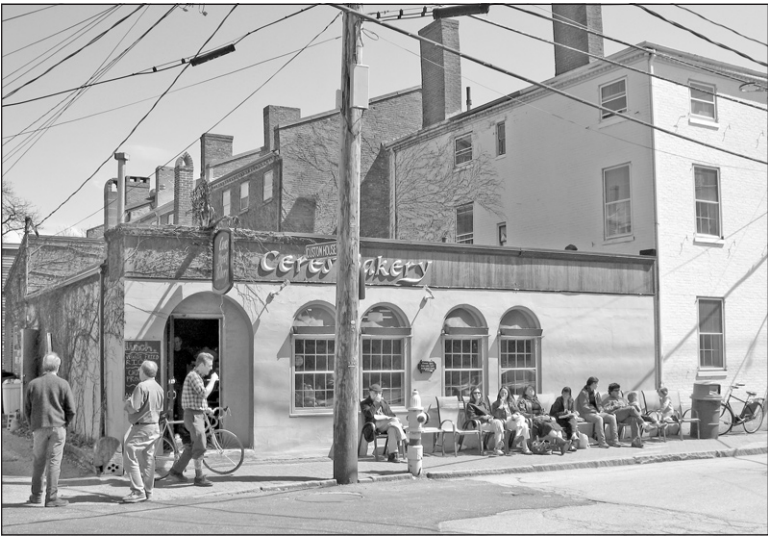
You would indeed, Jim, but the five photos you sent provide a dismaying quantity of evidence to the contrary. The photos depict eleven people, ten of them male. Of the males, seven wear neckties. Of the seven ties, three—42 percent—are of the identical grotesque pattern shown above.

One other tie is also flag-derived, but of a different pattern. Another gentleman wears a flag-patterned polo shirt; one photo shows a woman holding a cake with flag-themed icing.
As for the grinning, demented gent shown above, we note that in addition to the flag tie, he is also wearing approximately 27 small shiny objects pinned to his jacket. He looks like a well-“flaired” *maitre d’* at “Chotchkies,” (sic) in the movie *Office Space*.

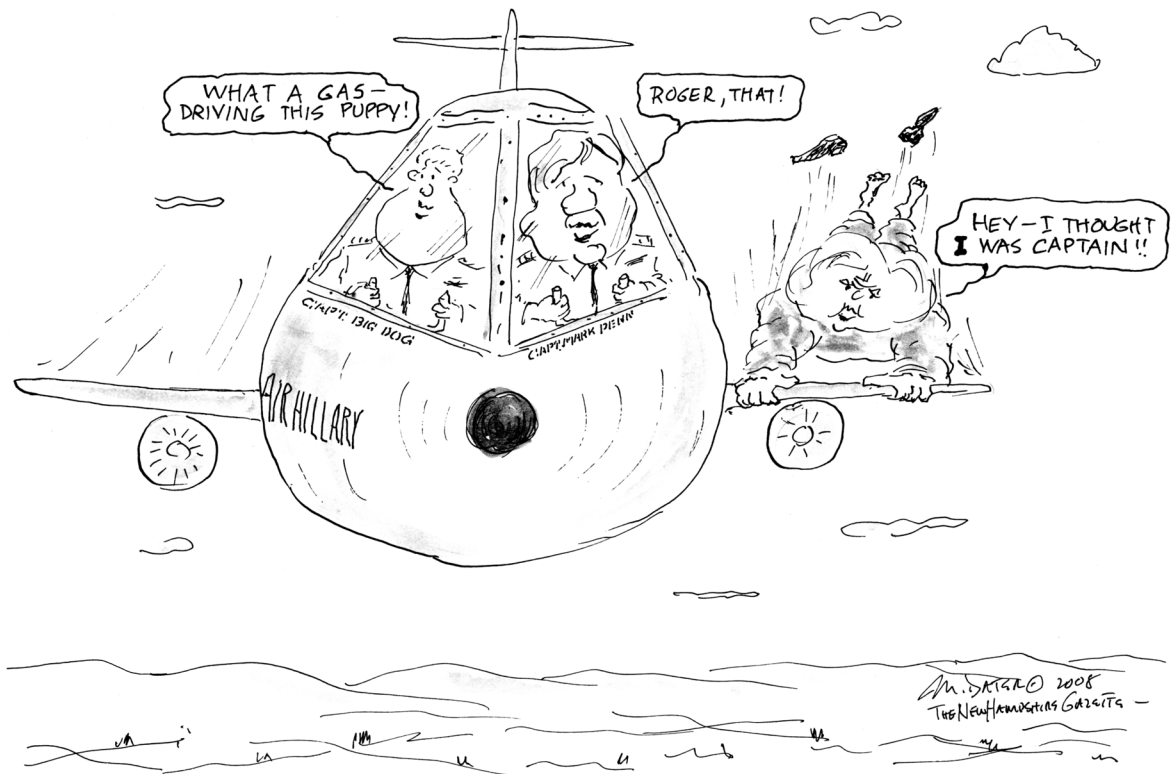
Robinson to Speak on Strawberry Banke
As part of the Old Berwick Historical Society’s 2008 series of talks, walks, and historical events, J. Dennis Robinson, erstwhile History Writer for this paper, will tell the real story of the creation of Strawberry Banke Museum at Berwick Academy next Thursday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. Local legend has long held that the Strawberry Banke Museum began when Portsmouth librarian Dorothy Vaughan gave a rousing speech to Portsmouth Rotarians in 1957. The real story is much more complex, and includes a

rich cast of characters. Mr. Robinson is the author of the recently published *Strawberry Banke: A Seaport Museum 400 Years in the Making*, which New Hampshire filmmaker Ken Burns has called “an important book about one of the best history museums in the country.” For more information call the Old Berwick Historical Society at (207) 384-0000, or e-mail info@obhs.net.

