

The Fortnightly Rant

Out of Gas

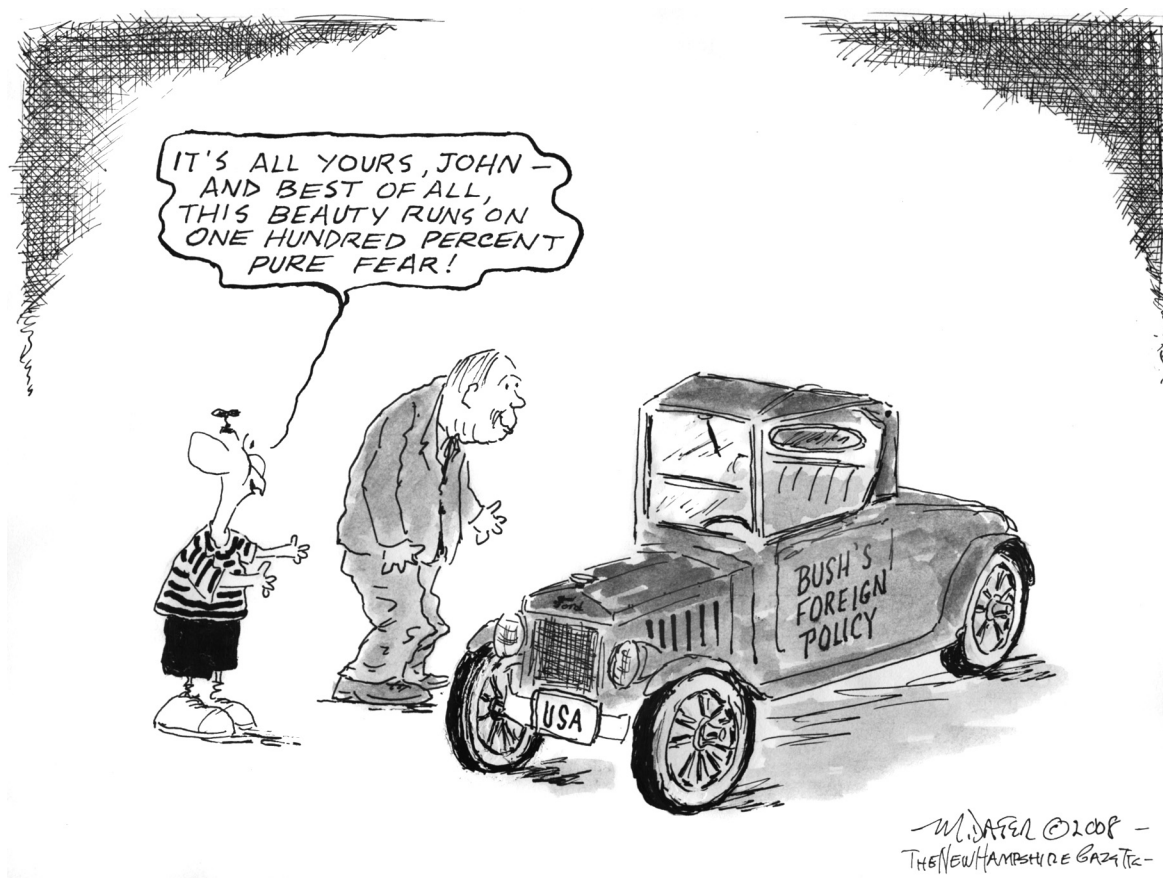
The price of gasoline in the U.S. took another great leap upward last week. The Energy Information Administration said on Tuesday that regular gas had reached an unprecedented national average of \$3.937 per gallon. And if you think that's bad, pity the poor driver of a diesel—that's \$4.723 a gallon.

CNN reported on Tuesday that U.S. Department of Transportation statistics show Americans cut their cumulative miles driven in March by eleven billion miles, (about 4.3 percent) compared to last year.

That same day, *USA Today* headlined a story, "pump prices may have peaked." That would

certainly qualify as good news for a nation of beleaguered drivers. Gannet's nationally-distributed McPaper cites an entity called "opisnet.com" as the source of these encouraging words. That source's peculiar name—try reading it aloud—could have been inspired by a thought passing through the mind of a person dazzled by the flashing digits on a gas pump.

And perhaps it's just a sign that we should adjust our medication, that we're suspicious of mysterious figures signaling an end to price increases at just the moment when drivers begin to vote with their feet—by taking them off the gas pedal.



News Briefs

Bush's Memory

As a nation, America must slog through another seven and a half months before our next Inauguration Day. No matter who becomes the nation's 44th president, it seems almost certain that January 20th will be an occasion for giddy celebrations from coast to coast. If that day seems too far off to bear, we offer this glad tid-ing: our final Memorial Day with George W. Bush in the White House is already behind us.

Morbid curiosity induced us to scan Bush #43's accumulated Memorial Day oratory. We can't say it was particularly illuminating, but we did find some slight evidence of environmental consciousness at the Bush White House. At least they recycle their rhetoric.

His first such address, at Arlington in 2001, included these words, "for many who come here, there is one marker that will always stand out among all the others. In their eyes, it lies alone."

In 2002, at the Normandy American Cemetery in France, his remarks included these words, "for so many, there is a marker that seems to sit alone—they come looking for that one cross, that one Star of David, that one name."

In 2003, of course, #43's remarks were dominated by recognition of losses in Iraq—about 176 at that time. We didn't find the "one among many" concept in 2004, either.

When 2005 came around, the trope was back for one final appearance: "At a distance, their headstones look alike. Yet every son or daughter, mom or dad who visits will always look first at one."

In 2006, #43's speechwriters

had the nerve to insert this complex falsehood: "In this place where valor sleeps [Arlington, again], we are reminded why America has always gone to war reluctantly, because we know the costs of war." Mr. Bush's own former press secretary, Scott McClellan, has now gone on the record, directly contradicting Bush's claim of "reluctance." According to excerpts of a book coming out next week, the White House "relied on propaganda" to sell the war in Iraq.

And as for Bush's "knowing" the cost of war, it's well known that forty years ago his father used his then-considerable political influence to spare his son just such an education.

We Are Not Appeased

On May 15, too close to our deadline for a proper report in our May 16 paper, George W. Bush said, while addressing the Knesset in Jerusalem, that some people "seem to believe that we should negotiate with the terrorists and radicals, as if some ingenious argument will persuade them they have been wrong all along. We have heard this foolish delusion before. As Nazi tanks crossed into Poland in 1939, an American senator declared: 'Lord, if I could only have talked to Hitler, all this might have been avoided.' We have an obligation to call this what it is—the false comfort of appeasement, which has been repeatedly discredited by history."

In the context of the current presidential campaign it was glaringly obvious that Bush intended the remark to be a devastating putdown of the leading Democratic contender, Senator Obama. Obama has stuck his

neck out far enough to propose that America revert to an ancient method of resolving international disputes—diplomacy.

According to the White House's transcript of the address, Bush's audience, the Israeli legislature, responded to this campaign commercial for John McCain with "[A]ppause." Since our source here is a White House transcript, the most logical explanation for this peculiar response would be that the reference to alleged "applause" is simply a lie.

Then again, with the Middle East as volatile as it is, whoever is in charge of security for the Knesset would surely not permit anyone to carry into the hall things such as cabbages, rotten tomatoes, or eggs, which would have enabled a far more appropriate response.

