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The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

"Bigger Hammers, Please"

This past fortnight has been a memorable one—at least, for those of us lucky enough to have lived through it without suffering a complete nervous breakdown resulting in catatonia.

And no wonder. There's a presidential election campaign going on, of course. That alone guarantees everyone's daily minimum requirement of hyperbole, dissimulation, and flat-out lies.

We've also had the the usual barrage of news stories about pending eco-catastrophes. Topping the list this fortnight: half of all mammal species are declining; more than a third are headed for probable extinction.

International military and political affairs never fail to provide something to be agog about. Every few days for the past couple of weeks there's been yet another U.S. missile strike in Pakistan. Whenever a graduate of the PlayStation Military Academy fires a Hellfire missile from an unmanned drone, there's a dispute over whether the decedents were terrorists or goatherds. Our State Department's view on these disputes seems to be that the Pakistanis ought to be grateful that we're their friends, and not their enemies.

Meanwhile our other good friends in that general region, the Turks, have been busily bombing Iraqi Kurds. President Abdullah Gül ought to be more careful—we hanged Saddam for that sort of behavior.

Just to keep things interesting, Russia has been test-firing new cruise and ballistic missiles, and releasing a DVD entitled *Let's Learn Judo with Vladimir Putin*.

As we go to press, pirates are still holding a shipload of Russian tanks for ransom off the Somali coast. Pirates? The last time this newspaper reported on pirates, Daniel Fowle was the editor, and George III was King. One has to wonder whether time itself has slipped a cog.

Closer to home, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may soon have to change its name to PovertyWorld. Anti-tax fundamentalists succeeded in getting Question 1 on the ballot. If it passes, it will eliminate the state's income tax, thereby cutting revenue by about 40 percent. Anyone crossing the border and entering the Bay State will be greeted by a phalanx of squeegee men—and they'll be state employees.

But none of this High Strangeness is enough to distract the general public—even those without a nickel at stake on Wall Street—from the grim news that the global economy has ground to a halt because bankers everywhere have decided that, as a class, bankers everywhere are bad credit risks.

Economics has been called "The Dismal Science," and for good reason. Just the thought of it is usually soporific enough to cure an insomniac. But lately it's been pretty exciting—in a heart-stopping kind of way. A comparable headline coming from the Environment Desk might be: "Gulf Stream Stops, Thermohaline Collapse Underway: Fifty-Fifty Chance of Another Ice Age."

Six weeks ago, talking heads were debating whether or not we were in for a recession. Three weeks ago, the question was what kind of recession, mild or deep? As we go to press, the pundits are still babbling, but no one's really listening. The whole world's just holding its breath, waiting to see whether the lastest massive injection of taxpayers's money into private banks will stop the bleeding.

A popular saying holds that there are no atheists in foxholes. Maybe, maybe not; you can't prove a negative. But there don't seem to be a lot of free marketers in this panic.

News Briefs:

The Cheney Watch

*[**Program Note**—We will publish our next paper, not on October 31 as we normally would, but three weeks from today, on Friday, November 7. We are making this adjustment to our publishing schedule in order to avoid what would otherwise be head-on collisions with two national holidays: Thanksgiving and Christmas.—The Ed.*

Onward, And Sideways

The major consequence of the change noted above is that this must be our final paper before the election. This means whole truckloads of weirdness will pass unrecorded in these pages. With most of the paper laid out, the best we can do is insert a few very raw facts here.

Mr. Trustworthy: Shortly after Henry Paulson became Treasury Secretary, he appointed Jim Wilkinson to "oversee the creation of a Treasury command center to track markets worldwide and serve as an operations base in a crisis." Earlier in his career Wilkinson helped originate the lie that Al Gore claimed to have invented the Internet. He went on to be the spokesman for the Congressional staffers who conducted the "Brooks Brothers Riot" during the 2000 Florida recount. Later he stage-managed the Pvt. Jessica Lynch "rescue."

Mr. Trustworthy, Part Deux: William Timmins, the head of John McCain's transition team, worked closely for five years with two lobbyists who, after the first Gulf War, worked as unregistered agents on behalf of Saddam Hussein. One pled guilty, the other was convicted. Timmins denies wrongdoing.

Final Factoid: Democrats need to win by more votes than the Republicans are going to steal.

The Cheney Watch

As the Presidential election looms, Senator John McCain's chances are dwindling like the value of a 401(k). We'd be shirking our duty if we didn't ask: exactly where in hell is Vice President Dick "Dick" Cheney, and what evil is he doing? Is it time for October Surprise, 2008?

The *Chicago Tribune* reported on Monday that Mr. Cheney would be in Chicago—Mr. Obama's home town—on Wednesday, allegedly to attend a private fundraiser for a Republican Congressional candidate named Marty Ozinga. A redi-mix concrete millionnaire, Ozinga is challenging a Democratic State Senator, Debbie Halvorson, for the seat being vacated by Rep. Jerry Weller.

Weller, a Republican, announced last year that he wasn't running for another term so he could give his "family the time needed to be a full-time father and husband." That must mean that the reports in local Chicago newspapers alleging that Weller had filed official reports misstating the facts of his ownership of several parcels of land in Nicaragua had nothing to do with his retirement.

Concern for his family likewise must have overridden any difficulties caused by Weller's links to former associates of former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (D-CA), currently basking in the sun at a minimum security satellite camp of the U.S. Penitentiary in Tucson.

Weller's being named one of the 22 most corrupt members of Congress by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington was also, we must conclude, totally irrelevant.

A jaunt to Chicago to try and save a GOP seat from turning blue is hardly a challenge for the likes of Cheney, though. What else is he up to?

A report in the *Eurasia Daily Monitor* claimed that Cheney met in Washington last week with Armenian officials. That meeting was not reported on the White House's "Dick" Cheney page, but then very little actually is. The page lists 45 speeches and "news releases" during the course of this year, an average of one every six days. As of Tuesday, there had been only two entries in the five weeks since September 9. That leaves an awful lot of time for mischief …

On September 19 "Dick" went to Chickamauga, Tennessee, to brag about his great-grandfather's presence there 145 years earlier, on the occasion of a famous slaughter. And on October 3, at the White House, he delivered remarks on "North American Wildlife Policy," which we believe can best be summarized as "Bang!" *

Cheney Watch Update

This just in: On Wednesday afternoon, the White House's Cheney page reported that "The Vice President visited his doctors at George Washington University Hospital this afternoon for evaluation and treatment of atrial fibrillation (an abnormal rhythm involving the upper chambers of the heart) which was discovered this morning."

Medical science continues to do things which leave us in awe—now they can even evaluate *"Dick" Cheney's* heartbeat and see when it's "abnormal."

"An electrical impulse was delivered to restore the heart to normal rhythm," the White House said. "The procedure went smoothly and without complication." But the lights dimmed in orphanages, veterans' hospitals, and old folks' homes all across the country.

Department of Unintentional Hilarity

Paul Krugman has a day job, at Princeton University, doing

News Briefs
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* OK, the "Bang!" part, we made up. But this comes directly from the transcript of Cheney's speech: "I've taken a lot of grief over the years, obviously, for that hunting accident in Texas—most of it from the President. I will never forget walking into the Oval Office after that happened … I walked into the Oval Office that day and the President looked at me, and he said, 'Dick, here I am 30 percent in the polls, and you shot the only trial lawyer in Texas who supports me.'"

News Briefs

from page one

whatever it is that economists do. But he is best known to most Americans for his column, which has been published in the *New York Times* since 2000. In it he has regularly treated the Bush administration with almost as much contempt as it deserves. He just won the Nobel Prize for Economics, for deepening "our understanding of the determinants of trade and the location of economic activity," whatever that means.

Krugman's receipt of the Nobel spurred William L. Anderson to write in *Forbes*, "Today's announcement … although not earth shattering, indicates that outright political partisanship is not a deterrent to winning. This is not as tragic a moment in western civilization as the sacking of Constantinople in 1453 or the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, but it suffices as one of those sad moments we will regret over time."