Bloody Murder at the Athenæum
Elizabeth De Wolfe will talk about her book, *The Murder of Mary Bean*, at the Portsmouth Athenæum on May 8. This is the tragic story of the 1850 murder of a Saco Island factory girl, which was—gasp!—sensationalized in the pulp press of the time. De Wolfe uncovered the poor girl’s true identity—she was Berengera Caswell, a Canadian immigrant—and deciphered the sad series of events that led to her death. She also discovered connections to an earlier murder in Manchester. The event begins at 7 p.m. in the Research Library; call 431-2538 for reservations.



On Thursday afternoon, April 10, everyone who could was getting out on the sidewalk to bask. The temperature was in the high 60s, the winds were light, and the sun was bright—the nicest weather we’ve seen in at least six months. The next day wasn’t quite so nice, and by the weekend, things were back to normal.



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



Northcountry Chronicle

Remember the Maine

by William Marvel

My father spent the second half of his naval career in the submarine service, so from toddlery until early brathood I lived in Key West, Florida. Half a century before, the citizens of Key West had commissioned a granite monument to the sailors lost on the *U.S.S. Maine*. Key West took a special interest in the *Maine*, probably because it was the nearest naval station to Havana, where that ship exploded and sank: while we were there we lived in Sigsbee Park, named after Charles Sigsbee, who commanded the *Maine* the night it was destroyed.

For two solid centuries the navies of the world seemed to exist primarily for the purpose of provoking international incidents, and ours was no exception. From the campaign against the Barbary pirates and the British impressment of merchant sailors to the Gulf of Tonkin and the attack on the *U.S.S. Cole*, all of our major wars from 1800 to 1999 were driven, directly or indirectly, by tensions involving confrontations at sea. Often those tensions were deliberately orchestrated to provide excuses for wars that most of the public would otherwise have opposed.

By 1898 Cuban peasants had already been fighting against Spanish domination for several years. American imperialists tried to use that courageous peasant resistance, as well as imaginative tales of Spanish insults to American tourists, to enlist sympathy for a war of “liberation.” To his credit, President William McKinley tried to influence Spanish policies through diplomatic pressure, rather than hostile threats, and his greatest mistake was probably sending the battleship *Maine* to Havana as a hint of American military might.

On February 15, 1898, the *Maine* exploded with a tremendous roar that killed most of the crew and left only the mainmast sticking out of the water. American warmongers insisted that it had been sunk by a mine, and a hasty investigation by the U.S. Navy agreed, although Spanish investigators concluded that the explosion had been internal. Jingoistic American newspapers harped so persistently on the *Maine* as a victim of Spanish treachery that the public came to believe it, and on April 25, 1898—exactly eleven decades ago—the Spanish-American War officially began. It was over by the end of summer.

In 1976 Admiral Hyman Rickover chaired a commission that confirmed the Spanish conclusions of 1898—that the *Maine* had, in all likelihood, exploded from within. The *Maine* harbored a fatal design flaw: the coal bunker lay right beside the magazines. Spontaneous combustion in the coal bunkers had been a problem since the Civil War, and it had been reported as especially dangerous in *Maine*-class battleships, where undetected fires could ignite tons of gunpowder. Stubborn advocates for the external-mine theory still point to a single strip of the hull that was curled inward, instead of outward, probably from the pressure of sea water rushing back into the cavity; they cannot explain who would have had both the motive and the resources to place a mine so perfectly beneath the ship, or how it could have been done at all, given the sharp watch kept on board.

The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that we made war on Spain on misinformation exploited by American imperialists. The phantom mine was the 1898 equivalent to the “weapons of mass destruction” that brought George Bush visions of a “mushroom cloud” in 2003. The main difference was that Wil-



Half of a stereoview showing the mast of the U.S.S. Maine, casus belli of the Spanish-American War, jutting from the waters of Havana Harbor.

liam McKinley actually believed in the mine, but would have preferred peace, while George Bush knew better about the weapons of mass destruction, but bent every effort toward war.

Our aggression in 1898 did not go unpunished. For spoil we took Spain’s Pacific possessions, including the Philippines, where our “liberation” continued for years and involved the killing of a couple of hundred thousand independence-minded Filipinos. Such distant territories required a mid-Pacific seaport, so in the

summer of 1898 we formalized our theft of Hawaii. Those Pacific ambitions roused the apprehension of Japan, so the real fruits of Dewey’s victory at Manila Bay were the disasters at Pearl Harbor and Corregidor—plus a much more deadly war.

One wonders what unforeseen retribution our latest unseemly frolic will bring. “Remember the *Maine*” was coined as a battle cry, but as scoundrels in power find more excuses for war it seems more appropriate as an appeal to sanity.

“Better Old News, Than New Lies”

Vintage News

Politics in Nevada

A Nevada politician was elected on the merits of one single speech. All he said was: “Fellow countrymen, follow me to yonder saloon!”—*Detroit Free Press*.

A Manchester Newspaper

Plin White, the million dollar forger and swindler, was for-

merly a resident of Manchester, and about 1841 was connected with the Manchester *Gleaner*, a scurrilous sheet which published numerous libellous articles, and White was arrested for having a hand in writing them, and lodged in Amherst jail, where he remained about six weeks. At the close of his confinement, a large number of Manchester men es-

corted him home in a barouche, drawn by four horses, and bells were rung and cannons fired in honor of his release.

How Edison Got Fired

Edison, the inventor of the phonograph, was formerly a telegraphy operator in Boston, where he is said to have played an ingenious trick, which cost him his place. It was the rule for each night operator to telegraph to headquarters every half hour

the number “6” and the name of the office, to demonstrate that he was wide awake. Edison contrived a machine which would, at regular intervals of half an hour, salute the central office without waking him up, if he chose to sleep. He sold them to other operators, and was discovered, and “dismissed the service.”