Bush's obvious effort to denigrate Obama, his possible successor, sparked a good deal of discussion among television's barking heads. It was parsed, prodded and analyzed from every possible political angle until being drowned out a week later when Senator Clinton cited Bobby Kennedy's assassination as a legitimate reason for her to keep campaigning. But the psychological angle may be more telling than the political.

Bush is well known to have a tortured relationship with his father. Perhaps his Oedipal urges drove him to this particular excess. It would fit the pattern: by invading Iraq in 2003, Bush #43 surpassed his father who, in 1991, drove Iraq out of Kuwait. By bringing up domestic politics before a foreign legislature, Bush #43 surpassed his father who, in 1992, vomited in the lap of Japa-

nese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

If that seems like a harsh judgment, well, it just gets worse.

In 1939, when Senator Borah made the remark that Bush #43 cites so scornfully, about meeting with Hitler, Bush's own grandfather, Prescott Bush, was going well beyond appeasing Hitler—he was acting as Hitler's business agent.

They say the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Maybe the rot-ter the tree, the truer that is.

Quote Of The Day Fortnight

"By 2008, I think I might be ready to go down to the old soldiers home and await the cavalry charge there."—Sen. John McCain on PBS' *News Hour*, August 1, 2000. [From AlbionMonitor.com, 5/2/08]

Suppress the Troops

We've finally figured it out—we're deaf and blind. All this time we thought the right wing wanted us to "support the troops." Turns out they meant, "suppress the troops." The latest evidence?

In April, in federal court, a memo surfaced proving that Dr. Ira Katz, chief of mental health services for the Veterans Administration (VA), was covering up the true rate of suicide and attempted suicide among veterans. The VA publicly admitted to 800, the true figure was closer to 12,000.

On May 16, the *Washington Post* reported that Norma Perez, a VA psychologist, advised the staff at a Veterans Center in Texas that since "we are having more and more compensation seeking veterans, I'd like to suggest that you refrain from giving a diagnosis of PTSD straight out." Psychologists working un-

der Perez were advised to "consider a diagnosis of Adjustment Disorder" instead.

The VA pays a lower rate of compensation for Adjustment Disorder than it does for PTSD.

If it costs too much to compensate disabled veterans for what they've have, what's the solution? Diagnose them with something more affordable.

Fergus the Funnyman

In the *Manchester Union Leader*, on May 15, John DiStaso's "Granite Status" column quoted New Hampshire GOP chair Fergus Cullen (cited here last fortnight for joking about U.S. Marines assassinating the Clintons) saying "the angry left wing has taken over the New Hampshire Democratic Party ... There has always been a battle in that party between the pragmatists and the ideologues and the ideologues have clearly won."

Just to prove that the devil can still quote scripture, "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"—Matthew, 7:3.

Mission Accomplished

The Portsmouth Cultural Center opened last Sunday in the old Academy Building (recently the Public Library). We take a particular interest in it since the concept was first publicized in this paper by J. Dennis Robinson on June 15, 2007.

Now that all the shelving and books and students and aromatic nomads have been cleared out, it's possible to get a good look at the space itself, and it is truly marvelous—spacious, open and flooded



News Briefs, Continued
 from page one

with light. It's roomy enough for two exhibits to be comfortably displayed at the same time.

One is a very generous collection of about fifty local paintings by Russell Cheney: *From Impressionism to Yankee Modernism: Portsmouth and the New Hampshire Coast*. Cheney has been called a New England Master, these paintings clearly show why. Cheney's paintings have a kind of robust accessibility about them—you don't have to care anything about painting to find them interesting. Many of the images show scenes that are familiar to-day, just slightly altered by time. One shows the Point of Graves cemetery with the Sheafe Warehouse just behind it, before it was moved 400 feet to its current location. Another shows an enormous rambling wood-framed pile that looks familiar and foreign at the same time. It shows a building in the North End, torn down during "urban renewal."

The other exhibit shows a se-

lection of Peter Randall's *New Hampshire Then and Now* photographs, deftly carrying on the theme of the past's continued presence in our midst. Randall's highly detailed images particularly reward close scrutiny.

The two exhibits, which open Sunday, June 1, clearly demonstrate that this is the best location in town for the display of visual arts. After the forces of enlightenment finally triumphed, and the library was moved into the new Parrot Avenue building, it looked for a time as if some law firm or bank would probably snatch up the historic Academy Building, and convert it for some mundane private function. It was exciting to see the town make such a fine building available to the Portsmouth Historical Society. It's simply amazing to see what the Society, led in this project by its Vice President, Richard Candee, has been able to accomplish in such a short time, with so little money.

There is a tremendous amount of work yet to be done before the Culture Center is fully realized:

the computerized database, comprehensive calendars of events, maps, and so forth. But there is an improvement that could be made almost immediately, for almost no cost.

There ought to be something prominently displayed in Market Square—at the Chamber of Commerce's kiosk, for instance—letting visitors know that just 1,000 feet to the west, there is a wonderful free exhibit of local art, and friendly, well-informed people standing ready to answer any questions they might have about the area.

The Return of the Captain Edward H. Adams

We hear from Barbara Maurer, Education Director at The Gundalow Company, that the *Captain Edward H. Adams*—the only Piscataqua River gundalow afloat in the whole wide world—is expected to arrive in Portsmouth Harbor this weekend.

The *Capt. Adams* spent the last two weeks at Kittery Town Landing, providing educational opportunities for students of Traip Academy and Frisbee El-



The Flag Police Stir From Their Torpor

It is true that the Flag Police have been maintaining a fairly sedate operational tempo recently. The most recent flag-burning amendment was defeated in the Senate in June of 2006. Without a current flag-based assault on the First Amendment to focus their attention, the minds of some squad members sometimes wander. But they have not become indifferent. And they certainly are not going to overlook a provocation such as this.

Despite appearances, the flag shown here is not hanging at the Frank E. Booma Post (No. 6) of the American Legion on Isling-

ton Street. That is merely an illusion, created by the perspective-flattening optical characteristics of the telephoto lens used to gather this piece of evidence. This sad old flag is hanging from the building next door. Formerly known as the Bachelors Arms, and part of the town's affordable housing stock, it is now divided into condominiums.

Perhaps the condo association rules do not clearly articulate who is responsible for this flag, whose stripes are slowly separating as the stitching between them succumbs to the relentless ravages of time.

ementary. For the two weeks prior to that, it was similarly serving the students of York, ME.

Beginning next week, the gundalow will be at the Prescott Park Dock, its old berth near the Sheafe Warehouse.

From June 1 through June 20, it will be available for school groups weekday mornings by reservation, in collaboration with Strawberry Banke Museum. Individual school groups may make reservations for the gundalow program. No planned visit to Strawberry Banke is required. For reservations, call (603) 433-9505.

From June 6 through July 16, the gundalow will be open to the public from Wednesday through Sunday, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; no reservations, no admission fees, contributions gratefully accepted.

The Little Press Release That Could

We frequently get press releases containing glowing reports about some architect's recent efforts to erect a stunning new heap of bricks at some ungodly location, to further some multi-national corporation's aim of injecting more salt and fat into America's arteries. They are what

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Monday was, once again, a perfect day for a parade. All the appropriate participants were in attendance. The expected rituals were properly performed. The event proceeded according to plan. Continue with your normal routine without deviation. All is well.