Anderson's doleful elegy for a Nobel that transcended politics, on the other hand, provides a glorious taste of schadenfreude which time cannot wither. His inability to recognize the "outright political partisanship" which routinely handed the Nobel to members of the brutish Chicago school of economics reminds us of the white male who said recently on NPR that while he'd been white all his life, he'd never noticed anyone giving him preferential treatment because of his skin color.

From our end of the telescope, it looks more like the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has surveyed the global wreckage and decided to let the world know they'd wised up. Well, better late than never.

Athenaeum Book Sale

SecondRun Bookstore, on Commercial Alley, is the best place in town to find used books—about 362 days a year. One day a year, though, for three hours, the Portsmouth Athenæum's Annual Book Sale beats it.

This year the sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 1, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the South Church Parish Hall on State Street, as usual.

This is not your garden-variety, Yard Sale quality book sale full of commercial dreck. These are books being made available by serious readers who need more room on their shelves, and the prices are affordable even in these times. We always come away with bags full.

Go and enjoy, dear reader. If you get there early enough, you'll even get to see the dealers fighting over books—a sordid delight! And never say that your late-rising Alleged Editor doesn't make sacrifices for you.

The Flag Police Thought You Would Want to Know

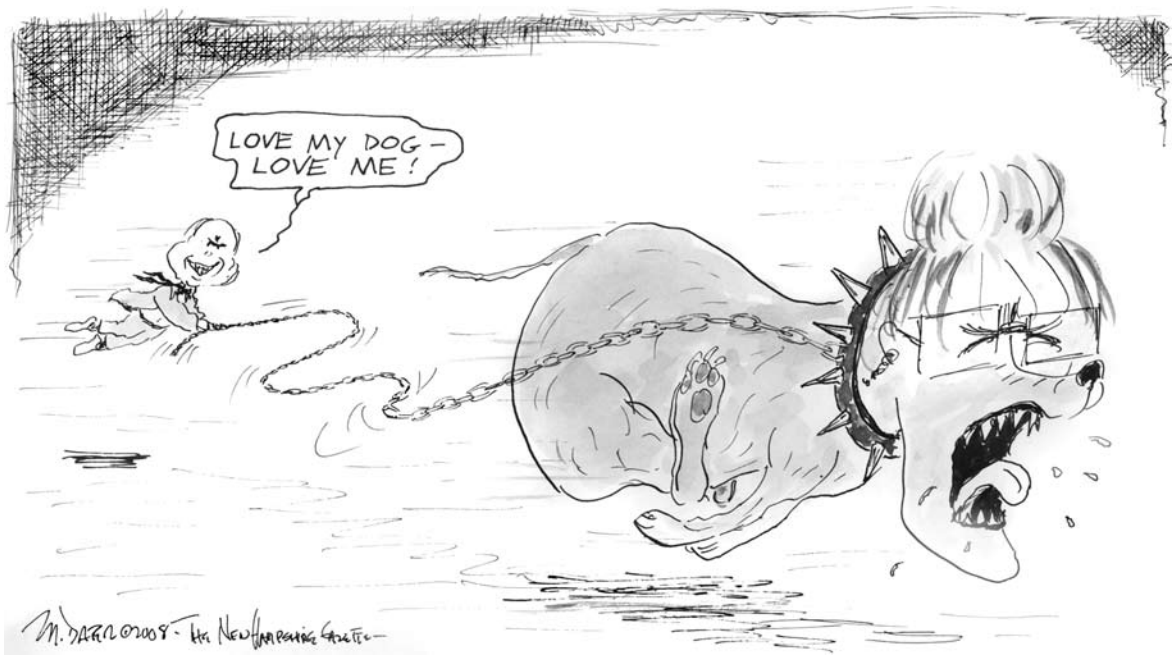
Faithful Reader Jim Kilcoyne, an Honorary Flag Police Person (with Oak Leaf Cluster), forwarded to us a useful item from *Army Echoes*, published by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. It says the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181) has "changed Sect. 9, Title 4, U.S. Code, which covers 'Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag.'"

"During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. *Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute."* [Emphasis added.]

Prior to this, veterans were supposed to behave as run-of-the-mill civilians, and "stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart" during a salute to the flag.

Some veterans of our acquaintance, either through forgetfullness or the unreconstructed anarchic tendencies common to their era, have been known to ignore the regulations and render the salute if they damn well felt like it. Now they may do so without violating the Flag Code. No doubt they will now find some other way of transgressing the rules.

Thank you, Jim. Carry on.



The mysterious bat that once could be seen perched high over Daniel Street has gone into hiding. After puzzling the public for more than twenty years, it is now in seclusion behind a coat of fresh green paint, applied shortly after noon on Wednesday, by F.A. Gray painter Ezra Nibbs. Its companion, located on the chimney next to Moe's, is expected to join it soon.

You know that disgust with a Presidential administration has reached previously un-plumbed depths when skateboard manufacturers start making products using the Commander-in-Chief's face as an object of mockery. This item, named "Farewell," is by $lave Skateboards. It's just $50, at Identity, on Congress Street.

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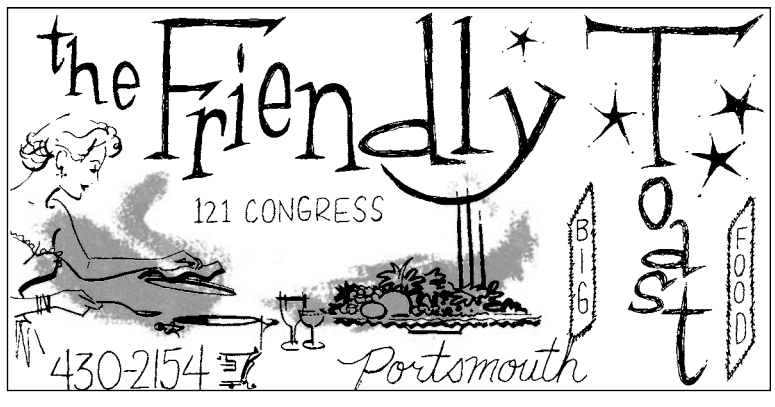


See the Wooden Press in Action!

We are thrilled to announce that on Friday, October 24, at the Strawbery Banke Visitors Center, the general public will be able to watch a wooden printing press in action.

This hand-made press, built by John. A. "Jack" Williams, of Effingham, is virtually identical to the one used by Daniel Fowle during the first thirty years of this paper's existence. In fact, the form and operation of printing presses went almost unchanged for more than 350 years, from the days of Johannes Gutenberg, until the introduction of iron presses in the early 1800's.

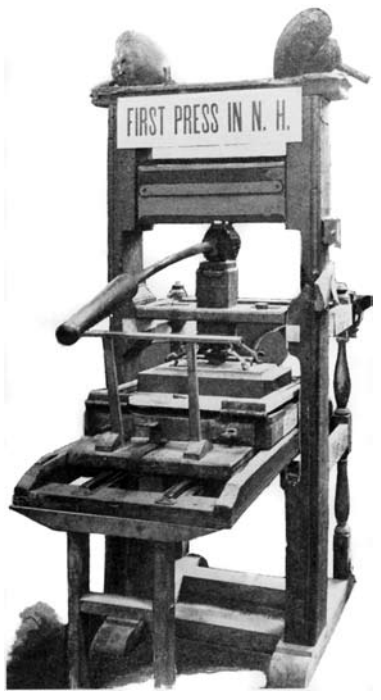
From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Jack will be inking the type, putting paper on the tympan, lowering the frisket, rolling the form under the platen, pulling the bar, &c., &c. Jack previously demonstrated this press at the same location during the *Gazette's* 250th Anniversary Celebration in 2006. If you missed it then, see it this time. If you saw it then, you know you'd like to see it again.

This time around, the press is here as part of the Portsmouth Literary Festival, which is itself a celebration of the New Hampshire Writers Project's 20th Anniversary. For more on that, see left.

Strangely enough, this event will take place 254 years to the day after Daniel Fowle was taken into custody and interrogated by the authorities in Boston, "on mere suspicion" of being involved in the printing of *The Monster of Monsters*.

