

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

The Goldman Sachs Beer Can Tax

The price of a six pack of beer includes about thirty cents in Federal excise tax. That's true whether it's a tasty, locally-brewed product, or that watery, rice-based swill in the red and white can that's now made by a Belgian-owned multinational.

That thirty-cent excise tax is collected by the Internal Revenue Service and turned over to the U.S. Treasury, which in turn sends most of it to the Pentagon. From there it is paid out to our major defense contractors. They recycle a tiny fraction of the money through campaign contributions and payments to lobbyists, thereby keeping the whole system running smoothly.

Last month the national news media discovered that for several years now Goldman Sachs has been, in effect, collecting its own private tax on canned beer.

Every can costs an extra one-tenth of a cent because Goldman, in its self-appointed role as the Invisible Hand of the Marketplace, has reached out and put the squeeze on the supply of raw aluminum.

That's one small cost for a man — \$2.19 a year for the stereotypical Joe Sixpack consuming a rack of Bud per day, according to our calculations — but it's a giant privatized drag on mankind's economy: \$3.6 billion a year, according to the semi-prestigious Beer Institute.

The Invisible Fist in the Face

It used to be against the rules for banks like Goldman to run businesses like metal warehouses. A few years ago, though, the Federal Reserve Bank — the private entity that makes many of the rules Wall Street is supposed to obey — decided to lift that restriction

and see what would happen.

Now we know.

Goldman bought Metro International Trade Services, a company that owns 27 warehouses in Detroit which once stored 50,000 tons of aluminum for manufacturers who actually use the stuff.

Then Goldman changed Metro's operating procedures. Aluminum deliveries that used to take six weeks now take sixteen months. By 2010 Metro was holding about 850,000 tons of aluminum. Meanwhile Goldman collected daily storage fees of 48 cents per ton. *The New York Times* estimates that Goldman is pulling in a quarter of a billion dollars a year in storage fees.

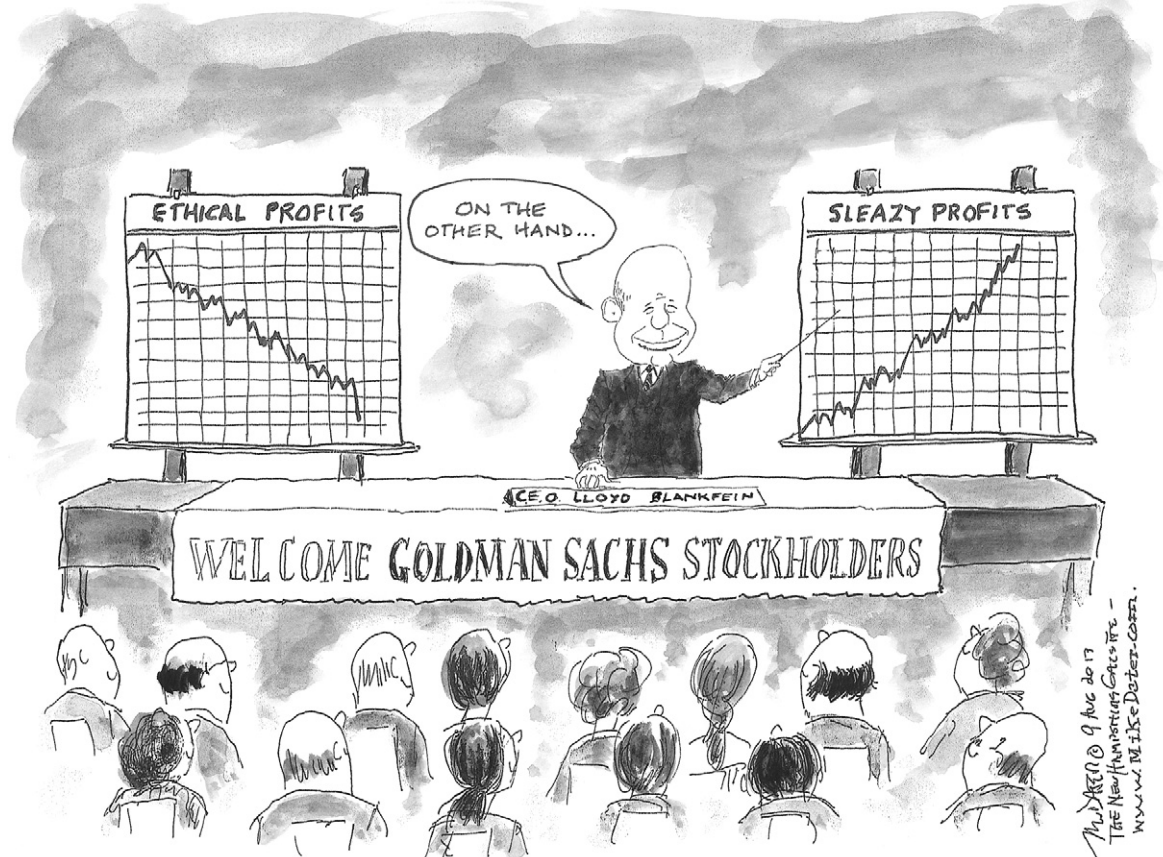
But storage fees are chump change when it comes to the overall effect of this scam on the economy. By forcing manufacturers to wait ten times as long to get their hands on their own goods, Goldman has effectively jacked up the price across the board. Anything made of aluminum costs more. For a typical car, the Goldman Sachs Car Tax comes to \$12.

Wheels Within Wheels

Futures contracts, written by banks like Goldman, were invented to give farmers and manufacturers a way to protect themselves against fluctuations in the costs of various commodities. Speculators soon figured out that if they calculated correctly — or just guessed right — they could make a profit by buying and selling those futures.

Goldman surely understands that by making aluminum more or less available, they can directly influence its future price.

But surely it would never stoop so low as to intentionally buy futures, then drive the price up or



down to make those futures more profitable ... or would they?

Worthy Causes

If an extra one-tenth of a cent had been added to the excise tax, at least the Federal deficit would be a tiny bit lower.

Instead it went into the pockets of Lloyd Blankfein and his henchmen at Goldman, whence it doubtless flowed to Bentley dealers, expensive tailors, and French vineyards.

It's also entirely possible — although we have no evidence to prove it — that some of Goldman's "beer can tax" has gone to pay for hookers. Two years ago Brooklyn DA Charles Hynes busted a prostitution ring that called itself High Class NY. The *New York Post* quoted Hynes saying at a news conference that its clients were "all high-end customers, coming from the financial markets many of them, hedge fund people, people with nothing but money, willing to pay these

enormous amounts of money [between \$400 and \$3,600 per hour] for God knows what."

And what fun is a hooker without a little cocaine? Because, as Rep. Robert Wexler [D-FL] jokingly told Stephen Colbert in 2008, "I enjoy the company of prostitutes ... because it's a fun thing to do. Much like cocaine. If you combine the two together, it's probably even more fun."

High Class NY clients merely had to ask for a "bottle of Champagne," and their hooker would bring along a little blow. Of course, "[i]nstead of paying 20 bucks for cocaine, they were paying 170 bucks," said Hynes.

No problem — Joe Sixpack will pick up the tab.

Isolated Incident or General Plague?

Naturally Goldman has denied any wrongdoing. Not long after its scam was exposed, though, it began offering to make aluminum more readily available for delivery.

