

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

The Passion of Cliven Bundy

Return with us now to those thrilling days of ... oh, about April 10th through April 23rd, when for about a fortnight America's most pugnacious patriot, Sean Hannity, had a raging man-crush on Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy.

The paunchy, sixty-something Bundy caught Hannity's eye by "standing up" to a bunch of hired hands working for the Bureau of Land Management [BLM].

If such a broad definition of "standing up" were to be universally applied, restaurant dining would be free; you could just sit down, eat your fill, and when the waiter presented the bill you could just "stand up" to him and walk out without paying.

Of course, according to Hannity's finely tuned sense of justice, this would only apply if all restaurants were run by the Government. In a privately-owned eatery, it still would be rank theft.

Also, to do full justice to Bundy's patriotic fervor, you would have to be accompanied on your way out the door by a belligerent gang of heavily-armed friends.

The Legend of Cliven Bundy

Bundy loves to let on that his family has been running cattle around Bunkerville since the days of the Wild West. As so often seems to be the case among hyper-patriots, the facts are not quite as presented and a good deal more prosaic.*

Cliven Bundy told Glenn Beck's *TheBlaze.com*, "my family has preemptive, adjudicated livestock water rights ... established in 1877." Court records show

* Although the name Bunkerville does reek of militant paranoia, the town was named not after those reinforced underground shelters, but for its founder, Edward Bunker. A native of Atkinson, Maine, Bunker became a Mormon in 1845.

that Cliven's father, David Bundy, didn't buy his ranch in Bunkerville until 1948. Bundy père only began running cattle in 1954 and gave it up after just a few years.

An Heroic Cheapskate

Cliven Bundy resumed the practice of cattle ranching in 1973. Grazing fees on privately-owned land weren't cheap, so he turned his cattle loose on Gold Butte — Federal land where the fees were about 90 percent lower. So, for about twenty years, he was an ordinary, garden variety welfare cowboy.

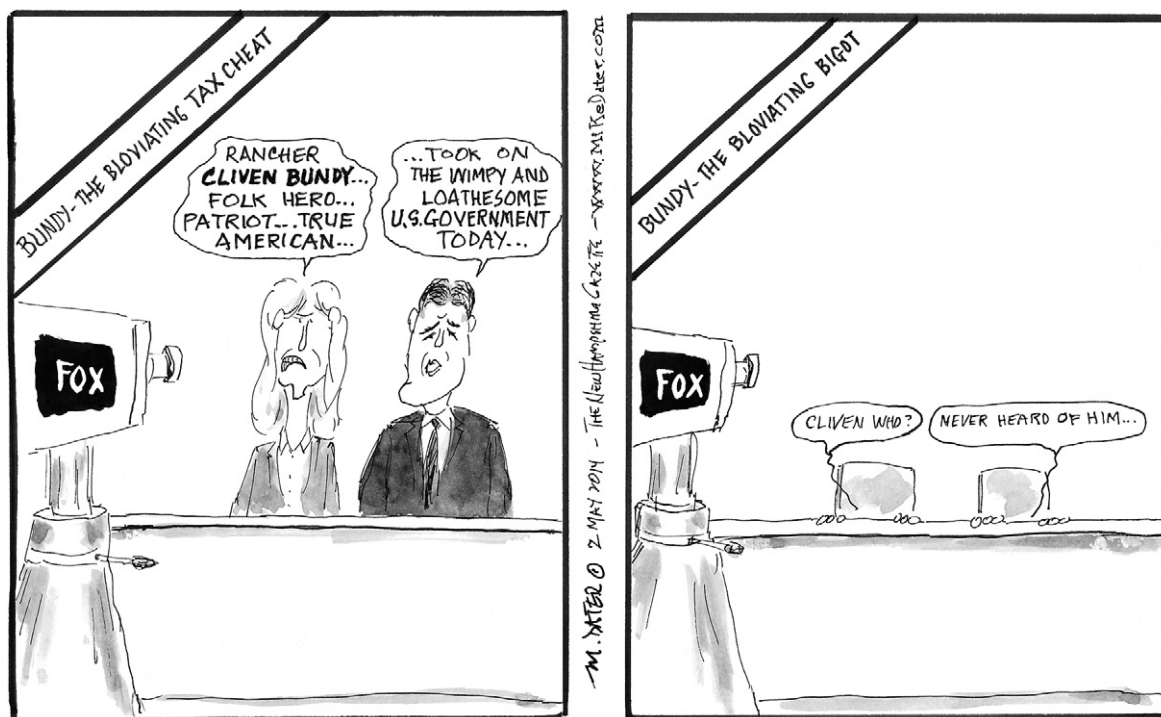
You'd think Bundy would have been grateful for this Federal generosity, but in 1993 he just quit paying altogether. From then on he was a thieving welfare cowboy.

In 1998 Clark County, citing concern for the welfare of the endangered desert tortoise, shelled out \$375,000 to buy and retire the grazing rights to Gold Butte.

Bundy countered by citing as an authority his own crackpot notion that the Federal Government does not exist and kept his cattle on Gold Butte, where they went on eating the lunch of Nevada's official State Reptile. So we can add "trespassing" and "wildlife endangerment" to his rap sheet.

In 2012 the BLM mounted an operation to impound Bundy's cattle but called it off at the last minute for fear of a violent confrontation — oh, ye paranoid bureaucrats of little faith!

Finally, in April, the BLM decided that twenty-one years of flouting the law and a million dollars worth of unpaid grazing fees were sufficient grounds to act; their jack-booted thugs started rounding up Bundy's 900 head of cattle, trampling over an area the size of Merrimack County.



The Medium is An Idiot

For failed sheetrock-hanger turned propaganda-howler Sean Hannity, any man who can simultaneously ride a horse, carry the American flag, and give the government the finger is automatically a knight in shining armor — even a bum like Bundy.

The massive contradictions between Bundy's self-image and the actual facts presented no problem for the likes of Hannity: a man whose schtick is playing a saint mortally offended by man's wicked ways, but begins his radio show with a country singer bellowing, "we'll put a boot in your ass, it's the American way."

In fawning interviews, Hannity accepted at face value Bundy's spurious claim that the land in question belongs to the state, expressed sympathy over the inadequacy of the "Free Speech Zone" provided by the BLM — a concern utterly absent during Occupy Wall Street — and feigned confusion over what he pretended was a thoroughly unnecessary confrontation rashly engineered by the Federal Government. What

ought to win Hannity an Emmy for Disengenuousness, though, was the way he said — in the midst of this barrage of provocation — "we've gotta defuse this."

Hannity's show is sponsored in large part by the Koch-funded Heritage Foundation, which has long argued that the Government should sell off most of the land it holds. He would never stoop to manufacture a bogus issue just to cater to his sugar daddies, though, so that must be merely a coincidence.

New Hampshire's Finest

The breathless, non-stop coverage of this farce was a siren song to Government haters around the country, among them New Hampshire's own Jerry DeLemus and five other Granite Staters. The founder of the Rochester chapter of Glenn Beck's paranoia-fest, the 9-12 Project, DeLemus was named head of security at Bundy Ranch.

"You Win, We Quit" — BLM

It was a standoff: Bundy the squeaky-voiced Mormon, his fourteen children, and a horde of other lawless weirdos includ-

ing the Bible-quoting DeLemus, face-to-face with the BLM and the full force of the U.S. government. To avoid a second Waco, the BLM backed off and gave back Bundy's mooching cattle.

It was a great victory for rampant thuggery; the rule of law is off whimpering in a corner.

Uh, Woops ...

A few days later a *New York Times* reporter was actually paying attention when Bundy put his nasty boot in his mouth: blacks, he said, might have been better off when they were slaves. That shocked a lot of people, though to be fair, it's not that much crazier than anything else he said. Thus ended the show: Fox shut off Bundy's mike like he was Noam Chomsky.