Now let's try it without the irony. In our May 16 issue we ran a photo of Nathan Walker's Giant Ant looming over Wil Gardner's shoulder. Two days later, the ant had been decapitated in a fit of drunken tomfoolery. It looked for a while like the huge steel Formicidae would have to go headless until the perp's trial was over. Fortunately, the prosecutor soon decided that photographic evidence would be sufficient. The head was released and welded back on, with reinforcement. All's right in the Square. As for the rest of the world ...

the "delete" button is for. Once in a while, though, something comes through that actually makes the cut. Most recently Ryan Triffit, who deals with the likes of us on behalf of the Mount Washington Auto Road, let us know that the Auto Road's gas pumps, on Rt. 16 in Pinkham Notch, 12 miles north of Jackson, NH, will be selling gas for \$2.99 a gallon on weekends this June. There is a catch: "Gasoline is only available to customers who



have purchased entrance to the Mt. Washington Auto Road. Individual gas containers will not be permitted; gasoline must go directly into the tank of the vehicle. Gasoline will be available for purchase during regular operating hours: 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily, weather permitting." "First opened in 1861 as the Mt. Washington Carriage Road," according to Mr. Triffit, "the Mt. Washington Auto Road is the country's oldest manmade attraction." One of the cleverest, too.

**Geoffrey Coughlin
(1976 – 2008)**

If, somewhere, there was a dial that somehow registered the collective mood of this general vicinity, right now it would be showing a marked downward trend. Life and the world being what they are, some day it would come back into the "Normal" range. But we have to wonder how or if it could ever get back to where it would have been when Geoff Coughlin was still with us. Geoff died May 15, "peacefully, in his sleep," as Chris Elliott put



played bass guitar for the local surf/punk band *Hotrod Fury*. In a review of the CD *East Coast Fury*, written by Matt Kanner and published in *The Wire*, Kanner quotes from CD liner notes by Joe Queer, who "claims that *Hotrod Fury* will 'beat you black and blue with their music and laugh in your face. They play like they'll die if they stop and die if they keep going.'" As we've said here before, this newspaper practically runs on soup from Belle Peppers. For the last few years, as often as not, it has been Geoff who served it up for us. They say his life was his music. You might think that for a big, red-headed rock and roller like him, serving soup and man-aging the counter at Belle Peppers would have been "just a day job." If it was, it never showed. Day after day, Geoff treated every "large chicken soup, with crackers, to go" as a fresh chance to improvise, try out some new riff, or, at the very least, just have some fun. We miss him.



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



Moving Pictures

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett, Karen Allen, Shia La Beouf; **Screenplay:** David Kopp

Harrison Ford was thirty-eight years old when he originated the role of Henry “Indiana” Jones, the fedora-wearing, bullwhip-cracking professor of archeology who takes on the Nazi war machine and emerges triumphant, if bruised and battered. At sixty-five (yes, it’s been twenty-seven years since you had that first nibble of Indy popcorn) he’s still fit enough to be participating in many of his own stunts, and if he sometimes looks a little weary it may be because the blockbuster genre he helped create has itself gotten a bit long in the tooth.

Never fear, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* still has much of the formula fun that made the original such an air-conditioned hoot. The canny

producers have provided something for everyone: a rekindled boomer romance with Karen Allen, who vanished from the scene after the original (and still the best) of the long-running franchise, a delicious if under-utilized villain in ravishing Gen-Xer Cate Blanchett (she’ll be forty next year—good heavens, how did that happen!) and the ever-engaging twenty-one year old star Shia LaBeouf as Indy’s long lost son.

In the opening scenes—it’s the Cold War 1950’s—Mr. LaBeouf arrives on a motorcycle, wearing a leather costume—and an attitude—evidently borrowed from Brando’s *The Wild One*, channeled through “Kookie” in the classic *77 Sunset Strip*, with maybe a nod to The Fonz. He’s even invented his own nickname—Mutt. LaBeouf seems to be having a blast with the role, and for a while his youthful energy enlivens what is slowly revealed to be a by-the-numbers, the-flying-saucer-did-it plot. You know, re-

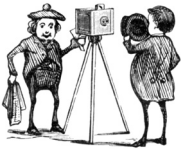
turn the eerily elongated and obviously alien crystal skull to the Amazonian temple from which it was stolen and it will grant you the power to rule the world. Or that’s what the Soviet secret agents believe, based on nothing but a jungle rumor, as amplified by clearly demented Irina (Blanchett) and her carefully modulated, P-13 level of evil. That’s pretty much it, with the rest of the two hours consumed by rattling, battling chase scenes and a full palette of CGI effects that bleeds over into the actors themselves, who are sometimes made to look like screen artifacts or cleverly animated characters, rather than the living, breathing serial heroes and villains that first captured the imaginations of Lucas and Spielberg. This flaw in belief-suspension makes itself more than evident when one of the characters screeches something like “Yikes! This is scary!” while careening along a cliff in a runaway vehicle. The sad fact is that it’s not even slightly scary,

because your eyes, already cleverly educated in CGI recognition, will instantly conclude that the cliff ain’t real and that therefore you have no reason to slip to the edge of your seat, or doubt for an instant that the good guys will prevail, even if you’re never clear on why, exactly, they have to stop the accent-challenged Soviet agents, who don’t seem to be nearly as terribly, awfully, unchallengingly evil as, say, the Nazi war machine. Other than world domination by mind control (never a problem for those of you who confine your news hour to PBS) there’s not even anybody in particular for Indy to save besides himself and his friends. Not Europe from the Nazis (*Raiders*, and *The Last Crusade*) or the children of India (*The Temple of Doom*). Aside from a few jitterbugging madmen, the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull is unoccupied, and therefore not in need of rescue.

In retrospect (and the whole

film is a kind of retrospective, and not necessarily in a bad way) the best scene is in the prologue, when Indiana Jones finds himself in a mock-up of an American suburb constructed in the desert. It’s a mannequin-occupied town about to be obliterated by an atomic bomb test. The scene—the real one, as originally reported on Dave Garroway’s *Today Show* in 1955—has come to exemplify the madness of the Cold War arms race, in which Americans were compelled to visualize their own destruction, right down to stuffed versions of Fido, and a melty-plastic Mom wearing a real apron, all blown to disturbingly recognizable pieces a few miles from the point of detonation.

Indiana Jones, hearing the warning siren sound, knows he has less than ten seconds to escape a nuclear explosion. Watching him manage to pull it off, with style and *brio*, is worth the price of admission.



More Hate Mail, &c.

from page seven

many of the Latino votes, to beat the Democrat Obama.

The other Democrat, Clinton, has been and is being smeared and slandered in the media as well as other venues because Clinton is the greatest threat to the Republicans in the November general election. It was the Republicans in Florida, especially the Governor and the Republican majority in the state legislature, that completely made a mess of the situation in Florida, and had a lot to do with the mess in Michigan concerning date of the primaries, voiding millions

of votes.

The last two Presidential elections were stolen from the Democrats in part because of Republicans not adhering to the “rule of law,” neglect, and downright criminality. The voters voices and votes in Florida and Michigan have been muted and ignored, and the rule of law has been denied to them.

