

The Fortnightly Rant

Kicking the Nuclear Waste Cannister Down the Road

Ever since December 18, 1957, when the turbines started spinning at the Shippingport, Pennsylvania Atomic Power Station, Americans have been able to open and close garage doors, crush ice for margaritas, and light up used-car lots using electricity generated by bashing loose neutrons into uranium atoms. In addition to the electricity we need for these vital purposes, this process generates spent nuclear fuel rods, in such quantities that we measure them by the ton. The spent fuel rods are hot, in both senses of the word. Their deadliness will decline gradually over time, though. Eventually they will present less of a threat—about a million years from now.

All this time, proponents of nuclear power have been assuring its critics that the waste would be disposed of in some safe manner to be determined eventually. Until that day comes, the spent fuel rods will continue to be stored in pools of water near the 100 or so nuclear reactors currently generating electricity at 50 or 60 nuclear power stations around the country.

In 1982, Congress finally converted that vague promise into a concrete plan: the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWP). Since most Americans would rather live next to a pig farm than a hot, glowing pile of nuclear fuel rods, the NWP was anything but easy to write.

The American West, with its wide, open spaces, was the logical place to put something nobody wanted to be near. Most of the country's nuclear power plants, however, were located in the East. Many westerners felt it would be unfair to be saddled with a nasty burden they did not create. And many western Senators thought it would be political suicide to vote for such a plan.

Perhaps for that reason, the NWP included parallel processes for selecting two sites for nuclear waste dumps: one in the

West and one in the East. Seventeen granite-rich states in the eastern U.S. were deemed suitable for a nuke dump. Predictably, "The Granite State" was among them.

In early 1986, the Department of Energy (DOE) began work in earnest—or so it seemed—on the Crystalline Repository Project (CRP). The CRP, it was officially announced, would spend the next seven years determining which of twenty-six locations in those 17 states was the most suitable place to put the eastern nuke dump.

For those living near the Cardigan Pluton—a thick layer of granite lying beneath the intersection of Sullivan, Cheshire, Hillsborough, and Merrimack Counties—it was an interesting time to be alive. Every homeowner in a twenty-mile radius understood that property values were suddenly in question. Who in his right mind would buy a home near a potential nuke dump?

Conservative homeowners who may have supported nuclear power suddenly found they had a lot in common with the counter-cultural members of the Clamshell Alliance. At one DOE hearing in Henniker, a white-haired grandmother shook her finger at a row of federal officials on the dais and warned, "You better watch it. I keep a shotgun by my doah [door]." Similar sentiments were expressed in other targeted communities from North Carolina to Minnesota.

It was shaping up to be an exciting seven years; but suddenly, after just five months, the DOE announced that the CRP was shutting down. The DOE said it had somehow overestimated, by a factor of two, how much nuclear waste had to be dealt with. It only needed one nuke dump. That was more of an insult than an explanation, but the result was so welcome that no one questioned it.



During those five months state geologists had quickly assembled a good deal of evidence suggesting that the granite of the Cardigan Pluton was cracked all to hell, the cracks were full of water, and the water was going to move no matter what anyone did. It seems unlikely, though, that with an additional 79 months of already-approved funding available, the DOE would quit based on that.

Cynics maintained that the program was shut down because it had done its real job: it had given western Senators enough political cover to let them vote for the NWP without being accused of selling out their constituents to the nuclear power industry.

And sure enough, after a bit more legislative backing and filling, Congress agreed to bury all those nasty fuel rods in a place where the constituents probably glow in the dark already: under Yucca Mountain in Nevada, about 17 miles southwest of where about 1,000 nuclear weapons were tested between 1951 and 1992.

The DOE had actually begun thinking about a nuke dump at Yucca Mountain in 1983. By now it has spent nearly \$14 billion on the project. Until recently, the anticipated lifetime cost of

managing the fuel rod graveyard was estimated at just over \$96 billion.

Recently, though, the Obama administration proposed a budget that would cut funding for Yucca Mountain down to a level just high enough for project managers to respond to queries from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

There are several reasons why the new administration pulled the plug on Yucca Mountain.

For one thing, geological studies have found that the rock underneath Yucca Mountain is cracked all to hell, the cracks were full of water, and the water was going to move no matter what anyone did. The cracks seem to have been caused by seismic activity—not an encouraging sign. Also disturbing is recently discovered evidence suggesting that there may be a pocket of magma—molten rock—down below Yucca Mountain. Earthquakes and possible volcanic activity are equally undesirable features for a potential nuke dump; their presence together is potentially catastrophic.

In 2005, the DOE found that EPA scientists had made up some details in a study of water infiltration at the site. The study had to be repeated, at considerable expense to the taxpayer, not

to mention the credibility of the project.

Appropriately, since it was Barack Obama who signed the Yucca Mountain nuke dump's death certificate, it closed on a note of hope: the administration is devising "a new strategy toward nuclear waste disposal." So, after half a century of using nuclear fission to generate electricity, we're back where we started when it comes to taking out the radioactive garbage. Except we've got a hell of a lot more of it.

In lieu of one or two disposal sites (which would have required tens of thousands of shipments of this stuff up and down the interstates—a whole other rant) we have hot fuel rods sitting in cooling pools. When those pools fill up, the older fuel rods are being put in dry-storage casks sitting on concrete pads outside the reactors. It all goes to create what one might call a "target-rich environment" for terrorists.

But not to worry—if anything unfortunate happens to the fuel rods at Seabrook, we can all just consult our Evacuation Calendars and hit the road.

And we're insured. Damages will be covered according to the Price-Anderson Act—the nuclear power industry will cover the first \$10 billion. The remaining taxpayers will pick up the rest.

News Briefs:

At-Risk Bridges = At-Risk Shipyard

According to a report published January 5, 2009 in *Foster's Daily Democrat*, the study now being conducted of the bridges connecting Portsmouth and Kittery includes this item: determining "the cost for a high-level bridge to replace the current Sarah Mildred Long [SML] Bridge."

Unless the railroad industry has made dramatic advances

lately which we have not heard about, locomotives and freight trains cannot "make the grade" to cross high-level bridges. But the states of Maine and New Hampshire are clearly considering the demolition of the SML Bridge.

The high perceived cost of maintenance seems to be driving the idea of removing the SML Bridge. But another, higher cost

seems to be getting scant attention: the potential closure of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

We wrote to the Public Affairs Office at the Shipyard to enquire whether the Shipyard had any way other than the SML Bridge's rail freight link to remove spent nuclear fuel. Its reply suggests that the loss of the SML Bridge might pose more of

a threat to the Shipyard than we had imagined.

About once a year, according to Deputy Public Affairs Officer Danna Eddy, the Shipyard sends heavily-shielded containers holding spent nuclear fuel rods south across the Piscataqua on the SML Bridge, and on by rail to the Department of Energy's Expended Core Facility in east-

ern Idaho.

"Long term closure" of the SML Bridge, Eddy wrote Tuesday, "will affect the mission of the Shipyard in that the Navy would not be able to support movement of heavy equipment to and from the shipyard over



Six years have passed since March 20, 2003, when U.S. troops crossed the border into Iraq to remove the threat to America posed by Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction; his nuclear weapons program, his biological weapons program, &c., &c. In another five weeks, it will be the Sixth Anniversary of George W. Bush's "Mission Accomplished" address on the deck of the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln. Yet people still find cause to mark the date with protests. This one took place in Market Square on Thursday, March 19.

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rail. Portsmouth Naval Shipyard would have to explore whether any feasible alternatives exist.”

We had assumed that spend fuel rods were the most critical cargo for the Shipyard’s rail link; but it makes perfect sense that any equipment too heavy for the highways—gears, propellers, reactors—would have to go by rail, too.

It is always risky for non-experts to interpret military English; but we read Eddy’s statement to say that without the SML Bridge, there is, quite possibly, no Shipyard.