Patriotic Anarchy

So it's OK for a freeloading scofflaw with Chronic Hereditary Entitlement Syndrome to gather an army of armed knuckleheads who want to play John Wayne in a movie scripted by Ayn Rand; anarchists can be heroic American patriots if they're Right Wing enough. Just don't be overtly racist.

The Alleged News

They're Trying to Head Us Off at the Pass

The internet has yet to deliver even a fraction of its potential as a tool for fostering greater democracy and equality. That's probably why Comcast and the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] are trying to kill it now: if they wait, it could be too late.

On May 15, the FCC will take up the issue of whether internet broadband carriers and Web content providers should be allowed to negotiate "pay-for-priority" traffic agreements.

Critics say such rules would create a two-tier internet in which the haves would be able to drown out the have-nots.

Internet Service Providers [ISPs] such as Comcast, in partic-

ular, would be in a position to give preferential treatment to major corporations, thus putting smaller content providers at a great competitive disadvantage.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler says this is all nonsense: "[B]ehavior harmful to consumers or competition by limiting the openness of the Internet will not be permitted."

Many proponents of "net neutrality" — the principle that all internet traffic must be treated equally — put little faith in Wheeler's assurances, apparently due to his résumé.

According to Wikipedia, before being named to head the FCC "Wheeler worked as a ven-

ture capitalist and lobbyist for the cable and wireless industry, with prior positions including President of the National Cable Television Association (NCTA) and CEO of the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association (CTIA). In recognition of his work in promoting the growth and prosperity of the cable television industry and its stakeholders, he was inducted into the Cable Television Hall of Fame."

See, that's the trouble with the internet — all that access to information makes people suspicious.

For example, let's look at a few perfectly benign facts about Meredith Baker. It takes but a few minutes to determine that Baker,

an FCC Commissioner from August of 2009 until June, 2013, played a key role in approving the 2011 merger of Comcast and NBC. Four months later, Comcast hired Baker as a lobbyist.

There was absolutely nothing inappropriate about that, but with all those loose facts so readily accessible, excitable people were bound to get upset.

What this country really needs is a way to improve the delivery of more wholesome entertainment — "America's Got Talent," for example, or "Law & Order" — over the internet. That ought to distract those excitable types from the petty little things that get them upset.

Knowing there are some excitable types among our readership, we have located a petition to the FCC, through which readers may express their desire to have continued, unfettered access to said material: dailykos.com/campaigns/785.

No Surprise, No Comfort

According to a *Boston Globe* story published April 6th, which had evaded our notice until now, the derailment of fourteen cars of a Pan Am train in Westford, MA last February was "caused by a track problem."

Quoting an aide to U.S. Sena-

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The Alleged News
from page one

tor Niki Tsongas, the paper wrote that "Pan Am Railways could be fined up to \$5,000 for a widened track just before the site of the derailment."

"One of the major causes of derailments is widening of the track gauge due to weakened ties," according to the Federal Railway Administration, "thereby allowing the pair of rails to spread too far apart from each other under load and causing the wheels of a passing train to drop between the rails." [*Emphasis added.*]

About the only reassurance we can offer to readers who are worried about trainloads of propane gas rolling on Pan Am's rails through the North End is, "don't look too closely at the ties."

Grifters On Parade

What is it about New Hampshire's Republican Party?

Matt Mowers, the current Executive Director, was subpoenaed on Tuesday. He'll have to testify under oath before a joint legisla-

tive committee about Governor Chris Christie's BridgeGate imbroglio.

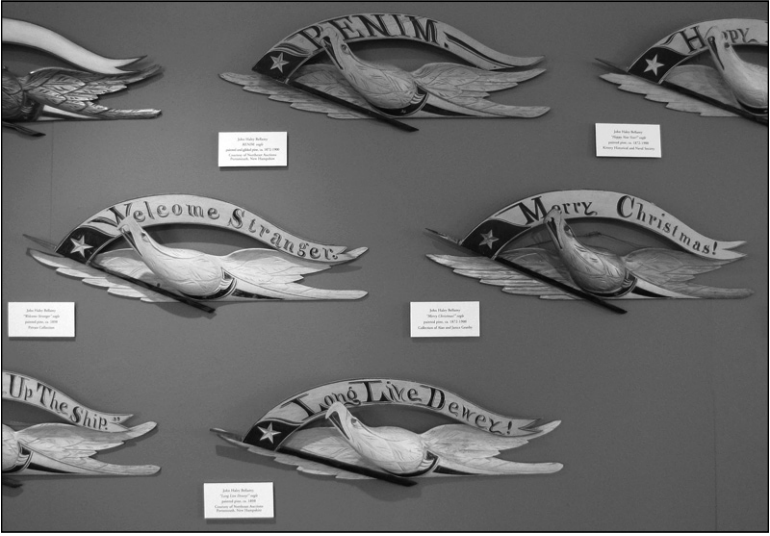
Mowers was running the North Jersey end of Christie's re-election campaign at the very time the traffic going from North Jersey across the George Washington Bridge was being throttled down for political purposes. Of course, that may be just a coincidence. Mowers has not been charged with doing anything illegal.

It's just a little embarrassing for the NHGOP — at least so one would think. On the other hand, after the donnybrook surrounding Jack Kimball's chairmanship, the Party may now be immune to any form of shame.

There are some signs that the Party may have come to accept and embrace its more sordid side.

When Walt Havenstein, the Maryland resident now running for Governor, made his official announcement, he was flanked by former NH Governors Craig Benson and Steve Merrill.

So far as we know, that was the first time Benson has emerged



Discover Portsmouth has mounted another stunning exhibit, this one featuring the iconic eagles carved by a local artisan. *Bold & Brash: The Art of John Haley Bellamy*, will be up through October 3rd.



from the shadows since November, 2005, when, for the first time in 76 years, voters denied a sitting New Hampshire Governor his bid for a second term.

And for good reason — Benson's one term in office was just one embarrassment after another. After running the most expensive gubernatorial campaign in state history, Benson brought in his cronies to work in secret, signed shady "no-bid" contracts, and punished a state worker who cited him for illegally excavating beach sand at his home in Rye. In a parting display of bad manners, Benson failed to call Lynch on election night to offer congratulations.

Merrill, for his part, was Attorney General when John C. Fairbanks, a Newport lawyer and judge, fled just before he was to be indicted.

Finally, of course, there's Mowers' predecessor, former Executive Director Chuck McGee: seven months in the can for phone-jamming the 2002 Senate race.

Bold & Brash:
The Art of John Haley Bellamy

The largest and most dramatic exhibit of works by New England woodcarver John Haley Bellamy (1836-1914) will be at Discover Portsmouth until October, 2014. *Bold & Brash: The Art of John Haley Bellamy* explores the life and work of the man best known for his iconic and highly collectible American eagle carvings. The retrospective marks the centennial of Bellamy's death and is highlighted by the release of a comprehensive and colorful new hardcover book by exhibit curator James Craig. *American Eagle: The Bold Art and Brash Life of John Haley Bellamy* debunks many myths, uncovers the secrets, and explores the legacy of the successful Yankee artist from Kittery Point, Maine. Widely considered the pinnacle of American woodcarving, Bellamy eagles rank among such hallowed national symbols as the Statue of Liberty, the White House, and Old Glory.

Discover Portsmouth is located

at 10 Middle Street, Portsmouth, and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, with extended hours until 8 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Admission to the exhibit is \$8 and free to Portsmouth Historical Society members, children under 12, and active military personnel and their families. Group discounts are available. For more information call (603) 436-8433.

On Friday, May 9th, Craig will give a gallery talk titled, "American Eagle: A New Look at the Life & Art of John Haley Bellamy." On Saturday, June 14th, Richard M. Candee, will discuss Bellamy's Pepperrell Mansion & Sparhawk Hall in Kittery. All gallery talks begin at 11 a.m. in the Academy Gallery at Discover Portsmouth. Gallery talk seating is limited — please call to reserve your seat (603) 436-8433.