Many of the Republicans who cross over and vote in the Democrat primaries do this, not for the love of Obama, but to kill the chances of Clinton becoming the Democrat nominee for President. In nearly all the Democrat primaries, roughly ten percent of the voters were Republican who

will, in the fall, vote for McCain. The Democrat super delegates can neutralize this travesty by allowing all the votes that were cast to be counted, which would give Clinton the Democrat nomination. If they do not, the Democrat [sic] Party will once again be exploited and hoodwinked by Republicans and corrupt corporate elitist buffoons.

The Democrat [sic] Party must awake and correct this calamity and return to a one-person/one-vote system as the founders of our nation intended.

William Alford Perry

West Blocton, AL

William:

Hey, cut it out—your crocodile

tears are getting the pages all damp. Your alleged concern for the Democrats would be more credible if you didn’t follow the Republican practice of truncating the term “Democratic.”

The Editor

Service To Our Country

To the Editor:

They died in service to our country. That sentence will be heard may times as the nation observes Memorial Day.

I’m a father, a businessperson and a Vietnam veteran. Over the past several years I’ve examined my military experience. Two time Medal of Honor recipient Marine Major General

Smedley Butler helped me. He finished his career, looked back and wrote a booklet titled “War is a Racket.” He said he was a thug for big business. My studies confirm what the General said. Behind all of the flag waving, and the shouts of freedom, democracy and service, is a massive empire devoted to profit by any means. Weapons are our number one export product. The military is a tool. We are taught to puff our chests, and honor the military—alive and dead—but we are never taught to question the business of war.

More Hate Mail, &c.

to next page

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Northcountry Chronicle

The Road to Hell

by William Marvel

If memory serves, and it often doesn't anymore, my first encounter with the Conway bypass came around 1977. I vaguely recall making a special trip home from Keene to vote on the subject in a non-binding referendum held at what was then still the "new" gym in the 1938 wing at Kennett High School. Since then we've had one more "new" gym at Kennett, and one whole new high school—with a gym that will soon be called "old" itself, since our most costly school buildings seem to have a life span of only three or four decades.

Many of the career engineers and bureaucrats in the New Hampshire Department of Transportation who were prominent in the early stages of the bypass debate retired years ago; only Don Lyford remains, even from the 1980s discussions. Eli Isaacson, the owner of Isaacson Steel in Berlin, who lobbied

endlessly to open a path for his trucks through Conway's traffic, is now long gone. We still don't have a bypass, though, and that's fine with me: I've been opposed to the idea from the start.

Early in the process of deciding whether we needed a bypass at all, the game was slanted toward construction. Subsequent referenda gave choices between east-side and west-side corridors, or between partial bypasses with this-or-that connector. The state made numerous attempts to determine the imagined will of Conway citizens, but no serious slate of questions ever included the option of doing absolutely nothing.

Doing nothing has always seemed the most economically, socially, and environmentally sound solution. Millions of state dollars would not have been expended on studies and acquisition, and hundreds of millions could still be save on roadbuilding; no one would have had their

homes taken for far less than they paid for them; no businesses would be driven to bankruptcy by being isolated for months in a construction zone; hundreds of acres of forest, wetlands, and scenic vistas could remain undisturbed; no new corridors would be opened for more commercial development, and for still more of the very traffic that caused the trouble in the first place.

Of course not all the impacts have been painful. Longtime State Representative Gene Chandler was able to realize one of the earliest benefits from bypass takings when the state bought the boarded-up building that once housed his defunct real estate business. Good for Gene; at least somebody made out.

Gene would probably not have supported a do-nothing policy. That alternative never attracted a majority, but the only way the state found a majority for any option was by offering only a couple of choices at a time. Build

a bypass, or widen Route 16? Go east, or west? Each of those decisions inevitably yielded a deceptively false "majority" preference. Doing nothing was never offered on any two- or three-alternative ballot that I remember examining. If it had been, the support might have been substantial, because so many people came to understand the malevolent effects of both the construction itself and the waves of even greater traffic a completed bypass would attract.

The governor and the executive council decided to design and build a specific bypass alternative more than a decade ago. That was in the last millennium, and not just in the technical mathematical sense. Since then, things have changed dramatically. Not long after the 9-A bypass alternative was approved, I pulled into a truck stop near Augusta, Georgia, and pumped the last gallon of gasoline for which I paid less than a dollar a gallon. Now gas-

line pushes the four-dollar mark. We may see small, short-term price rollbacks, but our perpetual depletion of finite resources dictates that even Americans will have to start paying through the nose for fuel.

That might not be all bad. At last people are cutting back drastically on discretionary travel. Commuter rail lines are finally supporting themselves in New England, and seeking to expand their existing service. Someday soon, perhaps even a New Hampshire governor will see the wisdom of providing his (or her) state's interior with effective public transportation.

If that happens, it won't do much for the outlet kings who want to sell carloads of useless junk to whimsical bargain hunters. For the lodging and recreational industries, though, it might seem like a better way for the state to invest its money than by building new roads that no one can afford to drive.

They died in service to our country. I hope we think about those words.

Arnold Stieber
Grass Lake, MI

Time to Get Real about Taxes
To the Editor:

New Hampshire is rated one of the least efficient state governments! We need gambling! The state is not addressing the needs of residents for good schools and public services! The legislature and governor are struggling with educational funding bills and constitutional amendments! The court system is in dire financial condition, with reduced hours and low employees morale!

All of these headlines are con-

nected. The problems are not the fault of any individual or even one political party. It is the result of a structural (built-in) revenue deficit, estimated to be 10 to 20 percent, that has been around for decades. It is time to get real, and tell the truth: the state is underfunding its government and educational system. Shifting money around won't close the gap. Most outside impartial experts (not cheerleaders for New Hampshire) agree. For decades our state has been losing federal grants because we did not have the people to fill out the forms on time. Our current education funding crisis is just a replay of what state residents have seen every 5 to 10 years for at least 20 years.

What is the solution? Certainly not shifting funds around again! Or changing the Constitution to allow the legislature to ignore the Supreme Court and Constitution!

It is obvious: raise adequate revenue using a fairer system, from a reliable source of revenue. Not wasteful spending, but adequately funding the needs of NH residents. We are already a frugal state. In fact we have already crossed into the penny-wise and pound-foolish zone. No one likes paying taxes. But paying unfair taxes, while wealthy individuals pay less than their fair share is even worse. We need to find an alternative to the unfair property tax, which does not care if your

income is low or you are unemployed. We had a fairer system when we were an agricultural state. The farmer was taxed on his potential income (his acreage in crops) but not on the value of his farmhouse. Unlike our current system of nickel and dime taxes e.g. phone taxes, fees and the selective profits and dividend taxes, that was fair.

While many believe that an income tax is a real solution, a combination of an income, sales and a low property tax can also do the trick. The NH Fair Tax Coalition should be applauded for insisting that politicians open their minds to new ways of funding, and no longer take a NO NEW TAX pledge which just promises more

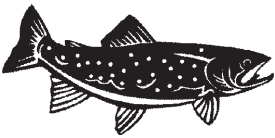
of the same.

The NH House and Senate also deserve credit for finally identifying the elements of a good education and attempting to price it out. Now we must take the next step; fund this plan with a more creative mix of revenues that reduces the property tax burden and gives us a fairer system.

More of the same or demand change? I favor some honesty.