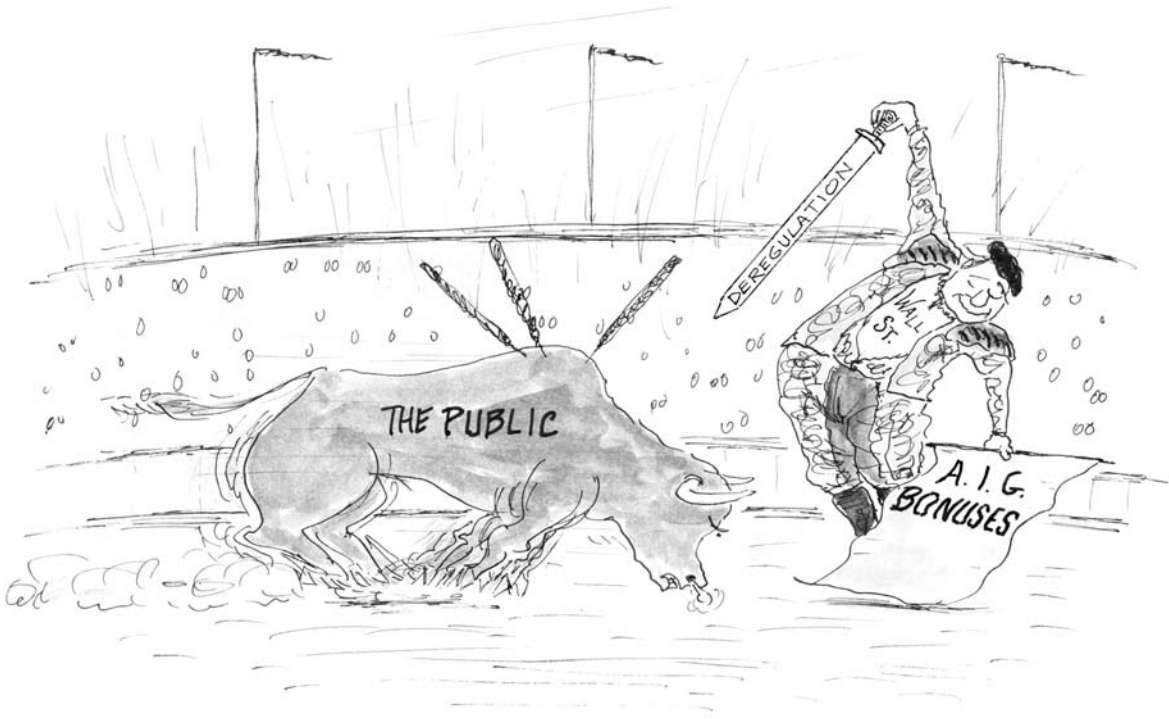
On February 9, 2009 the *Portsmouth Herald* ran a story headlined, “Portsmouth Naval Shipyard payroll puts \$360M in economy.”

In other words, the entire \$700,000 a year maintenance cost of the SML Bridge is less than a single day’s payroll from the Shipyard.

Good News on The Bridges

There is some good news on the bridge front: we can add another organization to the *ad hoc* coalition trying to preserve them.

Members of the Frank E. Booma Post #6 of the American Legion discussed the future of Memorial Bridge at their meeting of March 19.



The American Legion was founded in Paris, France in 1919. One of the purposes of the organization, as recorded in the Preamble of its Constitution, is to “preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars.” The Booma Post is located on Islington Street, just half a mile southwest of the bridge dedicated to the soldiers and sailors who fought in the Great War.

Following the meeting, Commander Frank Desper wrote, “We feel this is a good cause and don’t want the Bridge(s) destroyed. If you will, could you add our name ‘Frank E. Booma, Post 6’ to the list of supporters? We here at Post 6 are ready and waiting for further information as to what we can do or how we can help in the efforts of revitalizing the bridge. Let’s save this historical landmark!”

Dick “Dick” Cheney’s Got a Posse Hit Squad

On March 11, Eric Black at MinnPost.com reported that

New Yorker investigative reporter Seymour Hersh had told an audience at the University of Minnesota that the U.S. military had been running an “executive assassination ring” throughout the Bush #43 administration, which reported not to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, or even Secretary of Defense Bill Gates, but directly to former Vice President Dick “Dick” Cheney. From the context of Hersh’s remarks it was clear that he was referring to U.S. special operations personnel operating in Iraq and Afghanistan. Hersh also said that “the Central Intelligence Agency was very deeply involved in domestic activities against people they thought to be enemies of the state. Without any legal authority for it. They haven’t been called on it yet.”

A few days later, Cheney was interviewed on CNN’s program “State of the Union.” Asked by John King how the Bush administration had managed to turn a record surplus into a record deficit, Cheney explained, “Stuff happens.” Cheney also asserted that President Barack Obama is “making some choices that, in my mind, will, in fact, raise the

risk to the American people of another attack.” The interview took place on the Ides of March.

On Another Topic Entirely...

As for us, for reasons we can’t quite put a finger on, we thought we’d start working on a list of people whose untimely deaths over the past, say, eight years could be called politically convenient for certain parties. So far we have:

Mike Connell, who provided Internet services at various times to the White House, the Republican National Committee, and Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell. Connell was scheduled to testify about irregularities in Ohio before his plane crashed on Dec. 19, 2008.

Bruce Ivins, who was a researcher at Fort Detrick, MD, and an investigator of the 2001 anthrax terrorism incident—until about 2006, when he became a suspect. Ivins, a devout Roman Catholic, was found unconscious on July 27, 2008, and died two days later, ostensibly of a Tylenol™ overdose. No autopsy was performed.

David Kelly, who was a British expert in biological warfare. In off-the-record interviews with

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This Just In from Officer Krupke: “Bust #6473-85637-845-3b; Parkette, corner of Marcy and South Street. Chief, the workload is just staggering. I may need more deputies. In fact we may be the only economic entity in 2009 still hiring”

the BBC, he revealed that Prime Minister Tony Blair’s office had “sexed-up” intelligence reports on Iraqi weapons programs to bolster the argument for war. Kelly was found dead in woods a mile from his home early on the morning of July 18, 2003. His blood contained about one third of a lethal dose of the analgesic co-proxamol, and one small artery in his left wrist had been cut. His pocket knife was found nearby, but there were no fingerprints on it.

And finally, Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-MN), who was campaigning for a third term when his small plane crashed on Oct. 25, 2002.

Further nominations for this list are welcome.

We Miss You, Bob Smith

In our paper of February 27, we passed along a report from Politics1.com saying that Judd Gregg’s announced intention to quit the Senate had inspired former Republican Sen. Bob Smith of Wolfeboro, who has more recently been selling real estate in Florida, to come back north and try to regain his old Senate

seat. Sadly, a report in the *Union Leader* says that Smith will not run.

The excellent website Blue-Hampshire.com reported in late February that Smith was now chair of AmericansForAccountability.com. In a blog on that site, Smith is quoted as writing, “I was proud to serve for twelve years [in] the United States Senate defending conservative principles. Today, I stand with many Americans with burning questions about the new President. Just how was he elected? Who are the people he’s asked to surround him? And, in some cases: what the heck is going on?”

That last bit sure sounds like Our Bob. Sadly, the site has now disappeared. It’s a shame. Whether he was waving plastic fetuses about, or railing about elephants on the steps of the Capitol, or jumping political parties to run for President, ol’ Bob could always be counted on to keep things lively. Miss you, Bob.

Portsmouth Firefighting

Steven Achilles, the Assistant Chief for Operations and Training of the Portsmouth Fire



Department, will talk about his new book *Portsmouth Firefighting* in the Levenson Room of the Public Library at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 1. This town was shaped by water, in the form of the Piscataqua, and by fires, particularly in 1802, 1806, and 1813, so the history of firefighting is integral to its identity. This event is one of a series organized by RiverRun Bookstore. To keep up with future events, see: www.riverrunbookstore.com/events.

Achilles’ book is published by Arcadia, over on State Street, so (1) it’s got to be very well done and lavishly illustrated and (2) if you buy a copy, it should count as a local purchase (see the second item after this one).