Via the Slow Boat

A young man of Machais, Me., who was in Hong Kong

last winter, on the eighteenth day of February folded two sheets of letter paper in the form of a letter, wrote “April Fool” on the one and enclosed it in an envelope, and directed it to a young lady at home. It came safe via San Francisco, and on the morning of April 1st, the young lady took the letter from the office in Machias.

—*The New Hampshire Gazette, Thurs., April 18, 1878*

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Moving Pictures

Jules Dassin

by Rodman Philbrick

Jules Dassin passed away a few weeks ago, at the age of 96. Although he survived well into the 21st, Dassin was the quintessential 20th Century man. As a child growing up in Harlem—then a mostly Jewish neighborhood—he witnessed the enthusiastic American doughboys marching off to the gas-filled trenches of what was then known as The Great War. The less enthusiastic survivors, newly introduced to the cruel ironies of war, set the tone for the 20’s and early 30’s, when Dassin came of age.

During the Great Depression the young Yiddish theater actor joined the Communist Party, in support of a new, radical politics that would somehow eradicate the grinding poverty he had witnessed in Harlem. It was a gesture that would come back to haunt him, although he resigned in protest from the American Communist Party in 1939 when Stalin got jiggy with Hitler. By then young Mr. Dassin had pretty much given up acting and secured a position as an assistant to his film-making hero, Alfred Hitchcock. Considered brilliant

by his mentor, Dassin was soon helming films of his own. His first credited work is a twenty-minute piece called *The Tell-Tale Heart*, a crime noir classic based on the story by Edgar Allen Poe, released in 1941.

Nazi Agent, released in 1942, is the dark tale of a pair of twins—one an enthusiastic Nazi, the other a patriotic American. Conrad Veidt plays both roles, and clearly had more fun as the evil Nazi who forces his brother to spy for him—until the good brother turns the tables, impersonates the bad brother, and eventually triumphs. Not a great film, perhaps, but it manages to convey Dassin’s unique cinematic style—think of it as Hitchcock with the sly removed, and more shadows—and his instinct to convey as much as possible visually.

After a couple of forgettable formula pictures, Dassin was hired to take over a movie-in-progress called *The Canterville Ghost*, rather vaguely based on a story by Oscar Wilde. It was not a project Dassin would likely have selected or developed on his own, but it remains a little gem of a comedy, starring the great Charles Laughton as the ghost

of a cowardly knight who has stained the family honor and is therefore doomed to haunt Canterville castle. Robert Young plays the American descendant of the Cantervilles—and he just happens to be stationed with his troops at the castle when an opportunity presents itself for a ghostly redemption. Margaret O’Brien plays Lady Canterville and the very young Peter Lawford has a minor role. At least six versions of the tale have been filmed, but the original remains (by far) the best.

After World War II, and just before he was blacklisted by testimony given to the House Un-American Activities Committee, Dassin completed the three films that would secure him a place in film history as one of the innovators of the new “noir” style.

Brute Force stars the young Burt Lancaster as a prisoner plotting to escape from a brutal prison overseen by the evil warden (Hume Cronyn). Filming a couple of years before *White Heat*, Dassin takes the side of the convicts, telling their personal stories on a series of not-always

effective flashbacks. Lancaster is terrific, and basically came back to the role decades later in *The Bird Man of Alcatraz*, but in *Brute Force* he’s all snarling cause-and-effect. Worth seeing just to glimpse Hume Cronyn as an evil, machine-gun-wielding sadist.

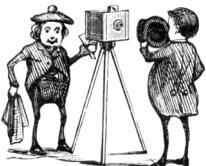
The Naked City was filmed in an innovative, semi-documentary style (influenced by local legend Louis DeRochmont) that fathered a thousand TV cop shows like the offshoot *Naked City*, and especially *Law & Order* and all its progeny. A cop (Barry Fitzgerald), a naked model drowned in a bathtub, an Ivy League weasel (Howard Duff), and the seven million inhabitants of New York City. Gritty, dark, and teeming with life.

In *Night And The City*, Dassin took his cast and script to London, temporarily out of the reach of the blacklist. Stylistically this may be Dassin’s shadowy masterpiece. It chronicles the last desperate days of Harry Fabian (Richard Widmark) a self-deluded hustler convinced he can make everything right if only he can promote a fight with a famous

wrestler. Working on nothing more than nicotine, caffeine, and a desperate desire to live, Widmark’s character will fail on every level, and along the way he’ll etch himself into your brain.

More or less banished to Europe for the duration of the 1950s, Jules Dassin continued to innovate, creating the modern heist flick in *Riffifi* (later remade in English as *Topkapi*) which contains one of the most famous sequences in the history of film: thirty minutes of near-silent tension as the international team of burglars breaks into a fancy jewelry store. Every tick-tock heist film since pays homage, right up through *Oceans Nineteen*.

The exiled Mr. Dassin settled down in Europe and had himself a life. Married actress Melina Mercouri, directed her in *Never On Sunday*. They remained married until her death in 1994. In his later years, Dassin schemed a real-life heist—returning the Elgin marbles to Greece. At the moment the famous Greek sculptures remain in the British Museum, but if you awake some day to hear that they’ve mysteriously vanished, blame it on Jules Dassin.



More Hate Mail, &c.

from page seven

ence including our State Forester, Phil Bryce, who ended the conference by informing us that another study is under way and he hoped to have it sometime this fall to determine how much wood is available! It is my opinion that we should have been talking about “Market Availability,” or the lack thereof. We know the wood fiber is there: two pulp mills closed in the last year and a half that were using up to 1.3

million tons of wood fiber per year. Forest landowners are unwilling to give their wood away; all we need is to have markets that pay everyone in the forest food chain their fair share and you will see plenty of wood available. Also, let’s not forget that New Hampshire is the second most heavily forested state in the nation. Maine is first, and Vermont is third, all within an acceptable haul radius of northern New Hampshire.

Action is needed now; those of us in the working forest commu-

nity are all in this boat together and what we need is a captain with leadership to steer us out of these troubled waters, before it’s too late.