This exhibit deserves a leisurely tour — if you leave it without seeing the cunning device that Bellamy invented for making notes in the dark, you haven't given it enough time.

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Wealth Gap Discussion May 15

The effect of increasing wealth inequality in the United States will be the focus of a talk Thursday, May 15th, at 7 p.m. at the Portsmouth Library.

“For three decades we’ve been steadily reducing taxes on the wealthy,” according to Chuck Collins, a senior researcher at the Boston-based Institute for Policy Studies and founder of United for a Fair Economy. He helped lead a lively discussion at the library several years ago on the economy’s meltdown.

An expert on wealth inequality, Collins’ most recent book is *99 to 1*. He speaks widely on the impact of the greatest concentration of wealth in the country since 1928 — a year before the beginning of the Great Depression.

Collins and Bill Gates Sr. organized more than 100 millionaires and billionaires who shared concerns about the nation’s growing wealth distribution discrepancies. The two also co-authored *Wealth and Our Commonwealth*. Both efforts were focused on maintain-

ing the Federal tax on inherited wealth.

According to the Pew Research Center, 1 percent of families in the United States received 11 percent of income in 1982, and more than 22 percent of income in 2012.

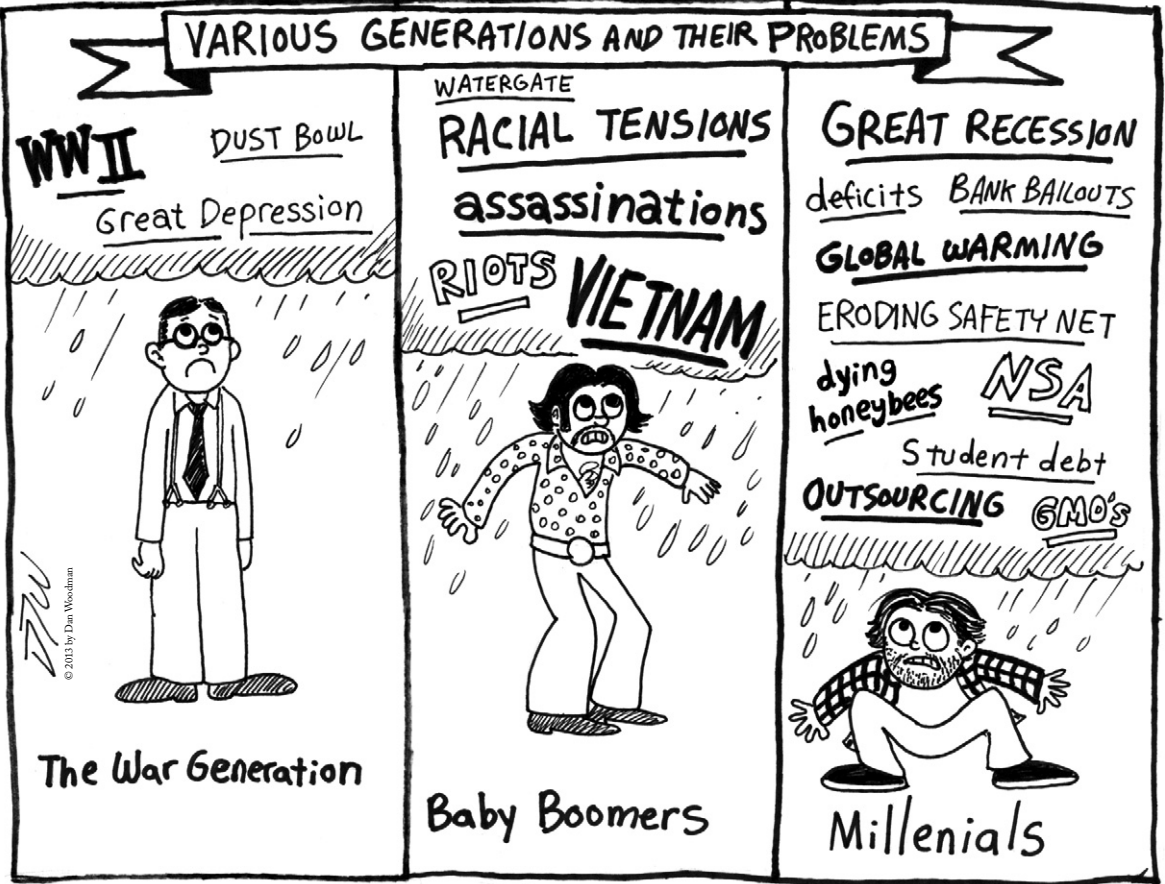
The May 15 discussion, “Wealth Inequality — How it Undermines Our Economy, Democracy and Health and What We Can Do About It,” is sponsored by the Seacoast Alliance for Democracy, Seacoast Coalition of Concerned Citizens, and Seacoast Occupy. It is free and open to the public.

Goodby, Dear Colleagues

It is with deep and genuine sadness that we bid goodbye to our paper-based colleague, *The Wire*.

After an admirable ten-year run, the Portsmouth-based arts and culture and politics and entertainment and disturbing pictures tabloid has ceased publication.

The Wire takes its leave with the same style, grace, and humor that delighted its readers for the past decade, with a formal declaration — and a great big fish — available online at wirednh.com.



This sad news is significantly tempered by unofficial word that the staff will remain in the community. We look forward to seeing what they get up to next.

A Small Milestone

We are all at once pleased, surprised, and gratified to announce that this issue marks fifteen years since we resumed regularly-scheduled publication here in Portsmouth.

The New Hampshire Gazette was founded here in 1756 by Daniel Fowle. Fowle’s only children died in infancy. He left the *Gazette* to a former apprentice, the first of some two dozen owners. In 1960 it was merged with the *Portsmouth Herald*. In 1989 Fowle’s third cousin five times removed, the present Alleged Editor, discovered that the rights to the paper’s tradename were not properly secured. He acquired those rights for \$40. At the time, the owner of the *Herald* was Lord Kenneth [Thompson] of Fleet, the world’s

ninth-richest man.

Publication resumed on a small scale from Hillsborough, New Hampshire; the schedule being more episodic than periodical.

On May 1, 1999, we reintroduced *The Nation’s Oldest Newspaper™* — and New Hampshire’s first — to Portsmouth, the town of its birth. Neither we, nor the town, really knew what to expect.

Now, fifteen years, 390 editions, and approximately two million copies later, words almost fail us. We are indebted beyond measure to our readers, to our advertisers, and, most of all, to those charming and amusing people listed on our masthead, without whom none of this would have been possible.

The Flag Police

Thanks to the hasty emergency deputization of a cousin of Sergeant Krupke, the long arm of the Flag Police was recently able to extend all the way across the Connecticut River and into Vermont.



The wretched banner whose tattered remnants may be seen above was recently spotted feebly flapping above the Antiques Collaborative, Inc. Despite this blatant display of shameless stinginess, the business bills itself as “Vermont’s premier Antiques and Fine Arts center ... [and] an upscale multi-dealer antiques ... situated in the historic village of Quechee.”

A box of donuts to Sergeant Krupke’s cousin in Marlboro — and raspberries to Quechee.



Richard M. Candee will speak at Discover Portsmouth on Saturday, June 14th about this shell cupboard built by John Haley Bellamy during the 1868 restoration of Sparhawk Hall.

6/29/31

Getting a Leg Up on the Competition

A Great Moment in Gender Equality

There are large glasses and there are small glasses but when the local Moose Lodge held an outing, even the largest glass could not keep local contender Mildred Cuddeback from entering the famed beer drinking contest, where (much to the surprise of onlookers) she took home the blue ribbon.

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Positions Available

To the Editor:

Working too hard, yet finding yourself underpaid and underappreciated? Well, I may have found the ultimate gig for you! There are currently two temporary positions available that may lead to more permanent positions which offer: a starting annual salary of \$174,000 and an extremely generous benefits package to include an abundance of paid vacation & time off, the best healthcare offered in America and the promise of a great retirement plan.