Kevin Phillips Speaks in Portsmouth

Writer Kevin Phillips will speak at Seacoast Repertory Theatre on Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00

p.m. Anyone interested in a sane, rational, and extremely well-informed explanation of how the world’s strongest economy got wrecked on the rocks ought to show up early to make sure to get a seat.

Without Phillips as his senior political advisor, Richard Nixon might not have slithered into the White House in 1968. Phillips predicted the nation’s ensuing conservative realignment and the rise of the “Sun Belt.” About the only thing he didn’t see coming, apparently, was the amoral and destructive direction the Republican party would take. Over the past ten or fifteen years, he seems to be making up for his past sins by writing books explaining, as only a true insider can, how the dirty deeds were done.

His newest, *Bad Money*, is now out in paperback. According to the promotional material,

it delves into “asset-backed securities and collateralized debt obligations ... the risk-taking of buccaneering institutions like hedge funds [and the] extent to which U.S. home ownership has been hotwired to experimental finance.” *Bad Money* “places these unnerving shenanigans in a disturbing historical context.”

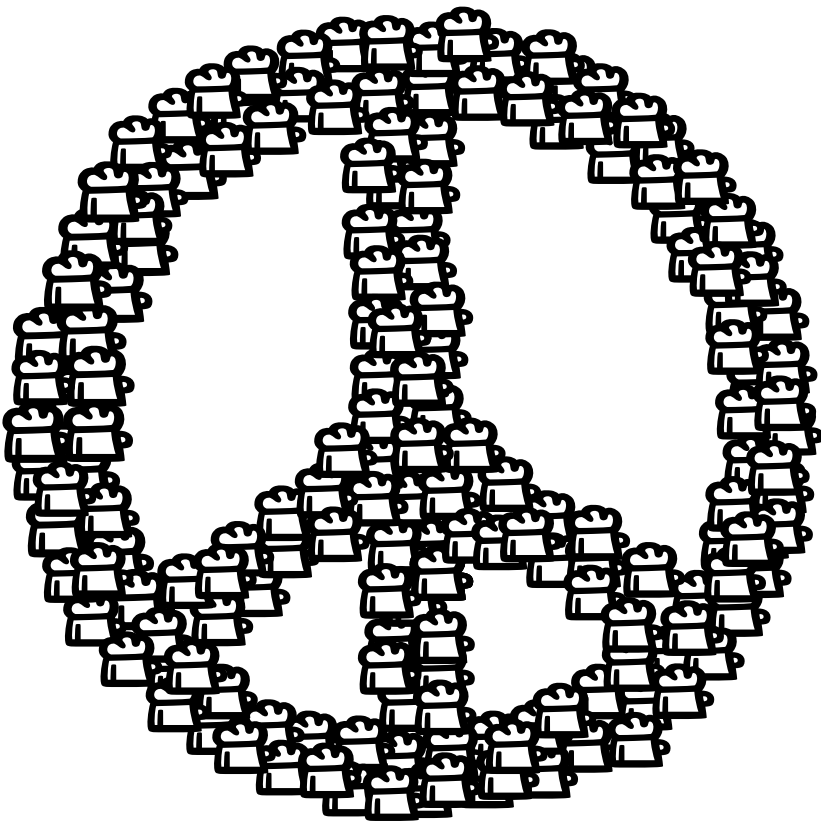
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“WHEN THE POWER OF LOVE OVERCOMES THE LOVE OF POWER,
THE WORLD WILL FINALLY KNOW PEACE.” -- JIMI HENDRIX



Moving Pictures

The Redgrave Dynasty

by Rodman Philbrick

The sad occasion of the accidental death of Natasha Richardson provides an opportunity, however melancholy, for a review of an enduring theatrical dynasty. We begin in the 19th century with a notorious hack playwright named Fortunas Augustine Davis Scudamore, who may or may not have been the father of stage actress Daisy Scudamore (there are conflicting stories), who was ever-so-briefly married to one Roy Redgrave, an early silent film actor. Roy, who had, shall we say, a complicated romantic life, hung around just long enough to father a child before leaving poor Daisy for Australia and ingénues unknown. The child was christened Michael, and eventually grew up be Sir Michael Redgrave, one of the most respected stage and screen actors of his generation.

The Stars Look Down, filmed in 1940 by director Carol Reed, made Michael Redgrave famous even in the remote colony of Hol-

lywood. Based on the A.J.Cronin novel about the perils of coal mining, young Mr. Redgrave stars as a local boy who wants to make good but keeps messing up before he learns how to stand and be counted. Greedy owners, flooded mines, trapped men. Lots of sweaty, gritty drama deep in the heart as well as under the earth, and well-regarded enough to make the list of the 1,000 best films ever made.

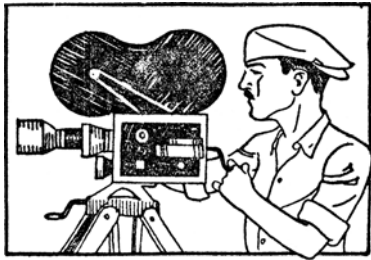
Long before he was knighted in 1959, Michael Redgrave had the good sense to marry a talented, beautiful actress named Rachel Kempson and father a trio of talented kids (Corin, Vanessa, and Lynn) of whom Vanessa is the most famous—some would say infamous, given her comments about “Jews and Zionist hooligans” as she accepted an Academy Award. Of her recent work—and she’s been in more than a hundred films—a fair sample might be *Evening*, based on the Susan Minot novel about a dying mother who may or may not take a secret to her grave.

Vanessa plays the matriarch on her deathbed, with Claire Danes taking her part in flashbacks to her complicated romantic past. It’s a “who loved whom and why” sort of tale, and the movie version isn’t as dark as the novel or as good, but Vanessa did get to costar with her very accomplished daughter Natasha. Rarely do mother-daughter scenarios look so right (great cheekbones obviously do pass from generation to generation) and throw in Meryl Streep and Glenn Close in supporting roles, and you’ve got more than enough reason to make, ahem, an “Evening” of it.

Sir Michael’s other daughter, Lynn Redgrave, may be more conventional politically, but she’s had a long, productive career in stage, film, and television. Early on she snagged a 1966 Academy Award nomination for *Georgy Girl*. Given the conventions of film, the quite lovely Lynn plays Georgy as a plain, quirky, and slightly overweight young woman adrift in a London that seems to swing for everyone but

her. Her boss (James Mason, also in a nominated role) keeps chasing her around the desk, and her roommate’s no-good boyfriend (Alan Bates) makes a play for her, but as the Seekers song suggests, Georgy isn’t sure what to do. Mason’s prim and proper wife is played by Lynn’s real life mother Rachel Kempson, and her sexy but messed-up roommate is none other than nineteen-year old Charlotte Rampling. The story is a lot deeper and more painfully funny than the song would suggest and still holds up after all those years.

Lynn’s late niece Natasha had a kid sister, Joely Richardson, who may be most familiar to American audiences for her continuing role as Julie McNamara in *Nip/Tuck*. She’s a mere twelve years older than John Hensley, who is supposed to be her son, but hey, that’s acting, right? Joely’s career has tended more toward stage and television roles with titles like *Fatal Contact: Bird Flu In America*, but she almost gets to be the queen in *Wallis & Ed-*



ward. That’s Wallis Simpson, the American divorcee whose love affair with Edward VIII eventually resulted in his abdication of the throne. Presumably a step up from her role as Marie Antoinette in *The Affair of The Necklace*. At least Wallis got to keep her head, even if it never got to wear the crown.

Natasha starred in *The Handmaid’s Tale*, *Waking Up In Reno*, *Asylum*, *The Parent Trap*, *Maid In Manhattan*, among many others. She was the granddaughter of Sir Michael, daughter of Vanessa, niece of Lynn and Corin, cousin of Jemma Redgrave, and spouse of Liam Neeson. She leaves two boys, Michael, 13, and Daniel, 12.

Look for them in these pages in the not too distant future. The dynasty continues. Blood will out.