The so-called bank also argued that it does not control enough aluminum to affect its price — but as soon as it announced its new delivery policy the price began dropping.

Sadly, Goldman is far from being the only sleazy commodities trader jacking up prices. Last December JP Morgan was planning to set up a similar racket buying, warehousing, and selling copper. Incredibly, the SEC signed off on it. Now that Goldman's greedy dealings have put the spotlight on metals markets, though, Morgan has announced it is getting out.

And then there's oil.

Senator Bernie Sanders [I-VT] said in 2012 that "a decade ago, speculators controlled only about 30 percent of the oil futures market. Today, Wall Street speculators control nearly 80 percent." The average driver's annual added cost — about \$750 — puts Goldman Sachs's beer can tax to shame.

And there's no end in sight.

News Briefs

Run, Bob, Run!

There are 450 days to go until the mid-term elections of 2014 and the fun is starting already.

Until recently only state Senator Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfboro) and former state Senator Jim Rubens (R-Etna) had said they might challenge Democratic Senator Jeanne Shaheen's reelection bid next year. Booo-ring.

But on July 24th, James Pindell at *WMUR.com* had exciting news: former Senator Bob Smith might challenge Shaheen. Now you're talking!

Curiously, though, Pindell wrote that Smith's candidacy "would bring a level of gravitas to the race." That's what our 9th grade English teacher Mrs. Ridlon would call "poor word choice."

If Smith runs for Senate, gravitas is the *last* thing to expect. A high level of frenzied and surreal entertainment would be more like it.

We'd like to review briefly Bob's career now, because, when it comes to enthusiasms, brief is Smith's middle name. If we wait a fortnight it may be too late.

In January of 1999, after barely squeaking into a second term in the U.S. Senate, Smith became the first Republican to announce for his party's Presidential nomination. Developing no discernable support within Republican circles — he never broke the critical one-percent threshold — Smith took to the Senate floor and made a 50-minute speech denouncing the GOP, saying it might be "a

party in the sense of wearing hats and blowing whistles. But it's not a party that means anything."

Smith then sought the Presidential nomination of the U.S. Taxpayers' Party. About a month later he bailed out of it, citing opposition from an anti-Catholic faction.

Having run out of parties that would accept him as a member, Smith mounted an independent candidacy which gradually deflated like a forlorn helium balloon.

In October of 1999, Sen. John Chafee of Rhode Island died, leaving open the Chairmanship of the Environment and Public Works Committee. Smith was the next-ranking member. His party — as unprincipled as he'd accused it of

being — had never gotten around to drumming Smith out for his heresies. It appointed him Chairman of the Committee. In gratitude, and after a decent interval, Smith renounced his earlier repudiation of the Party and endorsed George W. Bush for President. To his everlasting credit, as Chairman, Smith went on to take pro-environment positions that drove his fellow Republicans nuts.

On the other hand, Smith backed Bush's pre-emptive war against Iraq to the hilt — and beyond. According to a story in the *Eagle-Tribune* in April, 2002, Smith appeared before a group of Republicans in Manchester and "bellowed" at the audience, "Why don't we just take [Saddam Hus-

sein's] oil? Why buy it? Take it!"

But some elephants never forget. As Smith's Senate seat came up for election, Grover Norquist said "Bob Smith betrayed the conservative movement by whoring after the environmentalists, and he doesn't have the candlepower to realize that they're not going to lift a finger for him."

In 2002, Smith succeeded in uniting a broad range of New Hampshire Republicans — against him. John E. Sununu handily won the Republican Senatorial primary, then beat Jeanne Shaheen in a general election marred by a notorious phone-jamming scan-

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dal which, if properly prosecuted, might have singed the tentacles of Karl Rove's operation.

Smith went South to sell condos in Florida. He took a couple of aborted shots at Florida Senate seats in 2004 and 2010. Other than that, the closest he's come to political success has been coming in second to Donald Trump in an unofficial comb over contest.

Run, Bob, run ... please?
Is You Is Or Is You Ain't?

At first glance the story in Tuesday's Award-Winning Local Daily seemed like it might be a joke: Jeb Bradley running against Jeanne Shaheen next year for the U.S. Senate?

"All the rumors are true," the paper had Bradley saying. "The re-

action I'm getting is very positive." Bradley is the former two-term Congressman who lost the First District to Carol Shea-Porter in 2006 and failed to win it back in 2008. Shaheen wins elections the way some people eat peanuts.

A story posted that same day on the AWLD's website confirmed it: "I was joking," Bradley told the *Telegraph's* Kevin Landrigan.

But here's the real punch line: Bradley seriously seems to think he has a chance of winning, and he might actually run. "I haven't made a decision," he said. "That's where it stands, period."

As if more hilarity were needed, the initial report grew out of an overheard conversation Bradley was having with Rep. Peter King [R-NY], who is in the state testing out his own Presidential possibilities.



Originally built in Germany, named the Horst Wessel after a Nazi thug, and seized by the U.S. after the war, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Eagle passes under the New Memorial Bridge on Friday, August 2nd. The following day the Award-Winning Local Daily reported that Adolf Hitler, born in 1889, spent his 30th birthday aboard the barque. But, that birthday occurred in 1919 — seventeen years before the Horst Wessel was launched, and fifteen years before the AWLD reported it was launched.

Meet the New Boss

The FBI will soon have a new Director, for all the good it will do us. James Comey was confirmed on July 29th by the Senate.

Comey is widely adored on the Left for having faced down White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales in Attorney General John Ashcroft's hospital room. Gonzales was trying to get the deathly ill Ashcroft to sign off on documents extending the NSA's power to conduct domestic surveillance. Comey, then Acting Attorney General, convinced Gonzales to back off by threatening to resign.

A little made-for-Hollywood drama seems to go a long way in Washington, D.C. Comey, a Republican who donated \$5,000 — the maximum allowed by law — to Mitt Romney's 2012 Presidential campaign and \$2,300 to John McCain's campaign four years earlier, breezed through his confirmation hearings in the Democratically-controlled Senate. Apparently vicious partisanship just isn't what it used to be.

Or maybe now it's just whatever the Republicans say it is.

Perhaps we're being too cynical. Comey could surprise us. It wouldn't take much.

He could start by holding a news conference and explaining to reporters which, if any, of the many versions of the Ibragim Todashev shooting is true. That would be the perfect opportunity to release the long-completed autopsy report on Todashev's bullet-riddled body. The Chechen-American was gunned down in Florida a couple of months ago by un-named FBI agents stationed at Boston's Whitey Bulger branch of the Bureau.

No one is suggesting, by the way, that anyone did anything wrong. Everyone knows that the FBI never screws up when its agents shoot someone — and they've got plenty of their own investigations to prove it.

Too Much Too Late

Reuters reported on July 30th that between 2008 and 2012, the USDA shelled out \$32 million in

soil conservation payments and crop insurance aid to farmers who were dead.

This example of wasteful government spending sounds pretty bad, but in fact it represents an improvement.

A 2007 GAO report said \$1.1 billion had been paid out to dead farmers during the previous six years.

Thrift At Any Cost

Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) is determined to save the taxpayers' money — and apparently he will spare no expense to do so.

According to a July 25 story on *ScienceInsider.com*, an "interested insider" at NASA alerted Grassley to a series of photos. They showed NASA scientists, dressed in Viking costumes, encountering mock-ups of the agency's new CubeSat satellites.