The Monster was a scandalous pamphlet, aimed at stopping a tax on rum and spiritous liquors, which happened to cast those very authorities in a very unflattering light.

Daniel was interrogated without charge, and subsequently put into prison for five days without a conviction. This blatant disregard for his rights as an Englishman led him to come to Portsmouth to establish New Hampshire's first print shop and found *The New Hampshire Gazette*.



Daniel's Long-Lost Press

This image of Daniel Fowle's printing press—the first press in New Hampshire—was taken during the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The press has not been seen since. Only a handful of similar, original presses survive. The press which will be demonstrated at Strawbery Banke next Friday, though built recently, is almost identical.

Portsmouth Literary Festival Connects Writing and History

The connection between history and the written word is at the heart of the New Hampshire Writers' Trail: Portsmouth Literary Festival on October 23-25, 2008. This three-day Festival features a wide variety of inexpensive and free events aimed at bringing history buffs and lovers of literature together.

Portsmouth is the fifth location on the New Hampshire Writers' Trail, a statewide "literary meander" that highlights the accomplishments of writers within a specific New Hampshire region and brings nationally acclaimed visiting writers to the Granite State.

Our friends at *The Wire* will publish a four-page, self-guided Literary Walking Tour and Map of Portsmouth, written by J. Dennis Robinson.

In the past, the New Hampshire Writers' Trail has been to Wilmot to host the 2006 Kearsarge Poetry Festival, to Keene in Summer 2006 to celebrate the work of Ernest Hebert, and to Claremont and Laconia in 2005, to explore the literal and fictional worlds of Sarah Josepha Hale and Ruth Doan McDougall. This year, the Trail travels to Portsmouth, the town where NHWP first began.

In 1988, the New Hampshire Writers' Project started in the Button Factory on Islington Street in Portsmouth. "In the winter," said Kathy Wurtz, Executive Director of NHWP, "it was so cold the staff had to wear mittens. Things have, fortunately," she added with a smile, "warmed up since then."

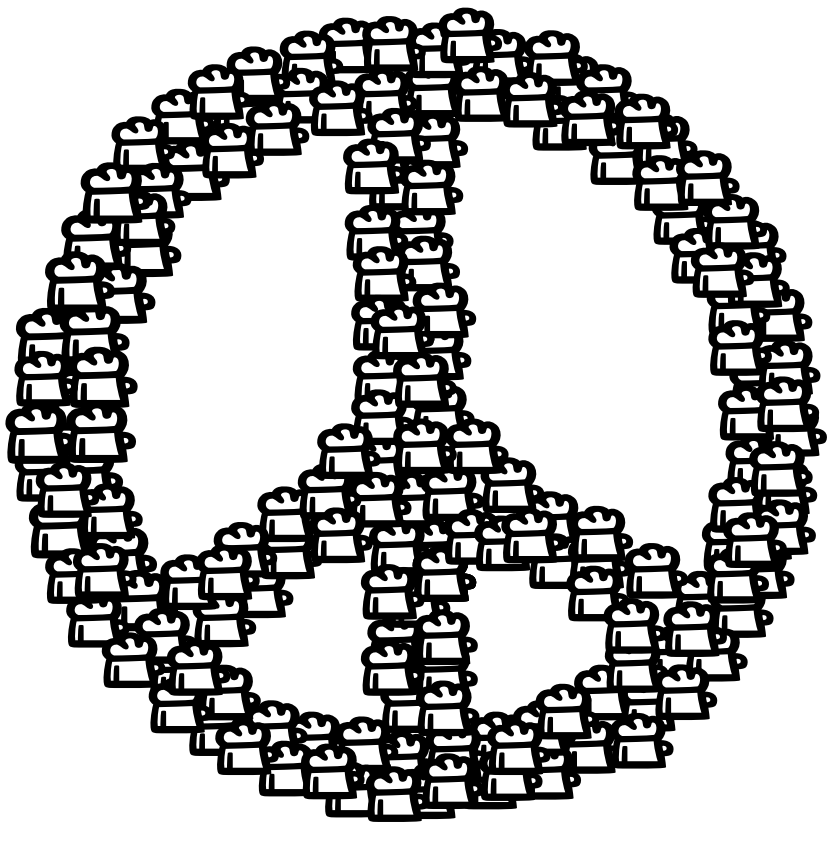
The nonprofit organization has grown to include more than 750 members throughout New Hampshire and the surrounding states. NHWP fosters writers at all levels of development—from beginners to Pulitzer Prize winners and U.S. Poets Laureate—as well as readers who appreciate great writing and books. Now they are ready to celebrate.

NHWP, working with community partners such as Strawbery Banke Museum, South Church, The Music Hall, River-Run Bookstore, the Athenaeum, Seacoast Repertory Theatre, the Press Room, and the *Wire*, will present three days of jam-packed excitement.

"The involvement of our local partners," said Wurtz, "is testament to the Seacoast's dynamic literary community. Their dedication and enthusiasm in shaping this event is immeasurable. This is what NHWP is about, building community, reaching out, sharing the literary arts with others."

Wurtz said she is particularly proud to have more than twelve Seacoast writers involved in the festival. "It shows the wealth of writing talent on the Seacoast, and, with other New Hampshire writers on board as well, within the whole state."

For a full schedule of events, see: www.nhwritersproject.org. For more information, call (603) 314-7980.



"WHEN THE POWER OF LOVE OVERCOMES THE LOVE OF POWER, THE WORLD WILL FINALLY KNOW PEACE." -- Jimi Hendrix

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Moving Pictures

Body of Lies

by Rodman Philbrick

Stars: Leonardo DiCaprio, Russell Crowe, Mark Strong, Golshifteh Farahani; **Screenplay:** William Monahan, based on the novel by David Ignatius; **Director:** Ridley Scott; Rating: [R]

Has the world grown weary of worldly world weariness or is it only me? And what is it about eye-in-the-sky spy cameras and satellite phone technology that produces a shrug-and-yawn reaction from the generation that managed to detach irony and keep it in a safe place, along with their 401K's? Surely a crackling, torn-from-the-headlines Mideast spy thriller from Washington Post columnist David Ignatius, turned into a screenplay by *Departed* adapter William Monahan, and directed by that master of the big screen cinema experience, Ridley Scott, a film with all those credentials couldn't be, in the end, a bit of a letdown, could it?

Impossible. Not with Leonardo DiCaprio as down-and-dirty CIA operative on the trail of a bearded terrorist who has vowed to, you know, blow a lot of people up and bring the bloated West to its plump little knees, one suicide bomber at a time. Not with Russell Crowe as his boss, running operations from suburban Virginia, where Crowe's character plays at being soccer dad while casually directing cruise missiles to fly up the robes of Arab males who fit the demographic—young, out of work, and, um, Arab. Crowe gained what looks to be a quarter ton or so to play the part and keeps up his (heavy) end by stuffing his mouth with delectable goodies in every scene, just so the viewer never forgets that he represents the bloated arrogance of an administration that approaches spy craft with all the delicacy and sophistication of Donald Rumsfeld explaining that, you know, stuff happens.

Lots of stuff happens in *Body of Lies*. Screenwriter William Monahan, who did such an amazing job Americanizing *The Departed*, does his level best to keep the action moving. DiCaprio is dodging bullets and getting blown up right from the get-go, and when he has to tweezer bone fragments from his flesh—courtesy of a recently vaporized friend—you know you're in for a story about a spy who has lost faith in the decisions of his superiors. Right? We're about to enter the twilight worlds of Graham Green and John LeCarre, where courageous men of good will finally discover there are lines they won't cross! As it develops, not so much. Roger Ferris may know his boss is a belligerent, untrustworthy liar who will sell him down the river without hesitating, but DiCaprio's character keeps coming back for more, and without much complaint. His institutional ennui doesn't make sense until about halfway through the action, when it finally becomes clear that the real focus of *Body of Lies* is torture. Not the rigors of mental torture, in which men can be persuaded to betray everything they believe in, but the masochistic rituals of pain-seekers who don't believe in anything in the first place. Cruelty for its own sake. Torture porn, where human beings are gradually filleted not to recover information but to provide a close-up of sweat popping from pores, and eyes rolling wild in what could quite easily be mistaken for ecstasy.