Do you view yourself to be a problem solver with a vision for the future? If so, feel free to leave the mention of those skills outside the door as they won't be required!

Are you incapable of seeing another person's point of view and does vilifying others, to lend the impression that you can walk on water, come naturally easy to you?

Were you taught that "compromise" is just another four-letter word while "no" is the most underrated word in the English language?

Are you able to strictly adhere to a script that defies all reason, logic and human decency and can you beat the same proverbial dead horse at least 50 times before growing bored and weary?

Can you draw a straight line from A-Z while skipping B-Y? How are you at pulling cause and effect out of thin air?

Have you convinced yourself that Viagra, Cialis and penis pumps should be a shared tax burden while disapproving the same handling of in-vitro fertilization or birth control?

Do you value diversity and equal opportunity, particularly that of wealthy, white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant males with ties to Big Oil, Big Agriculture, Big Pharma and the Health Insurance & Defense Industries?

How skillful are you at convincing one to bite off one's nose in spite of one's face?

If you are confident that you meet the above qualifications better than Scott Brown or Frank Guinta, then you need to immediately contact the head of the Republican National Committee to express your strong interest in being selected as the 2014 Republican nominee to make a run at becoming the next U.S. Senator or First District Congressperson for New Hampshire.

Wayne Merritt
Dover, NH

§

Teapublicans and Racism

To the Editor:

I will grant you this: not all Teapublicans are racists. But almost all use the dog-whistle messaging we are so familiar with such as "welfare queen," "inner city culture problems," and other coded racial terms. Which in my mind is kind of cowardly. Then cowboy Cliven Bundy rides up on his horse and becomes an instant folk hero to the tea-baggers 'cause he won't pay his bills to the U.S. of A. 'cause he don't recognize the U.S. of A. as a legit gubmint (how convenient when you owe it money) this despite the fact he bedecks and festoons himself with the Stars and Stripes. He sucks on our collective teat (more than any "welfare queen" ever did) and gets away with it because he and his ditto-head followers have lotsa guns not to mention the

backing and grotesque goading of Fox "News." Hell, blockhead Sean Hannity was his best pal for a few halcyon days!

Then 'ole Cliven opens his mouth and tells us what he really thinks. And he is totally honest! No couching things in dog whistle terms for this guy. No sa! Just out and out racism! Seems Clive knows what's good for "the Negro."

I won't say Cliven Bundy is the Tea Party. But I suspect he represents a majority of it. And I applaud him for being honest. And if anyone had half a brain, they would offer him a reality show. It would blow away the like-minded Duck Dynasty or anything sister-in-arms Sarah Palin could ever come up with.

Robert "Wheel Gun Bob" Ford

Portsmouth, NH

§

God Help Us

To the Editor:

I hope that you're enjoying your fast-food burger. It comes with an extra helping of corporate deception.

According to the *Boston Globe* (February 18th), the median pay for front-line fast food workers is \$8.94 per hour. Oh well, you say, those pitiful wages are going to fresh-faced, perky teenagers who are saving for college. Wrong. Seventy percent of these workers are over the age of 20. Of that 70 percent, a third have a college degree.

To make matters worse, we, the taxpayers, make up the shortfall in their salaries. Fully half of fast-food workers' families depend on government aid at a cost of \$7 billion per year. That's corporate welfare pure and simple. We're paying part of McDonald's workers' salaries.

Maybe, you say, the problem is that McDonalds can't afford to pay higher salaries. Not so. According to the *Globe*, "Little in the

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL,

McDonald's financial statements indicates it can't afford to pay employees more. In 2012, net income topped \$5 billion, and the company paid out another \$5.5 billion in dividends and stock buybacks."

Could it be that if salaries were increased, McDonald's would have to raise prices so much that it would drive away customers? The *Globe* notes, "It's not likely. Economists at UC Berkeley have estimated a \$15 wage would cost consumers about 10 percent more."

As a matter of fact, In-N-Out Burger, a West Coast regional chain, offers workers better pay and benefits and still does quite well. The *Globe* writes, "In-N-Out takes pride in paying starting employees \$10.50 an hour, and within a few months most are making at least \$2 more. The company offers benefits including vision, medical, and dental for part-time and full-time associates.... And In-N-Out's 280 locations brought in \$651 million in sales in 2012, which is more than twice the per-store average at Dunkin' Donuts' 7,360 US localities."

So, the evidence here argues that increasing the minimum wage would benefit large numbers of Americans, get fast-food companies off corporate welfare, and do little, if any, financial harm to big business.

Yet, Republicans in Congress in their zeal to protect corporations and wealthy Americans remain adamantly opposed to increasing the minimum wage. And so, as a result, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Apparently, the Republicans' dream is to create an America not unlike Dickens' England with a few rich Scrooges at the top and many poor Bob Cratchits and Tiny Tims at the bottom.

To paraphrase the words of

Tiny Tim, if the Republicans' dream comes true, "God help us, each and every one."

Gary Patton
Hampton, NH

Gary:

Isn't it just amazing how resilient some lies can be? How do they do it?

The Editor

§

Caveat Emptor

To the Editor:

As the election season heats up we need to brace against the coming multi-media typhoon. Let us not forget the old adage, caveat emptor.

Most are familiar with the term — let the buyer beware. It is a part of GOP philosophy — all regulations are bad, the Consumer Protection Agency has too much power, and let's strip away routes of recourse for average citizens who have been wronged.

Historically, the term addressed a situation where businesses didn't always "play fair" or provide their customers with honest information. It meant that buyers were on their own and if cheated it was their fault. You get the picture, kind of like the way Republicans feel about the unemployed.

For the election season we need to add "let the voter beware" to our political lexicon. The special interest slime is already oozing into our homes. This is especially true if you are a woman and an independent. The GOP has targeted you! They think that you are either politically uninformed or will be influenced by slick political spin so they never give you their real reason for opposition/obstruction.

Take the minimum wage as one example. Republicans claim that the reason they oppose raising the minimum wage is because it will kill jobs rather than the truth that their base doesn't want to spend

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And Other Correspondence

the extra money. This would not be the first time the minimum wage was raised and not the first time the GOP has opposed it for the same reason but it would be the first time a rise in the minimum wage has caused the loss of a lot of jobs.

Equal pay for women who do equal work is another issue that produces Republican specious and disingenuous reasoning. They claim that passing this legislation will limit women's job opportunities and upward mobility. Of course it has nothing to do with costing the business community more money or possibly upsetting the status quo.

Finally, the topic of healthcare reform, which disproportionately affects women, provides a seemingly endless stream of phony and flimsy reasons for why it is "harmful to women".

If the Affordable Care Act did nothing more than eliminate the premium women had to pay for being a woman, allow Mothers to keep their kids on their policy until age 26, and do away with the preexisting condition clause and the lifetime payout cap, it would still be extremely beneficial for women.

How the GOP translates these initiatives into something bad for women and a reason they should vote against Democrats is a mental condition that no healthcare system will ever cure.

Dave Potter
North Hampton, NH

§

Heath Care Hypocrisy

To the Editor:

One of the Republicans' most basic laments about the Affordable Care Act (ACA)/Obamacare is that there should be less government interference with the free market system of healthcare and insurance. But they have no

problem talking out of the other side of their collective mouths to criticize the ACA. They complain that people have had their old insurance canceled, which has happened, partly due to controls in the ACA like eliminating lifetime caps, and they claim prices have gone up which is largely untrue. But the basic point is that before the ACA, in a free insurance market, people regularly had insurance canceled and anyone with any sense of what has happened to insurance rates knows that they regularly were increased.

I understand liberals like me complaining that that the ACA did not go far enough in instituting controls on the health insurance market, but it's a little strange to hear Republicans attacking the law because it interferes with the free market and then also complaining because it allows insurance companies to continue free market activities like canceling policies or raising prices.