Assuming that NASA was throwing money away on "non-mission critical activities," Grassley asked Charles Boldin, the head of NASA, to look into the alleged issue. Agency investiga-

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tors dutifully “made contact with just about every person who took part in the shoot,” according to the employee who took the photos.

The investigation was conducted on the Agency’s dime, of course — unlike the photos, which were taken during the employees’ time off from work. Unlike Grassley’s investigation, which must have cost a pretty penny, the photos cost the Agency nothing.

The War On Who?

In May, at the National Defense University at Fort McNair, President Barack Obama said “the United States is at war with al Qaeda, the Taliban, and their associated forces.” Senator Carl Levin [D-MI] asked the Pentagon to give him a list of those al Qaeda-associated forces with whom we’re at war.

Pro Publica, an independent non-profit news organization, asked Levin for the list. Levin told Pro Publica he could not give it to them — the Pentagon had classified it. The Pentagon explained to Pro Publica that the groups we’re at war with would gain credibility if it were known that they are listed.

Actually, the Pentagon *could* tell us who we’re at war with — but

then it would have to declare war on us.

The Media Racket

On August 1st, Senators on the Judiciary Committee spent enough time wrangling over the definition of “journalist” to attract the attention of a reporter from McClatchy. The Senators were trying to determine who should or should not be partially exempted from judicial subpoenas demanding that they reveal their sources.

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), according to McClatchy, “wondered whether [such an exemption] could be used to provide protections to employees of WikiLeaks, an organization that allows anonymous sources to leak information to the public.” Feinstein reportedly wants to restrict the title of journalist to “real reporters” — those who are paid a salary.

Under that logic, wouldn’t a paid mistress have a better claim to spousal benefits than a wife?

In other media news, John Henry, owner of the Boston Red Sox, has purchased the *Boston Globe* for \$70 million — about the value of its real estate, and less than he’s paying for Dustin Pedroia.



One Of The Last Navajo Code Talkers Will Speak Here

Chester Nez, a member of the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers from World War II, will share his experience with Seacoast residents on August 18th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Seacoast Repertory Theater.

Nez and the other Code Talkers developed a code within their native Navajo language to aid the war effort against the Japanese. “We never thought it would work,” Nez said, “but we developed a code that the Japanese could not understand.” It is said to be the only unbroken code in modern warfare.

Nez will speak about his experiences as a Code Talker in the South Pacific at Guadalcanal and Guam. The conversation will be moderated by Chase Bailey, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran himself, who served as a Marine from 1967 to 1971, including duty in Viet Nam. He is now a local filmmaker.

Some Native American speak-

ers of Cherokee and Choctaw used their language as a code during World War I, where they helped turn back the German offensive of the Meuse-Argonne. Aware of their success, Adolf Hitler tried to develop counter-measures before World War II, but his anthropologists were defeated by the linguistic complexities involved.



Chester Nez

The event will be filmed by the New Hampshire Institute of Pol-

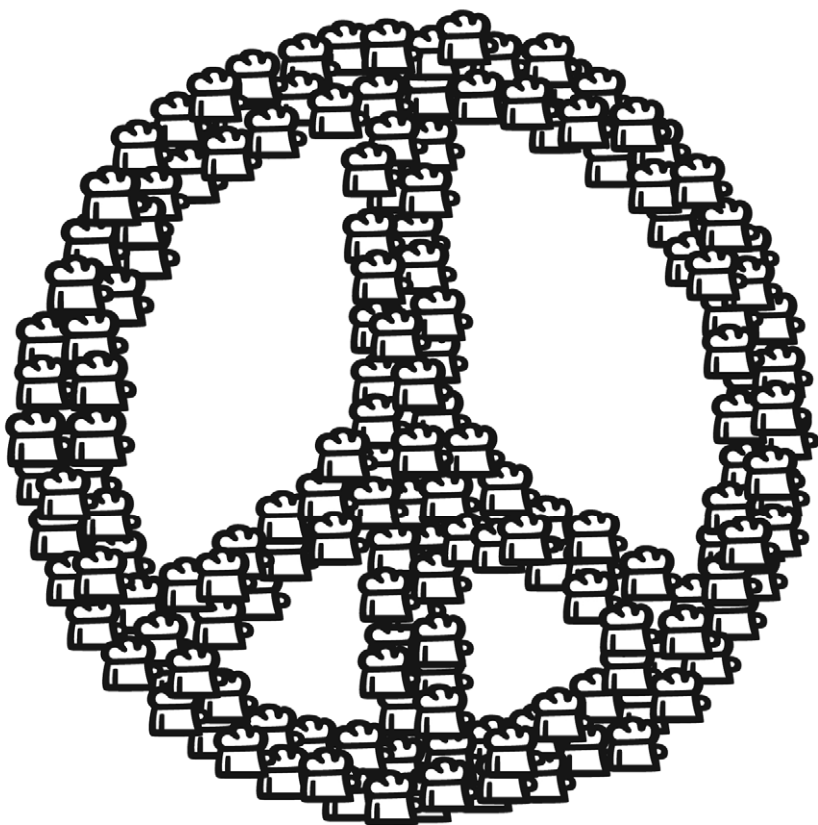
itics at Saint Anselm College and is sponsored, in part, by Cross Insurance and Optima Bank. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at SeacoastRep.org. Proceeds from the event on August 18th will go to Veterans Count which provides essential assistance to New Hampshire military service members and their families — ninety-five cents of every dollar raised for Veterans Count goes directly to the people who need it most.

There will be a book signing following the talk at 4:00 p.m. with Chester Nez and co-author Judith Avila for *Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII*. Books are to be purchased separately and the signing will be open to the public.

Veterans Count is a program of Easter Seals New Hampshire. More information on the event can be found at SeacoastRep.org, VetsCount.org, or on Facebook at Veterans Count — Seacoast Chapter.



There's a time in each year/That we always hold dear/Good old summer time/With the birds and the trees-es/And sweet scented breezes/Good old summer time/When your day's work is over/Then you are in clover/And life is one beautiful rhyme/No trouble annoying/Each one is enjoying/The good old summer time.



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





UNH's Outdoor Pool

To the Editor:

The recent efforts taken by citizens of Durham to persuade the Administration of the University of New Hampshire to preserve the landmark UNH Outdoor Pool have in a brief period of time captured the attention and favor of many. Numerous individuals have signed a variety of petitions, written letters to the editor, attended a community meeting and joined working committees, among other things. The campaign to preserve the pool has drawn favorable statewide media coverage and is certainly the talk of the town here in Durham. As the co-founders of Friends of the UNH Outdoor Pool (FUNDOP), we are not at all surprised. To understand the popularity of this endeavor, one needs only to look at the value provided by the pool in the context of the lives we lead in these busy times. We in Durham are not passionate about the UNH Outdoor Pool because we want a place to swim in the ever so precious months of summer here in New England. No, this emotion stems from all of the other important things that this particular pool offers.

The outdoor pool was built as a Works Progress Administration

project in the 1930's. It was one of hundreds built around this country at that time and all of them were built with the grand dimensions that our pool has. Think of what it must have been like to be living in those years. The horrors of World War I were fresh in peoples' minds and there was great fear about what was again brewing in Europe. Like much of the world, our country was in the midst of the Great Depression with families struggling to feed themselves and many were without jobs. The W.P.A. attempted to give employment to the unfortunate, while at the same time, improving the quality of life in our nation. These pools were built large in order to serve as community centers where people could connect with one another, build relationships and friendships and turn the country's mood in a more favorable direction.