In the screenplay, as in the novel, there's a kind of unenthusiastic stab at a love story. DiCaprio and Iranian actress Golshifteh Faharani meet cute at a clinic where the much-riddled spy is being treated for his wounds and she is—wait for it—the attending nurse. Soon they're doing exciting things like drinking coffee together and exploring the possibility of meeting her family under the strictures of the local culture. There will be no passionate kisses. There won't even be passionate handshakes, because they are forbidden to touch. And yet at some point DiCaprio will risk his life for a woman he barely knows because he once brought her nephews a box of pastry. That's motivation, perhaps, but somehow it won't make you care all that much, because this is a story where no one quite connects. There's no one to betray, not really, because that would mean you had to trust someone in the first place.

Besides, who needs to care about human beings making real connections, or having real feelings? Stuff happens. Add big stars and explosive devices and you've got a movie.

More Hate Mail, &c.

from page seven

on improving the once state-of-the-art VA facilities and instead opted to let our soldiers and Marines go it alone in a much more expensive system? That bothers me as a Marine and a tax payer.

I was also disappointed to see that John McCain received only a 20 percent rating from the Disabled American Veterans, while Barack Obama received an 80 percent rating from the same organization. I have heard John McCain say that he would freeze governmental spending except for military and veteran spending. But his own voting record has shown him voting against updating the GI Bill and voting against increases for veterans' health care!

On the other hand, I have taken the time to read position papers from the NMFA, a nonpartisan organization advocating for military families. It is crystal clear which candidate has been listening to those who are sacrificing the most to keep our country safe. Obama's own positions on support for military families and aid for returning soldiers parallel NMFA very closely.

I encourage readers to learn more about the issues our returning vets are facing as well as the struggles their families must endure in their absence. Then, see for yourself which candidate is ready to reach out to those warriors and their families with the support they deserve.

Tracy L. Wood
Stoddard,NH

Reward Courage, Not Failure

To the Editor:

I was pleased to read that our representative in Washington, Carol Shea-Porter by her recent two votes on the Wall Street bailout bill is protecting our interests.

She said *no* on both occasions to giving billions to the people that got us in this mess.

She said *no* to the pressure of the Bush administration that said it is needed or the system will collapse.

She said *no* to giving more of our money to the mismanaged government that includes the 2004 Republican controlled Congress that she was not a member of, that set the rules that allowed this to happen.

I encourage all voters to keep this in mind when you vote on the 4th of November.

Keep Carol in Congress. Say YES to Carol Shea-Porter. She is working for us.

Wes Flierl
Rochester, NH

°°°°°

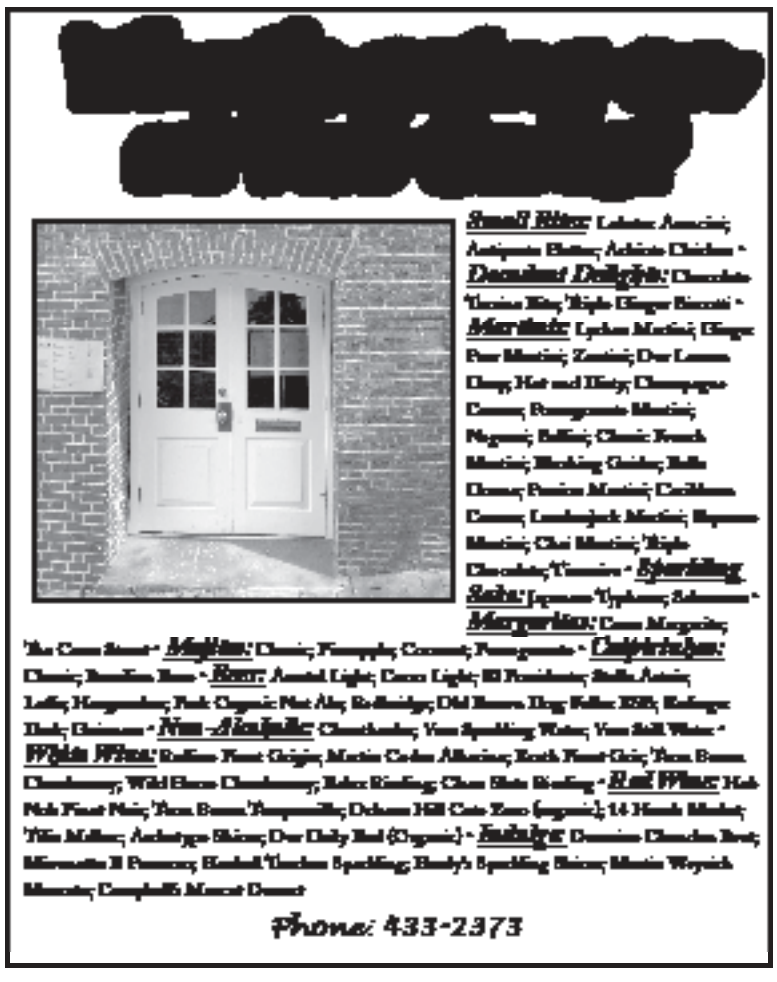
Bradley's Flat-Tax Madness

To the Editor:

Jeb Bradley's brochure trumpets his support of a flat tax. Unbelievable! The flat tax benefits only the rich, especially the very rich. If you make millions of dollars per year, you can afford to contribute a small percent, say three percent, in taxes because your income so far exceeds your needs. By contrast, if you make only $20,000 per year and are living close to the subsistence line, that three percent reduction may force you to choose between home heat and medication. Very wealthy financiers wrecked the economy because their funny money games got out of their control. Bradley's plan will reward them as he shifts more of the tax burden onto the rest of us.

Carol Shea-Porter does not take money from corporate PACs and lobbyists. She is free to work for the rest of us, the middle class of America. She will ensure that taxes don't transfer even more of the burdens of government onto our middle class backs.

In just one term she has already made an impact in Congress: she has helped provide the body armor that relatives of mine lacked while they served in Iraq; fought



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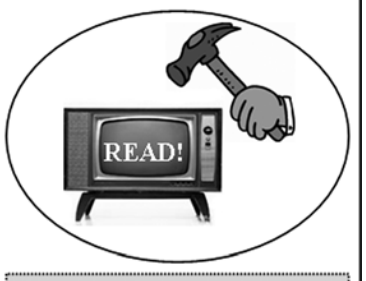

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Northcountry Chronicle

Our Corporate Congress

by William Marvel

When Hurricane Ike hit the coast of Texas, I was delving through manuscripts and microfilm at the University of Michigan. The storm had hardly made landfall before gasoline jockeys in Ann Arbor, 1200 miles away, were jacking their prices up by 60 cents a gallon. The increase was clearly not based on any legitimate market influence, but rather on the mere speculation that damage to Texas refineries might cause supply shortages. The Michigan vendors were simply, if blatantly, gouging their customers and creating incidental panic. The governor blustered too ineffectually to stem this opportunistic larceny. From eastern Ohio back to New Hampshire, meanwhile, gas remained at about the same price after Ike that it had sold for before.

Something else had changed, though. In early September, most Conway gas stations were selling fuel containing up to 10 percent ethanol, but on September 22 I could find only one station in Conway or Center Conway—the Cumberland Farms on Main Street—that acknowledged selling the adulterated product. The Gulf station on the Albany line, which has avoided ethanol so far, was still selling straight gasoline on the 22nd. His competitor across the street had peeled the ethanol stickers from the tanks and was reportedly selling undiluted gas once again. At the Citgo station I learned that local dealers often have to take whatever comes from Portland, and if the Portland terminal has pure gasoline, that's what they get. If it has ethanol-polluted fuel, that's all they have to sell.

