

Helicopters, Cover-Ups and War Crimes

by Jeffrey Klein and Paolo Pontoniere,
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“Obama Confronts a Choice on Copters” read a February 15 story in *The New York Times*. The President soon “will have to decide whether to proceed with some of the priciest aircraft in the world—a new fleet of 28 Marine One helicopters that will each cost more than the last Air Force One ... The choice confronting Mr. Obama encapsulates the tension between two imperatives of his nascent presidency, the need to meet the continuing threats of an age of terrorism and the demand for austerity in a period of economic hardship.”

This is a gross misrepresentation of the choice Obama faces. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and others have alleged that the contract for 28 Marine One helicopters was awarded to the Italian firm Finmeccanica as a thank you for Italy's participation in the Iraq War. The evidence, however, indicates that the contract was more specifically a payoff to the Italian government for supplying the forged documents showing Saddam had obtained weapons grade uranium from Niger. President Bush famously used this fraudulent “yellowcake” intelligence to justify launching the war.

When reviewing the helicopter contract, President Obama can either be actively complicit by continuing with Finmeccanica; he can duck and cover by simply switching to the proper supplier, Sikorsky; or he can use the mandated review of this purchase decision to root out those in [the] military, the aerospace industry and Congress who were willing to compromise the security of all subsequent American presidents so that Bush could cover up his core war crime.

Strange Choice

Officials up and down the chain who awarded the contract knew that they were doing something extraordinarily wrong. The rigged bidding process bypassed, for example, Marine One pilots who repeatedly sought to give input. They had many safety concerns. At the time of the bid, the helicopter chosen was not certified to fly in the U.S. It was an old model made of heavy materials; this flew in the face of why the President supposedly needed a new fleet: i.e., so many extra security devices had been added to Marine One after 9/11, it was struggling to lift off. In its losing bid, the Connecticut-based Sikorsky, which had manufactured virtually all presidential

helicopters since Eisenhower first ordered one, proposed a new model made of much lighter, composite materials.

But the Marine One pilots' prime objection, which was raised repeatedly by many other officials in private, was national security. Finmeccanica was doing business with Iran, China and Libya. Why outsource so sensitive a project? At the time of the bid, the security clearance necessary to manufacture and maintain Marine One required U.S. citizenship and prohibited Marine One team members from being married to citizens of another country.

After the bid was awarded, John Pike, head of GlobalSecurity.org, told us: “Analyzing the defense industry for nearly 30 years, I try to stay calm and nonpartisan. But the Finmeccanica deal raised every hair on my neck. Apparently no one else sees the irony in a foreign military contractor building Marine One and Ayatollah One.”

Many others did see the irony but were intimidated or paid off. For example, right after Finmeccanica won the contract, Kim Weldon, the daughter of then-Congressman Curt Weldon* (R-PA), landed a full-time job with the company. Previously she'd been a social worker. Finmeccanica also paid consulting money to Weldon's real estate agent, who subsequently pled guilty for attempting to destroy bribery evidence sought by the FBI. Weldon's chief of staff, his wife and other Weldon aides were given free trips to Italy. The chief of staff subsequently pled guilty for failing to disclose income funneled to his wife. Like many other Congressmen, however, Weldon looks as if he will escape unscathed.

Curious Connection

At Finmeccanica promotional events, Weldon was accompanied by Giovanni Castellaneta, the Italian ambassador to United

* Curt Weldon represented Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District from 1987 to 2007. He was defeated in 2006 by Democrat Joe Sestak. Weldon's staff said in 2006 that he was rejected from service for poor eyesight. Shortly before that election, members of Weldon's staff were reported to be calling Navy officials for information about Sestak, a former Admiral. Weldon attended the March 23 Coronation of Rev. Sun Myung Moon in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on March 23, 2004. Since 2006, the Justice Department has been investigating whether Weldon used his official position to win lucrative lobbying and consulting contracts for his daughter. During his incumbency, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) listed Weldon as one of “The 20 Most Corrupt Members of Congress.”



Former President George W. Bush on the steps of a Sikorsky VH-3D helicopter. Photo by Dept. of Defense.

States and simultaneously a Finmeccanica vice president. Today Castellaneta sits on Finmeccanica's Board of Directors on behalf of the Italian Government. Ambassador Castellaneta is the key figure in Italy's exchange of forged intelligence for U.S. defense dollars.

According to Italy's *La Repubblica*, Nicola Pollari, the head of the Italian spy agency SISMI, had failed to dispel the CIA's misgivings about the authenticity of the yellowcake papers. Giovanni Castellaneta then arranged for Pollari to bypass the CIA and meet directly with then-National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and Stephen Hadley, Rice's chief deputy at the time. The meeting took place on Sept. 9, 2002, in the White House, and was confirmed by White House officials.

“It is completely out of protocol for the head of a foreign intelligence service to circumvent the C.I.A.,” former C.I.A. officer Philip Giraldi told *Vanity Fair's* Craig Ungar. “It is uniquely unusual. In spite of lots of people having seen these documents, and having said they were not right, they went around them.”

“To me there is no benign interpretation of this,” Melvin Goodman, a former C.I.A. and State Department analyst said to Ungar. “At the highest level it was known the documents were forgeries. Stephen Hadley knew it. Condi Rice knew it. Everyone at the highest level knew.”

Nonetheless, after the White House meeting that Castellaneta arranged for Pollari, the story of the yellowcake shipments to Saddam was treated as hard proof despite multiple attempts

by America's top spies to discredit it.

Quid Pro Quo?

Especially when no WMDs were found, President Bush needed to find a way he could control to repay the Italians for their help. Bush pressed for a new fleet of Marine Ones. He demanded the contract be awarded through

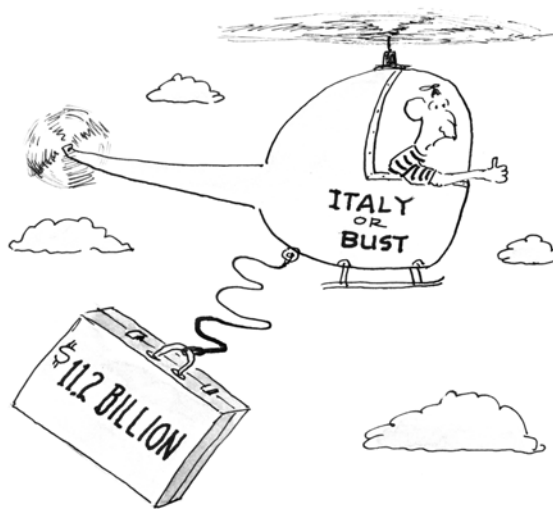
flown in the same chopper used by the president.”

Boyer believes that the Pentagon officials and members of Congress who pushed this contract through should be investigated not just because of the massive cost overruns, but “because they didn't cover the country's back.”

The ballooning of Finmeccanica's contract from \$6.1 billion to \$11.2 billion (\$400 million per chopper) was predictable given Bush's push to bypass procedures and sign a deal with Finmeccanica. The massive cost overruns now compel the Secretary of Defense to re-certify to Congress that this acquisition program is essential to national security. It isn't. President Obama needs to appoint an independent, public

commission to examine who drove the Marine One procurement process, which many officials say (off the record) was the most secretive, rigged award they've ever seen. Put all officials involved on the record, and under oath. Rarely does one bloated contract connect both to military fraud and to the corruption of our intelligence agencies. Fiscal austerity and our future safety demand a full accounting.

Jeffrey Klein is an investigative journalist and co-founder of the magazine Mother Jones. Paolo Pontoniere is author of the economic blog www.glocanomica.com, and a European commentator for New America Media. The country's first and largest national collaboration and advocate of 2000 ethnic news organizations, New America Media was founded by the nonprofit Pacific News Service in 1996.



an expedited bidding process because of heightened security concerns. A senior Finmeccanica executive told us that long before the Navy announced the award in January 2005, he and other company executives were told that the fix was in.