Since its construction, the UNH Outdoor Pool has served that precise function while also providing a place where children can safely learn to swim, community members can cool off on hot days and people of all ages can work on keeping fit. Some days while swimming laps, we can't help but notice the hand laid paving stones that line the bottom and wonder what stories the individual who did that handiwork might share.

Times have certainly changed, but the need to have such a strong community center still exists and maybe is even more important today. In these days, we are so often commuting to a job in the isolation of our private car and when we get there, we work in a cubicle. Others walk down the street glued to their smart phones or sit in coffee shops partnered with

their iPads. Children are either structured into supervised activities or are individually playing the latest video game. We venture out to shop in big box stores where we seldom see anyone we know. We are becoming less and less connected to each other and our neighbors.

To us, this is the allure of the UNH Outdoor Pool and why our movement has caught on like a wildfire. The pool provides the environment where people can meet, and face to face talk about the issues of the day and nourish their relationships. It is a place where children can play with their peers, unfettered by the rules of a particular sport and often enjoy their first glimpses of independence. The pool is so much the center of the social fabric of our town and reflects where we have come from as a society and where we are now. It gives us a place where we can escape our isolation and instead be part of a community. A smaller, more conventional pool would not serve that same function.

We respectfully urge the Administration of the University of New Hampshire to realize and respect the tremendous role played and fulfilled by this historic facility. To destroy it would strike a terrible blow against what so many people hold dear and what those in the future will cherish as well. Please make the right decision.

Sincerely,
Kenny Rotner, M.D., and
Dudley Dudley
Durham, NH

§
Here We Go Again

To the Editor:

Once again the Republicans in Congress are threatening real harm to the country if they don't

get their way. They say they will shut down the government or stop the U.S. from paying its debts, or both, unless the administration and congressional Democrats make more spending cuts like the disastrous sequester and agree to kill the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by defunding it — two bad ideas that require a letter all their own.

They seriously float the idea of not raising the debt ceiling even though it would mean that the U.S. will not be able to pay bills it already owes. That would be a clear signal to our trading partners and the rest of the world that we are fiscally unreliable and certainly not to be taken seriously as a world leader. The negative effect on the global financial system of having the country that has been central to the world economy fail to pay its bills is hard to overstate — it could make our recent recession look like a walk in the park.

Shutting down the government would undoubtedly have the effect of slowing down the economy as it will stop all the economic activity of the government — lots of public sector employees out of work, private contractor work and payments stopped, truly an economic mess.

How can a political party that claims it wants to create jobs through economic growth actually push for actions that would depress the economy and cost jobs? Easy — the whole right wing position is to destroy the government and somehow miraculously the market place will just make everything ok. This is all of a piece with a record number of Sen-

ate filibusters and, in the House, a refusal to bring legislation like the President's jobs proposal to the floor for discussion and a vote. Make no mistake, the slow recovery isn't because the President got things wrong. It's because the Tea Party Republicans have refused to even debate, much less vote on, taking steps to provide jobs, support research, fix our infrastructure, and on and on.

The Republican avoidance of participation in governing is tearing apart the substance of our democratic system and threatens the economic viability of the country.

Robert Wilkinson
Portsmouth, NH

§
Zimmerman the Victim

To the Editor:

The Zimmerman-Martin incident and aftermath is sad on many levels. Martin is dead. Facing death threats, Zimmerman lives in hiding. Both families are devastated. People "getting justice for Trayvon" create other victims. The media demonstrated its corruption. Political pressure forced an indictment when one may not have been warranted, raising questions whether any of us can be assured of getting fair treatment by the law. The usual race-baiters did their best with the help of the media and President Obama to roll back our progress to a colorblind society.

People make claims without any evidence. A recent headline declares, "Would Zimmerman have picked a fight if he hadn't been armed?" There is no evidence that Zimmerman either

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And Other Correspondence

confronted or started any physical interaction with Martin. Others say Martin would be alive if he were white, yet who considers race, or anything besides survival, when someone is killing us? The prosecution, the defense, and FBI investigators indicated that race was not a factor. If you spent many lonely hours trying to protect your neighbors from further harm, would the race of a suspiciously acting person change your actions? No.

Others say the shooting wouldn't have happened if Zimmerman had acted differently (although he acted legally). But it wouldn't have happened if Martin had just continued home, if Martin hadn't been expelled from school, or maybe if Martin hadn't been taking behavior altering substances.

The police felt there was inadequate evidence to charge Zimmerman with a crime. The jury apparently agreed, even though they were denied much evidence about Martin's character including that he had been discovered with burglar tools and stolen property.

Why did the media sensationalize this incident? Why alter Zimmerman's 911 calls? Why suppress exculpatory evidence and publish misleading photos and information about Zimmerman and Martin? Why use the term "white Hispanic" for Zimmerman who is half-white, just like President Obama?

Was the media just trying to create a story? To fan racial hatred? To distract minorities from how much they are suffering under President Obama's policies? To distract the public from Obama's scandals?

Do Obama and Holder have so much contempt for our justice system and the American people

(police, prosecutors, judges, jurors, etc.) that they feel entitled to determine the outcome of this (or any) incident? Or, did they too welcome a distraction from Obama's failures and scandals?

As sad as this incident is for the Martins and Zimmermans, it is equally as sad for our country. This incident reveals the total corruption of our media, the Obama administration's inappropriate influence on our justice system and their willingness to stoke racial strife for political gain.

Don Ewing
Meredith, NH

§
Preserve the Pool
To the Editor:

Recently I have received some troubling news from a dear friend in Durham about the fate of the University of New Hampshire's Outdoor Pool. It saddens and perplexes me to hear that UNH is seriously considering extending the Snively arena over the majority of the existing pool. During my four years as an undergraduate student at UNH I understood the administration to be quite reasonable and hospitable in their decision making process. However, in this particular instance I think they are making an incredibly short-sighted decision.

When I accepted UNH's offer of admission in 2009 it was not because it was the least expensive or the best in my field. I chose to attend UNH because I fell in love with its historic charm. This, in my opinion, is the most valuable asset UNH has to offer its prospective students. I am baffled at how easily UNH overlooks its greatest asset and how eager they are to swap one of its most precious treasures — the pool — for large gyms or hockey arenas — things that may bring in more revenue tomorrow, but in the long run, will dilute

the desirability and beauty of the school — making it less attractive to year-round students in the competitive market.

I imagine UNH will offer to rebuild a new pool or preserve half of it, leaving merely a shaded puddle, but the current pool is spectacular in its natural and historic state — with smooth cement walls that descend into deep waters with fun paintings along the floor. It is Durham's refreshing and community-building gem.

Perhaps it would be wiser to extend the Snively arena toward the alumni center instead, or build it up? Many students often complain about the remote location of Snively — maybe it would be wiser to create another site at the other end of campus?

I've heard rumors that UNH believes it is unsafe, but from what I've read the pool passes its health and safety tests regularly. If UNH wanted to improve the cleanliness of the pool from its already satisfactory state I'm sure one of the brilliant engineers UNH educates or employs could devise a way to improve the mechanics of it while preserving and saving the current pool and its surrounding environment.

I cannot imagine a UNH summer without it and I hope future UNH students will be allowed to enjoy the pool the way I did. I am optimistic that UNH will be able to see how valuable the pool is and do what's best for the UNH Durham community — preserve and save the current pool!