More News Briefs

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new jobs created and billions of dollars of new economic activity in New England, all without the use of one tax dollar.”

To find out how to make the 10% Shift, just visit SeacoastLocal.org.

Order Your Gundalow-Delivered Rain Barrels Now

The Gundalow Company and the Spruce Creek Watershed Improvement Project (SCWIP) are teaming up to help Kittery and

Eliot residents conserve water, save money, reduce stormwater run-off and help prevent soil erosion: they’re selling SkyJuice rain barrels at the discounted price of \$75 (\$50 off).

Rain barrels are used to collect water from the roof when it rains and store it for use during dry weather to water houseplants or outside plantings. Collecting water in a rain barrel is an excellent way to save some of the runoff and take the pressure off our water supply and stormwater

management systems. By using the rainwater on your gardens you are helping to replenish your groundwater and benefit the town’s water supply. A one-inch rainfall on a 1,000 square foot roof yields 562 gallons of water. A quarter inch run-off will easily fill a barrel. Five rainy days can provide 275 gallons of free water. Collected rainfall is especially valuable during droughts or dry conditions. It contains more nutrients and less salts than tap water, so it’s great for plants.

SkyJuice rain barrels are made from 60-gallon recycled food grade barrels in a variety of colors. The fully screened intake port keeps mosquitoes, insects, and debris out. The lid can be removed for easy cleaning and for storing hoses inside the barrel during the winter. The solid brass threaded spigot can be connected to a regular hose or soaker hose. The overflow connector and tubing can be used to direct water away from the foundation, helping with flooding or erosion is-

sues, or to join multiple barrels for additional storage capacity.

SCWIP and the Gundalow Company are taking orders through May 1, 2009, and have scheduled a rain barrel pick-up day on Saturday, May 16th at the Kittery Point Town Pier (90 Pepperell Road, Route 103, behind Frisbee’s and Cap’n Simeon’s) from 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

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Northcountry Chronicle

The Latest in Illiteracy

by William Marvel

I never learned to type. That may seem surprising in someone who makes his living as a writer, but I was 26 before I began the laborious production of final drafts on a manual typewriter. It pulverized my cuticles to hammer out hundreds of pages with my index and middle fingers, so I started typing with pencils, turning them upside-down to punch the keys with the erasers. That required me to occasionally blow the eraser crumbs out with a compressor, but it was nearly two more decades before I switched to a computer, and by then my four-fingered system was established beyond correction.

My education began at the tail-end of the handwritten era. Government agencies had begun routinely typing the preponderance of their official correspondence barely half a century before, but it was still considered gauche to type personal letters, and even the replies to formal letters often consisted of long-hand notes scribbled beneath the typed text, which saved a sheet of

paper and a good deal of time.

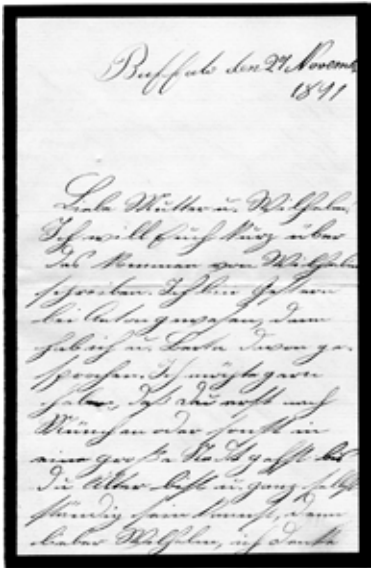
Thanks to an attentive mother who learned to write under the tutelage of nuns wielding oak rulers, I had already begun practicing her flowing Palmer script a year or more before entering Pine Tree School. Unless I'm hurrying, or writing on my knee, that penmanship—my mother's penmanship, with the exception of a couple of capitals—still spills from the tip of my pen. Despite arthritis in my fingers I still often hear compliments on what I consider a rather plain and straightforward style; a lot of the manuscript material that I work with is written in a much more artistic Spencerian hand.

Thanks in large part to the obsessive commercial practicality that drives American education, perceived frivolities like legible handwriting and good spelling have suffered as schools immerse ever-younger students in the technological tidal wave. The demands of No Child Left Behind may leave little time to teach penmanship, as many teachers reportedly complain, but handwriting was deteriorating in the

elementary grades before a marginally literate president ever blighted his native land.

Among adults I've known, poor handwriting often seems to accompany other symptoms of dyslexia. I've also noticed, when I've been unfortunate enough to encounter them, that conspicuously passive-aggressive people frequently produce indecipherable scrawls—and I've wondered whether that hints at a defiant, subliminal refusal to communicate. My stepson could not even write his own name legibly as he approached his teens, and his school papers looked like pieces of carpet thread dropped haphazardly on the page. At first I associated it with my aforementioned observations, but then I realized that poor handwriting is so common to his generation that many of the high school teachers who still bother to correct student papers require them typed.

A National Public Radio education reporter recently predicted that cursive handwriting is on the way out of American schools altogether, not only because there is so little time to teach it but be-



cause it no longer seems relevant. So long as the citizens of the future travel with laptops, printers, the right paper, and an electrical source, the ability to write in something other than the block letters of kindergarten may well seem superfluous. It's a short step, however, from an inability to write in some cursive form to an inability to read any cursive form, and that process has apparently already begun in this household. My stepdaughter, who prefers a miniscule and slightly modified form of printing, complains that my handwriting is too "flowery" to read.

The disappearance of handwriting skills will inexorably alienate future generations from their ancestors. German speakers were still somewhat prominent in my era of historical research, but—three semesters of German notwithstanding—I have to hire professional translators to decipher the antique orthography that was prevalent during our Civil War. Theirs is a rare skill, and because I can't afford to have them peering constantly over my shoulder I've probably failed to recognize some important revelations. Students who are never introduced to penmanship in their own language will find it just as puzzling as 19th-century German script is to me.

The loss will be theirs, rather than ours. The electronics-addicted seem increasingly unable to express themselves intelligibly, and perhaps they have few thoughts worth expressing, so it may be a veiled blessing to lose most of their communication in an ephemeral medium. They may not even regret being unable to decipher their own grandparents' love letters.

More Hate Mail, &c.
from page seven

reduced by changing the method of payment from a fragmented multi-payer "system" (1500 insurance companies, 27000 plans) to a single payer, the government. HR676 guarantees free choice of doctors and hospitals, not insurance plans. HR 676 puts patients first, not profits. It is universal, covers everybody, ends deductibles, co-pays, co-insurance, and put a stop to medical bankruptcies.

HR676 will free Americans of their health care misery.

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The NH Democratic Party
Dear Editor:

We are living through one of the worst economic disasters in my lifetime. The economic crisis should be a top priority for all politicians in New Hampshire. However if you look at the legislation that's been proposed by Democrats, you'd think they had no idea what's going on.

Just look at some of these Bills they've introduced. Gay Marriage, The Bathroom Bill which allows Trans gendered men/

women to use the opposite sex bathroom with small children present, and Physician assisted suicide which gives doctors a license to kill.

Have they not turned the TV on to notice the headlines every night?

On top of the financial crisis, NH still has some of the poorest academic standards in the country.

Where are the Democrats on important issues like the economy and education? No where to be found. Where is the Democratic leadership? Running around trying to make excuses

for such extremism while the economy crashes and burns and while our students try to live up to "F" rated academic standards.

Is this what the Democratic party has become?

One thing is for sure, this year has been quite an eye opener for many NH residents. Clearly it's all about promoting an extremist agenda.

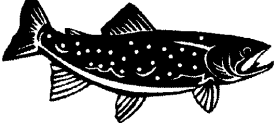
I wonder how the families who've lost their jobs, had their wages frozen and face financial hardship are feeling right about now.