A Good Front

Finmeccanica hid the payoff by cutting U.S. companies Bell Helicopter and Lockheed Martin into the deal. Although Lockheed doesn't make helicopters, it acted as the ostensible lead partner.

“Lockheed pimped itself out,” says Lt. Col. Gene T. Boyer, a retired Army pilot who flew three presidents in Marine One for 10 years. Boyer thinks the mushrooming of the Marine One fleet is a disgrace. “Many of the Marine Ones are used just to ferry around Washington VIPs who brag afterwards that they've

News Briefs:

The Brand New, Grand Old Party

We should have tried to count the number of people who, since the presidential election, expressed to us their concern at our loss of the Bush administration, both as foil and fodder. Our cheerful responses may have seemed to some as the proverbial whistling past the graveyard, but they were based on a sound principle.

The Bush administration's spectacular record of ineptitude was the inevitable result of mixing together three basic human traits: fundamentalist ignorance, a fevered, cramped, and paranoid view of the world, and good old fashioned, (though unacknowledged) greed, and then giving the Frankensteinian result unrestricted control of the government. Those traits being are imperishable elements of human nature, they'll be back.

The Gregg Farce, Part Deux

For example, in this space a fortnight ago we reported that New Hampshire's senior Senator had been named by President Barack Obama as his second choice for Secretary of Commerce. Judd Gregg seemed an odd choice at the time; we tried to enumerate some of the reasons why.

One day earlier—but after that issue had gone to the press—Senator Gregg shocked the White House, the Capitol in general, and the state of New Hampshire by announcing that he had withdrawn his name from consideration. What had been merely peculiar escalated into the bizarre.

Earlier that week Gregg had announced that he would abstain from voting on Obama's proposed economic stimulus package. That was a bit of a slap at his

new boss, but Gregg was the one who was stung. The Manchester *Union Leader's* online article about Gregg's recusal included fairly critical quotes from some notable state Republicans. Online readers then piled on and gave Gregg a severe scorching in the comments.

In a brief press conference explaining his actions, Gregg fell next to his sword, saying "There is no question but that when they asked me if I would do the job I said I would ... I made a mistake ..."

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs's version did not exactly match up. Gibbs said Gregg "reached out to the President and offered his name for secretary of commerce," and had vowed to "support, embrace and move forward with the president's agenda."

The Gregg Farce, Part Trois

Then, as if his dalliance with a seat in Obama's cabinet had not

already provided plenty of drama, Gregg casually mentioned that he would "probably" not run for re-election in 2010. Not surprisingly, considering what had just happened, it was a few days before it could be established that Gregg was serious. Thus began the third act of this farce: the rush to fill the power vacuum.

Gregg's grip had been looking tenuous anyway. Rep. Paul Hodes announced he'd run for the seat as soon as Gregg said he'd vacate it for Commerce, and rumors swirl about Carol Shea-Porter. Either one would have had a shot. Now, with Gregg lying in the net in the middle of the circus, a whole passel of Republicans are tempted to climb the greased pole towards the trapeze swing.

But there's a catch: recently-defeated ex-Senator John E. Sununu is pondering a run himself. And his daddy, John H. Sununu, who just happens to be the Chairman of New Hampshire's GOP, is advising John E. to take his time making up his mind. Until he does, it's a game of political "Freeze."

"Hotline," complained recently that he was "frustrated" by the "lack of bipartisan outreach from House Democratic leaders."

Sessions, the chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee, voiced his complaint shortly after President Obama's economic stimulus package passed the House—without a single vote from the Republican caucus.

We checked, and Sessions *was* in Congress during Bill Clinton's second term. At 53, he can hardly plead Alzheimers. But he seems to have forgotten the days when Republicans only reached across the aisle while wearing brass knuckles.

Sessions told "Hotline" he has a plan to gain the upper hand in the power equation: "Insurgency, [which Republicans] understand perhaps a little bit more because of the Taliban ... that is that they went about systematically understanding how to disrupt and change a person's entire processes. And these Taliban—I'm not trying to say the Republican Party is the Taliban ..."



Run, Bob, Run!

But soft, what light through yonder window breaks? No, not Juliet Capulet—Bob Smith!

According to Politics1.com, former Senator Smith has changed course yet again. He had been planning to run for the Senate from Florida. Now that Gregg's out of the picture, he's apparently itching for a rematch with the guy who shouldered him aside in a Republican primary in 2002.

If Bob "Bob" Smith should enter the primary, there's no telling what might happen—except this: it won't be dull.

Bringing the War Home

Desperate times call for desperate measures—from desperate people, anyway.

Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX) in an interview with the editors of the *National Journal's* website

The Case of the Murderous Mayor

The presumably peaceful little village of Corfu, New York, (Pop. 795) will elect a new mayor on March 18. The official ballots will give voters a choice between Todd Skeet, a Democrat, and Scott Doll, a Republican currently charged with murder.

Doll was charged with the February 18 bludgeoning death

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of his business partner, Joseph E. Benaquist, after nominations were finalized.

The Burris Farce

In the spirit of bipartisanship, and because we'd be embarrassed not to, we note that Roland Burris, a Democrat, now represents Illinois in the U.S. Senate, after being nominated by Milorad "Rod" Blagojevich, who was arrested in December for conspiring to sell President Barack Obama's former Senate seat.

Burris originally said he'd had no conversations with Blagojevich or his team about money. That statement appears now to have been, shall we say, imprecise.

Airman Witt and The Feres Doctrine

Airman Dean Witt underwent an emergency appendectomy at a hospital on Travis Air Force Base in California in 2003. The operation went well.

After the surgery, an understaffed anesthesiology team gave him a powerful sedative.

He stopped breathing as a student nurse was taking him to a recovery room. She wheeled him into a pediatric section and tried to resuscitate him with equipment

designed for children. A breathing tube was inserted incorrectly, causing air to be pumped into his stomach.

Witt went without oxygen for seven to ten minutes, and suffered permanent brain damage. He was removed from life support a few months later. A study found the post-operative care he received to be "far below" standard. The nurse anesthetist's license was revoked.

Alexis Witt, Travis's widow, filed suit on behalf of herself and her two young children, charging malpractice.

It was an open and shut case. But the result may be a shock to those unfamiliar with military medicine. On February 10, U.S. District Court Judge John A. Mendez dismissed her suit.

A 1950 Supreme Court decision, which has come to be known as the Feres Doctrine, bars military service members from suing the government for injuries sustained due to negligence. The Supreme Court concluded that since members of the military had access to the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs), access to the courts would be re-

dundant. No one has kept track of the number of men and women who have been denied redress in the courts since 1950, but they have to number in the tens, if not hundreds, of thousands.

In his written decision, Judge Mendez urged the Supreme Court, to "revisit the Feres Doctrine. Otherwise Feres will once again have led to a result that can only be characterized as unfair and irrational."

Sadly, since Mendez was able to cite several earlier cases which had made the same argument to no avail, there's little reason to hope for change.

Memorial Bridge Survey Results

In our paper of January 16 we alerted our readers to an online survey on the use of this region's three bridges crossing the Piscataqua River between Portsmouth and Kittery, Maine. We're pleased to report that Benjamin Porter, an instructor of statistics at UNH and the author of the survey, has now released the results.