We all have been hit hard by the energy crisis, but with this crisis brings great opportunities for our state and the forest community by using low grade forest products (our natural renewable resource) that can be used in a sustainable manner to produce a significant per cent of our energy needs (a few examples would be electricity, wood-pellets, ethanol, heating schools and state build-

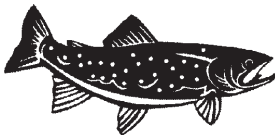
ings) here in New Hampshire and provide thousands of jobs and keep our energy dollars here at home, circulating within our local communities. I believe this can be done while at the same time maintaining our present forest infrastructure, from our loggers to our saw mills, if we act now. I call on Governor Lynch and all other elected or appointed state officials to become fully engaged in this important issue; we have reached a crisis in New Hampshire’s working forest and we need to act now or our timber

industry—which is New Hampshire’s oldest, largest continuous industry—will be gone!

Tom Thomson
Orford, NH
Tom:

We are acquaintanced with the state’s timber industry, having worked in a sawmill, and bought and sold locally-cut hardwood lumber to woodworkers. We share your alarm at the industry’s current state, and its prospects. “So-called environmentalists” are less of a threat to it than Bush-inflated fuel prices.

The Editor



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The Surge Is No Success

To the Editor:

General David Petraeus testified earlier this week to Congress that the troop surge in Iraq has been a success. I owe my life to the troop surge. But one American life is not worth ten others.

Political progress by the Iraqi government, not hard fought military gains by our soldiers, is the only benchmark to measure the success of the surge. The recent uprising in Basra by the Mahdi Militia is a testament to the truth that the surge has been a failure.

There are currently 20 combat brigades serving in Iraq and that number will be reduced to the pre-surge level of 15 combat brigades. This reduction is not a reflection of the success of the surge, but of the simple reality that the military is on the verge of breaking. The only way to sustain the current level of combat brigades in Iraq is by a draft.

In the fall of 2006 I was serving as a combat advisor to an Iraqi infantry battalion. Our battalion had deployed to Baghdad in response to the sectarian violence that had spiraled out of control after the Samarra mosque bombings that previous spring. The deployment of my battalion to Baghdad was part of Operation Together Forward. Operation Together Forward was the administration's previous failed strategy that was accompanied by the famous utterance "as Iraq is stand up, we will stand down."

My advisor team members were the only Americans in the neighborhoods of Shaab and Ur, in the Adimiyah district of Baghdad. Shaab and Ur had become a virtual annex to Sadr City, with the population of Sunnis having dropped from forty percent to twenty due to the daily kidnappings and murders committed by the Mahdi Militia. Ninety percent of the Iraqi battalion we were advising were more loyal to the Mahdi Militia than to the Iraqi government. We were fortunate on days when one of our Iraqi soldiers would warn us of an impending ambush.

The troop surge brought with it an infantry battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division to replace my Iraqi battalion, and the surviving members of my team, in Shaab and Ur. The change of mission essentially made my Iraqi battalion the protectors of Sadr City. My team spent the last six months of our tour trying to protect the very entity that was not only responsible for multiple attacks against us, but for numerous catastrophic strikes against our American replacements in Shaab and Ur.

President Bush announced today that combat tours in Iraq would be reduced from 15 months to 12 months. The extended tours of the American troops currently serving in Iraq will not be impacted by this announcement. Furthermore the reduction is not due to the situation in Iraq improving. Like the cutback in combat brigades, the curbing of tours in Iraq is because the thin green line is about to break.

It is time for Senator Gregg and Senator Sununu to stop blindly following the failed policies of President Bush and Senator McCain. If continued, the path that Senator Gregg and Senator Sununu are meandering down will not only lead to the self-destruction of our armed

forces in Iraq, but prevent the correct war from being properly waged in Afghanistan.

Joshua David Denton, New Hampshire State Team Captain, VoteVets.org
Portsmouth, NH

**Impeachment Resolution
HR 24**

To the Editor:

I commend Betty Hall for her patriotism in introducing a bill to impeach President Bush and Vice President Cheney. It is time for the people of the United States to defend our Constitution from the assaults of this administration. Their wrongs are many: engaging in a preemptive war based on lies, denial of *habeas corpus* and the right to a fair trial, governmental spying on citizens, dishonoring treaties, refusing to follow the law, condoning torture, to name a few. Our nation will be forever diminished if we fail to protect the Constitution by impeaching those who have dishonored it. Thank you, Betty Hall, for your courageous leadership. May the New Hampshire House of Representatives proudly carry that leadership forward to the U.S. Congress, by passing bill HR 24.

Judith W. Gardner
Durham, NH

Judith:
As we understand it, the resolution stays on the House agenda until the end of the session in June. Maybe lightning will strike and cause the spontaneous re-generation of some spine.
The Editor

The Bombsey Twins

To the Editor:

I recently sent a Letter to Editors of three Maine newspapers saying that Senator McCain promises to keep troops fighting in another Hundred Years War. Writing it made me realize the only thing I knew about the Hundred Years War is that

there was one, so I looked it up and found it lasted sixteen years longer than that.

The English army's invasion, occupation and devastation of France began in 1346 and were resisted by the French army and people. One of them was Joan of Arc, a farm girl who said she heard "voices" that told her to save France from the invaders. After convincing officers she'd been sent to do that, she joined in battles that won victories until she was captured while trying to drive the English from Paris.

Because church authorities had said the claim of divine inspiration was heresy, she was turned over to them, tried, convicted, and burned alive at age nineteen. The war continued for many more years until the English forces were finally driven out of France, and in 1920 the resistance leader was declared a saint.

Reading about the Hundred Years War reminded me of the five-year war and occupation of Iraq that McCain recently went there to celebrate, and of the sixty-year war and occupation of Palestine that Bush is going to Israel in May to celebrate. Though McCain campaigned there last month he could join him on the junket, to show they're The Bombsey Twins who will keep the U.S. falling in line for Israel.