Ann Marie Banfield
Bedford, NH

Ann Marie:
This sounds like the complaint of Congressional Republicans: Obama's actually trying to get things done—how dare he? After eight years under Bush #43, it's easy to see how one might conclude it's only possible to do one thing at a time, badly. New Hampshire families with their backs against the wall might want to ask themselves if they've been supporting the Republican Party's fervor for deregulation, tax breaks for the rich, cuts in the social safety net, invasions of foreign nations that haven't attacked us, &c., &c. ad nauseam.

The Editor

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Let's Give Salvador a Hand
Dear Editor,
Hello! My name is Salvador Martinez. I am a fifth grader at Napa Valley Language Academy in Napa, CA.

The reason why I'm writing to you is because my class is working on state reports, and I have chosen your amazing state, New Hampshire.

I would really appreciate it if you posted my letter in your newspaper so that I can get all the help I need for my report.

I will be writing about your state's history + economy, agriculture, history, historical places/figures, National Parks, etc. I will also be doing a Power Point presentation.

What I need from you or your readers are pamphlets, brochures, magazines, postcards, souvenirs, or any information that represents your state.

Thank you so much for helping me be a great researcher of your beautiful state.

Sincerely,
Salvador Martinez
c/o Maestra Hernandez
2700 Kilburn Ave.
Napa, CA 94558
Dear Salvador:
We hope this helps—best of luck!
The Editor

Shea-Porter Working for Us
Dear Editor:
Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter has helped to obtain for New Hampshire \$9.7 million through the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Program. The JAG program provides funding for local and state governments to help them keep residents safe and improve their criminal justice systems.

In a statement, Shea-Porter said, "New Hampshire is considered one of the safest states in the nation and it is important that we keep it that way. This funding will provide law enforcement officials with the tools they need to prevent crime."

I sleep a little easier knowing that Congresswoman Shea-Porter takes crime seriously and is working actively to protect New Hampshire citizens.

Fran Gehling
Londonderry, NH

The Zionists' Self-Defeating Smear Campaign

To the Editor:

The appalling smear campaign by the Zionist lobby against Charles Freeman resulting in his bowing out from consideration as Chairman of the National Intelligence Council—clearly under pressure from the Administration—offers proof as never before of the power of the lobby to influence domestic affairs within the United States.

Friends of Israel will assert that AIPAC—the entity that has been hugely successful in advancing the notion that the interests of Israel and those of the United States are wholly congruent—had nothing to do with Freeman's withdrawal. Rather, they will offer absurd arguments such as his suitability for the post was called into question owing to his ties with Saudi Arabia and his purportedly accommodative stance towards China and its human rights policies.

At bottom, the Zionists were terrified that a man of Freeman's intellect and capacity to understand two sides of an equation at the same time might sway the United States towards a more balanced policy regarding Israel and the Palestinians.

What they don't seem to comprehend is that Israel cannot possibly survive in its present incarnation—something that many Israelis grasp while most American Jews do not. If nothing else, demographics make this inevitable. But in the nearer horizon, Israel has chosen to serve as a tripwire for the next nuclear exchange on the planet, as witness its saber-rattling concerning Iran. The latter country can likely survive nuclear strikes, but tiny Israel cannot.

Freeman understands this, and, curiously, he would have emerged as a protector of Israel, not an enemy. That the Zionists chose to reject him is strong indication that they are unwittingly bent on consigning Israel to a Masada-like end.

R.G. Adams
Portsmouth, NH

Punishing Bernie Madoff

To the Editor:

Bernard L. Madoff, who ran the most successful Ponzi scheme uncovered to date, is now one of the best known people in the United States. He is a celebrity and they are going to put him in a jail for rich celebrities.

So—you think he should be punished. But ask yourself if putting Bernie Madoff in jail is going to help any of the people he cheated. If he rots in jail, he is kept there at an even further expense to you and the rest of society. If you really want to see Bernie Madoff punished, give him the \$497 Social Security check I get every month, and out of that let him buy his groceries and pay his own \$642 a month supplemental health insurance premium to Anthem like I do. Make him live in a single wide trailer in Port Clyde, Maine from November until the first of April and in a single wide trailer in North Fort Myers, Florida from the first of April until November.

Remember that on top of being a very smart man he is a celebrity. Get him a booking agent for speaking gigs and make him fly around the country where, for at least the next year, he will be in great demand as a keynoter for banking, health-industry, privatized prisons, and insurance associations. I'd like to hear him tell how he conned all those smart people, wouldn't you? Use the five to ten thousand dollars

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

he will get for each of his engagements to make at least a token refund to some of the people he defrauded. Can he be of more service to society by running up a \$100,000 or so year tab in one of our privatized we-run-it-for-a-profit prisons?

And if you want to be sure he is really suffering, spend a winter in Port Clyde or a summer in Florida.

Robert Skoglund
The humble Farmer
St. George, ME 04860
Dear humble:

Sounds like cruel and unusual punishment to us, which is too bad—because it's got a lot of merit.
The Editor

Rick Santelli's Rant

To the Editor:

Rick Santelli rants, and you rant about his rant, yet both sides are right—and both sides are wrong. This is because there are two realities and two legitimate perspectives, not one reality with two differing perspectives.

The first scenario is that of hard working citizens doing their best to provide themselves and their family with a basic necessity of life, when suddenly illness, or more likely the loss of a job, makes it impossible to continue meeting their mortgage obligations, and the prospect of becoming homeless is now a very real one.

But there is another reality. There are those who purchased a home, then when the home increased in value, they took the equity out to support a lavish lifestyle that included, among other things, home theatres, new cars, a boat, and expensive vacations. Now that their homes have lost value they want to keep their toys, have their principal reduced to the current value, and finance it at a lower rate. And if the market recovers they will be twice rewarded when the house returns to the original value and they are able to take out additional equity. Wouldn't we all like to buy a house for \$300,000, have it appreciate to \$500,000, take out \$200,000 in equity, but when the value goes to \$150,000 refinance it at that amount and at a lower interest rate, wait for it to again appreciate to \$300,000 and ex-

tract another \$150,000? Santelli, or anyone else has a right to be upset by this.

The problem is that government programs cannot differentiate between the two situations, and since most government programs are one size fits all we must either assist both or neither. And it is true that, not wanting to hurt the truly needy, any decent person would swallow hard, grit his teeth, and elect to assist both. This is especially true when the government, using the same type of scare tactic that brought us to war in Iraq, came up with \$700 billion dollars to pay off the gambling debts of companies that could not meet their credit default obligations. If government can justify giving billions of taxpayer dollars to billionaires, surely it can assist homeowners who have come to grief.

Of course had capitalism been permitted to work its intrinsic magic insurance companies that could not evaluate risk, auto companies that couldn't produce cars that people wanted to buy, bankers that couldn't run a bank, brokerages that couldn't make a profit, and the remaining thieves and scoundrels would have been permitted to fail and the economy would already have begun to recover. But that's another story.

John Dente
Wilmington, DE

John:

If someone figures out how to make a lot of money by leaving loaded guns out on the sidewalk in the less-affluent side of town where any random person could pick them up, is the resulting bloodbath the fault of the manufacturer? Or is it the fault of the guy who succumbs to temptation and sticks up the liquor store? Or is it the fault of the guy who wrote the law that made it profitable to leave loaded guns lying around?
The Editor

Our Troops And Iraqis Are Still Dying

An Open Letter to the Peace/ Anti-War Movement from Iraq Veterans Against the War, Military Families Speak Out, and Veterans For Peace

After six years of war and the historic election of a new President, we as veterans, military and

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The Fortnightly Quote, from A Reader:

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because we are on our knees:
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James Larkin, 1875-1947
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And Other Correspondence

Gold Star families felt an urgent need to reach out to the larger peace/anti-war movements to make our position on Iraq clear during this time of political and economic uncertainty. Iraq Veterans Against the War,* Military Families Speak Out** and Veterans For Peace*** continue to stand together in our demand to Bring the Troops Home Now! We ask all those who have stood with us in the past to stay faithful to the cause.