Peter Somssich, Executive Committee Member, Portsmouth Democrats
Portsmouth, NH

Peter:
Tell it like it is.
The Editor



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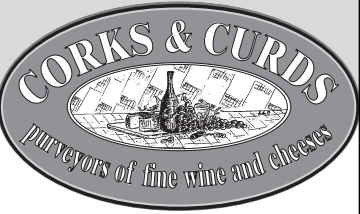
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Senator Gregg's Vote
On the Webb GI Bill

To the Editor:

On May 22, 2008, in a historic vote, the United States Senate passed Webb GI Bill. Seventy-five senators voted it, only twenty-two against. Unfortunately, New Hampshire's senior Senator Judd Gregg was one of the few that decided to put party politics ahead of caring for our veterans. In an era where the burden of defense gets greater and greater, while being carried by fewer and fewer, it is incomprehensible that anyone would withhold educational and reintegration benefits from our nation's warriors, something that would only increase recruiting. Even more disturbing is that a man like Judd Gregg, who avoided military service during the Vietnam War, would try to deny these heroes access to a better life for themselves and their families.

Moreover, the Webb GI Bill will strengthen our nation by sending highly competent men and women of unimpeachable character into the workforce as the United States battles for position in the ever-expanding global economy. Yet, somehow, none of this swayed Senator Gregg. He chose a calculated political move, aimed at shoring up the untenable stance Senator John McCain has taken on the bill, over what was in the best interest of the veterans of New Hampshire and the nation. We veterans will not forget that.

Terence O'Rourke, Senior Advisor, VoteVets.org
Durham, NH
Terence:
Without cover from the Manchester Union Leader, he would never get away with this stuff.
The Editor

New Hampshire
Sets the Bar Too Low

Dear Editor:

The state Superintendent of the Georgia schools contacted parents to give them the news that the math scores from the state proficiency exam proved to be dismal. The Superintendent decided to release the news to help prepare parents for this grim news.

What I find interesting is that Georgia has pretty good math standards. According to the prestigious Fordham Foundation, Georgia received a "B" after the experts analyzed the state's math standards. Compare this to the "F" assigned to the New Hampshire math standards.

Now, what if New Hampshire students were required to meet higher math standards such as Georgia's, or Massachusetts's, which was given an "A"? How well would our students perform?

Georgia's news media are reporting that 40 percent of that state's eighth graders would have to be held back, based on their failing grades. Would our students be able to pass the same test?

This is a dilemma for parents in New Hampshire. Our state has set the bar so low that parents cannot rely on state exams to give them a clear idea of whether or not their child is proficient in mathematics.

With the bar set so low, and with students having difficulty passing the state exam, just think if that bar was raised to the level of other states who've decided that math proficiency is im-

portant. Why is it parents must rely upon outside tutoring services, private schools or choose to home-school in order to get a decent education in this state?

While reading comments at the *Union Leader* web site, where the headline reads, "NECAP Math Scores Fall Short," I found the following comment revealing:

"I am a Junior and I took the NECAP this year. I was home schooled until high school, so I come from a different background than other students. I was the only student at my school to get all 4s on the test. It really was not a hard test, it just tested basic concepts which should be learned at a young age, and apparently were not taught in public schools. I think this test shows the holes in early education, because it is not just testing information we should have recently acquired like most high school tests do."

This comment was posted by a home-schooled student who avoided the pitfalls of the New Hampshire public school system.

With all the resources and the well educated parents living in this state, it still surprises me that there is no organized effort to raise the bar.

Ann Marie Banfield
Bedford, NH

Sununu Fails Veterans,
Gives Bogus Reason Why
To the Editor:

Senator Sununu isn't telling the truth about where he stands in supporting education benefits for veterans.

This Saturday, Senator Sununu wrote a letter to the *Portsmouth Herald* explaining why he does not support a proposal by Senator Jim Webb to update the GI Bill and expand education benefits for veterans. In his letter, he disingenuously claimed that the Webb proposal did not go far

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,

enough and that he would not support it because there had not been an opportunity for full debate on the proposal.

But last Thursday, Senator Sununu voted in favor of a weaker version of the proposal put forward by John McCain, and he did so without any debate on the bill.

I don't know why John Sununu isn't standing up for our veterans and offering them the education benefits they deserve. But I do know he's not telling us the truth about his position. It's time for a Senator who stands up for our service men and women and who tells the truth. It's time for a change.

Barbara Brockelman
Stratham, NH

Fix or Remove
The Electoral College
To the Editor:

Uh-oh. It's been eight years, and no one has fixed the Electoral College problem with our Presidential elections. Naturally, the Republican Congress didn't try to fix the problem for six years, but now we have a Democratic majority in Congress that hasn't bothered to fix the problem either.

The problem, of course, is that the Electoral College system enables the candidate with fewer votes than his opponent to take office. Under the current system, a million and one more California citizens could vote for the Democratic candidate than the Republican and it wouldn't affect the outcome any more than if the Democrat won by just one vote. One million votes would be discounted. In Wyoming, voters' ballots count four times as much as California's.

During the last eight years, this problem has cost us \$3 trillion dollars, nearly 5,000 lives, and

over 40,000 severe injuries, plus the loss of our country's reputation as the best in the world.

It's a disgrace that our country, self-proclaimed beacon of Democracy, does not elect its President on a one-person/one-vote basis.

The Electoral College should be fixed or removed. We need to turn the United States of America into a democratic republic.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA

Time's Up, Sununu
To the Editor:

Senator Sununu, the time has come!

Over 4,076 American soldiers have lost their lives while serving in Iraq. More than 30,000 have been wounded. My own brother William just arrived there earlier this month and his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb. Thankfully, he has only minor injuries. Since the United States invaded Iraq, over a million Iraqi civilians have been killed. How many more lives need to be lost in order for our government to realize that we have accomplished enough?

The war in Iraq has brought freedom to the Iraq people. They are no longer under the cruel reign of Saddam Hussein. Our troops have performed valiantly and done all that our government has asked of them. Unfortunately, the Iraqi Government has not been so forthcoming. While our troops toil away in the midst of a civil war, the Iraqi government has failed to meet the political benchmarks we have set out for them. The time has come to take the pressure of building a safe and secure Iraq off of the backs of American soldiers and give it to the Iraqi government.

The Bush/Sununu status-quo strategy of stay the course has

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And Other Correspondence

failed to produce the political progress needed for a stable, sustainable Iraq. We now need to set a timeline to gradually withdraw troops from the region and hand things over to the Iraqis. I understand we do need to maintain a presence in the region to keep the embassy open as well as to preserve stability. Yet the kind of long term presence being discussed by President Bush and others will simply continue to stoke the coals of resentment.

Senator Sununu, I would like to know how you and your fellow elected officials would be voting if your own children were fighting on the frontlines of this war? Would you be siding with President Bush 90 percent of the time if your son or daughters were there in harm's way? I highly doubt that this war would still be going on if our politicians' own flesh and blood were there serving in a treacherous war zone.

The time has come for setting up a timeline for gradual troop withdrawal. We need our mothers, fathers, sister, brothers, uncles and aunts back home. John McCain has said that we may be in Iraq for up to 100 years. That is totally unacceptable.

This war has tarnished our scarred reputation to the rest of the world. The loss of US soldiers is absolutely sickening. Enough is enough!