And then there is the Republicans' fact-bending claim that the ACA takes money away from Medicare. This relates to Medicare Advantage plans created in the Bush administration because, the Republicans claimed, substituting commercial insurance for existing Medicare would produce free market competition and lower costs. Despite that claim, the law provided for "start up" subsidies from the Federal Government to the commercial insurers who offered these plans. Medicare Advantage has been more expensive for the Federal Government than basic Medicare and all that the ACA does is remove some of the excessive Federal subsidy--government payments to commercial insurance companies. So the Republicans apparently want the government to subsidize the "free market" that costs more than the

government operated Medicare insurance.

These intellectual inconsistencies demonstrate that the Republican opposition to the ACA is based on politics not principle. What a surprise!

Robert Wilkinson
Portsmouth, NH

§

More Help for Veterans

To the Editor:

To Senators Shaheen and Ayotte and Congresswoman ShearPorter:

I received a beautiful, heartfelt message the other day from an out-of-state friend of mine, Garrett, an Iraq War Veteran. Knowing that he and I share a love and respect for Mother Nature and the great outdoors, he wrote to seek my assistance with gaining the support of my representatives and fellow New Hampshire citizens on a bill that would provide free lifetime access to U.S. national parks to all disabled military veterans. My friend actually had the opportunity recently to deliver an impassioned plea to the U.S. Congress in support of the said bill.

Like many veterans of the efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan or any other past wars, Garrett faced many challenges in his transition back to civilian life following his return from Iraq. He spoke of battles with "anxiety, depression and an aversion to crowded areas." Although my friend had nothing but praise for the assistance provided by the VA, he said he found his peace, for which I can totally relate, and owed his recovery primarily to hiking the trails in various national parks.

Garrett informed me that access to these parks for outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, rock climbing, kayaking can be cost prohibitive for many veterans who are struggling with any kind of disability. I find this very sad and unfortunate since I personally

understand the important role physical fitness and outdoor activity has played in my life.

With no shortage of scientific evidence to back his cause, my friend chose to cite a recent study performed by the University of Michigan which found, "Veterans participating in extended outdoor group recreation show signs of improved mental health, suggesting a link between the activities and long-term psychological well-being."

I promised Garrett that I would request that my New Hampshire representatives please bipartisanly support the bill which would allow our disabled veterans free access to our national parks such as New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest and Yosemite. I strongly believe that these individuals, who have sacrificed so much, deserve nothing less.

Thank you for considering our request.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, NH

Wayne:

Even this Congress ought to be able to pass HR-3976, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act.

The Editor

§

It's The End of the World!

To the Editor:

Nightmare! Horror Show! Train Wreck! Disaster! Castastrophe! A rolling calamity that must be stopped! The Republican propaganda about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is reminiscent of the regularly scheduled predictions of the apocalypse by confused individuals and/or conmen throughout history.

The oldest known prediction of the end of the world is recorded on Assyrian tablets in the 26th century BCE: "Our Earth is degenerate in these later days; there are signs that the world is speedily coming to an end; bribery and corruption are common; children no longer obey their parents; ev-



ery man wants to write a book and the end of the world is evidently approaching."

Despite the dire predictions, the technical challenges of the open enrollment period, and some needed adjustments, ACA is going on and it is working. Millions of Americans who could not afford health insurance are now covered. And they don't have to worry about pre-existing conditions or life time limits or being charged more because of being a woman.

Yes, even if children don't always obey their parents, or if Republicans continue to tell lies, or if the ACA makes health security and peace of mind affordable for millions of people, the world does not seem to end. When will we figure that out, stop living in fear and allow common sense to prevail?

Cynthia Muse
Rye, NH

§

IRS Abuse

To the Editor:

Time Magazine published an article this week exposing the fact that \$1 million dollars in bonuses was paid out to IRS employees who owed back taxes. I'm pretty sure if I owed back taxes the IRS would be knocking on my door and threatening to garnish my wages.

Why are IRS employees treated

More Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Northcountry Chronicle

Reprieve

by William Marvel

As winters went in my youth, the last one was not so bad. About once a year we used to see the mercury plunge to 45 degrees below zero, and at least two or three times we would awaken to 30-below. Percy Frye, who collected the South Conway students in his station wagon, would open his store early for us when the thermometer dropped that low, so we could wait for the bus to Conway without freezing, but if it wasn't below zero we were expected to rely on the coats, boots, hats, and mittens we had received for Christmas. By our early teens we had fallen victim to a fashion sense that dictated light jackets, loafers, and bare heads and hands for red-blooded American boys, but our adolescent affectations elicited no additional sympathy from Percy.



It was the duration of the cold rather than its severity that made it so difficult to endure: such weeks-long marathons are rare now. It felt like there was a lot of snow, but most of it fell in February and March. It lay four feet deep in my field on the first of April, but photographs taken here in 1957 show a six-foot lumber pile and a 1950 Chevrolet pickup truck completely buried in that same field. I think it was five winters ago that our annual snowfall exceeded ten feet, and our Kennett senior had the chore of shoveling the path around the house: by March all you could see from the kitchen window was the snow flying over the banks, and occasionally the tip of her shovel.

So why did this year feel so grueling? I suppose, to begin with, I greet every winter as another struggle against the Grim Reaper. Unlike those who see cold and

snow as nothing more than an opportunity for recreation, I recognize it as Nature's way of trying to cull the various herds of the weak and inattentive, including the one to which I belong. I'm all for that, actually, and by dint of careful preparation I try to merit the right of survival, but the trial grows a little more challenging each year.

I can thank my insurance company for part of the increasing difficulty. Some years ago their inspector saw the red coloring from my new brick chimney leaching onto the steel roof and assumed it was rust, calling it "roof damage" that I had to "repair" before they would renew my policy. I painted it, which made it just tacky enough that it no longer shed snow, and since then I've had to spend anywhere from one to four hours raking it after every storm, to prevent real damage from ice buildups.

The cold clung so stubbornly last spring that I burned about a cord and a half of the wood I had stockpiled for this winter. Under normal circumstances I should still have had enough left, but the prolonged arctic weather ate up all of it by late February. Until the second week of April I was snowshoeing down toward the swamp every day or so to cut down another dead tree or dice up a blown-down top, hauling it up to the house in four-foot sections.

Aggravating these additional tasks was the flurry of solicitations that were filling my mailbox from insurance companies that wanted to sell me supplemental health policies during my open-enrollment period for Medicare coverage. Nor was it especially gratifying to find constant reminders of the benefits I might realize by joining AARP — although I confess that their dis-

count for bulk purchases of ibuprofen was somewhat inviting. At least I didn't lack for paper to start each morning's fire.

So it was perhaps circumstances beyond the harshness of the winter that made the Easter weekend seem particularly appealing. Most of the snow was gone, and on Saturday night I had to shoo a good-sized bear away from my perplexed chickens: I chased him off with a couple of snowballs, the first of which he chased as though he mistook it for play, and truth be told I would have been glad to play "fetch" with him. An hour later a flock of robins stopped in the yard on their way somewhere, and on Sunday morning a pair of bluebirds inspected the house near the garden. A woodpecker clambered up the pole and scared them away, but it all seemed to testify that winter's mortal purpose really has been averted for another six months.

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

differently? It seems the all too familiar reason is that they work for the government and the government treats "their own" differently. If you are ever audited by the IRS, you are guilty until proven innocent and often the best course of action is to simply roll over and pay whatever they ask. That's state-sponsored extortion. It doesn't matter if you are right or not — it will cost you more in time and money to try to prove you are right. With a tax code approaching 80,000 pages that's pretty much impossible.

It is time to eliminate the IRS and the oppressive income tax and switch to something that is simple, fair and visible. Some-

thing that is easy to administer, easy to comply with and difficult to cheat. That solution is the FairTax. A national retail sales tax with no tax on the basic necessities of life. No IRS, no income tax and millions of new jobs.