President Obama has announced a plan to gradually reduce troop levels in Iraq. Many in the peace/anti-war movements are breathing a sigh of relief, and suggesting that it is time for us to scale back our efforts to bring an end to the occupation of Iraq. But for our troops on the ground, their families and the Iraqi people, the nightmare continues. They need all of us to stay in the struggle. IVAW, MFSO and VFP have been long united

* Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) was founded by Iraq war veterans in July 2004 at the annual convention of Veterans for Peace (VFP) in Boston to give a voice to the large number of active duty service people and veterans who are against this war, but are under various pressures to remain silent. From its inception, IVAW has called for: Immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces in Iraq; reparations for the human and structural damages Iraq has suffered, and stopping the corporate pillaging of Iraq so that their people can control their own lives and future; and full benefits, adequate healthcare (including mental health), and other supports for returning servicemen and women. IVAW's membership includes recent veterans and active duty servicemen and women from all branches of military service, National Guard members, and reservists who have served in the United States military since September 11, 2001.

** Military Families Speak Out is an organization of people opposed to the war in Iraq who have relatives or loved ones who are currently in the military or who have served in the military since the buildup to the Iraq war in the fall of 2002. Formed by two families in November of 2002, MFSO now has over 4,000 member families. MFSO's national chapter, Gold Star Families Speak Out includes families whose loved ones have died as a result of the war in Iraq.

*** Founded in 1985, Veterans For Peace is a national organization of men and women veterans of all eras and duty stations spanning the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and current Iraq wars as well as other conflicts cold or hot. It has chapters in nearly every state in the union and is headquartered in St. Louis, MO. Our experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop. Those hurt are often the innocent. Other means of problem solving are necessary. Veterans For Peace is an official Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) represented at the U.N.

in our call for an immediate and complete end to the occupation of Iraq and will not shift our stance under any circumstances.

President Obama's plan will result in more casualties and suffering for U.S. troops, their families and Iraqis. To the American public facing hard times here at home, two and a half more years of occupation may not sound like that long—but for our troops and their families it means two and a half more years of fear, pain, and separation in a war and occupation based on lies. Hundreds of the troops deployed in the next two and a half years will not come home alive. Many more will return forever scarred by deep wounds to their bodies, minds, and spirits. Well over a million Iraqis have died as a result of this war—many more will be killed as the occupation continues.

We cannot afford the cost of empire. Today we are in the midst of the worst economic crisis most of us have seen in our lifetimes. Yet our government continues to allow the occupation to drain \$10 billion a month from our nation's coffers. Meanwhile, veterans and military families struggle to put food on the table and get decent housing and adequate medical care. Women and men who risked their lives for this country are often forced to fight tooth and nail to get health care from an underfunded and overburdened Veterans Administration. Hundreds of thousands of veterans are homeless.

The occupation of Iraq is the source of the violence, not the solution. Living under occupation the people of Iraq are held back from taking control of their own lives to determine their destiny. The continued U.S. military presence there is a cause of the violence they face, not its solution. U.S. continued interference contradicts the principles of democracy and self-determination our country was founded on.

IVAW, MFSO and VFP will continue to keep pressure on Congress and the President to bring all our troops home from Iraq NOW, ensure that veterans receive the care they need and deserve, and that the U.S. provides resources to rebuild a coun-

try we destroyed. But we cannot do that alone. We need your help to reach out to the vast majority of the American people who are completely isolated from the realities of this war. Please don't abandon this struggle or shift your position before the occupation is over and our veterans and the Iraqi people are on the path to healing.

Mike Ferner
Toledo, OH

Boeing Unveils New International F-15

To the Editor:

Hmmmm ... sell the most advanced 4th Generation Fighters (F-15, F-16) to other countries and then argue we need 5th Generation Fighters (F-22, F-35) to outperform them, then do the same with the 5th to sell the need for the 6th ...

It still bewilders me that Boeing, Lockheed and others get tax money to develop and produce fighters etc., sell them to the Pentagon for huge profits and then sell planes etc. to other countries at a huge profit, sometimes also with taxpayer money (i.e. Israel).

Chris Lane Gray
Monticello, AR
Chris:

It's really not that complicated. The Defense Department is defending the rights of the Military-Academic-Industrial-Media (MAIM) Complex, not the citizenry or the Republic.

The Editor

JIEDDO

To the Editor:

When last we heard of JIEDDO, they were improving their UAVs to counter IEDs, and they started in 2004. Too cryptic? Well, JIEDDO=Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization; UAV=Unmanned Aerial Vehicle; IED'S=any clutch of old ordnance, construction explosives, and fertilizer, all triggered to go off at the worst possible moment. By 2006, the cost of the countermeasures was already over \$6 billion, and giving employment to 365 persons. That was 2007.

On February 26, 2009, the *New York Times* reported that JIEDDO was created by the Pentagon in 2006. The earlier article dealt with the deficiencies and improvements to the UAVs (incidentally, their takeoffs and

landings are still being controlled in Iraq, and the patrolling is still controlled in the United States—one base is at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada!

Afghanistan will provide a more difficult task than Iraq because the roads are unpaved, rendering planting and disguising easier. The most vital artery is the Ring Road which is the principal road for convoys. It is paved but was built with thousands of culverts—ideal places for you guess whats.

The number of attacks is stunning, even to one endeavoring to stay informed. In Iraq, only 9,000 attacks last year which is far below the 2,500 a month in 2006! IED usage in Afghanistan was up 50% last year—talk about shovel-ready.

The JIEDDO budget has ranged from \$3.5 billion to \$4.4 billion annually. This amount does not include many items such as new jamming technology which disables the high-tech cell telephone and garage-door opener triggers favored by the insurgents, which has caused them to go to rope and wire triggers.

Among the other improvements is the purchase of 2,000 heavily armored vehicles which are more maneuverable than than the 2,00 already there. The new vehicles cost \$1 million each for a total of \$2 billion dollars!

It would be funny were it not so incomprehensibly tragic. Four troopers were killed by an IED this month in Iraq—a small number, but think of the individuals who knew and loved them—parents, wives, sweethearts, children, friends.

Another thing I always wonder about is, if 90 percent of the world's heroin fixin's can get out of Afghanistan, and we certainly don't want that, how do we know what's getting in? And we have been messing around in Afghanistan for about thirty years!

Lester LeViness
Nyack, NY



Lester:

You put your finger on it—we've only been involved there for a mere thirty years. We need more time to teach the Afghan people to savor Colonel Sanders' secret chicken recipe. Another thousand and perhaps we might straighten the place out.

Seriously, there's probably a reason Afghanistan is called the "Graveyard of Empires."

The Editor

HR676 Will Free Americans of Their Health Care Misery

Dear Editor:

Increasing health care costs in the midst of deepening economic downturn is fueling the public quest for reform.

"Building on what we have now" retains the cause of runaway costs; for-profit insurance and mandates. Many studies confirm these "reforms" pose no fundamental change and do not result in savings. However, under the more comprehensively planned single payer system, as in HR 676 (The Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act), prevention, chronic disease management, medical homes, electronic medical records, evidence based practices, all could be done better.