Marjorie Gallace
Camden, ME

It Ain't Over ...

To the editor:

The headline over *Foster's* reporter Adam Krauss recent article on USA Springs, Inc. ("Opponents' win over bottling plant short-lived") is misleading. For example, the Nottingham zoning board of adjustment granted them approval to build a water bottling plant in a residential area on May 1, 2001. In a few weeks, seven years will have passed and the building shell is yet to be completed. Is this con-

sidered short-lived?

It was not surprising to read that the attorney for USA Springs (Armand Hyatt) "hasn't even bothered to study the water ordinance." Back on October 5, 2001 the Department of Environmental Security (DES) Wetlands Bureau issued a Letter of Deficiency to them (WET-2001-65) for dredging and/or filling 13,000 square feet on their property without proper permits. This was later followed by a DES Administrative Order (WD-02-31) to force the owner to do the restoration work. I'm sure they chose not to bother to read the state wetlands rules and regulations before these violations took place.

Violating state laws and regulations at DES may be allowable for some companies, but violating local ordinances are a different breed. Politics does not trump the law at the local level.

"It ain't over till it's over," as Yogi Berra famously said. Although DES (during Gov. Benson's regime) issued them a large groundwater withdrawal permit on July 1, 2004, not one gallon of the almost 550 million gallons of groundwater approved to be withdrawn since that time has been taken from the bedrock aquifer, bottled and shipped overseas. Is this considered short-lived?

If the seven years since this plant was first approved to be built is considered short-lived, what is considered long-lived? Since their DES large groundwater withdrawal permit is valid for only 10 years (June 30, 2014), it appears that the operations of this plant may be "short-lived," if at all.

Jim Hadley
Northwood, NH
Jim:
The state's record of rolling over for this crazy scheme is deplorable. The record of the people who have fought it—and continue to fight

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The Editor

The Torch Ran Away

To the Editor:
I stood on the Embarcadero for four hours, immersed in a crowd of Chinese Americans waiving flags of China as we waited for the Olympic torch. My “Free and Independent Tibet” sign jostled with their flags as we tried to position ourselves for maximum media exposure when the torch would pass us by. After half an hour of this low grade competition, we started to talk, and more importantly, to listen to each other. I learned they felt “Tibetan independence” was an insult to China’s national pride. Several people told me stories they believed about Tibetan slavery, ignorance and poverty. I told them the stories I’ve heard from my Tibetan friends, stories of Chinese oppression, repression, and brutality. We agreed that most news outlets were untrustworthy. We didn’t change each other’s minds, but we did hear each other, respect each other, and we did deeply appreciate this country, in which people with opposing politics can stand peacefully alongside one another. Was I disappointed that the torch was rerouted? Not really. It was four hours well spent. The way I see it, the torch ran away from the people who were all gathered at the appointed place. The Chinese government wants everyone to follow the Olympics, but today, the Olympics evaded the people.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA

**U.S. Presidential Politics:
Never a One Person Show**

To the Editor:
In this bitterly contested battle for the position of the highest office in the free world, it would be a catastrophic mistake to direct America’s destiny on the mis-

spoken sound bytes of an individual, as opposed to the serious issues of substance. The mess that America currently suffers geo-politically/economically was caused by the second half of the Democratic Party’s occupation of the Presidency, led by Bill Clinton, and later, the eight years of the Republican Party led by George Bush. To nominate Hillary Clinton would mean a continuation of the last four years of the Clinton Administration in its bartering out America’s position in the world to China and the Middle East, assisted by some cheerleaders of the Republican Party. The Republican Party continued this process under the Bush Administration, which has gotten us into the Iraqi stalemate, urged on particularly by the Cheney/Rumsfeld tag team’s hyping up the military-industrial complex for big financial gains ... leaving the corporate crooks stateside to burden us into further debt with the hedge-funding chicanery. Electing John McCain would mean more Republican Party mayhem for the U.S., although he is and I repeat, an honorable and profoundly courageous man. The office of the U.S. President is never about one individual. Consequently, the Republican baggage would simply be more weight on a sinking ship. Just as finding and even killing Osama Bin Laden will not end the world war of terrorism, economic disarray, or religious discontent. At least Barack Obama’s election as the President of the United States would symbolize a new direction with a new team in re-establishing a common ground for trust in resolving these troubling issues. If, however, race, the errant ramblings of minister who is entitled to his first amendment rights, or some such nonsense as Obama being a non-empathetic, Ivy League elitist causes America to not assist him in saving this country’s future destiny ... then

America will have shown its true “primary colors” and that won’t be good in the eyes of the newly forming power structures in the East ... and the West. Obama is not a messiah, simply a man, and a patriot in the sense of Paul Revere, Patrick Henry, or Nathan Hale, who chose to put his life on the line in saving his, mine, and your family’s future.
Bobby Buck

**Crisis in New Hampshire’s
Working Forest**

To the Editor:
I have owned forestland since 1956. At age 11 my father encouraged me and my two older brothers to purchase a woodlot in our home town of Orford. We did, and still own it and manage it as a sustainable forest today. Since then, over the years, my wife, Sheila, and I have purchased 2800 acres of forestland. We usually have a couple of logging operations going on nearly every year.
As one who has been involved and active within the forest community, I believe there is a crisis in the New Hampshire working forest. Almost no one seems to be interested or cares to speak out and raise the concerns for those working in the woods, who are too busy just trying to make ends meet during these difficult times. So I will try to share my concerns on these issues in hopes that I am not too late to raise the awareness!
When I talk about the working forest community, I am thinking about the forest landowners, tree farmers, maple producers, loggers, truckers, foresters, chip and saw mills, wood-to-energy plants, and all the employees as well as all those businesses that support our forest industry such as the equipment manufacturers, sales and part suppliers, banks for loans and fuel suppliers just to name a few. The trickle down effect is huge in New Hamp-

shire. The State Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) shows an annual revenue of \$1.2 billion just in the forest products industry. This number more than doubles when you factor in the dollar impact our forest has on recreation, hunting and fishing, tourism and other positive benefits to our state. This is one of the many reasons New Hampshire was just voted most livable state in the Nation.