Jennifer Craffey
Nashua, NH

Factual Fairy Tales

To the Editor:

In the Religion Section of the Saturday *Concord Monitor* (5/24), was an article called "Evangelicals Question Global Warming." A coalition of conservative evangelicals issued a statement that included this sentence, "Our stewardship of creation must be based on Biblical principles and

factual evidence." Holy non-sensiturs, are they kidding? What do Biblical principles (each sect choosing its own version of the Bible) and factual evidence have in common?

What "factual evidence" is there for a six day creation followed by a seventh day (Saturday) of rest for the Bible God? Creating a universe must be hard work. Where is the evidence for the Bible God sneezing into a mud puddle, thus creating the first man, Adam? What evidence exists for the creation of Eve from Adam's rib, after the Bible God's failure to find a helpmeet for Adam from among all the beasts of the field? If Maggy the gorilla touched Adam's fancy, there may have never been an Eve. Perhaps there is some evidence for a talking snake, but I have never seen it. How about a talking donkey (Numbers, Chapter 22), or a fired-up talking bush who said, "I am what I am and that's all that I am. I'm Yahweh the saviour god, toot toot?"

Where's the evidence for a virgin birth, healing the blind with spittle and dirt, driving demons out of people and into pigs, or raising the dead to life again? There is no evidence for Herod's slaughter of the innocents described by Matthew. Even Luke forgot to mention it! Also in Matthew 27:52, zombies rose from their graves. Is there "factual evidence" for this astounding event? To me, this was the most amazing event in all "history" (the afternoon of the living dead) and yet, there is not even a mustard seed of evidence. I wonder what these zombies were wearing. Did they walk around in their birthday suits, as the prophet Isaiah did for three years (Isaiah 20: 2-3)? Or did the Bible god provide custom-tailored sackcloth suits? The clothes make the zombie

you know!

All the fairy tales of the Bible must be taken on faith (as blind as can be) because there is no evidence, unlike global warming, or the dreaded evolution, which are both based on reams of "factual evidence." Unfortunately, "The way to see by faith is to shut the eye to reason," (Benjamin Franklin).

Well, I could go on, but—ouch!—I just hurt my intelligently-designed back, bending over to retrieve my spectacles, which I now need to aid my intelligently-designed eyes. I am reminded of the famous philosopher, Voltaire, who observed, "It is obvious that the nose was designed to hold spectacles."

"That's all folks!"
Gary Walker
Campton, NH

Recycling on a Grand Scale

To the Editor:

Sometimes a good idea languishes in the darkness until a person of great vision and insight shines a light on it. A number of years ago, State Rep. Jim Splaine recommended some long-term strategies to use diversification in order to keep the Portsmouth Shipyard open, but nothing came of his forward looking plan at the time.

For years, with Republican control of both Congress and the New Hampshire delegation, and a Republican President in the White House, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was constantly under threat of closure. Now, after less than one term in the House of Representatives, our Congresswoman, Carol Shea-Porter, has come up with plans which will not only provide vital national services, bring jobs into the area and protect the shipyard from closure, but also re-use a building that has been going to waste (the Old Navy Prison).

First, Shea-Porter's plan to locate the Air Force Cyber Com-



mand at the Old Prison is not yet a reality, but the project has already passed its initial hurdle.

Second, the House Armed Services Committee has approved Shea-Porter's request for \$10.6 to construct a Consolidated Global Submarine Component Facility at the Shipyard.

We are fortunate indeed to have Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, a woman of foresight and vision, representing us in Washington.

Lenore Patton
Hampton, NH

Count the Votes

To the Editor:

The few upcoming remaining state Democrat primaries, as in the prior primaries, the two Democrats left running, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Hussein Mohammed [sic] Obama, will be determined by the crossover voting of the Republicans. The Republican have long ago decided who their nominee will be: John Sidney McCain. This has made it possible for many Republican to cross over and vote in the Democrat primaries. These Republicans vote in the Democrat [sic] primaries for the least-threatening [to them] nominee of the Democrats: Obama. The Republicans seem to have decided that in the November general election they will have the majority of whites on their side, and

More Hate Mail, &c.
to page four

SummerFilm
The Music Hall
SHINE A LIGHT
JUNE 1, 2 & 3 @ 7:30
Martin Scorsese brings us a career-spanning documentary on the Rolling Stones with archival live and news footage along with new concert footage from the intimate Beacon Theater in NY during the 2006 "A Bigger Bang" tour. PG13, 122 min, US, 2008
Show and Tell Follows JUNE 3 Screening

Tsotsi
JUNE 4 @ 7:30
Oscar Winner — Best Foreign Language Film. This explosive vision of hard-won redemption amid the brutal street life of Soweto bursts with music, danger and vitality. R, 94 min, UK/South Africa, 2005

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
JUNE 5, 6 & 7 @ 7:30
Oscar Winner — Best Picture, Best Direction, Best Supporting Actor, Best Screenplay. An artful film about a drug deal gone wrong followed by pursuit and murder in 1980 West Texas. Directed by the Coen brothers. Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin and Javier Bardem. R, 122 min, US, 2007
Show and Tell Follows JUNE 5 Screening

Blind Mountain
JUNE 8, 9 & 10 @ 7:30
Known for exposing the underbelly of modern China, director Li Yang found his previous outing, *Blind Shaft*, banned in his native country. This harrowing drama follows a college student who finds herself kidnapped and sold as a bride. NR, 95 min, China, 2007

WARDANCE
JUNE 11 @ 7:30
Oscar-nominated for Best Documentary, *War Dance* follows three children living in a displacement camp in northern Uganda as they compete in their country's national music and dance festival. PG13, 105 min, US, 2008

ATONEMENT
JUNE 12, 13 & 14 @ 7:30
Seven Oscar nominations and one win for Best Score. A romance that spans several decades, from the novel by Ian McEwan. A 13-year-old changes the course of several lives when she accuses her sister's lover of a crime. Keira Knightley, James McAvoy. R, 130 min, UK, 2007

