

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Forever Wrong

The U.S. is experiencing its most devastating collapse of a corrupt puppet government in almost forty years — and that's looking on the bright side. Before this is over, Iraq is almost certain to turn out worse than Vietnam.

Irrelevant Ancient History

Americans were warned for thirty years that if Vietnam fell it would only be a matter of time before Communists showed up at our doorsteps. In April of 1975, after several months of breathtaking advances by the NVA, Vietnam did fall.

Ten years later, as advertised, Communists were in our garages and workshops and the trunks of our cars. Not living, breathing Communists bearing AK-47s, of course, but products made by Chinese workers: bench vices, open-end wrenches, bicycles, and other consumer goods which had formerly been manufactured by Americans — many of whom had been union members.

In an ironic twist, the importers of all those cheap Chinese goods had not been scruffy-looking Socialists carrying copies of Mao's *Little Red Book* in their back pockets. No, it was nicely-attired capitalists in the executive suites who made the decision to import those cheap goods from the Communists.

And it was not random, run-of-the-mill Communists they were dealing with. Many of those goods came from factories that were run by the General Logistics Department of the People's Liberation Army.

The Godless Commie Bastards betrayed their principles just as surely as the Capitalist Oppressors, but they made a better bargain in the process.

Irrelevant Recent History

The faction that warned us to beware of falling dominos preserved its self-esteem by refusing to ever acknowledge that they had been wrong. Many of them were aided in that effort by their lack of first-hand knowledge of the subject.

Eventually they attained a measure of closure by agreeing that the news media were to blame. With their minds thus set free, they set about starting a war even more criminally stupid than the one which they had dodged.

The war in Iraq went more or less exactly as people had expected — the people who opposed it, that is. Such people did and do exist. It's just that no one listened to them then, and damned few listen now.

The faction which is always wrong, though, is also always listened to.

What Say the Experts?

Former Vice President Dick Cheney was speaking for the lot of them — Bill Kristol, Paul Wolfowitz, John Bolton, Elliott Abrams — when he recently wrote, "Rarely has a U.S. president been so wrong about so much at the expense of so many."

Asked for a comment, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney replied, straight faced, "Which president was he talking about?"

Former Gitmo chief prosecutor Col. Morris Davis — appointed by George W. Bush in 2005 — chimed in with a tweet, "Rarely have so many been given so much air time after being so wrong about so much."

Cheney's line was obviously lifted from a speech by Winston Churchill, though Cheney gave no credit to that hero of the



American Right Wing. He could not have pilfered from a more appropriate source.

Churchill was the mastermind — we use the term advisedly — of the Gallipoli campaign in 1915. It cost the British more than 180,000 casualties and gained them nothing in return. Though Churchill lost his position as First Lord of the Admiralty, he never admitted responsibility for the campaign's failure. Instead he wrote a history of the affair which shifted the blame to his subordinates.

Cheney has complained that we left Iraq too soon — overlooking the fact that the timetable was negotiated by George W. Bush.

President Obama, according to Cheney, should have kept some American troops in Iraq — ignoring the fact that if he had done so they would have been subject to Iraqi courts of law.

Cheney's state of denial is so intense it caused a rupture in the space-time continuum. During

an interview with Cheney, Fox News anchormodel Megyn Kelly ran through a litany of his greatest misses.

"Time and time again, history has proven that you got it wrong as well in Iraq, sir. You said there was no doubt Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. You said we would be greeted as liberators. You said the Iraq insurgency was in its last throes back in 2005."

Then she whacked him with her variation of Churchill's line, formulated as a question. "What do you say to those who say you were so wrong about so much at the expense of so many?"

True to form, Cheney replied, "No, I just fundamentally disagree, Reagan — uh, Megyn."

Dodgeball as Olympic Sport

Cheney is not the only guilty party capable of Olympian feats of denial; nor is Fox News the only alleged news outfit willing to drink from the poisoned well.

MSNBC's Chuck Todd interviewed Paul Wolfowitz, the former Assistant Secretary of Defense, accurately introducing him as the architect of the Iraq War.

Wolfowitz disputed his own identity. "[I]f I'd been the architect," he said, "things would have been run very differently, so that's not a correct label."

Todd, a card-carrying member of the elite liberal media, working for a network widely cast as the Left Wing equivalent of Fox News, capitulated immediately.