More than 500 people re-

News Briefs

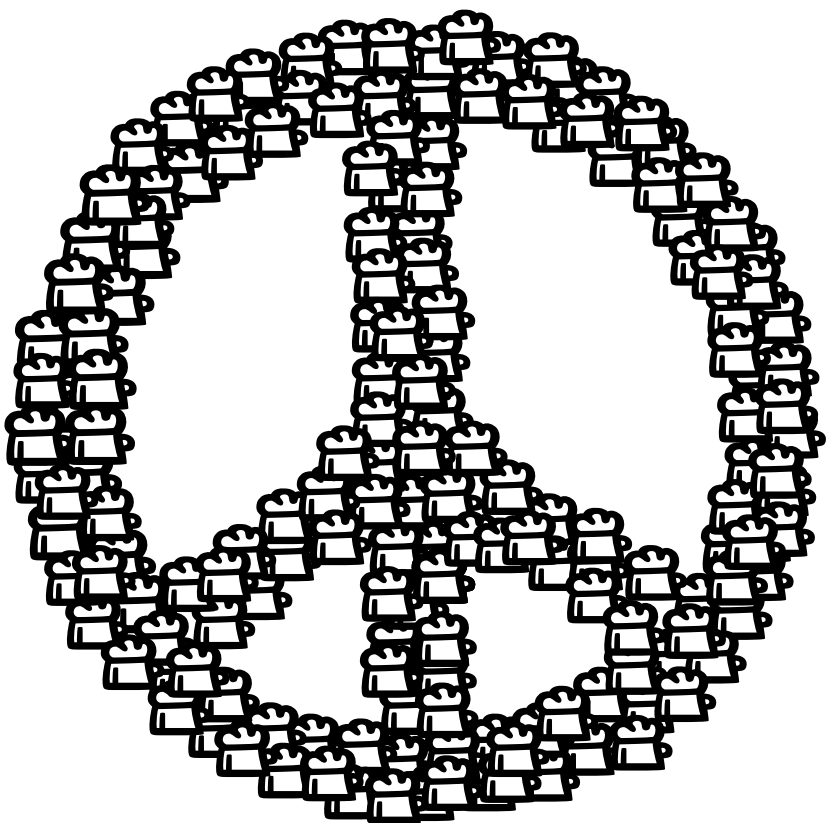
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Technically, the Flag Police would be on pretty shaky ground if they tried to cite the City of Portsmouth for an ill-hung flag of the State of New Hampshire. After all, no one's ever tried to gut the First Amendment in order to "save" the state's flag. And as for Old Glory, it would be difficult to charge desecration of the flag if there is no flag present. And yet, there seems to be something wrong with this picture.



Once again, last Saturday night, the Jumbo Circus Peanuts Pleasure Society and Musical Ensemble, that venerable group of professional drinkers who share a musical problem, successfully induced a sizeable crowd at the Deer St. VFW Hall to get up and shake their collective booties.



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



Moving Pictures

Kate Winslet

by Rodman Philbrick

Much of the pre-Oscar hype centered on Mickey Rourke’s gold tooth and whether or not he would use it to bite The Wolverine, or what brand of embalming fluid Joan Rivers is using this year, but the real class act on display was Kate Winslet, who was recently lambasted in the British press for her emotional reaction to winning at the Golden Globes. Lack of reserve, don’t you know. So happy and grateful she actually wept? Appalling lack of snark! She apologized, of course. So sorry for not acting like an upper-class twit.

Born into a British theatre family—one somehow not related to the Redgraves—Ms. Winslet has managed to attain superstardom without purging every little cupcake, inflating her lips into silicon pillows, or playing sexy-cool assassins who mate with Brad Pitt. At seventeen Winslet was cast in Peter Jackson’s *Heavenly Creatures*. This was before Jackson went all *Lord of The Rings*, and the result is a chillingly creepy study of perverse imagination based on the

real life crime that became New Zealand’s very own Leopold & Loeb. In this case, the sensational Parker-Hulme Murder. Winslet plays the radiantly beautiful, highly creative Juliet Hulme, whose friendship with Pauline Parker was mutually obsessive. The two BFF fifteen-year-olds became entangled in their own overwrought imaginations, creating a world they called Boravnia, in which they gave themselves starring roles as members of Boravnia’s royal family. When Parker’s mother began to suspect that the girls had an “unnatural interest” in one another, plans where made to separate them. The girls, after scheming to run away to America and become novelists, beat her to death with a brick. They were eventually sentenced to a few years in jail. Pauline Parker now runs a children’s riding school in England. Juliet Hulme converted to Mormonism, took the pen name “Anne Perry,” and has had a long and successful career as a crime novelist. You couldn’t make this stuff up, and both Winslet and costar Melanie Lynskey do a superb job of drawing the viewer into their

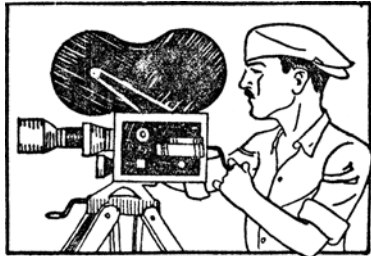
morbidly imaginations. Oh yeah, and Jackson’s richly visual direction is brilliant.

Barely a year later Emma Thompson and Ang Lee had the great good sense to cast Winslet as Marianne Dashwood in their adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility*. Ms. Winslet scored an Oscar nomination as Best Supporting Actress—quite a coup for a teenager. Even those of us who happen not to be huge fans of Jane Austen novels can nevertheless appreciate this fine-tuned exploration of the enduringly repulsive British class system. This is, after all, where snark was born, bred, endowed with property, and given a tiny little brain, as well as an acid tongue. See Hugh Grant as Edward Ferrars, in all his glorious toothiness. All in all, quite possibly the best of the Austen adaptations.

Despite the Oscar nomination (Mira Sorvino won for *Mighty Aphrodite*) most of us weren’t really tuned into Ms. Winslet until James Cameron decided to sink *Titanic* with her help. Her enchanting star-turn as Rose, who gets to fall in love with loveable, lower-class Leo and then watch

him sink ever-so-bravely beneath the waves, inspired a generation of iceberg-seeking romantics. Only a crank would consider this one of the worst hugely successful movies of all time, right down there with *Gone With The Wind*. (Complaints and disagreements should be forwarded to Daniel Fowle, wherever his bones may lie.)

One of the most appealing things about Winslet, aside from her obvious warmth and talent, is her ability to think for herself, rather than relying upon the advice of agents and managers. Following the *Titanic* phenomenon, Winslet could have gone the usual route to superstardom. Think, say, Julia Roberts—and that’s not a knock on Roberts, who has done a lot of fine work over the years. But Winslet was not drawn to the glamour roles and instead began to take parts in small and sometimes odd little movies like *Hideous Kinky* (hippy trip to Morocco) *Holy Smoke* (sex captive in desert hideaway) *Quills* (laundress to the Marquis de Sade) and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (erasing your bothersome boyfriend). The last



being quite brilliant, actually, although dominated by Jim Carrey channeling Charlie Kauffman, the most original screenwriter in Hollywood.

Along the way Ms. Winslet married director Sam Mendes, raised a family, and still found time to participate in *All The King’s Men*, an interesting if didn’t-quite-nail-it adaptation of the Robert Penn Warren novel, the vastly disturbing pedophilia-explainer *Little Children*, and a not-so-romantic reprise with Leonardo di Caprio in *Revolutionary Road*, based on the suburban-angst novel by Richard Yates.

And oh yeah, as the intriguing and possibly evil but really quite loveable Hannah, an SS guard who helped select victims at Auschwitz, and who later seduces a teenage Ralph Fiennes. *The Reader*. As yet unseen by this reviewer, but now on the list, awaiting DVD release.

Until then we’ll always have the iceberg.

More News Briefs

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sponded. About two-thirds reside in York County, ME, compared to one-third in Rockingham County, NH.

Eighty-four percent of respondents work, while only 16 percent do not. Of those who work, 35 percent do so in York County, while 38 percent work

in Rockingham county. The take-away from the residence/workplace data seems to be that the heaviest use of the bridge is by Maine residents working in New Hampshire.