HR 676, the gold standard of reforms, is publicly funded, privately delivered. Physicians and health care providers will practice as they do now, not as government employees. Overall cost is

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page five

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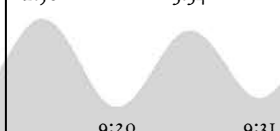
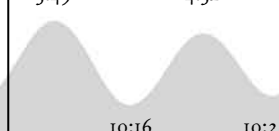
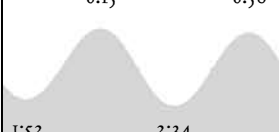
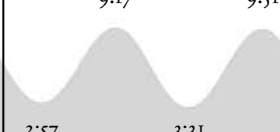
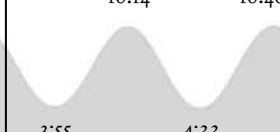
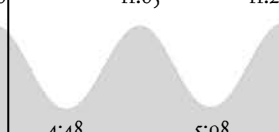
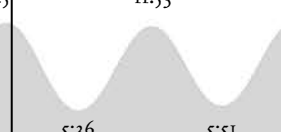
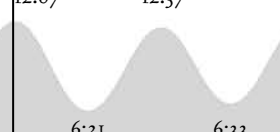
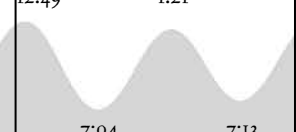
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ADMIRAL FOWLE’S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