Let’s review some facts: In 2006/7 the Fraser Pulp Mill in Berlin closed forever. Three months ago, December 30th, the Wausau Paper Mill in Groveton closed. And a few weeks ago, two of the four remaining Fraser paper machines were shut down in Gorham. Hundreds of mill workers lost their jobs, but that was only the tip of the iceberg. Those men and women, working in the forest, supplying the nearly 1.3 million tons of wood fiber to these mills, have also taken a hit. Some are trying to hang on, others are gone. With fewer loggers working, there are fewer logs available, which has put an additional strain on our sawmills. And if that isn’t enough, the so-called environmental groups are suing the U.S. Forest Service, and have all but stopped logging on the White Mountain National Forest, which many of our mills count on.

We have lost important low grade markets, and now we are losing our infrastructure as we speak. What’s happening is not unlike what happened to the New Hampshire shoe industry decades ago, except the collapse of our forest industry and its connection to the many forest benefits would have a much greater impact on our state’s economy.

Everyone in the forest food chain is being squeezed to the point of no return. As a forest landowner I checked my stumpage values of over 25 years ago



and found I received almost twice as much for hardwood pulp at that time than I do today. Loggers and truckers, mills and anyone else using diesel fuel at \$4.25 per gallon (and climbing almost daily) are being crushed by these huge fuel bills, along with higher insurance, labor and equipment costs, with likely no chance of passing on these costs. This coupled with ever increasing state rules and regulations and added or higher fees is having a crushing impact on our business and owning forestland.

Yesterday, I talked to an operator of a large softwood saw mill to learn first hand their pain. They were selling standard grade pine boards cut, dried, planed, packaged and loaded on a trucks for around 20% less per thousand than they were paying for their logs. Do the math—you can’t stay in business very long with those numbers. Many who have been in this business all their lives say they have never seen things this bad. Others say in the past you could just work longer hours and seven days a week to make ends meet, but that won’t even work this time around.

On March 7th, I attended a conference in Whitefield, NH put on by the Division of Forest and Lands. The title was “Coos Wood Availability Conference.” A lot of good people worked on and participated in this confer-

More Hate Mail, &c.
to page five

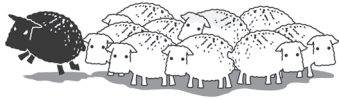
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ADMIRAL FOWLE’S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