Respondents use the Memorial Bridge the most, and the Sara Mildred Long bridge the least. In terms of function, they said automobile, bicycle, and foot traffic were all critically impor-

tant, while heavy truck traffic was not important. Almost half the respondents said they use Memorial Bridge regularly as pedestrians. This, in a survey taken in the dead of winter. Significant numbers of people who do not use the bridge either on foot or on bicycle expressed support for maintaining those functions.

More than 300 respondents said maintaining the bridge’s historic design, and its dedication to World War I veterans, were both important.

If one of the three bridges had to go, 69 percent said take down

the Long Bridge. Only 11 percent chose Memorial Bridge.

It’s more than a tad ironic that it’s the Maine DOT that’s blocking the rehabilitation of the bridge. Porter’s survey shows Maine residents depend on it more heavily than New Hampshire residents. Kittery businesses would suffer more for its loss, too.

Overall, the survey results provide plenty of ammunition for those who are trying to save the bridge.

We’ll be posting a link to the results on the *Gazette’s* website.

Getting the Gazette

Into Kittery

We’ve had some luck with out online appeal for recommendations as to where we ought to distribute the *Gazette* in Kittery, but there’s always room for more. Just go to www.nhgazette.com.

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Call or e-mail Tracey Noonan, VASH Program Manager, at (603) 657-5612 or tracey.noonan@va.gov

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Northcountry Chronicle

Protecting Us Hicks

by William Marvel

Overlooking eight years of regulatory negligence, militaristic profligacy, and corporate giveaways under the Republican regime, right wing snipers are already blaming Democrats for the economic collapse, for bankrupting the treasury, and for trying to fix it all with government spending. Listening to the rote repetition of falsehoods and foolishness by their tireless propaganda machine, I had begun to suppose that the Republican superfaithful had cornered the market on hypocrisy and phony logic. Then I got wind of what our state legislature is up to.

Last week New Hampshire's House passed HB 383, mandating seatbelt use by nearly everyone in the state. Like most foot-in-the-door legislation, our seatbelt law first applied only to young children, but then it was quickly extended to 12-year-olds, and afterward to all minors. HB 383 reflects the more comprehensive compulsion that

the law's original sponsors really wanted to impose on us.

Manipulated statistics and porous arguments accompany the legislation, but representatives who embrace those reasons have opposed more worthy bills that are sustained by precisely the same arguments. They contend, for example, that seatbelts help prevent injuries that drain Medicare and raise insurance rates, but they refuse to apply the same legislative logic to more deadly activities.

Proponents of HB 383 observe that in an accident unbelted passengers act as projectiles, endangering others. So does anything else in the car, but will I also be required to restrain my violin, or the groceries I'm bringing home from the market, or the books and computer I often carry, or the dog I wish I still had in the back seat? If this is so compelling an argument, how can our solicitous representatives blithely exempt school buses?

The significance of the bill is largely symbolic, illustrating a

condescending paternalism imported directly from the suburbs. A seatbelt law would inconvenience relatively few, because the sensible among us always buckle up anyway, but somehow our legislature wants to force us to do so. Meanwhile, the same legislature that seems so intent on protecting us from ourselves has rebuffed every effort to protect us from the legions of idiots hurtling along our roadways while talking on a cell phone.

The attitude behind the seatbelt bill should portend more of the same. Helmets would almost eliminate head injuries; why not require them for drivers and passengers? Motorcycles, snowmobiles, and ATVs are major causes of head injuries, paraplegia, and quadriplegia, all of which involve enormous public expense; shouldn't the legislature ban those perilous, nonessential activities altogether? The rock and ice climbing that seems so unaccountably popular in this vicinity is far too dangerous to continue, unless each climber is protect-

ed by a hydraulically equipped climbing cage, complete with cables and elevator-style braking mechanisms. Several people of my acquaintance were paralyzed as a result of biking and diving accidents, so why don't our solons restrict those pastimes?

Smoking is more certain to cause expensive medical conditions than not wearing a seatbelt, besides posing a direct hazard to others. As a child I ingested enough secondhand smoke that I'm a candidate for lung cancer myself. Unless they wish to be guilty of both inconsistency and insensitivity, the legislators who voted for the new seatbelt law had better get busy on a bill to ban smoking in the presence of minor children—and especially the child's parents, even in their own home. The next step, of course, would be to prohibit smoking altogether, to avoid the public expense smoking incurs through Medicare and soaring insurance rates. The same principle of public economic interest that drives mandatory seatbelt

use and a smoking ban should also dictate statutory compulsion for the use of condoms, to limit the spread of AIDS.

The sponsorship of HB 383 betrays that it is essentially a Democratic initiative. That party now dominates our legislature, thanks to voters and candidates who immigrated here to "share" New Hampshire's unique way of life. Most of them now seem more intent on eradicating that way of life by transforming New Hampshire into the same safe, sterile, enclave of controlled conformists that they so recently fled.

Many of those Democrats just finished lambasting a federal administration that rationalized its intrusive policies on the excuse of protecting the public from harm at the hands of others. Now those same Democrats betray a willingness to impose petty intrusions of their own for the sake of protecting us poor, ignorant provincials from ourselves. We need benevolent dictators no more than we did the more sinister variety.

More Hate Mail, &c.

from page seven

happening or figure out which politician to blame. They plan to misappropriate Social Security taxes that workers have paid for their retirement. This swindle, called "fiscal reform," is the political equivalent of bait and switch fraud.

"Social Security is not broke—not even close. It is able to pay the benefits for forty years, even if nothing is changed now." See, William Grieder, The March 2, 2009 in *The Nation*.

Be a real Patriot. Call, write or e-mail your legislators now and tell them to stop the assault on

Social Security.

Wilbur N. Rhodes
Kittery, ME

Trusting the State

To the Editor, and those distrustful of the State:

This is an appeal to my New Hampshire House colleagues who are leftists, libertarians or true conservatives who traditionally distrust government. I am sponsoring a House bill to abolish the death penalty.

Why would I do this when the public apparently clamors for it? Because I too distrust the government. As a life-long New Hampshire resident who grew up in the mountains to the west, I

was never comfortable with government dictates coming from Concord.

My reasoning for opposing the death penalty is that if you trust the government to carry out perfect justice and you then extend that reasoning to imposing capital punishment, all else follows. Once the power of life or death over the citizenry is granted to the state, everything is granted *de facto*.

I do not trust government, and hope many of you from the other end of the political spectrum will agree and support my efforts to abolish the death penalty.

Rep. Steven W. Lindsey
(Cheshire-3)

Keene, NH

Rep. Lindsey:

You have pinpointed the core of our own absolute rejection of the death penalty.

The Editor

From the Land of
Mardi Gras

To the Editor:

As a former Portsmouthsonian and a current New Orleanian I was very happy to see that Bruce is featuring the Skull and Bones Krewe at the Press Room. However please, please, please ... this fabulous holiday is spelled "Mardi Gras."

I'd be interested in knowing the other two subscribers in NOLA,

other than Rick. I think we all need to meet for a drink one day.

Give my best to Rose and Happy Mardi Gras.

Rachel Lyons
New Orleans, LA
Rachel:

That idea is so appealing that we might just have to come down and join you. The trouble is, we can't bring ourselves to reveal the other New Orleans subscribers' names without their OK. And we don't have their e-mails. Let's try running this note as a Letter to the Editor, and try to get them to send a waiver. If they go for it, though, we're going to want a full report of the proceedings!

The Editor

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Republicans
 Stuck in the Past

To the Editor:

The past few weeks allowed the American people to witness the modern Republican Party in action. It wasn't a pretty sight.

With our country in a deep recession, teetering on the edge of another Great Depression, economists from across the ideological spectrum have called for bold action. To head off economic disaster and get us back on the right track, President Obama and the Democrats in Congress put forth serious and comprehensive legislation, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The goal was to save or create 3-4 million jobs, cut taxes for middle class and working families, and make infrastructure investments in things like schools, mass transit, and electronic medical records that will create conditions for long-term economic growth.