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 29	Monday, March 30	Tuesday, March 31	Wednesday, April 1	Thursday, April 2	Friday, April 3	Saturday, April 4
2003—<i>Newsweek</i> publishes a poll saying 74 percent of Americans think the Bush administration has “a well thought-out military plan.” 1992—Presidential candidate Bill Clinton says that in his younger days he smoked marijuana “a time or two,” but “didn’t inhale.” 1980—Mantovani dies of side effects of having only one name. 1973—The last U.S. combat troops leave Vietnam. 1972—The EPA lays off enforcement for a lead smelter in Idaho in exchange for a \$100,000 “contribution” to the Nixon reelection campaign. 1971—A court martial elects Lt. W. Calley No. 1 scapegoat for My Lai. For at least 22 murders, Calley gets life in prison, later reduced to three years confinement to his apartment. 1960—For reasons which remain unfathomable, France launches a nuclear submarine. 1951—Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are convicted of espionage. 1945—Germany makes one last V-1 attack on England. 1903—A regular wireless news service begins between New York and London. 1886—Newsboys win a wildcat strike against the <i>Brooklyn Times</i>. 1847—U.S. troops under Gen. Winfield “Old Fuss & Feathers” Scott take Vera Cruz.	2008—As he throws out the first pitch at Washington's new National Park, George W. Bush is met with a resounding chorus of boos. 2003—Donald Rumsfeld claims “we know where” Iraq’s WMDs are. “[I]n the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south, and north somewhat.” 1981—In D.C., John Hinckley Jr., empties a six-shooter at Pres. Ronald Reagan. One shot ricochets off the armored limo and hits Ronnie. Al Haig announces, “As of now, I'm in control here.” Meanwhile, in Denver, John's older brother Scott cancels a scheduled dinner engagement with V.P. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush's son Neil. 1975—North Vietnamese forces close in on Saigon. 1965—A Viet Cong car bomb explodes outside the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, killing 22 and injuring 183. 1870—Fifteenth Amendment passes, giving the right to vote regardless of race (not gender). 1869—Emma Goldman is born. 1867—Some damned fool bureaucrat named Seward pays \$7 million dollars of the taxpayers money to Russia for Alaska. 1853—Hyman Lipman patents a pencil with an eraser.	2004—Liberal talk radio network Air America is launched. 2004—In Fallujah, four American contractors are ambushed, killed, and displayed from a bridge. 1990—More than 100,000 people gather in London to protest Maggie Thatcher's Poll Tax. The demonstration morphs into the Battle of Trafalgar Square. 1980—The American banking industry is deregulated, paving the way for a grand looting spree. 1968—Lyndon Johnson, to the surprise and delight of millions who have no inkling of who's about to replace him, announces he won't run for re-election. 1966—In New York City, 200,000 gather to protest the Vietnam War. 1951—U.N. troops fight their way back to the 38th parallel in Korea. 1930—Hollywood adopts the “Production Code,” scrubbing all “offensive” content from the movies. 1880—In Wabash, Ind., the first electric street lighting is turned on. 1854—Persuaded by Commodore Perry's cannons, Japan opens two ports to foreign trade. 1774—Britain orders the port of Boston closed. 1751—RIP Frederick, Prince of Wales and heir to the throne, called by his mother “the greatest ass, and the greatest beast in the whole world.”	2003—Bush administration propagandists claim Special Forces have “rescued” PFC Jessica Lynch. 1997—A blizzard dumps 18 inches of snow on Portsmouth. 1976—Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs found Apple Computer. 1968—U.S. Army begins Operation Pegasus to try to reach besieged Marines at Khe Sanh. Two months after the siege is lifted, the base is abandoned. 1966—RIP Flann O'Brien. 1965—LBJ authorizes combat patrols, two more battalions of Marines, and 20,000 more REMF's for Vietnam. 1954—U.S. H-bombs Bikini. 1954—Ezra Taft Benson, Sec. of Agriculture, fiddles with cheese price supports, handing distributors a \$2.2 million windfall. 1946—In Hilo, Hawaii, a tsunami kills 159 people. 1939—The U.S. government recognizes Francisco Franco's fascist government of Spain. 1924—Hitler gets five years for the Beer Hall Putsch. 1920—Five duly elected members of the New York legislature are expelled. And why not? They're only socialists. 1865—John Milton, Governor of FL and a descendant of the poet of the same name, shoots himself in the head because “Death would be preferable to reunion.”	1992—It is revealed that Secretary of State James Baker III (R.—Bush) made 11 personal trips at the taxpayer's expense at an average cost of \$33,781.72. 1982—Argentina invades the Falkland Islands. 1969—Chicago riots are quelled by National Guard troops. 1963—Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. leads a voter registration drive in Birmingham. Police Chief “Bull” Connor responds with dogs and fire hoses. 1942—Three soldiers, two black and one white, are shot to death, and five are wounded, near Ft. Dix, New Jersey, in a fight over a phone. 1932—Charles Lindbergh pays out \$50,000 ransom for his son. 1917—Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R-MA) punches a constituent in the jaw. 1902—“The Electric Theatre,” the first full-time movie house, opens in LA. 1865—Jefferson Davis flees Richmond as Grant takes Petersburg. 1863—In Richmond, women rioting for bread are dispersed at gunpoint. 1834—Birth of Frederick Bartholdi, sculptor of the Statue of Liberty. 1725—Birth of Giovanni Casanova; lover, spy, and librarian. 1250—The Seventh Crusade ends. This one goes to the Muslims.	2004—Asked at a press conference to name his biggest mistake, George W. Bush is unable to answer. 2003—U.S. Marines cross the Tigris River on their way to Baghdad. 1996—Ted “The Unabomber” Kaczynski is arrested in his Montana cabin. 1992—Having recently been exposed on any number of grotesque little scams, the Congressional “leadership” announces it's suddenly opposed to free health care for solons. 1974—Thirteen states are hit by 148 tornadoes, killing 315 people and injuring 5,484. 1966—Three thousand South Vietnamese troops protest against the Ky regime. 1954—In Wisconsin, a strike begins at the Kohler bathroom fixture factory. It lasts six years. 1936—Bruno Hauptmann is electrocuted for the Lindbergh kidnapping. 1910—Mt. McKinley scaled for the first time. 1882—Robert Ford, a dirty little coward, shoots Jesse James. 1868—In Hawaii, an intrepid soul rides a 50 foot tidal wave. 1860—Pony Express begins operating between St. Joseph, Mo. and Sacramento, Calif. It lasts 27 weeks.	1984—Congress denies funding for the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, leaving President Reagan with no choice but to illegally sell arms to Ayatollah Khomeini. 1975—Operation Babylift begins. Just after the first C-5A leaves the runway at Tan Son Nhut, it crashes into a rice paddy, killing 140 kids and 50 adults. 1968—Martin Luther King Jr. is murdered in Memphis, perhaps by James Earl Ray, with help from shadowy unknown figures. 1967—Martin Luther King preaches against the Vietnam War and calls for common cause between civil rights and antiwar movements. 1933—Navy dirigible <i>Akron II</i> crashes in New Jersey, killing 73. 1914—The unemployed riot in Union Square, NY. 1896—Gold is found in the Yukon. 1887—In Argonia, Kansas, Susanna M. Salter is elected America's first female mayor. 1877—First home phone installed. 1865—President Abraham Lincoln walks the streets of a defeated Richmond, VA. 1841—President William Henry Harrison dies of pneumonia after one month in office. 1818—In the interests of good graphic design, Congress limits the number of stripes on the flag to 13.
1:25 1:56  7:43 7:54	2:08 2:43  8:29 8:40	2:56 3:34  9:20 9:31	3:49 4:32  10:16 10:28	4:49 5:37  11:18 11:32	5:56 6:47  12:24 12:42	7:06 7:54  1:31 1:42
Sunday, April 5	Monday, April 6	Tuesday, April 7	Wednesday, April 8	Thursday, April 9	Friday, April 10	Saturday, April 11
1962—LBJ crony Billy Sol Estes is indicted for selling fraudulent mortgages on nonexistent fertilizer tanks. 1958—Fidel Castro declares war against Cuban dictator Batista. 1956—A hired thug throws acid and blinds Victor Riesel, New York newspaper columnist and crusader against labor racketeers. 1955—The Farmers Home Administration announces it will issue mortgages to finance home bomb shelters. 1952—Howard Hughes closes down MGM temporarily, because the authors of all eleven stories on his shooting schedule are suspected communists. 1926—H.L. Mencken is arrested in Boston for selling his magazine, <i>American Mercury</i>. 1906—Lord Buckley is born. 1815—In Java, Tambora volcano explodes with dire consequences. 1800—According to contemporaneous newspaper reports, a luminous flying ship appears over Baton Rouge. 1794—“Be sure you show my head to the mob,” Georges Jacques Danton says to his executioner. “It will be a long time ere they see its like.” 1792—George Washington casts the first veto. 1531—To stop Richard Roose from poisoning archbishops, he is boiled to death.	1992—Donald E. Harding gasps, moans, and makes obscene hand gestures for five minutes as he dies in Arizona's gas chamber. 1976—Howard Hughes dies intestate. 1968—The Oakland police raid and shoot up Black Panther Party headquarters. 1954—“The time has come,” says Sen. John F. Kennedy, “for the American people to be told the truth about Vietnam.” 1953—The Cotton States League throws out the Hot Springs team for signing black pitchers. 1930—James Dewar invents the Twinkie in Schiller Park, IL. 1917—Former peace candidate Woodrow Wilson declares war on Germany. 1868—Brigham Young marries wife #27. 1832—Black Hawk leads a band of Sauk Indians across the Mississippi into Illinois where they capture a village. 1789—The Senate counts the votes of the Electoral College: George Washington is elected. 1776—The Continental Congress declares U.S. ports open to all shipping—except British. 1712—Twenty-three enslaved Africans revolt in New York, killing nine whites and injuring six others. Twenty-one are later convicted and executed.	2003—U.S. troops take Baghdad. 1990—Future Bush #43 administration appointee John Poindexter is found guilty of multiple felonies in the Iran/Contra scandal. He later wiggles out on appeal. 1978—Jimmy Carter cancels plans to build a neutron bomb. 1970—California Governor Ronald Reagan announces his position on ending student demonstrations: “If it takes a bloodbath, let's get it over with.” 1969—Supreme Court legalizes private possession of obscene material. 1966—The U.S. retrieves a lost H-bomb off the coast of Spain. 1954—President Eisenhower compares Southeast Asia to a row of dominos. 1922—Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall, a Republican, leases the federal Teapot Dome oilfield to his pal Harry Sinclair, who, coincidentally, loans Fall \$25,000. 1891—RIP P.T. Barnum. 1862—The two-day Battle of Shiloh ends with 23,741 dead, wounded, or missing; creating more casualties than the Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War combined. 1775—Samuel Johnson declares patriotism to be the last refuge of a scoundrel. Later evidence suggests that for some scoundrels, it may be the first.	1984—Richard Nixon observes, “It's the media's responsibility to examine the President with a microscope ... but when they use a protoscope, it's going too far.” 1974—Hank Aaron breaks Ruth's record for career homers, reaping him hate mail and death threats from sports fans. 1971—A home in Wethersfield, CT is struck by a 6 lb. meteorite. 1956—Parris Island DI marches six U.S.M.C. recruits into a swamp for disciplinary purposes. They drown. 1952—Truman orders the Army to seize steel mills. 1947—After eighteen days of excavation, New York Police find compulsive hoarder Langley Collyer dead in his junk-crammed Harlem townhouse. 1942—Bataan falls to the Japanese Army. 1913—The 17th Amendment takes effect, requiring direct election of U.S. Senators. 1899—In NY, Martha Place becomes the first woman executed in an electric chair. 1885—U.S. troops invade Panama, “to defend our national interests.” 1864—The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passes, outlawing slavery. 1826—In a duel, Secretary of State Henry Clay misses Sen. John Randolph, and Randolph misses Clay.	2006—“Scooter” Libby says “W” OK'd leaks of secret CIA intel. 2003—In Baghdad's Firdos Square, American troops pull down a large statue of S. Hussein in front of an audience of Iraqis. 1997—Cambodian newspaper proposes importing mad cows to clear land mines. 1981—The U.S. sub <i>George Washington</i>, carrying as many as 160 nuclear warheads, collides with and sinks a Japanese freighter in the East China Sea. 1972—Dwayne “Archer Daniels Midland” Andreas gives \$25,000 to the Nixon reelection campaign, in return for which the Comptroller of the Currency later approves a bank charter. 1959—NASA introduces America's first seven astronauts. 1927—In Mass., death sentences issued by Judge Webster Thayer, who had called Nicolas Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti “those anarchist bastards” during their trial, are upheld. 1914—Adm. H.T. Mayo demands a 21 gun salute from Mexicans at Tampico, provoking an international incident. 1865—Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders his Army to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse. 1553—Rabelais dies, leaving this will: “I have nothing. I owe much. I leave the rest to the poor.”	2005—Tens of thousands of Iraqis mark the 2nd anniversary of S. Hussein's fall by shouting “No, No to Satan!” and demanding that U.S. troops leave. 1972—American B-52s resume bombing North Vietnam after a hiatus of more than four years. 1972—Crooked financier Robert Vesco slips \$200,000 to Nixon's reelection campaign, in exchange for which Attorney General John Mitchell cuts him slack. 1970—A deed is prepared giving presidential and vice-presidential papers of Richard Nixon to the National Archives—backdated to qualify for an otherwise illegal tax deduction. 1963—The <i>U.S.S. Thresher</i> implodes about 220 miles east of Boston, killing 16 officers, 96 enlisted men, and 17 civilians. 1945—Doctors at Oak Ridge deliberately inject plutonium into a car wreck victim. 1912—The <i>Titanic</i> sets out on its maiden (and final) voyage. 1878—Cable car service begins in San Francisco. 1847—Joseph Pulitzer, yellow journalist, founder of Columbia School of Journalism, is born in Budapest. 1841—Horace Greeley, New Hampshire native and noted loony, begins publishing the <i>New York Tribune</i>.	2006—At the Washington Nationals home opener, the ceremonial first pitch is thrown by Vice President Dick “Dick” Cheney, who is greeted by jeers and catcalls. 2003—U.S. officials in Iraq unveil deck of cards showing 55 “Most Wanted” Iraqi officials. 2002—Venezuelan generals replace Pres. Hugo Chavez with Pedro Carmona. 1968—The Civil Rights Act of 1968 is signed into law. 1951—President Harry S Truman fires General Douglas Mac-Arthur for insubordination. 1950—A U.S. B-29 carrying a nuclear weapon crashes near Albuquerque. The nuke's high explosives ignite; good thing the fissile core wasn't installed. 1941—Ford signs its first contract with the United Auto Workers. 1938—Richard Whitney, president of New York Stock Exchange, gets 5 to 10 for larceny. 1898—President McKinley generously declares Cuba's independence from Spain. 1893—Frederick Ives patents the halftone printing plate. 1812—Luddites meet their first serious resistance during an attack at Rawfords Hill. 1783—Congress proclaims peace with Great Britain. 1751—Daniel Fowle marries Lydia Hall at King's Chapel, in Boston.
1:52 2:34  1:52 2:34	2:57 3:31  2:57 3:31	3:55 4:22  3:55 4:22	4:48 5:08  4:48 5:08	5:36 5:51  5:36 5:51	6:21 6:33  6:21 6:33	7:04 7:13  7:04 7:13

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