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, April 20	Monday, April 21	Tuesday, April 22	Wednesday, April 23	Thursday, April 24	Friday, April 25	Saturday, April 26
2004—George W. Bush tells a Buffalo audience that the government doesn't wiretap without a court order. 2001—The Peruvian Air Force, with some help from CIA "contract workers," fires on a plane they think is full of dope. Nope. It's full of proseletyzing American Baptists. Two die. 1979—While canoeing near Plains, GA, Pres. Jimmy Carter successfully defends himself from a deranged swamp rabbit. 1973—The U.S. Supreme Court rules it's OK for New Hampshire citizens to cover up the state motto "Live Free or Die" on their license plates. 1971—On Day Two of Operation Dewey Canyon III, the Supreme Court rules that Vietnam Veterans Against the War must clear off the National Mall. 1971—Maryland building contractor Lester Matz pays a \$2,500 bribe to Vice President and freelance media critic Spiro "Ted" Agnew. 1967—U.S. planes bomb Hanoi for the first time. 1948—Walter Reuther, labor leader, is shot but lives. 1914—John D. Rockefeller's employees, in National Guard uniforms, machine gun strikers at Ludlow, Colo. 19 die, including 2 women, 12 children.	1999—To honor those killed at Columbine the day before, NRA president Charlton Heston says the gun lobby will cut short its Denver convention by one day. 1989—Chinese students begin demonstrating in Tiananmen Square. 1986—On live TV, Geraldo Rivera opens Al Capone's vault and discovers his own credentials. 1983—In Alabama, flames and sparks fly from John Evans' leg as "authorities" take 14 minutes and three tries to electrocute him. 1975—Nguyen Van Thieu, last president of South Vietnam, resigns after ten years of misrule. 1972—In El Paso, former commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam General William Westmoreland is pelted with tomatoes. 1971—In Washington, DC, Vietnam Veterans Against the War vote to defy the Supreme Court and remain encamped on the National Mall. Park police decline to make arrests. Tomorrow's headline: "Vets Overrule Supreme Court." 1954—The U.S. Air Force begins flying French reinforcements into Southeast Asia. 1918—After shooting down 80 Allied planes, Manfred von Richthofen, aka The Red Baron, is shot down—by an Australian on the ground.	2004—In Afghanistan, U.S. soldiers shoot former NFL football player Specialist Pat Tillman. 2000—Federal agents snatch political pawn Elian Gonzalez from his colorful Miami relatives. 1990—Guilford Co., N.C. postpones Earth Day to April 28th as not to interfere with the K-Mart Greater Greensboro Open Golf Tournament. 1971—Former Navy Lieutenant John Kerry asks Congress, "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?" 1970—Cops shoot and kill Huey Newton, Black Panther. 1963—South Vietnam is "steadily moving toward a constitutional system resting upon popular consent," according to Secretary of State Dean Rusk. 1956—Rebecca West defines journalism: "An ability to meet the challenge of filling the space." 1944—A restaurant sit-in by 400 blacks in Washington, DC begins; result: desegregation. 1922—Charlie Mingus is born, Nogales, Arizona. 1915—The German army pioneers the use of chlorine gas as a weapon for the first time at the Second Battle of Ypres. 1914—In Baltimore, nineteen-year old Babe Ruth pitches his first game for the Orioles.	1993—RIP Cesar Chavez. 1971—In DC, Vietnam Veterans Against the War return their medals to Congress by heaving them over a fence in front of the Capitol, as Operation Dewey Canyon III concludes. 1969—Bernadette Devlin becomes a Member of Parliament. 1968—Students occupy Columbia University. 1958—Five paratroopers are killed and 137 injured in a mass jump at Ft. Campbell, Ky. 1956—The USSR announces it's got an H-bomb. 1947—Bernadette Devlin is born in Ireland. 1904—In Montana, the Flat-head reservation is divided; half ends up in settlers' hands. 1868—"I don't have to forgive my enemies," says the dying Duke of Valencia Ramon Maria Narvaez y Campos, "I had them all shot." 1860—Birth of Charles H. Kerr, founder of a radical publishing cooperative that's still going. 1693—Birth of William Caslon, English typesetter (the <i>Gazette</i> is set in Caslon). 1014—Vikings are defeated at the Battle of Clontarf. High King Brian Boru is slain by Brodir, but Brodir is soon disemboweled by Brian's brother Wolf the Quarrelsome.	1980—Eight Americans die and five are wounded in a failed attempt to rescue American hostages in Iran. 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 Vietnamese kids and 50 adults. 1971—Over a million Americans protest Vietnam War. 1967—"The military situation [in South Vietnam] is favorable," says U.S. Commander Gen. William C. Westmoreland. 1967—After a troubled 26-hour orbital mission, Soyuz 1 crashes into Earth at 200 mph, killing Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov. 1962—President Kennedy authorizes high-altitude tests of nuclear weapons. 1916—The Irish rebel for independence. 1800—The Library of Congress is established. 1704—<i>The Boston News-Letter</i>, the first successful newspaper in the colonies, begins publication under John Campbell, who insists on publishing all the old news he had before going on to the more recent. By 1718 his news is a full year behind. The paper eventually adopts Tory politics and perishes during the Revolution.	2003—Army Sec. White is fired for saying we need more troops in Iraq. 1984—Asked if he's ever been to a communist country, James A. Baker III replies, "Well, I've been to Massachusetts." 1964—The statue of the "Little Mermaid" in Copenhagen harbor is decapitated (see this date in 1793). 1962—Test-ban negotiations having failed, the U.S. announces the resumption of atmospheric nuclear tests. 1944—RIP George Herriman. 1915—Australian and New Zealand troops under British command attack Turks at Gallipoli and die in droves. 1898—The U.S. declares war on Spain. 1846—Obliging Mexican troops attack a U.S. "scouting party," thus giving Congress an excuse to declare war. 1793—The guillotine is used for the first time (see this date in 1964). 1523—Henry VIII of England forbids private ownership of guns by anyone with an income of less than 100 pounds a year. 1507—Cartographer Martin Waldseemüller erroneously credits Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci with the "discovery" of "North America."	1986—A meltdown at Chernobyl renders a considerable chunk of Ukrainian real estate worthless, contaminates a large part of the northern hemisphere to one degree or another, and condemns thousands to death. 1970—A dynamite blast damages the State House in Louisiana. 1953—In Troy, New York, radioactive rain falls. 1946—On her own initiative, Edna Rose Ritchings, 21, a Caucasian-Canadian, marries Father Divine, 65, an African-American religious figure. 1944—The U.S. Government takes over the national headquarters of Montgomery Ward after it defies the National Labor Relations Board. 1937—Nazi planes bomb civilians in Guernica, Spain. 1931—Lou Gehrig hits a home run, but is called out for passing another runner. 1901—"I'll be in Hell before you start breakfast" says train-robber Tom "Black Jack" Ketchum, seconds before the hangman drops him and his head flies off. 1865—Boston Corbett, a hatter-turned-cavalryman who, seven years earlier, castrated himself with a pair of scissors to better withstand the temptation of prostitutes, shoots and kills John Wilkes Booth.
12:18 6:01 6:09	12:24 12:56 6:39 6:44	1:00 1:33 7:16 7:20	1:34 2:10 7:54 7:57	2:11 2:49 8:33 8:36	2:50 3:31 9:14 9:18	3:33 4:18 10:00 10:06
Sunday, April 27	Monday, April 28	Tuesday, April 29	Wednesday, April 30	Thursday, May 1	Friday, May 2	Saturday, May 3