"OK," Todd said, before Wolfowitz could even complete his lie. "Fair enough."

Nothing To See Here

Last summer the neo-cons pressured President Obama to bomb Syria because President Assad had chemical weapons.

Now, as the engineers of the Iraq fiasco deny their responsibility for it, Syria's chemical weapons have been eliminated through diplomacy. But that's not news.

The Alleged News

And They're Off! (Some of Them by Quite a Bit)

The filing period has ended and the rosters are set; the Primary Election campaign of 2014 has now begun in earnest.

For the next ten weeks the four Democratic candidates for Governor, U.S. Senate, and our two Congressional Districts — all of them incumbents — may sit on their porches sipping lemonade: they have no challengers.

Republicans, on the other hand, have 22 candidates vying for just four nominations. This would seem to set the stage for a real battle royale.

For that to happen, though, at least some of the candidates must muster at least a semi-competent campaign. That may or may not happen.

It's a hell of a state to be in for a State which, within living memory, used to consistently vote Republican.

The prevailing explanation for this within the Party has been, as far as we can tell, that the leftward shift has been the result of a steady influx of liberals from Massachusetts. That very slur upon the Commonwealth, though, demonstrates the weakness of the argument. What New Hampshire's anti-tax attitude has done is draw in tax-haters from south of the border. They have pulled the Party ever-further to the Right — right into unelectability.

But we digress — we were going to revel in the entertainment so thoughtfully provided by the

New Hampshire branch of the Party of Lincoln.

The Corner Office

Walt Havenstein and Andrew Hemingway are competing for the Gubernatorial nomination of New Hampshire's Republican Party. In other words, they're contesting to see who gets to lose to Maggie Hassan this November. That may sound like partisan cheerleading, but against Hassan's poll numbers and approval ratings, neither of them stands a chance.

Andrew Hemingway has been awfully quiet for a political candidate: a Google News search of his name turns up a raft of articles about his opponent, in which Hemingway appears as a

last-paragraph afterthought. His Twitter account has been surprisingly quiet for a man who's running for office, although on June 21st it did feature a photo of Hemingway buddying up with James "The Faux Pimp" O'Keefe.

Hemingway's approach is reminiscent of a 19th Century-style campaign, in which the candidate sits on his front porch and waits to see what happens on Election Day. He may not have to wait until September 9th, though.

Havenstein is getting much more news coverage, but most of it is of the wrong kind. The issue is whether the Ballot Law Commission [BLC] will even allow him to run. To be a valid candidate a person must have lived in

New Hampshire for at least the previous seven years. Like his fellow would-be plutocrat Mitt Romney, Havenstein has homes in more than one state. Between 2007 and 2012 he filed repeated declarations stating that Maryland was his principal residence. Those declarations qualified him for property tax breaks, saving the multi-millionaire a few thousand bucks; but they've complicated the dickens out of his political campaign.

The BLC is scheduled to hold a hearing on the matter June 30th. If it rules in his favor on the residency issue, it would seem he'd

The Alleged News

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The Alleged News
from page one

be open to tax fraud charges in Maryland — hardly a plus in the general election campaign.

Two other Republicans, Jonathan Smolin of Alton and Daniel J. Greene of Pittsfield, are nominally running for Governor. Neither seems to have done a thing toward that end, though, besides paying the \$100 fee to file papers.

The same could be said of Clecia Terrio of Manchester, who's allegedly running in the Primary against Governor Hassan.

Ian Freeman, of Keene, is also running in the Democratic Primary, but his odds are probably worse than Terrio's; no one knows anything about Terrio, but Freeman's antics as a member of the Free State Project are all over the internet. Apparently he's fond of annoying Keene's meter maids, and drawing on the sidewalks with chalk. The last we heard, nei-

ther of those skills were of much use in the Corner Office in Concord.

Szabo Redux

The 2012 primary season was livened up considerably by Frank Szabo, who ran for the Republican nomination for Sheriff of Hillsborough County. Szabo, who came to New Hampshire as part of the Free State Project, promised to shoot doctors if necessary to protect the lives of fetuses. He was also an adherent to the "sovereign citizen" delusion.