How did the Republicans in Congress respond? They rebuffed President Obama's efforts at cooperation and repeated their tired mantra of tax cuts (for the corporations and the rich) as the solution for all the nation's ills. Showing their true colors, these 21st century Herbert Hoovers essentially called for the continuation of the failed economic policies of George W. Bush. When it came to a vote on the recovery plan, no Republican in the House of Representatives and only three in the Senate voted for it. Our own Republican Senator,

Judd Gregg, after embarrassing himself by withdrawing as nominee for Secretary of Commerce, voted against the bill.

So just remember, when all the help contained in this bill arrives, the Republicans didn't want you to have it. All of the progress that will result from this legislation would not happen if the Republicans had their way.

That's your modern Republican Party: giving all the breaks to those who least need them, starting unnecessary wars, and fiddling while Rome burns. During the mid-term elections next year, voters will do well to remember that.

Larry Drake
 Portsmouth, NH
 Larry:

With few exceptions, the Republicans seem determined to stick to their failed ideology no matter where it leads—including the poorhouse. You have no doubt noticed the recent revisionist claims that Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal prolonged—or even caused!—the Great Depression. The only thing wrong with their theory is the facts. Their desperation can be gauged by their new national Chairman's recent announcement that he'd lead an "off the hook" campaign to lure younger Hispanic and Black voters into the Grand Old Party by promoting trickle-down economics and budget-crippling tax cuts in "urban-suburban hip-hop settings." We'd buy a ticket to watch that. Barring a miracle, the Republicans seem destined to join the Federalists, the Know-Nothings, and the Whigs before too long.

The Editor

Free At Last!

To the Editor:

It was a wonderful coincidence to read the title of your Rant of January 30 because when I was in DC on Inaugural day and the speaker announced that it was the last day in office for George Bush many African Americans around me threw their hands

in the air and shouted "Free At Last!" I was glad that I braved the crowds because you could really feel the relief that Bush was gone and the love!!

I wish that I could have gotten photos to you of the Shoe Bush actions on the 19th but it was a crazy couple of days. Getting around D.C. was a nightmare, making logistics difficult. My vehicle was "misplaced" by one of my friends and cell phone connections were spotty at best.

However, readers can go to my web site at www.shoebush.org to see some photos and videos. People loved hurling shoes at my inflatable effigy of Bush and over the course of the day, I would guess that we had at least 5,000 people stop by to hurl shoes and take photos.

We also got several dozen pairs of combat boots and shoes over the barricades to the White House.

The Secret Service just watched and did not arrest us!

Jamilla El Shafei
 Kennebunkport, ME
 Jamilla:

Sometimes we have to scratch our editorial noggins to come up with a headline, but that one dictated itself.

For years, you and your friends have reminded Bush the Lesser—and the world—that many people, even in the town where his plutocratic family has summered for a century, did not support his reckless reign. Congratulations on crowning that great service with a fitting, foot-oriented sendoff.

The Editor

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**Contention vs. Cooperation**

To the Editor:

President Obama's administration hoped to find a more collaborative way to negotiate governance of our great country. After the Republicans' "winner take all" steamroller politics, power has now swung to the Democrats. Obama's leadership tried something different: listening respectfully, including Republicans in policy development, and compromising to accommodate Republican concerns.

The final version of the Eco-

*Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,*

conomic Recovery act has cut proposed spending by over \$100 billion over the previous version, just to accommodate Republicans and gain their votes. The act also increased tax cuts for the wealthy in spite of ample experience that this doesn't do much to help the economy. These compromises were made to include Republicans in solving our common problems, yet, only three voted with Democrats to pass the act. Republicans remain obstructionist.

Democrats would be well-advised to use the political power they currently have to fix the massive problems caused by years of Republican hegemony, and not to dilute their cure with Republican snake oil. Collaboration is a two-way street, and Republicans have shown deceit in working toward effective solutions.

In California' legislature, six Republicans are paralyzing the state budget with their stubborn ideology instead of pragmatic governance.

Bruce Joffe  
 Piedmont, CA  
 Bruce:

*As we replied to Larry Drake, above, the Republicans don't seem to be getting tired of shooting themselves in the foot. If that was all they were hitting, it would be amusing. But the more holes they put in the budget, the harder it will be for the reality-based contingent to keep it afloat.*

The Editor

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The Fortnightly Rant

To the Editor:

It would have been A (More) Stimulating Debate if your Fortnightly Rant wasn't so slick and easy with the facts. The cheap money policy was introduced by then-Fed chairman Alan Greenspan during the Clinton regime. And it wasn't cheap money that stoked the housing bubble, but the total abandonment of responsible lending standards, stoked by the House banking committee. Another log on the fire was Phil Graham's [sic] (R-TX) au-

thorship of a bill that modified commodity futures trading rules, which led to companies like AIG to sell "insurance" (I use the term loosely) against losses in securitized mortgage loan portfolios. They couldn't pay off when the market went sour because, thanks to a loophole created by Mr. Graham, they weren't required to maintain cash reserves to cover potential future claims, the way insurance products normally work. That bill was signed into law not by Reagan or Bush, but, again, by Clinton.

In 1999 an article appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* about the CEO of Fannie Mae and his consternation over a proposed House/HUD program that would spur home ownership by relaxing loan requirements. His warnings were dismissed and a pilot program was launched in 20 US cities. Over the next few years a steady parade of bank execs pleaded with the banking committee for sanity. All were branded as racists and treated with scorn, name-calling and sarcasm by Barney Frank, Maxine Waters and other supporters of the program. The *Journal* concluded the program might succeed if home prices continued to rise. Well, nothing goes up forever.

If Obama fails, and I hope he doesn't, he can share the blame with Reagan, Bush and Clinton. Limbaugh can (and will) continue to bloviate from his bunker in South Florida. If Obama fails, Rush will have to pay for the disaster like everybody else.

Jack MacSwan
 Concord, MA
 Jack:

We intended that piece to be not so much a comprehensive survey of the root causes of the housing bubble, but more of a blunt instrument aimed at the aggravating Republican knee-jerk reaction to any fiscal situation: cut taxes. If you thought you could lure us into defending Alan Greenspan or Bill Clinton, we'll have to disappoint. As for Phil Gramm, we performed a live

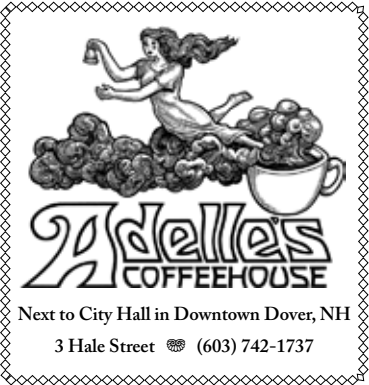
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And Other Correspondence

dissection of his infamous career in our issue of July 25, 2008, while he was one of Senator John McCain's economic advisors. We noted his role in passing the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000, and the fact that "Bill Clinton signed it into law six days later."

The Editor

Where the Neanderthals Went

To the Editor:

In Frank Rich's Sunday op-ed in the *New York Times* (Feb. 15), he quotes Obama political advisor David Axelrod as saying, "... that the American People are a lot smarter than Washington thinks." While I agree with his conclusion I feel that it is based on the faulty premise which assumes that Washington has in fact the mental capacity to actually think at all.

In a tangentially related topic earlier that week in the *Times*, the paper (and Web site) of record reported that cloning a Neanderthal man was—if not morally or ethically justifiable—nevertheless rapidly becoming scientifically possible. Whereas this cloning option is probably not of imminent likelihood, still I feel compelled to publicly oppose any such hocus-pocus tomfoolery in some elitist biology lab. May the record show I hereby emphatically vote "no" to more Neanderthals—we already have enough in the Congress.