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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, June 1	Monday, June 2	Tuesday, June 3	Wednesday, June 4	Thursday, June 5	Friday, June 6	Saturday, June 7
2005—Having demonstrated world-class incompetence at the Pentagon, Paul Wolfowitz takes over the World Bank. 2003—The Bush administration announces that it’s canning its plans for a large Iraqi assembly in favor of a smaller, easier to manipulate advisory council. 2001—Eight members of the Nepalese Royal Family are massacred in their Katmandu palace. Prince Dipendra, the suspected perpetrator, is proclaimed King but dies three days later. 1981—In Seattle, two long-shoremen are assassinated on orders of the Marcos regime. 1980—CNN debuts. 1967—Vietnam Veterans Against the War is founded. 1963—Quang Duc, 73, immolates himself in Vietnam. 1954—The Atomic Energy Commission pulls the security clearance of Manhattan Project boss J. Robert Oppenheimer. 1926—Norma Jeane Mortenson, aka Marilyn Monroe, is born in a Los Angeles charity ward. 1921—In Tulsa, OK, a “race war” ends with 250 blacks and 50 whites dead. 1918—Advised to turn back by a retreating French officer at Belleau Woods, U.S.M.C. Capt. Lloyd Williams replies, “Retreat? Hell, we just got here.”	2003—The FCC further eases the rules against media monopoly, just to be fair to huge corporations. 2002—The CIA admits to Congress—in a classified document, so citizens wouldn’t be unduly alarmed—that it had been tracking one of the 9/11 hijackers months earlier than it had previously admitted. 1989—Rolling Stones guitarist Bill Wyman, 52, marries Mandy Smith, 19. 1983—As a result of a toilet fire aboard an Air Canada DC-9, 23 people die in Cincinnati, including singer Stan Rogers. 1964—The Rolling Stones begin their first U.S. tour with a gig in Lynn, Mass. On the same bill: Bobby Goldsboro & Bobby Vee. 1955—On confessing to killing her last four husbands with rat poison, Mrs. Nannie Doss gets life in the slammer. 1886—Grover Cleveland, 47, marries Frances Folsom, 21, at the White House. 1855—In Portland, Maine, a protest against prohibition by hundreds of people, largely Irish immigrants, devolves into a riot involving thousands. 1835—P.T. Barnum and his circus begin their first tour. 455—Gaiseric and the Vandals sack Rome.	2002—Hosni Mubarak announces that Egypt warned the U.S., on or about 9/4/01, that al Qaeda was ready to unleash something against the U.S. 1980—A failed 46 cent computer chip convinces the Pentagon that a Soviet attack on the U.S. is about to begin. 1974—Brown & Williamson Tobacco tests a cigarette blended to smell like pot. 1968—Valerie Solanas plugs Andy Warhol. 1961—Henry R. Marshall, an Agriculture Department official, is found dead with five slugs in him from a bolt-action rifle. The death is listed as a suicide. 1943—Fifty sailors sneak weapons out of the L.A. armory and attack “Zoot Suiters.” 1942—Battle of Midway starts. 1851—The New York Knickerbockers introduce the first baseball uniforms: white shirts, long blue trousers, and straw hats. 1793—Charles Pierce establishes the <i>Oracle of the Day</i>, later the <i>Portsmouth Journal</i>. 1761—Birth of Henry Shrapnel, inventor of the shrapnel shell. 1678—In Portsmouth, tything men are appointed “to inspect the neighbor’s families.” 1381—With a casual insult, Sir Simon de Burley kicks off Wat Tyler’s Rebellion.	2006—A Ukranian man enters the lion cage at the Kiev zoo, saying “God will save me, if he exists.” A lion kills him. 2004—In Granby, CO, Marvin Heemeyer, in his armored bulldozer, destroys the Town Hall, the mayor’s home, and 11 other buildings because “God ... asked [him] to do it.” 2003—To prove they’re not soft on corporate crime, federal prosecutors pick on Martha Stewart. 2003—George W. Bush says he’s “the master of low expectations.” 1989—The Chinese Army kills thousands at Tiananmen Square. 1974—Cleveland forfeits a home game to the Rangers when ten-cent beer night goes awry. 1966—James Meredith takes a bullet for voter registration. 1962—The first U.S. attempt to test a nuke at high altitude fails when a Thor rocket malfunctions and is blown up minutes after liftoff over the South Pacific. 1944—For the first time a submarine—<i>US05</i>—is captured and boarded on the high seas. 1940—The last of 338,000 Allied troops are evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk. 1939—The <i>St. Louis</i>, carrying 963 Jewish refugees, is turned away from Florida. Most of them later die in Hitler’s concentration camps.	2003—Two top <i>New York Times</i> editors resign in disgrace. Oddly, many more do not. 1989—A lone Chinese man temporarily stops a line of tanks in Tiananmen Square. 1986—A man in Auburn, WA dies after taking a cyanide-laced Excedrin. 1976—In Idaho, the federal Teton Dam fails, killing 11 and costing nearly \$1B. 1968—Robert Kennedy is fatally shot in Los Angeles. The subsequent investigation by the LA Police Department leaves no doubt among the gullible that Sirhan Sirhan did it. 1967—Israel attacks Egypt and Syria, starting the Six Day War. 1965—The State Department admits that U.S. troops are engaged in combat in Vietnam. 1963—Britain’s Sec. of War John Profumo resigns after it’s revealed he and a Soviet naval officer had, at different times, shared the favors of the same prostitute. 1919—The Palmer Raids begin with the arrests of sixty-seven anarchists. 1917—Draft registration begins in the U.S. 1885—The Know-Nothing Party holds its first convention. 1878—Birth of Doroteo Arango Arámula, later known as “Pancho Villa.”	2002—As India and Pakistan rattle their nukes at each other, an asteroid 30 feet in diameter explodes over the eastern Mediterranean with twice the force of the Hiroshima bomb. 1989—California citizens vote to shut down the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant. 1989—Greenpeace reports there are 50 nuclear weapons and 9 reactors on the ocean floor. 1988—At a food irradiation plant in Decatur, Georgia, “unbreakable” cesium capsules break, irradiating 10 workers. 1982—Israel invades Lebanon. 1980—Nuke-armed B-52s go on alert for the second time in three days when a computer malfunction falsely signals a Soviet attack on the U.S. 1970—Generals gathered at Charleston Air Force Base, to observe the first operational C-5A land, watch as a tire blows out and a wheel falls off. 1944—An unusually long day in Normandy. 1933—The first drive-in movie theatre opens, in Camden, NJ. 1930—William Beebe and Otis Barton go 803 feet below the ocean’s surface in a bathysphere. 1918—The U.S. Marine Corps suffer more casualties than any previous day in history at Belleau Wood.	2000—“They butchered me back there,” says Bennie Demps, referring to Florida prison officials who had trouble finding a vein so they could kill him. 1997—Activists are arrested for passing out copies of the Bill of Rights outside the pro-nuclear Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos. 1980—RIP Henry Miller. 1969—In Vietnam, Marine PFC Dan Bullock, 15, becomes the youngest American soldier to die in combat since the First World War. 1960—An A-bomb is incinerated in a anti-aircraft missile fire 20 miles from Trenton, NJ. 1924—Mallory disappears near the summit of Mt. Everest. 1917—On the Western Front, British engineers detonate 19 huge mines whose explosion can be heard in Dublin. Ten thousand Germans and the town of Messines are destroyed. 1862—William Bruce Mumford, a retired gambler in New Orleans, is hanged for treason, to wit, desecration of the flag. 1775—Former colonies change their name to the United States. 1692—Port Royal, Jamaica—“the wickedest city in the world”—is destroyed by an earthquake and tsunami. Thousands of whores and pirates perish.
9:31 9:47	10:27 10:40	11:21 11:32	12:15	12:25 1:09	1:18 2:03	2:13 2:58
3:16 3:26	4:12 4:20	5:06 5:13	5:59 6:06	6:52 6:59	7:45 7:54	8:39 8:50