We're reminded of Szabo because Jerry DeLemus, another sovereign citizen believer, is the only candidate on the Republican ballot running for Sheriff of Strafford County.

We assume incumbent Democrat David G. Dubois will win, but you never know. Szabo drew more than 25 percent of the vote.

Look Out, Below!

Our Wandering Photographer has been having great sport lately,



In this screenshot from an online video, excommunicated Free State Project member and current New Hampshire resident Chris Cantwell burns Old Glory in his back yard. In the video, Cantwell simultaneously maintains that "this is the most oppressive government in the history of mankind," and asserts that governments do not exist. The Flag Police have chosen not to cite Cantwell on the grounds of insanity.

grabbing snapshots of helicopters flying over downtown Portsmouth. It's not easy to get a usable image of a moving target at an unknown distance while moving along an unpredictable path, especially with the mediocre equipment we provide.

It can be rewarding though. Succeed and you have photographic evidence that can help establish exactly — or approximately — who it is that's flying over our heads.



For example, this photo proves that at 5:12 p.m. on Sunday, June 15th, a Robinson R44 II with registration number N814SC was flying over Prescott Park. The machine is owned and operated by

Seacoast Helicopters, which flies out of Pease Tradeport.

It's not so easy to say who was piloting the noisy little beast. Judging from an advertisement we heard Friday, June 20th, on WQSO radio — the Seacoast's primary source for Right Wing blather — the person at the controls could have been a licensed pilot, or just some random jamoke who wandered in off the street with \$250 to burn.

"First we teach you the basics of helicopter flight," the ad said, "Then we strap you into the pilot seat, and with the instructor in the co-pilot seat, you take to the sky. This is not a scenic ride. **You are on the controls flying the helicopter around the beautiful Seacoast area.** Call us to live your dream today at ..." [Emphasis added.]

Defending the Indefensible

Attention, citizens of New Hampshire: you may now remove your earplugs and move about the State without quite so much fear of going deaf. According to "The Official Website" of "The 91st An-

nual [commercial plug redacted] Laconia Motorcycle Week®" (you can Google™ the URL if you like — we'll be damned if we'll enable its proprietors) this year's prolonged and relentless assault on your tympanic membranes is now over.

Of course, if you live in Portsmouth and walk its sidewalks, your ears will be subjected to random high-decibel assaults from now until the Halloween Parade.

That is because ... because ...

Why the hell is that?

Apparently it is because louts on loud bikes constitute a privileged class which is made up of people who feel an inexplicable need to emit a deafening noise whenever they make yet another pointless journey down Congress Street. They act like they have every right to break local and state noise laws with impunity. And since they rarely get ticketed, much less arrested, it seems that they're right about that.

Why is it that all our law-abiding citizens — and our scofflaws,

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and our ne'er-do-wells, and our other miscellaneous miscreants — have to put up with these noisy rolling oafs? What makes them a special, privileged class? Could anyone else get away with flouting the law this way?

Take an artist, for example. Artists frequently draw or paint in downtown Portsmouth (and the day that's outlawed we're leaving; 258 years of tradition be damned). If a sculptor, though, were to prop up a tree trunk in Market Square, fire up a Stihl 880 Magnum chainsaw, and start carving it into an effigy of PeeWee Herman, he'd be cuffed in about five minutes.

For years, citizens have asked for more rigorous enforcement of our existing laws. The response from law enforcement officials — we use the term loosely — has been, "but ... but ... it's haaaard."

A couple of times a year, Portsmouth police used to detail four or five cops to deploy a wooden gizmo and a decibel meter in front of the North Church, to demonstrate how hard it was. Why, it was almost as if the law had been engineered to be ... unenforceable.

During a recent session of the

legislature an effort was made to pass a simpler law that could be enforced without so much superfluous rigamarole. It was shot down by aggressive lobbying from the local Harley dealers. So, the status quo prevails: we have a flimsy, hard-to-enforce law which was intermittently "enforced," somewhat reducing the blatancy of the ongoing violations.

Recently, our two U.S. Senators reached across the aisle to address this situation. Unfortunately the result could serve as an argument for continued gridlock: all they accomplished was further to enable the Huns on the Harleys. They co-sponsored an amendment prohibiting the National Highway Safety Administration from issuing grants to fund motorcycle-only checkpoints. So, even the demonstrations of the old law's futility must now be curtailed.