Barnabas Umbrage
Portsmouth, NH

Mr. Umbrage:

We find your suggestion that Neanderthal genes are the cause of Congress's poor performance to be deeply offensive. Ann Holden, a PhD student at Oxford, has noted that "being able to survive in the harsh environment of Europe during the last Ice Age require[d] not only physical strength and endurance, but intelligence as well." Further, Neanderthals routinely displayed a sense of courage that would cause modern homo sapiens to blanch, being "close-range hunters, using spears to take down large

game." If our present Congress displayed more of these traits, the people would be better served.

No, sir, the problem is not too many Neanderthals in Congress, but too few!

The Editor

The Self-Righteous Party of "Has Beens"

To the Editor:

The Hypocrites of Hypocrites...the Republican Party of America. Go back and tell your constituency not to accept any of this stimulus package and see just how much positive traction you receive. The only thing that can shame a self-righteous beggar is a hypocritical one ... and the Republicans are doing a class act, certainly not the party of Lincoln but Hoover.

Bobby Buck
Roanoke, VA

Who Is Responsible For The Present State Of The World?

To the Editor:

The present worldwide financial crisis, like the ones before it, is not an unpredictable, unforeseeable sudden act of Nature, like a Tsunami, Hurricane or Earthquake, and proves yet again that the (Financial) World is (mis)managed mostly by bulimically greedy, insatiable, cynical, unscrupulous, dishonest, short sighted, but incredibly arrogant and conceited idiots, driven probably by some inferiority complex ridden, insane compulsion to amass more and more unnecessary Riches, Wealth and through that, Power over their fellow humans. Had the highest ranking decision makers of the Financial and Political World adhered to the time honoured proverb of: "cut your coat, according to your cloth" the World, Mankind, and Mother Earth, our one and only sustainer, of Life, and Home would not now be cascading down the slippery slope towards Total Chaos, War, Famine, and Destruction. The concept of "Noblesse Oblige" means nothing to these people and they are incapable of seeing

their moral responsibility and understand that we, all of us, are passengers on Planet "Titanic" Earth and in the End will sail, or sink into oblivion together anyway. By now we have got to the Stage, that Economic life, Television, Newspapers, Culture, just about every facet of human life is controlled by these, in reality inferiority complex ridden, insatiably greedy, Mad Morons.

The gap between Rich and Poor is wider than ever before in the History of Mankind, and instead of getting smaller it is increasing day by day.

To paraphrase World War II British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, "Never in the realm of human history have so many been exploited, taken advantage of, manipulated, smilingly sent to financial ruin, abject poverty, hopeless despair, or even death, by so few."

Sic Transit Gloria Mundi.

For the attention of the present (mis)rulers of the (Financial) World.

Atilla Levay
Zsambek, Hungary

Worthless Money

To the Editor:

Few people are aware that on September 13, 1982 the sole sponsor Peter Rodino of New Jersey successfully received congressional approval of the repeal of HJR 192 and the President signed the repeal into law. The Public Law 97-258, and 96 Stat 1074 "Schedule of Laws Repealed" clearly shows that Vol. 48, page 113 of June 5, 1933 (HJR-192) is hereby repealed!

What most people do not know is that it was HJR 192 that gave "legal tender" status to the FRN's as prior to HJR 192, the FRN's could only be circulated exclusively between BANKS as commercial paper! After HJR 192, the FRN's became "legal tender" status and were circulated to the general public without

the banks having to fulfill their fiduciary duty of redeeming the paper FRN's with "Lawful money," gold coin. Repeal of HJR 192 now requires the banks to have their reserve in gold and silver coin. They do not, hence all banks are essentially bankrupt! They can not redeem paper for "lawful money." Now with the repeal of HJR 192 the 7th Amendment has been restored in full as the common law requires "Lawful money" for common law courts to adjudicate. The commercial tribunals are essentially gone but the fraud continues as long as the people accept the frauds.

The paper FRN's that are now circulating have no value whatsoever, except that the uninformed sheeple "accept" them, thus the current financial chaos is a result of the peoples ignorance. They all want something for nothing and capital can only be created by *labor*! (Not printing presses)

I look forward to the complete collapse of this fraud and the sooner the better.

Dick Marple
Hooksett, New Hampshire Republic

Social Security Looters

To the Editor:

Our Government, dominated by the Oligarchy of the Billionaires, the bankers and corporate giants, is a greater threat to the public and our Nation than any terrorist organization. They are in power regardless of what party is in the White House. They destroy our ecosystems at will with mountain top coal mining and pollution spewing power plants. The oil and gas industries heavy-handed search for fuel has created enemies yet they get federal tax cuts and handout every year. Our four-dollar a gallon gas prices were manipulated by the bankers and billionaires who made more billions at the expense of the working people as well as the transportation industry that



passed its costs to the customers.

These high rollers have played Monopoly with our economy to make their billions with astronomical salaries, stock options and bonuses. They forgot that real people live and work in the houses and the hotels. Their greed and stupidity has brought our economy crashing down around our ears with the poverty of unemployment, loss of investment income, pensions and health insurance.

Granted there were homeowners who made unwise decisions but many more were conned into buying homes they could not afford. Brokers, banks and other lenders took their cuts and passed the mortgages off to the big time mortgage houses. When the state Attorney Generals saw the danger of sub-prime lending they tried to pass a bill to stop the process but a court order from Puppet, Bush W. ended their effort and the looting went on.

These same wizards who claimed that the market was smarter than the government repealed the regulations that would have prevented this disaster.

The Wizards are still working to end Social Security by saying that the government that has bailed out the banks cannot afford to pay for the costs of Social Security and the entitlements.

They are hiding behind closed doors to whack Social Security so the public cannot see what is

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page five

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

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

The Piscataqua’s remarkable current is caused by the tide which, in turn is

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

trucks.)

The moon’s meddling creates a roving hydraulic conflict as incoming sea and outgoing river collide. The skirmish line moves from the mouth of the river, past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on towards Great

Bay. This spectacle can best be seen when the chart below shows the tide rising. A good place to watch is the little deck near the sterns of the tugboats, off Ceres Street. Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the salt water that just fought its way upstream goes back to rejoin the ocean. This is when the

Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. A good place to observe this is from Bow Street, up by St. John’s church. Look up the river, from one of the little parking lots between the buildings. (Don’t try to drive or park there, that won’t work.) You’ll see a red buoy, at the upstream end of Badger’s Island,

bobbing around in the current. That buoy weighs several tons, is nine feet wide, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork! The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. Often when the river rests, its tugboats and drawbridges work their hardest. Ships coming in heavily laden with coal,

oil, and salt generally do so at high tide, for maximum clearance under their keels. When they leave empty, riding high in the water, they tend to go at low tide, for maximum clearance under Memorial Bridge.