1994—In South Africa, ex-prisoner Nelson Mandela is elected President. 1986—An HBO transmission is interrupted by a TV pirate calling himself "Captain Midnight." 1981—The first computer mouse is unveiled. 1974—In Washington, DC 10,000 march for the impeachment of Richard Nixon. 1957—The Situationist International meets in Italy. 1956—Rocky Marciano retires undefeated. 1937—The first Social Security check, for \$22.54, is mailed to Ida May Fuller. 1932—While returning by ship from Mexico, Hart Crane leaps overboard and drowns. 1865—About 1,450 recently freed Union POW's are among 2,300 who die in the explosion of the steamboat <i>Sultana</i>. 1861—Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of <i>habeas corpus</i>. 1825—In Boston, carpenters strike for a 10 hour day. 1813—American troops burn Toronto. 1791—Birth of Samuel F.B. Morse, inventor of the eponymous code. 1773—The British Parliament passes the Tea Act. Oops. 1521—Ferdinand Magellan is killed by Filipinos.	2004—On the floor of the U.S. Senate, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) says "We know who the chickenhawks are. They talk tough on national defense and military issues ... but when it was their turn to serve, they were AWOL." 1988—An Aloha Airlines 737 develops a 20 foot hole in the fuselage, sucking stewardess Clara-belle Lansing to her death. 1987—Contra rebels in Nicaragua—the "moral equivalent of our Founding fathers," according to President Reagan—murder American volunteer engineer Ben Lindner. 1970—R. Nixon authorizes U.S. troops to fight in Cambodia. 1968—In India, a Mr. Thorat wins a lawsuit begun in 1205. 1967—Muhammad Ali refuses induction into the armed forces. 1965—Twenty thousand U.S. Marines invade the Dominican Republic in support of a military dictatorship. 1953—Having successfully overthrown the elected government of Iran, the CIA installs a Shah. 1945—Benito Mussolini and his mistress fail in an attempt to flee from Italy. They are shot by partisans and hanged by the heels from lampposts. 1789—Fletcher Christian leads a mutiny on the <i>Bounty</i>.	2006—At the White House Correspondents Association Dinner, in front of the alleged president, Stephen Colbert shows how it's done. 2004—George W. Bush and Dick Cheney "testify" together, without taking an oath, before the 9/11 Commission™. 1992—Police in California are found not guilty of beating Rodney King. 1975—In Vietnam, the last Americans leave. 1962—In Mexico, Henry Espinola dies of radiation poisoning caused by seven pellets of radioactive cobalt he found in the streets. 1945—American troops liberate Dachau. 1945—Italian partisans turn Ezra Pound over to U.S. troops. 1916—In Dublin, Irish nationalists surrender. 1899—After their demand that only union workers be employed is refused, miners dynamite and destroy the Bunker Hill Company mill at Wardner, Idaho. 1895—U.S. warships are sent to Nicaragua to "protect American interests." 1429—Female "cheese-eating surrender monkey" Joan of Arc arrives at the besieged city of Orleans, France. Nine days later the English run away.	1977—The Clamshell Alliance assembles at Seabrook, NH to protest the construction of a nuclear power plant. 1975—The North Vietnamese Army enters Saigon. President Duong Van Minh surrenders. The Vietnam War is over. 1973—Announcing their resignations, Richard Nixon calls convicted felons John D. Erlichman and H.R. Haldeman "two of the finest public servants I have ever known." 1971—In Detroit, Medal of Honor recipient Dwight H. Johnson is shot to death while robbing a grocery store. 1966—Rep. Melvin Laird (R-WI) says that the problem with Vietnam is "an administration that fails to inform the people fully and frankly about the objectives and progress of the war." 1900—The Illinois Central's <i>Cannonball Express</i> slams into a freight train at Vaughan, Mississippi. Engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones is the only fatality. 1894—Five hundred unemployed workers led by Jacob Coxey arrives in Washington, DC from Massillon, Ohio, demanding work. 1873—In Aroostook County, James Cullen, a large Caucasian thug, becomes the only man ever lynched in the State of Maine.	2003—President G.W. Bush, apparently wearing a jockstrap stuffed with sox, is delivered to an aircraft carrier to tell one of his biggest lies to date: "major combat operations in Iraq have ended." U.S. death toll: 140. 1999—<i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> resumes regular (fortnightly) publication in Portsmouth. 1989—New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner assigns legal ownership of <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> to the current editor. 1978—With only his sled dogs for company, Naomi Uemura reaches the North Pole. 1978—An employee of the Digital Equipment Corporation sends the first spam e-mail. 1977—The cops arrest 1,414 Clams at Seabrook. 1971—Five days of anti-war protest begin in Washington, DC; arrests will total over 14,000. 1970—U.S. troops join ARVN soldiers in the Cambodian "Incursion." 1960—Russians shoot down CIA pilot Gary Powers's U-2 over Sverdlovsk. 1894—Jacob Coxey is arrested for walking on the grass of the Capitol; his "Army" is dispersed. A proponent of "greenbacks," he is accompanied by his infant son, Legal Tender Coxey.	2006—In Lucasville, OH, executioners take 86 minutes, and 19 needle punctures, to kill Joseph Clark by lethal injection. 2003—William J. "Mr. Family Values" Bennett is revealed to have a gambling habit of Brobdingnagian proportions. 2003—<i>USA Today</i> publishes an op-ed by Richard Perle encouraging Americans to "Relax and enjoy" what he calls "the most important military victory since World War II." 1985—E.F. Hutton, the brokerage company, pleads guilty to 2,000 federal charges; agrees to cough up \$10 million. 1974—Ex-Veep Spiro "Ted" Agnew is disbarred. 1972—J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover croaks. Finally. (See 1957). 1964—The <i>U.S.S. Card</i>, a 496-foot escort carrier, is sunk at the dock by a mine in Saigon. 1957—Sen. Joe McCarthy croaks at 47. (See 1972). 1954—The first commercial jet plane, the Comet, goes into service. Soon comes out of service due to mid-air explosions. 1933—Hitler abolishes all German labor unions. 1911—The first U.S. workers' comp law is enacted in Wisc. 1896—To "protect American interests," U.S. troops land in Nicaragua.	2003—The Old Man of the Mountain succumbs. 1991—In Milwaukee, police remit a dazed, naked, bleeding 14 year old boy to the custody of Jeffrey Dahmer. 1986—The U. of Maryland announces that hundreds of boxes of papers donated 12 years earlier by Spiro Agnew have not been inspected or cataloged, and won't be for another 3 to 5 years. 1982—The <i>N.Y. Times</i> reports that 25% of NASA's budget is military-related. 1970—"[The North Vietnamese] have been in a war for years and years," says Veep Spiro T. Agnew, "I don't think they are capable ... of continuing this fight." 1963—Birmingham, Ala. Sheriff "Bull" Connors turns firehoses and dogs on civil rights marchers. 1958—An Alan Freed rock 'n roll show erupts in Boston. 1946—Willie Francis is escorted back to his cell on Death Row, after Louisiana's electric chair, wired by a drunken trustee, fails to kill him. The state has better luck a year later. 1934—Publication of <i>Famous Funnies</i>, first U.S. comic book. 1917—The remnants of the French 21st Division refuse to attack after a series of suicidal charges.
4:22 5:09 10:50 11:00	5:17 6:04 11:43 11:58	6:15 6:59 12:38	7:14 7:52 12:58 1:31	8:12 8:42 1:56 2:23	9:07 9:31 2:51 3:12	10:00 10:18 3:44 4:00

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