Julia Rose Miller
UNH Class of 2013
Durham, NH

§
Expect No Housing Recovery
To the Editor:

According to a report published by *ZeroHedge.com*, in Italy 33 percent of young adults live with their parents. In the U.S. "only" 22 percent.

The "demographic demand" ar-



gument for housing is very weak. The highest proportion of Italian adults living with their parents was among 18 to 29 year-olds, for whom unemployment is particularly high, with 60.7 percent reported living at home. Apply that ratio to the United States and it would appear that the following can be expected.

Accordingly, with mortgage rates up, household formation down, and the pressure of the "Affordable Care Act" causing rotation from full-time to part-time jobs; we can expect the exuberance being priced into a "housing recovery," being based on a growth renaissance, to be as unlikely as Ron Paul becoming the next Fed Head.

Dick Marple
Hooksett, NH

§
Obamacare Saves Lives
To the Editor:

When asked if it supported Obamacare, the public's support has been lackluster. But when pollsters inquire about specific parts of the Obamacare law, people are much more enthusiastic. That's a little like asking your kids if they like fruits and vegetables. The response is likely no. But if you ask them if they like watermelon, strawberries, peaches, and carrots, suddenly they become more excited.

Since Obamacare became law

More Hate Mail, &c.
to page six

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The New Illiterates

by William Marvel

Until I was five, my father was often out at sea for weeks at a stretch. During his absences, my mother read me children's stories, or excerpts from books she was reading, making me so curious about the process that I insisted on some instruction, so she taught me to read and write. By the age of four I could print pretty well, and then I started practicing her Catholic-school penmanship. The nuns in my kindergarten class seemed unimpressed with my skill, and they spent more time forcing me to use my right hand than teaching me anything, but at home I progressed steadily, and I could write legibly by the time I started the first grade. It was years before I developed enough manual dexterity to replicate my mother's fine hand, but the Palmer script she learned as a teenager was always my ideal.

That early training made my first couple of years at Pine Tree

School pretty boring. While the rest of the class was chorusing through the monosyllabic activities of Dick and Jane I was often sneaking a peak at The Boy's Life of Davy Crockett, or one of my father's 1920s kid's books. I therefore spent a lot of time under Elsie Masterton's desk, where I found the solitary confinement more entertaining than the lessons, but my classmates seemed sufficiently content, and eventually we reached a level of equal competence.

It was, after all, a ritual that children had followed for over a century. Before handwriting lessons came to the classrooms of public schools, it was known only as a secret code among privileged scholars, who used it as a means of control over everyone who lacked that special knowledge — just as priests used Latin and lawyers still use legal jargon. Once the masses learned it, that control began to abate, although thereafter penmanship, like dialect, dis-

tinguished the various classes of society.

Now we learn that Common Core Standards — a governmental imposition that has been subjected to much well-deserved abuse — will not include any assessment of handwriting. Given the infamous educational tendency to teach to the test, that should foretell the imminent end of early instruction in what is generally known as cursive handwriting. In an age when schools and businesses seem determined to make all communication electronic, it may seem only logical to abandon a time-consuming process that has no application in that medium. As usual, however, those who are obsessed with the future seem just as deficient in peripheral vision as those they accuse of looking only backward.

I spent last Friday at Bowdoin's special collections department, transcribing some of the letters of William Pitt Fessenden, who served in the U.S.

Senate from 1853 until 1869. He learned penmanship in the common schools, and it was a lot more legible than much orthography from his era that I've tried to decipher, but there were some rough spots. It took twenty minutes to interpret a single four-word phrase, but I gladly devoted the time, because that previously unpublished passage referred to "our good Abraham," after a secret meeting with President Lincoln. Finally I realized that Fessenden had described Lincoln as "such a curious compound," whose kindly nature he then criticized as an impediment to efficient administration.

The subject of teaching handwriting — or rather not teaching it — came up when I returned home that evening. As my wife pointed out, those who never learn to write by hand will eventually lose the ability to read the writing of those who do, or did. She added that the atrophy of that form of communication

should put an end to the study of history, because until this new century, most private communications (and especially those revealing diary entries) were written by hand.

We were still discussing that topic when our graduate student arrived for an overnight visit. She suggested that cursive writing could become a college-level course for those thinking of careers where they might need it, and I had to admit that she had a point. There is already a solid precedent for it, too. For a generation now, elementary-education theorists have been tinkering with curriculum in the primary schools, with the result that colleges have had to ply entering freshmen with what amounts to remedial reading courses, teaching them what they should have learned in the earliest grades. The elimination of penmanship instruction merely takes public education one more giant step down the road to complete irrelevance.

More Mash Notes. HATE MAIL, And Other Correspondence, from Page Five

in 2009, Republicans have spent a great deal of time and effort endlessly propagandizing one point — Obamacare is no good. For low-information voters who aren't interested in details, that blanket condemnation is enough to convince them.

But if you point out the specifics, suddenly voters are much more supportive. For example, insurance companies no longer place an arbitrary cap on coverage. Children can stay on their parent's insurance plans until age 26. If insurance companies aren't spending at least 80 percent of your premium dollars on your

health care, they've got to give you some money back. This summer, over 8.5 million Americans will get back \$500 million in rebates from insurance companies. And routine things like annual check-ups, vaccinations, mammograms, cancer screenings, annual check-ups, blood pressure, and cholesterol tests are no cost to you.

Recently, 40 political activists celebrated President Barack Obama's birthday at our home in Hampton. After singing "Happy Birthday Mr. President" and cutting a birthday cake, the guests settled into a discussion of the health benefits that the Obama-

care law has brought them. Below are some of their answers:

"I was diagnosed with hepatitis C, and because of that precondition, insurance companies would not insure me. Now, they have to begining January 1, 2014."

"Just a year ago, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. I got a physical which detected the cancer because the exam was free. And so, at the moment, as the result of treatment, I am cancer free."

"I seem to have a zillion things wrong with me. We have wonderful private insurance; however, we do have a maximum dollar amount for coverage. Since I've

had a number of surgeries and take costly medication, that's been a real concern. Now, Obamacare gets rid of that cap on lifetime spending."

Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, who attended the event, noted, "I want to talk about extending family coverage for children to age 26. I have a son who recently moved to California to look for work. He has asthma, so he has to be very careful about his health. He has no health insurance of his own, but now because of the Obamacare law, he's still insured under our family policy. That's a great relief to me."

It's one thing to talk about the Obamacare law in the abstract. It's quite something else to see it working for the average person.

Gary Patton,
Hampton, NH

Expand Medicaid

To the Editor:

There have been many letters to the editor expounding on the humanistic and moral rationale for expanding Medicaid in New Hampshire. On those grounds alone this legislation should be adopted. It is hard to understand why Republicans in the New Hampshire legislature are resist-

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Finding The Money To Fund Higher Education For All

by Jim Hightower

Question: Is making higher education available to every American more important to our national interest than letting Wall Street profiteers make a few more billions-of-dollars each year?

Answer: Of course. Yet, our political leaders — pushed by Wall Street lobbyists — have been making the opposite choice for years. As a result, banksters have

loaded students down with a mountain of high-interest loans, rising from just over \$2 billion a decade ago to nearly a trillion last year. Worse, the financiers — either banks or government lenders — have become the gatekeepers of advanced education, shutting out thousands of young people wanting to get ahead, but not able to hurdle the formidable financial barrier.