Let me reiterate the "pollution" factor in ethanol. In the last year I've had to make four long trips to the Midwest, West, and South in my extra-economical 4-cylinder Dodge Caravan, and those trips have consistently demonstrated that ethanol-laced gasoline dramatically diminishes fuel efficiency.

I bought this van for the optimum combination of room and fuel efficiency, so I calculate my mileage every time I fill the tank, adding up my gasoline consumption to the third decimal point at the end of each trip for an overall average. After each of the past four trips I've figured my mileage with ethanol-tainted fuel separately, and the distinction is striking. In open-highway travel during warm weather, with minimal baggage, I get anywhere from 32 to 35 miles per gallon from a tank filled with straight gasoline. Under similar conditions, a tank contaminated with ethanol yields only 27 or 28.

On average, a 10-percent mixture of ethanol reduces my mileage between 16 and 20 percent, seriously worsening the very fuel scarcity it pretends to correct—and that's without even counting the tremendous energy waste involved in producing it. There are already reports that it damages most automobile engines, as well. I've met no one across the political spectrum who views it as anything but a costly and inexcusable blunder. Many, including me, suspect conspiracy between a compliant Congress and the energy lobby.

George Bush's renowned energy bill mandated that all American gasoline include ethanol by December of this year, and now the gnomes of Washington are moving that deadline up, so that within the next few weeks it will become impossible to find unadulterated gasoline. That makes no sense whatever, unless Congress actually intended to increase the nation's petroleum consumption and deepen our dependence on foreign oil.

No one benefits from this but the energy conglomerates that also own most of the ethanol plants, which receive a double bonus from government subsidies and from the ethanol-induced increase in oil consumption. At the same time, those subsidies have turned so many of our farmers from grain production to ethanol-grade corn crops that breadstuff prices have soared. All this harm was inflicted upon us by our own Congress—or at least by those members whom energy-company lobbyists were able to dupe, badger, or bribe into voting for the Bush-Cheney-Halliburton energy bill.

Government must only interfere, after all, for the benefit of corporations. These are the same deregulators and free-market phonies who brought us the stock market crashes of the Hoover, Reagan, and Bush administrations. Now they are preoccupied with how to steal enough from the more prudent among us to restore the losses of dishonest financiers, dimwitted borrowers, and greedy gamblers. The free-enterprise locomotive hurtles without restraint as long as working slugs are the only ones being run over. Once that runaway train veers toward the boardroom, however, the laissez faire lobby always beseeches the government to stop it or derail it—and usually by throwing the taxpayer beneath the wheels.

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for retention and increasing the assistance for heating oil that is vital to low-income families in our wintry state.

She works for middle class families and seniors with determination. Vote for Carol Shea-Porter for Congress this election and help get this country going in the right direction.

Barbara Lowrey
Londonderry, NH

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Bradley's Record on Vets? What Record?

To the Editor:

I'm a Vietnam vet and have read the New Hampshire Republican Party material defending Jeb Bradley's record on veterans issues. I just have to respond.

They list two amendments he offered in support of veterans health care, but do not provide the information needed to track them down. I tried. On the other hand, there is a tangible record of Bradley's votes against veterans' health care. One example is his vote against a $2 billion increase in veterans health care in 2006 (HRS 821, Vote #173, 5/19/06).

Then, to top it off, they tout Bradley's 2004 "Citizen of the Year" award from the New Hampshire Veterans of Foreign Wars. This is laughable. That award was cooked up by the then head of the NH VFW, John J. Calo, as a gift to his political ally, Jeb Bradley. Just try looking for a list of past VFW "Citizens of the Year" in New Hampshire.

On the other hand, the endorsement of Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter by the national VFW Political Action Committee is real. As they said in their letter: "this endorsement is based on your strong support for veterans, national security/defense, and military personnel issues." VFW-PAC endorses only those candidates for federal office who support our nation's veterans and stand in support of a strong national defense."

Vets, don't be fooled. The VFW-PAC does its homework. Carol Shea-Porter is in our corner and has accomplished more for us in two years than Jeb Bradley ever did the whole time he was up there.

Bill Duncan
New Castle, NH

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New Leadership

To the Editor:

It is time for new leadership in America. We need a leader who will:

• Work to repair the damage done to our country by the Bush regime,

• Work to restore America's respect around the globe,

• Work to restore our civil liberties (along with the truth, the first casualty of war),

• Work to end our occupation of Iraq and bring our troops home.

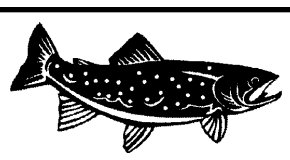
We can begin this process of renewal and restoration of presidential integrity by electing Barack Obama our next President.

Fritz Anderson
885414
Walla Walla, WA

Fritz:

We see by your address that you are one of the one percent of Americans now behind bars. We don't know how you came to be there, but your letter causes us to suspect your cell would better serve society if it contained the man we expect Obama to replace.

The Editor



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Disgusted With Chevalier

To the Editor:

I am a proud card carrying member of VFW Post 168. I was recently disgusted to read the assertion that Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter should not have received the endorsement of the VFW Political Action Committee by Paul Chevalier, a former VFW state commander and a veteran's co-chair to the campaigns of Jeb Bradley, John Sununu, and John McCain.

Congresswoman Shea-Porter received the endorsement of the VFW PAC because she has been a staunch supporter of both our veterans and our troops. In fact, the nonpartisan organization Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) recently released their 2008 Congressional Report Cards for this session of Congress and awarded the Congresswoman an A+ for voting in favor of issues that face new veterans 13 out of 13 times in the House.

So Mr. Chevalier, what grade did Senator John McCain, the great champion of the Grand Old Party, receive from the IAVA? Senator McCain received a D from the IAVA for having only voted three out of nine times in the Senate in favor of issues facing new veterans. Senator McCain not only had the gall to introduce an alternative to the 21st Century GI Bill, but when the new GI Bill actually came up for a vote, he skipped it.

I have news for you Mr. Chevalier; no political party holds control of the VFW, with its ranks evenly split between Republicans and Democrats. In fact the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics found that Democratic presidential candidate Barrack Obama has received six times the amount of contributions from troops deployed than John McCain has. Your rhetoric, Mr. Chevalier, not only does a disservice to the VFW, it does a disservice to today's troops.

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

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Coverage Requested

To the Editor:

The voters of New Hampshire deserve to know that the Republican 2002 phone jamming of Democratic phone lines "trick" is still under investigation and new charges have been made, and the case is not over.

According to an October 14, 2008 AP report, the former Republican regional official, James Tobin of Bangor, is facing new charges in the case.

The AP reports: "James Tobin was indicted by a federal grand jury in Portland on two counts of making false statements about the incident to an FBI agent. His earlier conviction on telephone harassment charges was overturned, but prosecutors are appealing."

In the 2002 election, John Sununu narrowly defeated Jeanne Shaheen, and both are candidates for the US Senate again.

It is noted by the AP report that John Sununu "denied knowledge" of the phone jamming trick, and that he did not respond to the AP's request for comment on Tuesday.

As a citizen and voter in New Hampshire, I am not pleased that Senator John Sununu has not commented on this new development in the case. Could it be that he has something to hide, or is he just too busy trying to get re-elected?

I would like to see reporting on this story in your newspaper at this crucial time in our election process.

Barbara Brockelman
Stratham, NH

Barbara:

So many scandals, so little time … The best we can do in this issue is run your letter. Thank you.

The Editor

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Could McSame Bring Change?

Dear Editor,

When I saw Sarah Palin look into the TV camera, flash her cosmetic eyelashes, and say so sincerely, "change is coming, and John McCain is the leader of that reform," I could almost believe her. Except I wasn't born yesterday. I've seen McCain fight to remove government regulation and oversight for 26 years, which has dumped us in the financial firestorm that is now melting our economy.

Senator Biden reminded debate viewers that the so-called "maverick" voted for George Bush's budgets, which piled up over $3 trillion in debt. McCain voted for Bush's exclusion of 3.6 million children from the S-CHIP health care plan. He supported Bush's war in Iraq from the beginning, and voted billions of tax breaks for the most wealthy corporations and CEOs.