Sunday, March 1	Monday, March 2	Tuesday, March 3	Wednesday, March 4	Thursday, March 5	Friday, March 6	Saturday, March 7
2002—U.S. forces in Afghanistan begin Operation Anaconda, aimed at capturing or killing Taliban fighters in the Shah-i-kot Valley. 1977—Sara Lowndes Dylan files for divorce from her hubby Bob. 1971—The Weather Underground explodes a bomb at the U.S. Capitol, but there is no resulting improvement. 1954—After surviving 39 combat missions in Korea, Ted Williams breaks his collarbone at spring training. 1954—The Pentagon blows up a Bikini with an H-bomb. The same day, Puerto Rican nationalists shoot five U.S. Congressmen on the floor of the House. There is no resulting improvement in either case. 1932—Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., aged 20 mos., is kidnapped; by whom is still disputed. 1906—Emma Goldman publishes the first issue of her anarchist newspaper, <i>Mother Earth</i>. 1860—Abraham Lincoln speaks at Phenix Hall in Concord, NH, and again later in Manchester. 1872—Yellowstone, the world’s first national park, is created. 1847—Michigan becomes the first state to stop killing convicts intentionally. 1562—In Vassy, France, Catholics massacre between 30 and 1,000 Huguenots, kicking off 37 years of religious warfare.	2004—UN weapons inspectors report Saddam had no WMD. 2002—A U.S. gunship mistakenly fires on a U.S./Afghan convoy during Operation Anaconda, killing CWO Stanley Harriman. Afghan soldiers flee, the remaining U.S. forces are attacked by the Taliban. 1965—Operation Rolling Thunder begins: non-retaliatory U.S. bombing of North Vietnam. 1946—Ho Chi Minh is elected president of North Vietnam. 1944—Fumes from a stalled locomotive kill 521 in an Italian train tunnel. 1942—Lt. Gen. John DeWitt announces all Japanese-Americans will be required to move away from the West Coast, & should do so voluntarily for their own good. 1901—By way of the Platt amendment, Congress informs Cuba our troops are staying and they’re a “protectorate.” 1877—Bribed by Republicans, the Electoral College selects Rutherford B. Hayes over Samuel Tilden. 1836—Texas declares independence from Mexico. 1807—Congress votes to prohibit the importation of slaves; only 250,000 or so are subsequently imported illegally. 1805—Aaron Burr—the first Vice President to shoot a man—resigns from the Senate for other, unrelated reasons.	2005—Hauled from the depths off Nantucket, and spared from the fate of a plate due to his size, Bubba the 23 lb. lobster expires from stress or bad water on his way to Ripley’s freak show. 1991—A troublemaker videotapes Los Angeles Police officers chastising Rodney King. 1973—A badly designed door latch fails on a DC-10 over France. The door blows off, six passengers are sucked out the ensuing hole, and the plane crashes killing all aboard. 1955—Elvis Presley appears on television for the first time, fatally undermining Western Civilization. 1949—The Tucker automobile company crashes. 1938—Oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia. 1934—John Dillinger busts out of prison with a fake pistol. 1933—Mt. Rushmore is dedicated. 1931—Congress adopts “The Star-Spangled Banner” as the national anthem. 1927—Doing 170 mph during a land speed record attempt in Wales, J.G. Parry-Thomas is decapitated by a broken drive chain. 1873—In the “Salary Grab Act,” Congressmen raise their salaries retroactively. 1863—Congress passes the first U.S. draft law, giving exemption to men who pay a \$300 bribe to the federal government.	2002—During Operation Anaconda, two SEAL Teams land atop a peak and discover an occupied Taliban bunker system. Eight Americans die, many are wounded. 1987—Ronald Reagan admits trading arms for hostages. 1966—In a remark that costs his group considerable popularity, Beatle John Lennon says, “We’re more popular than Jesus.” 1960—FCC chairman John Doerfer’s six day trip to Florida courtesy of Storer Broadcasting is exposed during a payola investigation. 1960—Baritone Leonard Warren, 48, on stage at the Met and about to sing the aria, “to die, a momentous thing,” from Verdi’s <i>La Forza del Destino</i>, dies of a heart attack. 1937—The UAW wins a sit-down strike in Flint, Mich. 1933—“We have nothing to fear,” says FDR, “but fear itself.” 1918—The Spanish Flu appears at Fort Riley, KS. 1917—Sen. Robert La Follette (Progressive Rep.-WI) is prevented by Democrats from heaving a brass spittoon at the presiding officer of the Senate. 1917—During a contentious filibuster in the Senate, Harry Lane (D-OR) girds himself to stab Ollie James (D-KY) in the neck if James pulls out the pistol under his coat; but the day ends without bloodshed.	2007—In Bloomington, IL, Dec Riddle is startled by a meteorite crashing through her bedroom window. 2003—Dixie Chick Natalie Maines says she’s ashamed that George W. Bush is a Texan. 2003—In a White House press conference, Helen Thomas tells Ari Fleischer “There is no imminent threat” to the U.S. from Saddam Hussein. Apparently he fails to pass that information along to his boss. 2001—A Nor’easter begins which will dump 40 inches of snow on Rockingham County. 1963—Patsy Cline, singer of “I Fall to Pieces,” is killed when her plane crashes. 1953—Stalin dies. 1933—In Germany, the Nazi party wins a majority in the Reichstag. 1927—U.S. Marines land in China. 1890—Birth of B. Traven, author of <i>Treasure of the Sierra Madre</i>, publisher of anarchist magazine <i>The Brick Thrower</i>. 1877—“Rutherford” B. Hayes is sworn in as the nineteenth U.S. president. 1871—Rosa Luxemburg is born. 1770—Heinous British troops slaughter innocent Bostonians in the Boston Massacre. (Or, provincial terrorists attack duly constituted authority.)	2007—A jury finds Dick “Dick” Cheney’s Chief of Staff I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby guilty of perjury and obstruction of justice. 2003—George W. Bush claims in a press conference that Saddam Hussein’s operatives have “biological and chemical agents” they are moving “to different locations every 12 to 24 hours, or placed in vehicles that are in residential neighborhoods.” 1991—President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush claims that his defeat of Saddam Hussein has created a “new world order.” 1981—After 19 years as anchor, Walter Cronkite casts off from the CBS Evening News. 1966—Sgt. Barry Sadler’s “Ballad of the Green Berets” hits No. 1 on the charts. 1964—Cassius Clay takes the name Muhammad Ali. 1930—Clarence Birdseye invents a method of quickly freezing food. 1922—Babe Ruth signs a three-year contract with the Yankees worth \$1,000 a week. 1896—Charles B. King drives the first automobile ever seen in Detroit. 1857—The Supreme Court rules in Dred Scott v. Sanford that “the unhappy black race [never possessed] rights which the white man was bound to respect.” 1836—The Alamo falls.	1981—An 18 year-old is stabbed to death in Disneyland’s first homicide. 1965—Six blocks into a 50-mile, Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march, 600 marchers are attacked by state and local police on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. 1955—The Commissioner of Baseball, Ford Frick, says the he favors legalizing the spitball. 1932—Detroit police fire on a hunger march of Ford workers, four of whom die. 1911—Twenty thousand U.S. troops are dispatched to the Mexican border to protect “American interests.” 1908—In Cincinnati, Mayor Mark Breith announces that “women are not physically fit to operate automobiles.” 1906—In Finland, the Senate approves of universal suffrage—except for the poor. 1876—Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone. 1850—New Hampshire native Daniel Webster, representing Mass. in the Senate, argues in the Senate that slaveholders are entitled to be secure in their ownership of their slaves. 1799—In Bethlehem, PA, John Fries and a mob of four hundred insurgents and onlookers free 19 property tax protestors from a federal marshal and his 13 deputies.
Sunday, March 8	Monday, March 9	Tuesday, March 10	Wednesday, March 11	Thursday, March 12	Friday, March 13	Saturday, March 14