James R. Donnell
Cameron Park, CA
James:
H.L. Mencken, who died 58 years ago, was a very smart guy. (He had a few personal prejudices that would get him in trouble today, but) Apparently he was prescient enough to see the FairTax proposal coming; he once wrote, "For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple, and wrong."
The Editor

Help Celebrate the LMB!
To the Editor:
The Leftist Marching Band of Portsmouth will celebrate its 10th anniversary on May 23-24, 2014, with a weekend of musical events. As its key event of the weekend, the band invites the Seacoast community to the Saturday night 10th Anniversary Bash featuring performances by the LMB and some guest musicians, a slide show highlighting favorite moments in band history, an LMB trivia contest, birthday cake, and a cash bar. The Anniversary Bash will take place at the Portsmouth VFW Post 168, 238 Deer Street, on May 24, 7:30-11:30 PM. Attendees must be over 21. Entry is

free, with donations to the Common Table, a Portsmouth program providing meals for all the hungry, gladly accepted.
The band started in 2004 as a "pep band for the left" during the presidential campaign that pitted Sen. John Kerry against first-term incumbent President George W. Bush. Since then, the LMB has taken on causes as varied as campaign finance reform, climate change, pay equity, health care reform, gay marriage rights, and public beach access, or what the band refers to as "the good causes." For 10 years the LMB has appeared seemingly out of nowhere to play on the streets of Portsmouth, with occasional forays as far afield

as Concord, Manchester, Exeter, Portland, and Boston. The LMB has been a consistent performer in the annual HONK! festival of street bands in Somerville, MA. Most recently, the LMB marched with the Veterans for Peace in the Saint Patrick's Peace Parade in South Boston.
The LMB is an open band with no discernible structure. The group has welcomed a wide range of players over its 10 year history. One of the LMB's mottos is "Our music is better than it sounds." Band representative Charkee Magee says, "It's been a great 10 years, and we really want to celebrate with our community. We don't know exactly who or where

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Don't Shut The Post Office, Expand Their Services

by Jim Hightower

What's the matter with the Post Office? The U.S. Postal Service, I mean — the corporate hierarchy that runs this enormously popular public institution. Yes, I know that USPS has lost revenue it traditionally got from First-Class mail delivery, but I also know that letter carriers and postal workers have offered many excellent ideas

for expanding the services that USPS can deliver, thus increasing both revenue and the importance of maintaining these community treasures. Yet, the Postal Board of Governors, which includes corporate interests that would profit by killing the public service, seems intent on — guess what? — killing it. The Board's only "idea" is to cut services and shut down hundreds of local Post Offices. Incredibly,

their list of closures include the historic Post Office in Philadelphia's Old City, the very building where Ben Franklin presided as our country's first Postmaster General, appointed by the Continental Congress in 1775. All across the country, Post Offices that are invaluable artistic and historic assets are slated to be sold to developers. One is the marvelous 1935 Bronx Post Office, with classic architectural flourishes and

13 museum-worthy murals. "It's not just a Post Office," says one customer fighting the closure, "it's part of my life." No one feels that way about a Fed Ex warehouse. Yet, says a USPS spokeswoman dismissively, the four-story building is "severely underused." So, use it! Put a coffee shop in it, a public internet facility, a library and museum, a one-stop government services center — and, as USPS employees have suggested,

a public bank offering basic services to the thousands of neighborhood people ignored by commercial banks. Come on, USPS, show a little creativity and gumption, and remember that "service" is a key part of your name! § Copyright 2014 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laura@jimhightower.com) for more information. §



The Leftist Marching Band to Celebrate Ten Years of Raucus Fun

they are, but we hope to see many former LMBers, friends, and fans on May 23-24, and they should definitely be ready to party." The LMB's music covers a wide range of genres, from punk and heavy metal to Sousa marches, waltzes, klezmer, and jazz. One of the band's specialties is "relyric-

ing" songs, and instrumentation can be creative, combining horns, percussion, and saxophones with violin, guitar, and kazoo. For more information about the LMB 10th Anniversary Bash, visit the band on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/leftistmarchingband) or at www.leftistmarch-

ingband. Carrie Stearns for the Leftist Marching Band Carrie: The Leftist Marching Band is this newspaper's favorite musical ensemble. We congratulate you, and wish you all the longevity in the world. The Editor

Cheating the Reaper

for Kazunori Takenaga
February 5th, 1968 — June 23rd, 2011

This is the building, Ken.
This is the place
where our lives nearly ended.
My fault. I got careless.
That NVA gunner was aiming at me,
but all I got was a hell of a headache,
a couple of cuts, tinnitus,
a cheap Purple Heart.
You nearly bought the farm
(one of our multiple euphemisms:
buying the farm, getting wasted,
six feet of soil — the language scared teenaged kids invent
to pretend that none of it's real).

But here we are in a vibrant city
forty-three years later:
two ex-Marines shaking our heads
in wonder at what we survived
and what we are seeing now:
a five-story four-star hotel,
scooter rental and coffee shop
instead of a house we'd commandeered
for a makeshift battalion CP,
a cinderblock wall
enclosing a littered yard.

Who would have thought
the day that RPG exploded
we'd live to see this day,
this house, this city, Vietnam?
Who would have thought
we'd ever want to come back
or be happy because we'd lost?

This is the very building, Ken.
This is where we almost died
for nothing that mattered,
but didn't.