This is enormously costly to

America — and completely unnecessary. The smart choice — as we learned from the GI Bill after World War II — would be to make college and professional training free. Universal access to higher education — ie, free access — produces a very high return on the public's investment, while also producing widely-shared prosperity and a broadly educated citizenry.

Of course, an up-front invest-

ment in a smarter, more productive, more democratic civilization is pricey. So where do we get the money to do what America needs? Get it from where it went. Wall Street's superrich speculators are now making millions of super-fast, robotic financial transactions per second, generating trillions of dollars a year for them — but producing nothing of real value for us, while distorting and endangering markets.

Put a tiny tax on each of those automated gambles by speculators, and more than enough money will come into the public coffers to free-up higher-ed for all. For information, check out United States Students Association: www.usstudents.org.

§
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ing the effort to provide health insurance to the working poor. How can anyone with a conscience not empathize with people whose incomes are \$14,856 or less as they struggle to survive — food, housing, clothing, transportation to work and there's some leftover for health insurance? Really?

OK, if Republicans have no sympathy, no caring for others less fortunate, no sense of responsibility for the general welfare, let's put human interest aside for a moment, and think in hard nosed economic terms. Under the Affordable Care Act the federal government will pay 100 percent of the cost of medicaid expansion for three years and gradually taper their contribution down to 90 percent thereafter. They will pay these cost with tax money we will be sending, regardless, to Washington. So, if we don't take the money we will be subsidizing the states that do.

But what if the Feds renege? They have never failed to keep their bargain on Medicaid or Medicare. But what if they do? Easy answer — states can opt out of the expanded services anytime without penalty, guaranteed by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Continuing this line of thinking in practical rather than moral terms, the uninsured often show

up in hospital emergency rooms with chronic conditions that go untreated. If, for Republicans, the human cost in pain and suffering doesn't matter, let's talk economics. ER care is very expensive and we all pay for that with higher insurance rates. Untreated chronic conditions result in more ER care and lost wages. For example, an untreated diabetic may lose a foot and become unable to work.

Healthy people are happier, earn more, consume more, pay more taxes and make a contribution to the economy. Expanding Medicaid in New Hampshire is a win-win for everybody!

Cynthia Muse
Rye, NH

Why Did Pool Story Change?

To the Editor:

There has been much recent discussion of UNH's decision to close its historic pool, which has served as a community centerpiece for the better part of a century.

UNH's recent communications stress that the pool is unsafe, and that the desire to expand the workout facilities into the existing pool space is not the driver for this decision.

Unfortunately, I find this hard to believe. When the UNH Master Plan draft was originally com-

municated last year I began closely following this issue, and attended a community forum facilitated by UNH. At that time, no mention was made of safety concerns around the pool. The justification given was entirely around the need to expand recreational facilities.

At this forum and following it, there was a substantial public outcry over the decision to close the pool. Many in the community, including some affiliated with the University, proposed alternate ideas for UNH's legitimate need for more recreational space.

When the next communication was released a few months later, UNH's story had changed substantially. Now "safety concerns" were given as the reason for the decision, with little mention made of the plan to expand recreational facilities.

State inspectors have indicated that the pool passes safety inspections. The Town of Durham has offered to work with UNH on safety and cost concerns. UNH has not accepted this offer, and yet continues to claim that the pool, which has been in use for 80 years, is unsafe.

I would urge UNH to reconsider this decision. Does this administration want to be remembered for paving over a historic structure that has been enjoyed

for generations? Please accept Durham's offer to work together for a solution. If this cannot be achieved, at least the community will be assured that UNH made a good faith effort.

Jennifer Pavlik
Durham, NH

Democrats Stole the Election?

To the Editor:

The secret is out! Thanks to Senator Fuller Clark, and her secret strategy to stuff the New Hampshire ballot boxes with 6 "fraudulent" ballots, Democrats stole the Presidential election. Thank you Christina Lusky for your investigative reporting which appeared in Tuesday's Herald.

Aside from the fact that Ms. Lusky doesn't understand New Hampshire election laws, her outrage is grossly misplaced. She rants about 6 legal votes while her party tries to disenfranchise thousands across the country with multiple changes to election procedures based on baseless concerns about voter fraud. How do shorter hours at polling places, the elimination of early voting or the prevention of poll supervisors to extend closing 1 hour, if long lines develop, help reduce voter fraud? Many Republican state legislatures are passing a very strict requirement for a special

voter photo ID. Is this not overkill with an ulterior motive? Apparently 3 federal judges thought so Tuesday afternoon by striking down the Texas law.

The miniscule amount of voter ID fraud nationwide is the lame reason Republicans are using to disenfranchise tens of thousands of individuals more likely to vote Democratic.

Dave Potter
North Hampton, NH

Peace on the Lawn

To the Editor:

On Saturday, September 21st, International Day of Peace, New Hampshire Peace Action has reserved the State House's front lawn from 11 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. for "Art for Peace," displaying art showing what the artist imagines a world at peace would look like. All media are welcome, and artists may bring their work to the lawn for display. Our website has a registration form. Lunch will be available for sale. Art supplies will be on hand for spontaneous renditions of "a world at peace looks like this." All ages are welcome. This is not a contest. This is a time to come together and elevate peace. Please see www.nhpeaceaction.org for more information.