1971—The still-anonymous Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI breaks into the Bureau’s Media, PA office and makes off with over 1,000 documents which reveal illegal wiretapping, infiltration of organizations, and media manipulation. 1971—Jimi Hendrix’s “Star-Spangled Banner” plays on Radio Hanoi. 1966—In Dublin, an IRA bomb destroys Nelson’s Column. 1965—As the first U.S. combat troops—U.S. Marines—hit the beach at Danang ready to fight, they are welcomed by Vietnamese girls offering leis. 1958—William Faulkner says American schools have degenerated into babysitters. 1950—The USSR announces it’s got an A-bomb. 1927—Babe Ruth signs a two-year contract with the Yankees worth \$160,000. 1913—The IRS begins collecting. 1906—U.S. troops in the Philippines attack a Moro stronghold, killing them all regardless of age or sex. Teddy Roosevelt calls it “a brilliant feat of arms [that upheld] the honor of the American flag.” 1890—Birth of Gene Fowler, who wrote, “Writing is easy; all you do is sit staring at a blank piece of paper until the drops of blood form on your forehead.”	2005—Dan Rather signs off. 1994—RIP Bukowski. 1986—U.S. Navy divers locate the sunken crew compartment of the Space Shuttle <i>Challenger</i>. 1982—The <i>Washington Post</i> reveals \$19 million in covert aid has gone to the Contras. 1969—Afraid of the consequences of even the mildest sedition, CBS-TV cancels the Smothers Brothers. 1964—First Mustang rolls off the assembly line. 1954—WMUR-TV in Manchester begins broadcasting. 1946—Ted Williams turns down \$500,000 to play ball in Mexico. 1941—Writer Sherwood Anderson dies of peritonitis after swallowing a toothpick at a party in Panama. 1932—Ford Motor Co. makes its first production Flathead V-8. 1916—Pancho Villa and 1,500 guerrillas raid Columbus, NM and kill 17 Americans. 1864—U. S. Grant is appointed Commander of the Union Army. 1862—The <i>Monitor</i> defeats the <i>Merrimack</i> in the first clash of iron ships. 1841—The <i>Amistad</i> mutineers are declared free men by the U.S. Supreme Court. 1776—Adam Smith publishes <i>The Wealth of Nations</i>, once a treatise on economics, now a license to steal. 1737—A mob of reformers destroys a Boston whorehouse.	2008—Rumors on Wall Street say Bear Stearns is low on cash, and in trouble. Board member and ex-CEO Alan “Ace” Greenberg, on CNBC, says that’s “ridiculous.” 2004—Alberto Gonzales hovers over the hospital bed of John Ashcroft, trying to coerce the critically ill man to help him shred the Constitution. 1992—Injected with poison by Oklahoma state workers, Robyn Lee Parks gasps and gags for eleven minutes, then dies. 1974—Crime Commission in Philadelphia says police corruption is “systematic at all levels.” Mayor Frank Rizzo tries to block its investigation. 1951—Genial old Ike declares America’s willingness to launch a first-strike nuclear attack. 1945—American bombers drop nearly 2,000 tons of incendiary bombs on Tokyo, killing approximately 100,000 civilians and leaving 1,500,000 homeless. 1945—A Japanese firebomb balloon lands on electric wires in Hanford, WA, temporarily shutting down a nuclear reactor making plutonium destined for “Fat Man,” the Nagasaki A-bomb. 1913—RIP Harriet Tubman. 1906—A coal mine explosion in France kills 1,060, sparking a strike by 45,000 miners, which is suppressed by the Army.	2005—Pentagon documents reveal that some Abu Ghraib prisoners were as young as 11. 1974—On the Philippine island of Lubang, Hiroo Onoda becomes the last Japanese soldier of WW II to surrender. 1966—Viet Cong overrun a Special Forces camp at A Shau, survivors escape by U.S.M.C. helicopter. 1958—A B-47 accidentally drops a Mark 6 atom bomb, minus its core, on Mars Bluff, SC. Six people on the ground are injured by the explosion and a house is destroyed. 1954—The U.S. Army charges Sen. Joe McCarthy & aide Roy Cohn with using threats to get special treatment for Private G. David Schine. 1942—At Corregidor, “Dugout Doug” MacArthur bugs out. 1926—In Parliament, George Lansbury proposes the abolition of the Royal Navy. 1917—Baghdad falls to an Anglo-Indian force. 1847—Death of John “Johnny Appleseed” Chapman, Daniel Fowle’s 3rd cousin, twice removed. 1812—British Luddites suffer a first defeat at Rawkolds Mill. 1811—Luddites begin attacking machines designed to replace them in the weaving industry. 1702—The first regular English-language newspaper, the <i>Daily Courant</i>, is founded in London.	2007—Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA) cops to atheism. 2006—In Fordland, MO, Matt Suter is sucked out of his house trailer by a tornado and dropped, alive, in a pasture 1/4 mi. away. 2005—Middletown, VA Police Chief Roger Ashley is arrested twice in one day for drunken driving, once in his cruiser. 2003—The <i>Guardian</i> reports that Halliburton is still paying VP Dick Cheney up to \$1 million a year in “deferred compensation.” 1968—Eugene McCarthy places second in the New Hampshire Democratic Primary, convincing President Lyndon Johnson to drop out. 1956—The Dow breaks 500. 1955—Charlie “Bird” Parker dies, lives. 1928—Near Los Angeles, the St. Francis dam collapses, killing more than 400. 1922—Birth of Jack Kerouac, Lowell, Mass. 1912—Captain Albert Berry becomes the first man to jump out of an airplane and live. 1888—The New York Weather Bureau predicts “light snow” just before a blizzard kills hundreds. 1804—Insane New Hampshire federal district judge John Pickering is impeached by the U.S. Senate for “drunkenness, profanity, & violence” on the bench.	2003—Iraq’s dreaded pilotless drone looks “more like something out of ... Rube Goldberg ... than anything that could threaten Iraq’s foes,” reports <i>The New York Times</i>. 2002—George W. Bush says of Osama bin Laden, “We haven’t heard much from him ... I don’t know where he is ... I truly am not that concerned about him.” 1968—Clouds of nerve gas drift outside the Army’s Dugway Proving Grounds in Provo, Utah, poisoning 6,400 sheep in nearby Skull Valley. 1964—Kitty Genovese is stabbed to death in Queens as thirty-seven witnesses do nothing. 1962—The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Lyman L. Lemnitzer, signs a Top Secret memo authorizing Operation Northwood—a “terror campaign” on U.S. soil to build support for an attack on Cuba. 1957—Georgia’s General Assembly votes to impeach five U.S. Supreme Court justices. 1954—Viet Minh forces besiege French troops at Dien Bien Phu. 1921—The “unstable” Baron Ungern-Sternberg becomes dictator of Mongolia. 1881—Russian nihilists assassinate Czar Alexander. 1877—Chester Greenwood, 18, of Farmington, Maine, receives a patent for earmuffs, his first of 130.	2008—After examining Bear Stearns’ books, appalled execs from JP Morgan and the NY Fed hash out a deal to stave off disaster. 2002—The Justice Dept. charges accounting firm Arthur Andersen with obstruction of justice for shredding Enron documents. 1984—<i>New York Times</i> headline: “Youth robs woman trapped underneath bus in Trenton of \$2,000.” 1965—“Except for Vietnam,” the AP reports Richard Nixon says, “U.S. foreign policy is in a shambles.” 1964—We still don’t know who killed JFK, but on this day a jury decided Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald. 1961—A B-52 carrying nuclear weapons on a routine training flight crashes in CA. 1927—Birth of Edward Abbey, writer, anarchist. 1912—In Lawrence, Mass., strikers win both “Bread and Roses.” 1891—A mob of twenty thousand xenophobes in New Orleans lynches 11 Italian immigrants recently acquitted of murder. 1883—Karl Marx, 64, dies in London, impoverished. 1879—Birth of Albert Einstein. 1864—Birth of John Luther “Casey” Jones. 1757—British Admiral John Byng, convicted of not “doing his utmost” at Minorca, is shot.
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1:33 1:59 7:48 8:01	2:17 2:47 8:36 8:48	3:06 3:43 9:31 9:42	4:03 4:46 10:32 10:43	5:08 5:56 11:38 11:50	6:17 7:07 12:47	7:26 8:12 1:00 1:52
Sunday, March 8	Monday, March 9	Tuesday, March 10	Wednesday, March 11	Thursday, March 12	Friday, March 13	Saturday, March 14
9:30 10:10 3:06 3:51	10:27 11:01 4:06 4:44	11:20 11:48 5:01 5:32	12:09 6:17 5:52	12:33 12:56 6:39 7:00	1:15 1:41 7:25 7:41	1:58 2:26 8:10 8:23

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