Sunday, June 8	Monday, June 9	Tuesday, June 10	Wednesday, June 11	Thursday, June 12	Friday, June 13	Saturday, June 14
2003—Condi Rice admits G.W. Bush’s State of the Union claim Saddam tried to buy uranium from Niger was wrong. 1998—General Sani Abacha, <i>de facto</i> President of Nigeria, dies in the company of two prostitutes, of a heart attack allegedly caused by an overdose of Viagra. 1971—Being interviewed on tape for “The Dick Cavett Show,” health expert J.I. Rodale says “I never felt better in my life!” Minutes later he’s dead of a heart attack. 1967—Israeli aircraft and boats attack the unarmed spy ship <i>U.S.S. Liberty</i> with rockets, machine guns, and napalm, killing 34 sailors and wounding 171. 1966—At NYU, 270 walk out on Robert Strange McNamara’s commencement speech. 1959—The Post Office and Navy team up to send 3,000 pieces of mail from the nuclear sub <i>Barbero</i> to Mayport, FL via a Regulus cruise missile. 1952—“I would never send troops [to Vietnam],” says Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower. 1909—At East Orange, NJ, police bar Emma Goldman from a meeting commemorating Tom Paine’s death. She delivers her speech in a barn. 1787—Daniel Fowle dies in Portsmouth, NH, aged 71 years.	1989—James Watt, Ronald Reagan’s Secretary of the Interior, admits to a House investigating committee that he was paid \$400,000 for making a few phone calls on a topic he knew nothing about. 1978—The Mormon Church drops its policy of excluding black men from the priesthood. 1958—British writer Auberon Waugh, aboard an armored car in Cyprus, shakes the barrel of a malfunctioning machine gun, accidentally shooting himself in the chest several times. 1958—Jerry Lee Lewis takes out a full page ad in <i>Billboard</i> to explain his 2nd divorce and 3rd marriage, to his 14 year old cousin Myra. 1954—Joseph Welch asks Joseph McCarthy, “Have you no sense of decency, sir?” 1953—In Worcester, Mass, a tornado kills 94 and hospitalizes 1,306. 1946—Mel Ott becomes the first baseball manager to be ejected from both games of a double header. 1912—In Seattle, WW I veterans threaten Emma Goldman if she speaks; she speaks anyway, and no harm comes to her. 1909—Alice Huyler Ramsay departs New York for San Francisco in a Maxwell automobile.	1990—British Airways Captain Tim Lancaster is sucked halfway out of Flight 5390 when his windshield blows out 17,000 feet over Oxfordshire. The plane lands safely. Lancaster recovers and later resumes flying. 1988—A bicycle messenger is denied entrance to the Justice Department because he’s wearing a T-shirt that says, “Experts agree: Meese is a pig.” 1975—Rockefeller Commission reports that the CIA’s Operation CHAOS spied on 300,000 Americans and infiltrated political movements. 1958—A House subcommittee reveals that Boston industrialist Bernard Goldfine paid NH native Sherman Adams’s hotel bills in exchange for Adams’s help with the SEC. 1944—Pitching in the ninth for the Cincinnati Reds, Joe Nuxhall gives up five runs. He’s 15. 1940—Black nationalist Marcus Garvey dies of a stroke after reading a mistaken obituary of himself in the <i>Chicago Defender</i>. 1871—U.S. forces land in Korea “to protect U.S. interests.” 1801—Tripoli declares war on the U.S. for not paying tribute. 1248—The bulk of Bergen, Norway burns. 1194—A large part of Chartres is destroyed by fire.	1995—In Claremont, NH, Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich shake hands and pledge to reform lobbying and campaign financing. 1991—Mount Pinatubo erupts, becoming the first act of nature to close a U.S. military base. 1984—The Supreme Court rules that illegally obtained evidence can be used in court if it can be proved that it would have been discovered legally. 1981—Major League Baseball (tm) players go on strike. 1981—Issei Sagawa, a Japanese student at the Sorbonne, kills fellow student René Hartevelt, and eats parts of her body. Found too insane for trial by French authorities he is deported to Japan for institutionalization. Fifteen months later he is allowed to check himself out. 1972—<i>Deep Throat</i> opens wide. 1971—Nineteen month Native American occupation of Alcatraz Island ends. 1963—Thich Quang Duc immolates himself in front of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. 1963—George Wallace stands in the schoolhouse door to prevent desegregation in Alabama. 1962—Frank Morris, John Anglin, and John’s brother Clarence escape from Alcatraz, but probably drown. 1917—A Butte, Montana mine collapse kills 260 miners.	2003—George W. Bush falls off a Segway. 2000—The Energy Department admits two hard drives holding top secret instructions for disarming and dismantling nuclear weapons have been missing for more than a month. 1999—George W. Bush announces he’ll run for President. 1981—Israeli planes bomb Iraq’s Osiraq nuclear reactor. 1979—Bryan Allen crosses the English Channel aboard the <i>Gossamer Albatross</i> at an altitude of 5 feet. He is the pilot, the engine, and the sole passenger. 1972—Radical labor organizer Saul Alinsky dies in California. 1963—Medgar Evers is shot and killed in Mississippi; his murderer is convicted 31 years later. 1961—U.S. Army Major Gen. Edwin Walker is disciplined for indoctrinating his troops with John Birch Society propaganda. 1957—“We have exactly 342 men,” says General Samuel T. Williams, head of the U.S. MAAG, Vietnam, “the number allowed by the Geneva Armistice Conference. It would be a breeze if we had more.” 1920—Serge Voronoff performs the first transplant of monkey testicle tissue into a human. 1917—A Butte, Montana mine collapse kills 260 miners.	2003—“His [Joe Wilson’s] wife is in the [Central Intelligence] Agency and is a WMD analyst,” Dep. Sec. of State Richard Armitage tells Bob Woodward. “How about that s_t?” 1989—President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush vetoes a raise in the minimum wage. 1983—<i>Pioneer 10</i> becomes the first man-made object to leave the solar system. 1971—Publication of <i>The Pentagon Papers</i> begins. 1968—In a misunderstanding, a U.S. helicopter crew blasts a Vietnamese command post, killing Saigon’s Police Chief. 1967—Thurgood Marshall is named to the Supreme Court. 1966—The Supreme Court issues its Miranda decision. 1960—As SDS meets in Port Huron and the civil rights movement heats up, <i>Newsweek</i> reports that students are “apathetic.” 1944—German V-1 “buzzbomb” attacks on England start. 1942—The U.S. Office of War Information is established. 1920—The U.S. Post Office rules that children may not be shipped by parcel post. 1871—A hurricane kills 300 in Labrador. 1868—Ex-slave Oscar Dunn becomes Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana.	1996—The FBI reveals that the Clinton White House has obtained files on 408 people without justification. 1982—Argentina surrenders to Britain. 1954—D. Eisenhower signs a bill adding “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance. 1951—Senator Joe McCarthy (R-Wisc.) accuses Pres. Eisenhower and Gen. George Marshall of always serving the policies of the Kremlin. 1951—UNIVAC, the first commercial computer, is unveiled. 1943—The Supreme Court rules that children cannot be forced to salute the flag if it offends their religious beliefs. 1942—The bazooka goes into production in Bridgeport, Conn. 1928—Ernesto “Che” Guevara is born in Argentina. 1924—In San Pedro, Calif., the IWW labor hall is raided; children are scalded and the hall demolished. 1919—Alcock and Brown leave Newfoundland for the first successful flight across the Atlantic. 1905—Russian sailors aboard the battleship <i>Potemkin</i> mutiny. 1897—The five year-old immigration station on Ellis Island, built of pine, burns to the ground taking 42 years worth of records with it.
3:09 3:55	4:07 4:52	5:08 5:51	6:11 6:48	7:15 7:44	8:16 8:37	9:13 9:27
9:33 9:49	10:28 10:51	11:24 11:55	12:21	12:59 1:17	2:01 2:11	2:58 3:03

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