But even if Palin really does believe that McCain would bring change, he couldn't do it single-handedly. He'd have to use many of the same Republican operatives and lobbyists that are so deeply entrenched in Bush's administration. These are the birds he's flown with all his career, from Alaska to Arizona, to K Street in DC.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA

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McCain: Consistent … But Wrong

To the Editor:

Actually, Sen. John McCain has been wrong many times on foreign policy and military affairs. Sen. McCain was one of the first to propose invading Iraq in 2001 and 2002, claiming that the war in Afghanistan was won. And when the war in Iraq turned into the greatest foreign policy blunder in American history, he and President Bush attempted to scare the American people by claiming that Iraq was the central front of the so called war on terror.

Sen. McCain was wrong on the two most important issues concerning the national security of the United States. The central front of the war on terror is Afghanistan, where the terrorist plots were planned, not Iraq which was not with 9/11 or with al Qaida. Bush and McCain's fixated on Iraq and allowed Afghanistan to deteriorate to where, today, our military there is begging for more troops to prevent a disaster.

At the debate, Sen. McCain was not familiar with basic concepts of foreign affairs, not understanding the difference between a tactic and a strategy.

These decisions by Sen. McCain reflect on his very poor judgment and understanding of foreign policy. It is Sen. Obama, who opposed the Iraq War from the beginning and has been calling for increased military strength in Afghanistan for over a year, who has shown excellent judgment and understanding. It is Sen. Obama who has proven by his track record that he is the candidate who will make America safer.

Rich DiPentima,
LTC, USAF, (Ret.)
Portsmouth, NH

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Shea-Porter Stands With Veterans

To the Editor:

I am a Vietnam Veteran and a Life Member of the VFW and DAV who is very concerned about Veteran's issues. So I was extremely pleased to see that the VFW Political Action Committee has endorsed Carol Shea-Porter for re-election in her campaign against former Congressman Jeb Bradley. She certainly has earned that honor with her constant and total support of our Nation's Veterans.

The Republican controlled Congress was eager to send our young people into battle, even before they had been issued the proper safety gear and then refused to take care of them when they returned home wounded and traumatized. The Republican controlled Congress found plenty

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And Other Correspondence

of money to give to already obscenely rich civilians but was unable to find any spare change for our returning soldiers with their physical and emotional trauma.

In 2006 Carol and her Democratic associates in the new Congress were able to stem that bleeding, but there is much work to do. Her VFW endorsement is a ringing approval of her stand for Veterans from those who know. Please join me in proudly voting for Carol Shea-Porter for Congress.

Lew Henry
Lee, NH

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Bradley Taking Low Road

To the Editor:

The manner in which a candidate runs his/her campaign can inform the public about how this person will conduct business once in office. Let's take Carol Shea-Porter and Jeb Bradley for instance. Carol has kept her focus on what is important~standing up for her constituents, particularly middle class and working class families. She is out there fighting for us everyday. Her campaign ads are about her hard work and her accomplishments.

On the contrary, Jeb Bradley behaves like an attack dog. His attacks are full of misrepresentations and attempts to deceive the public. Take Jeb's ad about Carol Shea-Porter going on vacation. It's totally false. During her Congressional break, Carol met with constituents every day for five weeks straight. There was no lakeside vacation as the ad implies.

Jeb's recent interview on WGIR was full of lies. Jeb twisted the facts so badly about Carol's voting record, it sounded more like his own poor voting record. And then he had the nerve to act indignant. "How could she?" he asked. "How dare he?" I thought.

I don't know about you, but I am tired of dirty politics. I am voting for integrity this year. We deserve nothing less.

Greta Moran
Merrimack, NH

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Tough Vote Applauded

To the Editor:

I want to thank Carol Shea Porter for her "No" vote for the recent bailout bill. It was a tough vote in light of the huge amount of pressure to pass the bill immediately. As a citizen, I felt the bailout bill was too open to misuse. There is not enough accountability, not the right kind of transparency and safeguards to keep this country on the road to recovery. I do realize the amount of instability and crisis we are in. This is when clear heads must prevail. Shame on our government as a whole for allowing this sort of business to continue.

I was a citizen here in New Hampshire in the late 80's when we faced a similar financial crisis. My ex-husband was a builder. We lost a lot and had to work like crazy to climb out of it.

As a citizen, I want to know how this current crisis happened and who the players were. I want, for once, no pardons, no "off the hooks," no walking away without so much as a backwards glance. I want regulations reinstated and made impossible to brush aside. It makes me crazy when I hear that the cause of this meltdown is people living too far beyond their means.

I want my country to have a makeover! I want to trust the people who govern us and I want to see us turn ourselves around as a nation and be great again. With confidence, I will vote for Carol Shea-Porter again. She is one of the very few representatives I have had who represents ME in my government.

Rebecca Greeley
Laconia, NH

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Vets Support Sununu?
Not Many!

To the Editor:

John Sununu boasts the endorsement of 400 out of the 130,000 veterans in the State of New Hampshire. That's three tenths of one percent, What about the "endorsement" of the remaining 99.7 percent when more than half of us veterans will cast our "endorsement" in the form of a vote for Jeanne Shaheen? That will amount to the real endorsement of tens of thousands of New Hampshire's veterans.

Being a good administrator of wholesome public policies over her years in the New Hampshire Legislature and three terms as the governor of our state, Jeanne Shaheen has served us veterans and our families so well over the years that Sununu's stated support for veterans' health care pales by comparison. When it comes down to the test of supporting decent health care policy for all of our families, Sununu flunks miserably.

As Disabled American Veterans we already get fantastic care from the V.A. system, but how about the rest of our families? Our nation cares about our veterans, but our veterans care about the good of our whole country! Jeanne Shaheen in the Senate will accomplish much more of that good than Sununu.

Peter Flood
Merrimack, NH

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Former Marine Officer
Now Ex-McCain Supporter

To the Editor:

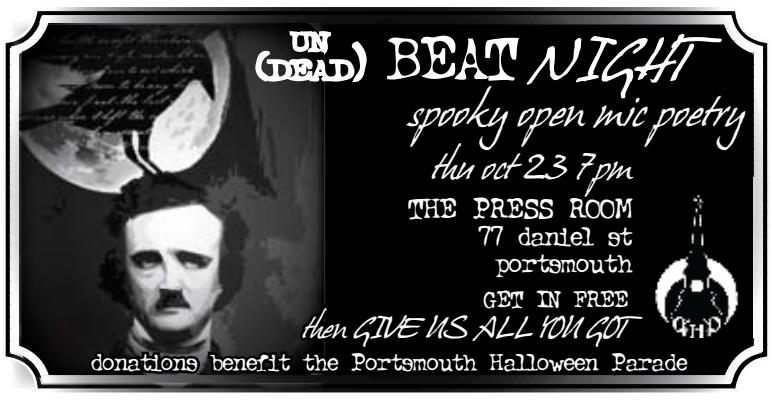
As a former Marine Captain and somebody who has several loved-ones deployed or about to be deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan, I have taken this election very seriously. Commander-in-Chief is the top priority for the President of the United States. And as any boot Lieutenant can tell you, a commander's top priority is to take care of his/her Marines. It was important to me to know who was up for the job. Through my own research over the past three months, I have encountered many surprises.

I was a fan of John McCain in 2000; I have read his books, and have always been inspired by his courageous story. Given his personal history, and his campaign rhetoric on veteran's affairs, I had assumed that he would be

the stronger candidate on issues closest to my heart: improving the current VA; providing comprehensive medical benefits for all of our returning vets; caring for the families who have sacrificed through the years of deployments they have endured; and most importantly, making sound, reasoned, responsible decisions about how, when, and where to deploy our young devil dogs.