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Larry Garland JAZZ JAM @ 6PM
6 Kate Redgate 9PM, NO COVER
Hoot Meister
Pint Night: 6-9pm
7 Ian McFeron 9PM, NO COVER
wed 8 Old Soul and Jonah Tolchin 9PM, NO COVER
thu 9 Waylon Speed with Whale Oil 9PM, \$7/\$10
fri 10 Jay Farrar 8PM, SOLD OUT
sa 11 Pitchblak Brass Band 10PM, \$10
JazzGrill SJS "Q&A" 430-530
12 Yoko Miwa Trio & Ryan Parker Trio 6-9PM
sun 13 Quilt with Lisa/Liza 8PM, \$7/\$10
mon 14 Sean Corcoran 9PM, NO COVER
TUE HOOT (OPEN MIC) 9PM, NO COVER
Pint Night: 6-9pm
15 MMF 9PM, NO COVER
wed 16 Beat Night 9pm, downstairs
Jazz/Poetry 7-9pm, upstairs
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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, May 4	Monday, May 5	Tuesday, May 6	Wednesday, May 7	Thursday, May 8	Friday, May 9	Saturday, May 10
2004—The U.S. Army reveals that 10 prisoner deaths and 10 abuse cases in Iraq and Afghanistan are under criminal investigation. 1989—Col. Oliver North of the U.S.M.C. is convicted of four felonies in the Iran-Contra scandal. He later escapes punishment due to Congressional ineptitude. 1970—Troops of the Ohio National Guard shoot and kill four students at Kent State. 1961—The Freedom Rides begin throughout the south. 1948—Norman Mailer's <i>The Naked and the Dead</i> is published. 1942—The Battle of the Coral Sea begins. It lasts four days; 14 ships are sunk or damaged, 159 planes destroyed, and 1,565 men are killed. It was a great victory. 1940—Nora Joyce says to James, "Well, Jim, I haven't read any of your books but I'll have to someday because they must be good considering how well they sell." 1926—A national General Strike begins in England. 1896—In Cripple Creek, CO, a grease fire ignites a ton of dynamite. 1886—In Chicago's Haymarket Square, demonstrators protesting yesterday's police brutality at the McCormick Reaper plant are attacked by—what else?—more police. A bomb explodes, killing seven officers.	1994—Screaming Lord Sutch, 3rd Earl of Harrow, of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party, achieves his highest percentage of the vote—4.2 pct.—in British Parliamentary elections. 1987—Congressional hearings on the Iran-Contra scandal begin. 1985—President Reagan lays a wreath at a cemetery full of Nazi soldiers at Bitburg, Germany. 1981—In Ireland's Maze Prison, Bobby Sands dies of starvation. 1961—New Hampshire's own Alan Shepard recites a prayer, "Please, dear God, don't let me f_!_k up," moments before becoming America's first man in space. His prayer is answered. 1960—U.S. announces that Gary Powers's U-2 was a "weather research plane" and its pilot a "civilian employed by Lockheed." 1945—The collier <i>Black Point</i> is torpedoed by <i>U-853</i> within sight of the Point Judith, RI lighthouse. 1945—At a picnic in Bly, OR, Elsie Mitchell, a minister's wife, and five children are killed by a Japanese balloon bomb. 1902—Death of Bret Harte, called by Mark Twain, "an invertebrate without a country." 1886—In the Bay View neighborhood of Milwaukee, Gov. Jeremiah Rusk orders 250 National Guard soldiers to fire on a crowd of strikers. They comply; seven die.	2010—The Invisible Hand of the Market™ gets the jitters: the Dow drops nine percent in five minutes. 1982—Explaining why so many blacks have died in LAPD chokeholds, Chief Darryl Gates explains it's because "in some blacks ... the veins or arteries do not open up as fast as they do in normal people." 1981—Maya Ying Lin's controversial design is chosen for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. 1978—In Chicago, First Lady Rosalynn Carter is photographed shaking hands with Polish Constitution Day Parade chairman & serial killer John Wayne Gacy. 1973—FBI besieges Native Americans at Wounded Knee. 1970—At Jackson State University in Mississippi, two black students are killed by soldiers. 1967—Top ranking U.S. Marine Gen. Wallace Greene, Jr. announces in Manchester, NH that America is winning the war in Vietnam, "and I say that without any doubt whatsoever." 1965—The first two Marine divisions arrive in Vietnam. 1942—Outnumbered five to one, U.S. forces surrender Corregidor. 1864—During the second day of the Battle of the Wilderness, five generals are killed in action. 1862—RIP Henry D. Thoreau. 1856—Birth of Sigmund Freud; thinker, shrinker, coke sniffer.	1999—A U.S. B-2 bombs the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, leaving 3 dead and 27 wounded. 1998—Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan successfully quash an effort to regulate credit default swaps. 1992—Pesky reporters reveal that Ross Perot's fervor to aid U.S. POWs in Vietnam was motivated largely by a desire to bolster Richard Nixon's presidency. 1985—New York throws a ticker tape parade for 25,000 Vietnam veterans. Better late than never. 1984—Vietnam veterans' suit for damages from chemical companies which sold Agent Orange to the U.S. is settled for chump change. 1964—Francisco Gonzales, a former Olympic yachtsman, shoots the pilot and co-pilot of Pacific Air flight 773 which then crashes killing the other 41 people on board. 1960—After lying for a week, and only after Khrushchev reveals the Soviets have its pilot, the U.S. admits that the U-2 is a spy plane. 1954—The Viet Minh overrun the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu. 1942—More than 100,000 Japanese-Americans are sent to concentration camps. 1896—Gilman-ton-born Herman W. Mudgett, aka "Dr. H.H. Holmes," is hanged in Chicago for murdering 100 women.	2007—GOP lawmakers worried about re-election get all up in George W. Bush's grill about Iraq. 2006—CNN's Headline News commits moral suicide by adding Glenn Beck to the lineup. 2004—Dick "Dick" Cheney tells prosecutor Patrick J. Fitzgerald he knows nothing about Valerie Plame. 2003—A cargo door on a Russian built plane flown by a Ukrainian crew pops open over the Congo. Three-fourths of the 200 aboard are sucked from the plane. 1979—Salvadoran police maintain order by killing 23 and wounding 70 at a cathedral. 1972—Nixon bombs Haiphong Harbor. 1970—In New York, "hardhats" beat up antiwar demonstrators. 1970—Eleven students at the University of New Mexico, while protesting the Vietnam War, are met by National Guardsmen and stabbed with bayonets. 1967—Muhammed Ali is indicted for refusing to be inducted. 1963—In Hue, Ngo Dinh Diem's goons kill nine Buddhists for flying their flag, then blame the 'Cong. 1958—In Lima, Richard Nixon is stoned and spat on by Peruvians. 1951—British hangman Albert Pierrepoint sets a record. James Ingalls is dead 7.5 seconds after leaving his cell.	1989—"What a waste it is to lose one's mind," Veep Candidate Dan Quayle informs the Negro College Fund, "or not to have a mind is being very wasteful, how true that is." 1980—A Liberian-flagged freighter, <i>Summit Venture</i> slams into the Sunshine Skyway Bridge near St. Petersburg, FL. A chunk of bridge and a Greyhound Bus plunge into Tampa Bay, killing 35. 1974—Congressional hearings on the impeachment of Richard Nixon begin. Finally. 1970—Richard Nixon holds a weird 4 a.m. conversation with antiwar students on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. 1963—The U.S. orbits 480 million bits of wire .7 inches long in a failed communications experiment. 1961—FCC chair Newton Minow calls American television "a vast wasteland." 1969—<i>The New York Times</i> reports the U.S. is bombing Cambodia. 1967—Muhammad Ali is stripped of his heavyweight boxing title for refusing induction. 1960—"The" pill is approved. 1947—Louisiana successfully electrocutes seventeen year old Willie Francis. A year and six days earlier, it tried and failed. 1926—Admiral Byrd flies over the North Pole, he says. Maybe. 1879—Wilbur Trafton wires up Portsmouth's first telephone.	2005—In Tbilisi, Georgia, a hand grenade is thrown at George W. Bush. Like its target, it is a dud. 2001—To solve the budget surplus problem, Congress passes G.W. Bush's biggest tax cut yet. 2000—"I think we agree," George W. Bush says to John McCain, "the past is over." 1973—Nixon cronies John Mitchell and Maurice Stans are indicted, along with Robert Vesco, for Vesco's illegal \$200,000 campaign contribution. 1969—U.S. troops attack Hamburger Hill. 1967—Capt. Howard Levy is jailed for 3 years for refusing to train U.S. soldiers for Vietnam. 1945—New Hampshire adopts the motto, "Live Free or Die." 1933—Germans backing Hitler's plan to limit freedom of the press and individual thought burn books in public squares. 1924—J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover is appointed head of the FBI. 1908—The first Mother's Day Service is held in WV at the instigation of Anna Jarvis who is arrested on Mother's Day 40 years later for protesting its commercialization. 1869—Leland Stanford fails to drive the Transcontinental Railroad's "Golden Spike," because he's drunk. "Every step of that mighty enterprise," says one Senator, was "taken in fraud."