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

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the

moon drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream

end of Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

Sunday, August 11	Monday, August 12	Tuesday, August 13	Wednesday, August 14	Thursday, August 15	Friday, August 16	Saturday, August 17
2009—President Obama speaks inside Portsmouth HS as a 9-mm-packing Libertarian outside carries a sign implying it's "time for the "blood of patriots and tyrants." 1999—The Kansas Board of Education throws evolution over the edge of the earth. 1984—On an open mike, Ronald Reagan announces, "I have signed legislation that would outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes." 1972—The 3rd Battalion of the 21st Infantry Reg't, the last U.S. ground combat unit in Vietnam, takes the Freedom Bird home. 1968—Pitcher Satchel Paige signs with the Braves. He's 62. 1966—Canadian engineer Joseph Papp is fished out of the ocean near Brest, France, claiming his jet-powered, 300 mph submarine had sunk after crossing the ocean in 13 hours. 1965—A white cop pulls over a black motorist in LA triggering five days of riots costing 34 lives, mostly black, and destroying \$200 million in property. 1942—Patent No. 2,292,387, using modified piano rolls to protect torpedoes from radio-jamming, goes to actress Hedy Lamarr. 1894—Charles "Hobo" Kelley and his 1,200 man "army" of unemployed are driven from Washington D.C. by Federal troops.	2004—New Jersey's Democratic Gov. Tom McGreevy admits he's been sleeping with a man who is not his wife, then resigns. 2000—The Russian submarine <i>Kursk</i> is sunk in the Barents Sea, probably by its own torpedo; 112 crew members perish. 1992—The U.S., Canada, and Mexico announce that NAFTA has been finalized. 1985—The tail falls off a JAL 747 slightly damaged seven years earlier but badly repaired. Many of the 524 aboard survive the crash, but only four are rescued due to delays. 1955—Ike raises the minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1 per hour. 1953—Russia tests an H-bomb. 1935—Babe Ruth plays his last game at Fenway. 1898—The U.S. annexes Hawaii and makes peace with Spain. 1865—Joseph Lister introduces a new refinement to the art of surgery—disinfectant. 1827—William Blake is released from his earthly form. 1676—John Alderman, a Christianized "Praying Indian," shoots and kills Metacomet, aka King Philip. Alderman is awarded Metacomet's head and one hand. He later sells the head for 30 shillings to the town of Plymouth where it's kept atop a stake for 25 years. Metacom's wife and child are sold to West Indian slave traders.	2007—George W. Bush's brain announces its resignation. 2002—"I promise you I will listen to what has been said here," says George W. Bush at the President's Economic Forum in Waco, TX, "even though I wasn't here." 1980—Cuban refugees hijack an Air Florida jetliner to Cuba. 1971—Attorney General John Mitchell announces that there will be no grand jury investigation of the May 4 shootings at Kent State. 1966—"In two or three years, or even before" says S. Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Cao Ky, "the Communists will accept defeat." 1961—Construction of the Berlin Wall begins. 1948—Satchel Paige throws his first complete game for the Cleveland Indians. The 42 year old gets a 5-0 shutout. 1925—Baltimore's Chamber of Commerce accuses H.L. Mencken of damaging the city's trade with the south due to his reporting of the Scopes "monkey" trial. 1906—African-American soldiers raid Brownsville, TX to avenge racial insults. One white man is killed, two are wounded. 1899—David Terry, former Chief Justice of the CA Supreme Court, assaults U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Field. Terry is shot dead by Field's bodyguard, a U.S. Marshal later cleared of wrongdoing.	2003—Untrimmed trees and a software bug in Ohio knock out power to 55 million people from Hudson's Bay to New Jersey. 1999—George W. Bush wins an Iowa presidential straw poll where, in traditional Republican fashion, you could vote as many times as you want for \$25 a pop. 1966—"As long as the United States and our brave allies are in the field," says Lyndon B. Johnson, "[a Communist takeover of South Vietnam] is impossible." 1966—One day after Texas radio station KLUE-AM holds a public bonfire to burn Beate records, its broadcast tower is hit by lightning. 1945—Japan surrenders, ending World War II. 1936—In Owensboro, KY, at 5:30 a.m., 15,000 watch as Rainey Bethea becomes the last person publicly hanged in America. Arthur Hash, the assigned executioner, is so drunk a deputy sheriff has to pull the lever. 1923—"Felix the Cat" debuts. 1912—U.S. Marines invade Nicaragua to "protect American interests." 1901—In Fairfield, CT, Gustave Whitehead pilots an acetylene-powered aircraft about half a mile. 1862—Abe Lincoln becomes the 1st President to meet a delegation of African-Americans, whom he offends by recommending they remove to Africa.	1980—The FAA announces an increase in sky marshals on commercial flights to stem the rising tide of hijackings. 1977—Ohio State's Dr. Jerry R. Ehman records a 72-second burst representing the best evidence yet of intelligent life in the universe. It's gotta be somewhere. 1971—Richard Nixon reneges on the U.S.'s promise to redeem dollars with gold. 1969—Half a million half-naked, drugged-up baby boomers begin a three-day mud wallow in Bethel, NY. 1966—<i>The New York Herald Tribune</i>, founded as the <i>Tribune</i> by NH-born Horace Greeley 125 years earlier, succumbs to a strike called by a labor union also founded by Greeley. 1945—To celebrate the end of WW II, San Franciscans riot. 1943—About 35,000 Allied forces land on Kiska, one of the Rat Islands in the Aleutians. Though unopposed—the Japanese had evacuated two weeks earlier—300 end up missing in action or killed by friendly fire. 1935—Wiley Post and Will Rogers perish in a plane crash at Point Barrow, AK. 1877—Thomas Edison records <i>Mary Had a Little Lamb</i>. For a brief period, his hit song doesn't just top the chart, <i>it is</i> the chart.	2002—In an <i>Army Times</i> article, the commander of "Red" forces in the recent "Millennium Challenge" war games charges they were "almost entirely scripted to ensure a [U.S. military] win." 1980—Refugees hijack three jetliners to get back to Cuba. 1977—Elvis allegedly dies. 1962—Cuba outlaws anarchy. 1960—USAF Colonel Joseph Kittinger exits a balloon-lofted gondola 19.4 miles over New Mexico, falls for 4.5 minutes, reaches 714 m.p.h., and lands safely. 1951—Hundreds in Pont-Saint-Esprit, France suddenly seem to go mad. Ergotism is blamed at first. Later evidence points to LSD administered by the CIA. 1938—Hell hounds catch up to Robert Johnson. 1920—Poet Charles Bukowski is born in Andernach, Germany. 1920—Cleveland Indians shortstop Ray Chapman fails to see a pitch from the Yankees' Carl Mays. Hit in the head, he dies the next day. 1890—Myron "Grim" Natwick, creator of "Betty Boop," is born. 1819—British cavalry and Hussars attack a political meeting at St. Peter's Field in Manchester, England, killing fifteen people. 1777—General John Stark and 2,000 mostly New Hampshire militia defeat the "British" (mostly Germans, really) at Bennington.	2008—Maudie Hopkins, widow of Confederate Civil War veteran William M. Cantrell, dies. They married in 1934. He was 86, she 19. 2002—U.S. Generals admit that the U.S. assisted Iraq during its war against Iran, knowing that Saddam Hussein would "use chemical weapons against his own people." 1988—A Pakistani C-130 explodes in mid-air killing President Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq. General Pervez Musharraf, scheduled to be on-board, misses the flight. 1988—J. Danforth Quayle informs the Republican National Convention, "in 1988 the question is whether we're going forward to tomorrow or whether we're going to go past to the back!" 1965—South of Chu Lai, U.S. Marines begin Operation Starlite, the first major U.S. ground offensive of the Vietnam war. 1962—LA County Coroner declares Marilyn Monroe a suicide. 1918—In Chicago, IWW members go on trial; 95 will be imprisoned for up to 20 years. 1910—A New York sweatshop opens despite a strike. Women strikers demolish the factory. 1901—During an excursion around New York on the side-wheeler <i>General Slocum</i>, some of a party of 900 intoxicated anarchists from Paterson, NJ attempt unsuccessfully to take control of the ship.