But after reviewing both candidates' positions, and studying web sites such as NMFA (National Military Family Association), I see that I was mistaken. I was shocked to hear John McCain, when asked about returning vets who suffered non-combat related injuries, say that they should be given a card to seek health care on their own. Has he given up

More Hate Mail, &c.
to page four



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A breeze
stirs the hairs
in my cat's ear

Tom D'Evelyn

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, October 19

2005—Saddam Hussein goes on trial in Baghdad for crimes against humanity and Bushes.
2005—Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH) having won $853,492 in the Powerball lottery, gives none to a dying woman whose real estate deposit he refused to return.
2004—Riot police maintain order long enough for the (bloody) Red Sox to beat the Yankees 4 to 2 in Game 6 of the ALCS.
2000—George W. Bush says at the Al Smith Memorial Dinner, "This is an impressive crowd, the haves and the have-mores. Some people call you the elite. I call you my base."
1987—The stock market drops 22 percent on "Black Monday."
1962—Air Force General Curtis LeMay recommends direct military intervention in Cuba.
1936—Watertown, Mass. becomes the first town to fingerprint its high school students.
1864—The town of St. Albans, Vermont is attacked by twenty Confederate cavalrymen riding south from Canada. They rob three banks and escape with more than $200,000.
1856—Bare-knuckle fighters James Kelly and Jack Smith go at it for 6 hours 15 minutes in Melbourne.
1849—Elizabeth Blackwell becomes the first American woman with an MD.

2:56 3:08 8:49 9:36

Monday, October 20

2004—The Red Sox come back from a 3 game deficit and become the American League Champions, beating the Yankees 10 to 3 at Yankee Stadium.
1990—Rallies are held in 22 American cities protesting the impending Gulf War.
1983—The federal gov't recognizes the Mashantucket Pequot tribe, paving the way for a gargantuan casino.
1973—After Attorney General Eliot Richardson and Deputy A.G. William Ruckelshaus both refuse on principle to comply with President Richard Nixon's order to fire Special Prosecuter Archibald Cox, Solicitor General Robert Bork, who is not so encumbered, complies.
1947—HUAC opens hearings on commie influence in H'wood.
1936—"The Long March" ends, two years after it began.
1922—In Dayton, Ohio, Army Lieutenant Harold R. Harris becomes the first person to successfully parachute from a disabled plane.
1895—Birth of Gaston Leval, Spanish anarchist.
1854—Birth of Arthur Rimbaud; poet, gun-runner.
1842—Commodore Thomas Jones, USN, attacks Monterey in the mistaken belief that the U.S. is at war with Mexico. He apologizes, and leaves.

3:54 4:07 9:47 10:37

Tuesday, October 21

1975—In the 12th inning, New Hampshire's own Carlton Fisk waves the ball fair, and the Red Sox win Game 6 of the World Series.
1967—Yippies, Diggers, Hippies, &c., attempt unsuccessfully to levitate the Pentagon.
1965—President Lyndon Johnson flashes his gall bladder scar for the photographers.
1957—Captain Harry Cramer, 14th Special Forces Operational Detachment, becomes the first American soldier killed in Vietnam. His death is an accident.
1954—The Indiana Boxing Commission rules that boxers and wrestlers must swear under oath they are not Commies before they can fight in that state.
1874—Birth of Charles Ives.
1861—Sen. Edward D. Baker (R-OR), in his capacity as a Colonel leading a brigade at the Battle of Ball's Bluff, becomes the first and last U.S. Senator killed in battle.
1837—Under a flag of truce, 75 Seminoles are captured and imprisoned by U.S. troops at Ft. Payton, Fla.
1835—For saying "all men are created equal," Wm. Lloyd Garrison is paraded through Boston with a rope around his neck.
1797—The *U.S.S. Constitution* is finally launched in Boston on the third try, christened by Captain James Sever of Portsmouth.

4:58 5:14 10:51 11:42

Wednesday, October 22

2005—SSGT George T. Alexander, Jr., becomes the 2000th U.S. military fatality in Iraq.
1985—The last surviving Kickapoo Indians are given the right to live on their ancestral lands after being kicked off 140 years earlier.
1963—His last request, for an injection of LSD, fulfilled, Aldous Huxley dies.
1962—JFK announces a naval blockade of Cuba.
1929—"I know of nothing fundamentally wrong with the stock market," says President of New York's National City Bank.
1909—Female garment workers strike in New York. A judge tells arrested pickets, "You are on strike against God."
1907—The Knickerbocker Trust Company goes belly-up, setting off the Panic of 1907.
1885—Bored with poetry, Arthur Rimbaud decides to run guns for King Menelik of Shoa.
1861—The first transcontinental telegraph begins operating.
1844—The third time fails to be a charm as William Miller's prophecy of the end of the world proves to have been inaccurate.
1834—A fire intended to dispose of a huge mass of ancient wooden tally sticks once used for bookkeeping purposes gets out of control and burns Britain's Houses of Parliament to the ground.

6:06 6:24 12:01

Thursday, October 23

2001—Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) introduces the senseless USA PATRIOT Act.
1999—Asked why he hasn't campaiged more in New Hampshire, George W. Bush says "The important question is, how many hands have I shaked?"
1983—On Ronald Reagan's watch, 241 U.S. Marines and sailors are killed in Lebanon by suicide bombers.
1975—Workers at the Nevada test site drop a nuclear weapon core 40 feet. It doesn't explode, so only 11 workers are injured.
1973—Eight articles of impeachment are introduced in the House against President Nixon.
1962—With SAC at DEFCON 2, JFK and aides debate whether to bomb Cuban SAM sites if any U.S. planes are shot down.
1954—Pres. Eisenhower authorizes direct U.S. aid to South Vietnam, bypassing the French.
1775—The Continental Congress prohibits the enlistment of blacks in the Army.
1739—Britain declares war on Spain over Robert Jenkins' ear.
425—Flavius Placidius Valentinianus, age 6, becomes Emperor Valentinian III.
4004 BC—God begins creating Earth, according to the calculations of James Ussher, Anglican Archbishop of Armagh.

7:14 7:34 12:49 1:12

Friday, October 24

2001—After carefully not reading it, the House passes the USA PATRIOT Act. The "yeas" include 145 Democrats.
1989—Ostentatiously devout pastor Jim Bakker is sentenced to 45 years for swindling his flock. No jail time for diddling his secretary, though.
1960—A single switch in the wrong position at the Baikonur Cosmodrome prematurely ignites the second stage of a Soviet R-16 ICBM. The resultant explosion and fire kills more than 100 scientists and technicians.
1962—Soviet ships reach the Cuban quarantine line, but do not cross.
1947—Walt Disney tells Congress which of his employees he thinks are commies.
1944—*U.S.S. Tang* is accidentally sunk by one of her own torpedos; 78 men perish.
1929—The irrational exuberance of the 1920's stock market undergoes a correction on "Black Thursday."
1901—U.S. Marines landing in the Philippines are exhorted by "Hell-Roaring Jake" Smith: "I wish you to burn and kill; the more you burn and kill, the better it will please me."
1754—Future *New Hampshire Gazette* founder Daniel Fowle is jailed for publishing a pamphlet entitled *The Monster of Monsters*.

8:16 8:38 1:52 2:19

Saturday, October 25

2001—Only one Senator—Russ Feingold—votes against the USA PATRIOT Act.
1983—U.S. troops preserve the Republic by invading Grenada.
1973—As Nixon sleeps, Henry Kissinger, Alexander Haig, and five other unelected officials raise America's military readiness level to DEF CON 3.
1962—Nuclear-armed F-106s scramble after a guard shoots a bear climbing a fence at a Duluth Air Force base, thinking it's an intruder.
1960—Martin Luther King is jailed in Decatur, Ga. on old traffic charges. He gets four months hard labor.
1922—The Irish Free State adopts its constitution.
1920—King Alexander of Greece dies, shortly after being bitten by his pet monkey.
1881—Birth of Pablo Diego Jose Francisco Picasso.
1854—Lord James Cardigan leads a brigade of sword-brandishing light cavalrymen across open ground in a doomed attack against Russian artillery. Astonishingly, half survive.
1760—Britain's King George II dies on the loo.
1415—At Agincourt, France, King Henry V and his outnumbered longbowmen win a lopsided victory over the French.