3:18 3:58 9:37 9:49	4:07 4:50 10:26 10:42	5:01 5:44 11:18 11:38	5:57 6:40 12:12	6:56 7:33 12:36 1:06	7:52 8:23 1:34 1:57	8:44 9:08 2:27 2:45
Sunday, May 11	Monday, May 12	Tuesday, May 13	Wednesday, May 14	Thursday, May 15	Friday, May 16	Saturday, May 17
2009—Jesse Ventura says, "You give me a water board, Dick Cheney and one hour, and I'll have him confess to the Sharon Tate murders." 2006—<i>USA Today</i> reports that the NSA is tapping U.S. phones. 2003—In a rare display of candor, <i>The New York Times</i> publishes a four page confession that one of its reporters had been writing fiction. 1997—IBM's capitalistic computer "Big Blue" defeats Soviet chess champion Gary Kasparov. 1975—In New York, 80,000 celebrate the end of the Vietnam War. 1969—A fire nearly destroys the Rocky Flats nuke factory 15 miles upwind of Denver; fortunately the dispersal of plutonium falls somewhat short of catastrophic. 1968—In France, the three largest labor federations turn out in support of student protests. 1966—"It appears," says Sec. of Defense Robert Strange McNamara, "that the Viet Cong is [sic] losing what support it had from the rural population." 1933—Dust storms begin ravaging the central U.S. 1894—The Pullman Railroad Strike begins. 1886—The <i>Milwaukee Daily Sentinel</i> publishes an article headlined "No Poles Need Apply," praising the railroads for firing immigrants. 1854—Birth of Ottmar Mergenthaler, inventor of the Linotype.	2003—Paul Bremmer, Bush's new administrator, arrives in Iraq. Everything's gonna be OK now. 1996—On "60 Minutes," Secretary of State Madeleine Albright tells Lesley Stahl that the deaths of 500,000 children in Iraq due to sanctions is "a very hard choice, but ... we think the price is worth it." 1984—The No. 2 man at HUD says Hispanics live in crowded homes, not because of poverty, but out of "cultural preference." 1975—Khmer Rouge naval forces using ex-U.S. Swift Boats seize the U.S. container ship <i>Mayaguez</i> and 39 crewmen off Cambodia. 1968—VC and NVA troops overrun a U.S. Special Forces camp at Kham Duc. 1963—Bob Dylan walks out on "The Ed Sullivan Show." Ed won't let Bob sing the "Talking John Birch Society Blues." 1958—Future Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara says cabbage and broccoli will protect Americans from atomic fallout. 1947—Trunk murderess Winnie Ruth Judd escapes from the Arizona State Insane Hospital for the 3rd time. 1916—Too weak to stand, James Connolly is shot sitting down for his part in the Easter Uprising. 1854—The steeple of the old North Church is pulled down in Market Square, Portsmouth.	2005—The Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) commission recommends closing the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. 1985—To end a stand-off, a Philadelphia police helicopter bombs MOVE headquarters, killing 11 and leaving 250 homeless. 1968—In Paris, alleged Peace Talks begin between U.S. and North Vietnam. 1960—Berkeley students protest a visit from HUAC. 1958—Richard Nixon gets stoned in Caracas—literally. 1930—The New Hampshire Historical Society announces the acquisition of one of three known copies of <i>The Monster of Monsters</i>, the pamphlet that got Daniel Fowle thrown in prison in 1754. 1862—Robert Smalls, enslaved helmsman of the Confederate military transport <i>Planter</i>, commandeers the vessel, pilots it out of Charleston harbor, and turns it over to the U.S. Navy. 1846—Congress declares war on Mexico. 1842—Dorr's "Peoples' Government" fails in an attempt to seize an arsenal in Rhode Island. 1828—The Tariff of Abominations, begun as a ruse by Jackson supporters, is passed by Congress and proceeds to wreck the economy. 1794—The Whiskey Rebellion begins in western Pennsylvania.	2005—D. Delsalle lands a French helicopter atop Mt. Everest. 1992—The Bush I administration opens up 1,400 acres of spotted owl habitat for logging. 1980—Jimmy Carter changes his policy on the Mariel, Cuba boatlift in mid-stream. 1975—The Khmer Rouge take the captive crew of the <i>Mayaguez</i> to mainland Cambodia. 1970—The Red Army Faction is formed in Germany. 1969—Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas resigns in disgrace, a promising precedent which, sadly, has not been followed. 1960—A.J. Liebling writes in <i>The New Yorker</i>, "Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one." 1948—Israel declares its independence. 1939—In Lima, Peru, Lina Medina gives birth to a son. She is five years and seven months old. 1930—In a 157 word news story about the New Hampshire Historical Society's acquisition of <i>The Monster of Monsters</i>, a 18th century pamphlet, <i>The New York Times</i> incorrectly states that its pseudonymous author was jailed, calls Daniel Fowle the printer (his brother Zechariah was), mistakes the time Daniel spent in jail by a factor of 146, and mistakes the name of the newspaper he founded.	2010—Just to make sure everyone understands the caliber of its scholarship, Liberty University bestows a Doctorate on Glenn Beck. 2002—The White House admits it knew before 9/11 that al Qaeda had plans to hijack U.S. airliners. 1991—The Defense Department releases documents confirming that Manuel Noriega used to be on the CIA's payroll. 1975—U.S. Marines board the <i>Mayaguez</i> off Cambodia (their first hostile ship-to-ship boarding in 150 years), and attack Koh Tang Island, attempting to rescue U.S. hostages removed the day before. Casualties: 18 KIA, 3 MIA, 41 wounded. The <i>Mayaguez</i>'s crew, meanwhile, is released unharmed. 1969—Saying, "If there has to be a bloodbath then let's get it over with," Governor Ronald Reagan sends the National Guard to take Peoples' Park from the hippies. 1964—U.S. begins bombing Laos. 1951—Gen. Omar Bradley tells Congress that Gen. Douglas MacArthur's plan to take the Korean War into China would be "[t]he wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy." 1948—Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Transjordan attack Israel. 1872—Julia Ward Howe declares the first Mothers Day—as an anti-war holiday.	2001—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and exhibitionist Robert Hanssen is indicted for selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then the Russians. 1969—The <i>U.S.S. Guitarra</i>, being fitted out at San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard, sinks in 35 feet of water, causing an estimated \$25 million in damage. Congress blames shipyard workers. 1954—"Using U.S. ground forces in the Indo-China jungle," says Sen. Wm. F. Knowland, (R-CA), "would be like trying to cover an elephant with a handkerchief—you just can't do it." 1948—CBS correspondent George Polk, ("the first casualty of the Cold War"—I.F. Stone) turns up murdered in Salonika Harbor. The U.S.-supported Greek government frames a Commie, and U.S. journalists cover up the frame. 1918—Congress passes the Sedition Act, making it illegal to criticize the government. 1916—In the Sykes-Picot Agreement, Britain and France, with Russia's OK, screw the Arabs. 1879—Wallace Wilkerson, not strapped to the chair, rises up as a Utah firing squad shoots. They miss his heart, and it takes him 27 minutes to die. 1866—In a fit of productivity, Congress eliminates the half-dime and replaces it with the nickel.	2004—Same-sex marriage is legalized in Massachusetts, to the delight of Karl Rove. 1996—The House Ethics Committee charges that serial groper Bob Packwood (R-OR) fails to meet its own lax standards. 1995—Army veteran and deranged meth addict Shawn Nelson steals a tank from a San Diego Armory and goes on a vehicle crushing rampage before being shot by police. 1987—Thirty-seven sailors aboard the <i>U.S.S. Stark</i> die when the ship is hit by an Exocet missile fired by an Iraqi jet fighter. 1976—<i>Time</i> quotes Ronald Reagan: "Fascism was really the basis of the New Deal." 1968—In Catonsville, MD, nine people break into a draft board and burn over 600 files. 1954—The Supreme Court, getting one right, rules that "separate but equal" education won't do. 1905—Hiram Cronk, 105, the last veteran of the War of 1812, is buried in Brooklyn, NY. 1903—James "Cool Papa" Bell is born in Mississippi. The fastest ball player ever didn't make it to the Hall of Fame until 1974. 1872—Five <i>San Francisco Examiner</i> reporters form the Bohemian Club to "elevate journalism to that place in the popular estimation to which it is entitled." Now reporters are barred—plutocrats run the club.
9:32 9:50 4:10 3:30	10:17 10:30 4:01 4:12	11:00 11:11 4:45 4:54	11:43 11:52 5:28 5:37	12:27 6:11 6:20	1:12 6:57 7:07	1:22 2:00 7:44 7:55



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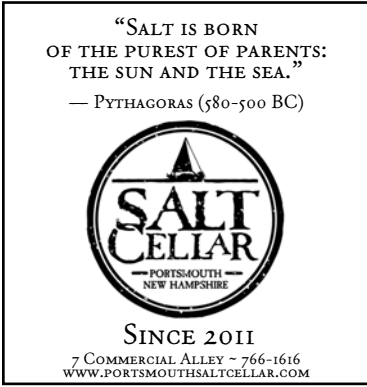
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