2:30 2:54 8:40 9:04	3:14 3:38 9:22 9:52	4:02 4:27 10:08 10:45	4:57 5:22 11:01 11:44	5:57 6:23 11:59	7:03 7:27 12:47 1:01	8:09 8:31 1:52 2:05
Sunday, August 18	Monday, August 19	Tuesday, August 20	Wednesday, August 21	Thursday, August 22	Friday, August 23	Saturday, August 24
1996—The U.S. prison population hits 1,600,000, twice what it was 10 years earlier. 1989—Malcolm Forbes throws himself a \$2 million birthday party, flying 800 guests to his castle in Tangiers. 1959—Sailors aboard the <i>U.S.S. Wasp</i> bring a severe fire under control, barely averting the need to flood the ship's nuclear weapons storage space. 1933—Germany introduces the <i>Volksempfänger</i>, or Peoples' Radio. Built to Joseph Goebbels' specifications, it receives only local (Nazi-controlled) broadcasts. 1782—William Blake, poet and self-publisher, marries Catherine Sophia Boucher. He later teaches her to read. 1634—Urbain Grandier, a French priest whose sexual prowess earned him accusations from a scorned Mother Superior, is "waterboarded," then burned at the stake for witchcraft. 1590—Virginia Dare becomes the first missing white girl in the New World. 1587—Virginia Dare becomes the first white child born in the New World. 1503—Death of Pope Alexander VI, host of the infamous Ballet of the Chestnuts, whose entertainments included fifty naked prostitutes writhing on the floor.	1999—The FBI puts James "Whitey" Bulger, its partner in crime, on the Most-Wanted List. 1953—CIA-backed royalists in Iran overthrow Premier Mossadegh. 1951—St. Louis Browns owner Bill Veeck sends Eddie Gaedel in to pinch-hit for Frank Saucier. Gaedel is 43 inches tall. 1942—An Allied force of 6,000 lands at Dieppe, France. Sixty percent are killed, wounded, or captured, but planner Lord Mountbatten's censors win the PR battle. 1812—"Old Ironsides" defeats the <i>Guerriere</i>. 1791—Benjamin Banneker, "the sable genius," sends a copy of his just-published almanac to Thomas Jefferson with an admonition to practice what he preaches about the rights of all men. 1692—"Witches" George Burroughs, Martha Carrier, George Jacobs, John Proctor, and John Willard are hanged in Salem Village. 1599—The Chief of the Acoma pueblo, asked why he will not accept baptism before he is burned to death by Spanish Conquistadors, says it is because "I would go to the Christian heaven and meet even more of you people." 1503—The body of Pope Alexander VI, dead but one day, is displayed to the public: swollen, putrescent, and "without any form or likeness of humanity."	1986—Drug addict Randy Woolls helps Texas kill him by finding a good vein. 1983—Returning to the Philippines under assurances there will be no reprisals for his dissidence, Benigno Aquino is shot dead as soon as he leaves his plane. 1974—The House of Representatives votes 412-3 to recommend Articles of Impeachment against Richard Nixon. 1969—"Tired of playing for people who clap for all the wrong reasons," Frank Zappa disbands the Mothers of Invention. 1965—Keene, NH seminary student and civil rights worker Jonathan Daniels is murdered in Nayneville, AL. An all-white jury acquits his killer. 1940—In Mexico, Stalinist agent Ramon Mercader attacks Leon Trotsky with an ice ax. Trotsky tells his guards, "Do not kill him. This man has a story to tell." 1910—Above the Sheephead Bay race track in New York, Lt. Jacob E. Fickel pulls the trigger on the first gun shot from an airplane. 1904—Miners seize the town of Cripple Creek, CO and deport town officials. 1619—Jamestown, VA gets its first group of 20 African slaves. 1191—Richard the Lion Hearted's troops slaughter 3,000 Arabs in the Holy Land.	1976—Two day occupation of Seabrook, NH nuke site begins. 1963—Ngô Đình Nhu's secret police kill hundreds of Buddhist protestors across Vietnam — in defense of democracy, to be sure. 1962—CBS's "Evening News" reports on the Society for Indecency to Naked Animals, Alan Abel's most successful hoax. 1946—At Los Alamos, Physicist Harry K. Daghlion accidentally drops a tungsten carbide brick causing a plutonium core to give him a lethal burst of radiation. 1927—Supreme Court "Justice" Louis Brandeis refuses to hear a request for a stay of execution of anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti. 1920—Birth of Christopher Robin Milne, who later said, "[I]t seemed to me, almost, that my father had got to where he was by climbing upon my infant shoulders." 1863—William A. Quantrill and several hundred of his Raiders attack Lawrence, KS and kill hundreds of men, women, and children. 1841—John Hampson patents the Venetian blind. 1831—Nat Turner leads a slave rebellion in Virginia. 1791—Slaves revolt in Santo Domingo. 1621—A widow and eleven girls in Virginia are ordered sold for 120 pounds of tobacco each.	2002—A Bush Administration spokesperson announces that as punishment for selling SCUD missiles, North Korea, with which we do not trade anyway, will suffer trade sanctions. 2001—The Bush Administration, having jacked up expenses and slashed taxes, announces a baffling decrease in the federal surplus. 1992—An FBI sniper kills Vicki Weaver at Ruby Ridge in Idaho. 1991—When Derick Lynn Peterson's heart continues to beat for ten minutes after his electrocution, Virginia officials zap him again. 1976—Police arrest 179 at Seabrook, NH anti-nuke rally. 1972—Almost 900 protesters are arrested in Miami during the Republican National Convention. 1953—The last prisoners leave Devil's Island. 1952—The Justice Department sues four big U.S. oil companies for overcharging for oil shipped to Europe under the Marshall Plan. 1900—Akron rioters push the world's first police car into a canal. 1893—Birth of Dorothy Parker. At 70, she wrote, "If I had any decency, I'd be dead. Most of my friends are." 1787—John Fitch tests a steamboat on the Delaware River. 1791—Slave revolt begins in Haiti, which becomes a free black country in 1804. U.S. recognizes its sovereignty 61 years later.	2001—French stuntman Terry Do snags a parasail on the Statue of Liberty and dangles from it for 45 minutes before being rescued. 1994—British musicians Bill Drummond and Jimmy Cauty, aka "KLF," burn a million British pounds worth of currency. 1971—Future Associate Justice Lewis Powell writes to his pal, the Director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, arguing that the right wing needs to fund its own think tanks. Before long, they do. 1968—In Chicago, the Youth International Party nominates a pig for president. 1944—An American B-24 Liberator crashes into an English school and explodes, liberating 71 people from this mortal coil. 1927—Bostonians electrocute Italian anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti. 1784—Settlers gather at Jonesboro, in what is now Tennessee, to establish the state of Franklin. 1724—Jeremiah Moulton, who saw his parents scalped 32 years earlier, leads a raid on Norridgewock, killing seven Abenaki chiefs and the French priest, Sebastian Rasle. 1305—For rebelling against His Majesty King Edward, William Wallace is hanged, cut down while alive, disembowelled, then killed by beheading. His corpse is quartered, and his head displayed on a pike.	2001—Due to a fuel leak, Air Transat Flight 236, with 306 souls aboard, runs out of fuel over the Atlantic, 90 miles from the Azores. Pilots glide the plane to safety. 1980—Solidarity is founded in Gdansk. 1970—Grad student Robert Fassnacht is killed and three others are injured when peaceniks blow up a physics lab at the U. of Wisconsin. 1967—The floor of the NY Stock Exchange erupts into bedlam as capitalists scramble for 300 one-dollar bills dropped by Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin. 1960—Temperature drops to minus 126.9 at Vostok Station; lowest ever recorded on Earth. 1853—In Saratoga Springs, NY, George Crum prepares the first batch of potato chips. 1827—<i>The Mechanics Gazette</i>, first U.S. labor paper, is published in Philadelphia. By 1832 there are 68 labor newspapers. 1814—The British march unopposed into Washington and set fire to the White House and the Library of Congress. 1572—French Catholic mobs massacre thousands of Huguenots. Learning of the slaughter, Pope Gregory is so pleased he orders a day of thanksgiving. 1456—In Mainz, Germany, Gutenberg finishes printing the <i>Bible</i>. 410—Visigoths sack Rome.
9:12 9:32 2:55 3:08	10:11 10:29 3:54 4:08	11:05 11:23 4:48 5:03	11:55 5:39 5:56	12:15 12:44 6:27 6:46	1:04 1:31 7:13 7:36	1:53 2:17 7:59 8:25

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