9:11 9:35 2:50 3:18

Sunday, October 26

2003—Iraqi resistance fighters nearly get Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz with a rocket in Baghdad.
2001—George W. Bush eagerly signs the USA PATRIOT Act.
1979—South Korean President Chung-hee is shot by the head of the South Korean C.I.A.
1972—Henry the K., lying as usual, says "Peace is at hand."
1970—"Doonesbury" debuts.
1962—As planning for massive air strikes continues, President John F. Kennedy gets a telegram from Nikita Khrushchev offering to swap Soviet missiles in Cuba for U.S. missiles in Turkey.
1955—Ngo Dinh Diem proclaims South Vietnam a republic and himself president.
1917—At the Second Battle of Passchendaele, the Allies gain a few hundred yards of mud, at a cost of 12,000 casualties.
1881—The alleged law and the Clanton brothers shoot it out at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone.
1806—Lord Timothy Dexter, seminal American crackpot who made money selling bed warmers in the West Indies and author of *A Penny for the Knowing Ones*, dies in Newburyport.
1369—Charles V "The Wise," King of France, dedicates a monument to his personal chef for creating a recipe for pickled fish.

10:00 10:27 3:41 4:11

Monday, October 27

2006—In the western Pacific, an undetected Chinese submarine surfaces less than five miles from the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*.
2005—Harriet Miers throws in the Supreme Court towel.
1972—Richard Nixon pocket vetoes a bill to raise the veterans health care budget by $85 million.
1969—Hoping to convince the Soviets he's dangerously unstable, Richard Nixon secretly orders eighteen B-52s armed with H-bombs to spend the next three days flying around the North Pole.
1967—Rev. Philip Berrigan and three friends pour duck blood on draft records in Baltimore.
1965—"We must never forget," says Richard Nixon, "that if the war in Vietnam is lost … the right of free speech will be extinguished throughout the world."
1962—As one American U-2 is shot down over Cuba, another strays over the USSR. Robert Kennedy cuts a deal with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin.
1951—"There is no question," says U.S. General J. Lawton Collins, "that the Communist menace in French Indo-China has been stopped."
1838—Missouri Gov. Lilburn Boggs signs an executive order calling for Mormons to be "treated as enemies," and "exterminated or driven from the state."

10:45 11:14 4:26 4:57

Tuesday, October 28

2006—George W. Bush tells a CNBC reporter that he knows how to use "The Google."
2003—"[A]s you know, explains George W. Bush, "these are open forums, you're able to come and listen to what I have to say."
1988—In Tacoma, a jury awards $147,000 to a woman seduced by her minister.
1984—OPEC decides to produce less oil and make more money.
1970—Sen. William Fulbright charges the Nixon administration with waging illegal war in Laos.
1962—Russkie Premier Nikita Khrushchev agrees to dismantle the Soviet missile bases in Cuba and remove the weapons.
1929—For the first time, a child is born in an airplane—over Miami, of course.
1922—Benito Mussolini, "a man sent by divine providence," according to Pope Pius XI, takes over in Rome.
1921—Argentine workers revolt under the black flag of anarchism. The army kills 1500.
1919—Congress passes the Volstead Act, enabling prohibition.
1918—George Herriman's Krazy Kat gets his own comic strip.
1893—Disappointed office-seeker Patrick Pendergast assassinates Chicago Mayor Carter Harrison.
1886—The Statue of Liberty is dedicated on Bedloe's Island.

11:25 11:57 5:09 5:41

Wednesday, October 29

2003—George W. Bush explains that "The war on terror involves Saddam Hussein because of the nature of Saddam Hussein, the history of Saddam Hussein, and his willingness to terrorize himself."
1994—Francisco Martin Duran fires 29 rounds from an SKS rifle at the White House, before being subdued by two civilians.
1979—1,000 are arrested on Wall Street for disrupting business on the 50th Anniversary of the Crash.
1969—The DARPANET is turned on—two computers communicate for the first time ever.
1958—A radioactive cloud drifts over Los Angeles after the explosion of an A-bomb in Nevada.
1935—Driving home in his bonus—a new Rolls—after signing a three-year, $1 million contract, cartoonist Sidney Smith (The Gumps) dies in a car wreck.
1929—"Black Tuesday"—16 million shares sell on Wall Street, at ever declining prices; $26 billion evaporates.
1918—Sailors mutiny in Kiehl, Germany and establish Sailors and Workers Councils.
1835—The "Loco-Foco" Party, a Democratic splinter group, is formed at Tammany Hall.
1618—"This is a sharp medicine," says Sir Walter Raleigh of the ax about to remove his head, "but it is a physician for all diseases."

12:04 5:48 6:21

Thursday, October 30

1995—Quebec votes not to secede, but just barely.
1990—For the first time since the Ice Age, England and the European mainland are connected; this time by chunnel.
1990—"Amazing Joe" Burrus, an escape artist, fails to escape from an acrylic coffin after it's covered with tons of wet cement.
1972—In Chicago, 45 die in a rail accident.
1967—Martin Luther King is arrested in Birmingham, Ala.
1961—The Soviet Union air-drops a 58-megaton hydrogen bomb, creating the largest explosion in human history.
1950—Puerto Ricans rebel against U.S. rule.
1948—In Donora, Penn., smog kills 20 and sickens 6,000.
1945—The U.S. government ends shoe rationing.
1938—Martians land at Grover's Mill, New Jersey, according to a radio play.
1838—A mob led by three Missouri Militia captains attacks a colony of Mormons at Huan's Mill, killing most of them.
1831—Rebel slave leader Nat Turner is arrested in Virginia.
1501—Party guests compete for prizes by competitively coupling with 50 naked whores collecting chestnuts strewn on the *palazzo apostolico* of Pope Alexander VI.

12:37 12:41 6:25 7:00

Friday, October 31

1968—President Johnson stops the bombing of North Vietnam.
1967—Calif. governor Ronald Reagan denies a "homosexual ring" is operating out of his office in Sacramento.
1963—"I can safely say," says Gen. Paul Harkin, U.S. commander in South Vietnam, "that the end of the war is in sight."
1964—China explodes its first A-bomb.
1941—On convoy duty on the North Atlantic, the *U.S.S. Reuben James* is sunk by a U-Boat.
1939—FDR moves the date of Thanksgiving by a week to boost Christmas retail sales.
1938—A Utah prison doctor records John Deering's heart rate with an EKG as he's executed by a firing squad.
1926—Mussolini survives an assassination attempt by 15 year old anarchist Anteo Zamboni.
1926—After being punched in the stomach, Ehrich "Harry Houdini" Weiss dies.
1918—In a week, Spanish Flu kills 21,000 Americans.
1893—Daniel Fowle's printing press is last seen in public at the closing of the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago.
1765—The *New Hampshire Gazette* is printed "in mourning" for lost liberty, in protest of the Stamp Act, to take effect the following day.

1:17 1:18 7:02 7:39

Saturday, November 1

2004—Voting machines are delivered to polling places in Franklin Co., OH. More go to higher-income areas than lower-income areas.
2002—"[T]hat's what you expect here in New Hampshire," says George W. Bush at Pease Tradeport, "somebody who tells you what's on your mind."
1966—Lyndon Johnson, lying, tells U.S. troops in Korea that his great-great grandaddy died at the Alamo.
1951—U.S. Army troops are exposed to an atomic explosion in Nevada "for training purposes."
1950—Puerto Rican nationalists try to kill Harry S Truman.
1918—An inexperienced scab motorman causes the Malbone Tunnel disaster in New York City; 97 die, 255 are injured.
1789—George Washington attends services at Portsmouth's St. John's Church in the a.m. and North Church in the p.m.
1777—The *Ranger*, Captain John Paul Jones commanding, leaves Portsmouth for France.
1765—A mock funeral for Liberty is held in Portsmouth. She's rescued "by a number of her sons," and the hated Stamp Act is buried in her place.
1512—The public first gawks at Michaelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

1:56 1:56 7:41 8:18

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