What's next? Free vuvuzuelas for everybody, emblazoned with the Harley logo?

The NH Rebellion Gets Rolling

We're indebted to our friend Jean Stimmell, of Northwood [right,] for this dispatch on a vital topic:

"Ahoy, fellow Gazette readers:



Stimmell: "Saturday, July 5"

"In the last few weeks, I've noticed a new sign popping-up, mysterious and alluring like a seditious flower: The NH Rebellion. The name alone attracted me like a bee to pollen. After doing research, I discovered that the NH Rebellion is indeed the real deal!

"The NH Rebellion is gearing up to make big money in politics the central issue of the 2016 presidential primary. The NH Rebellion is a totally non-partisan organization appealing to the 96 percent of Americans who want

to return elections to the people. It aims to get the corruption of big money out of politics, a scourge that is increasingly polarizing us, poisoning the well of our civic life, and preventing us from constructively engaging the many great issues that confront us today.

"In the increasingly polarized atmosphere of our country, The NH Rebellion could start a much needed conversation about something we can all agree upon, a conversation that could be healing and help reunite us.

"The founder of NH Rebellion is Lawrence Lessig, professor of law and leadership at Harvard University and one of *Scientific American's* Top 50 visionaries. You can see his TED talk at: bit.ly/1nyAytW. The Executive Director is Jeff McLean who lives right here in Portsmouth.

"The NH Rebellion will make big money in politics the central issue of the 2016 primary. To start with, NH Rebellion needs 50,000

folks to sign our petition. Next, for those near the Seacoast, NH Rebellion invites you to join us on Saturday, July 5th to walk the New Hampshire Seacoast, following in the footsteps of Granny D, the 88-year-old New Hampshire woman who walked across the country, from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., to protest the corruption of how we fund campaigns in this country. For more information, check out the website: www.nhrebellion.org.

"Power to the people!"

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Longtime readers know we love to mock the *Portsmouth Herald*. Recently, though, the Award-Winning Local Daily has been giving the NH Rebellion extensive, positive, and smart coverage written by Howard Altschiller, Executive Editor of the *Herald's* parent company, Seacoast Media Group. Any campaign that has the *Gazette* and the *AWLD* seeing eye-to-eye has got potential.



Dan Touhy has reported at Portsmouth-NH.patch.com — we haven't seen it elsewhere — that New Hampshire's two Senators have teamed up in a bipartisan effort to suspend the Motorcycle Law Enforcement Demonstration Program for one year. See: "Defending the Indefensible."

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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Guinta's Ludicrous Claim

To the Editor:
Former First District Congressman Frank Guinta has never been one to let facts get in the way of telling a story, as evidenced in his recent outrageous claim of voter fraud involving supporters of Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter. Referring to approximately 100,000 New Hampshire citizens who registered on Election Day in 2012, he reportedly told talk radio host Howie Carr that "... the vast majority of those 100,000 people, I'll call it voter fraud because I 100 percent believe that it was voter fraud."

Mr. Guinta's accusation, which would have far reaching implications if it were fact-based, was not only an insult to approximately 54 percent of the voting citizenry of the Congressional District he wishes to serve but also to those individuals who tirelessly volunteer at polling stations to make our elections operate smoothly. His groundless claim demonstrates his cynicism towards the U.S. Constitution, our system of democracy with free and fair elections, and the American people!

Mr. Guinta would like to have you believe that he lost the last election due to massive voter fraud, but I will assure you that he was soundly rejected, fairly and squarely, in the voting booth for a multitude of reasons, including: his radical position on women's reproductive rights, wanting to impose creationism in schools,

desire to abolish the Department of Education, and his incessant attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Mr. Guinta was furthermore remembered for his work as a Tea-party affiliated member of the do-nothing 112th Congress responsible for draconian budget proposals, imposing sequestration, and setting the stage for the recent government shutdown.

The primary reason I never have and never will vote for Frank Guinta or Scott Brown is that they are bought and paid for by the likes of the billionaire, energy magnate Koch Brothers and Wall Street fat cats, *et al.* I am confident that the intelligent and informed voting citizens of the First District are poised to vote, and recognize that Guinta and Brown serve two masters: themselves, and their billionaire campaign contributors, who don't give a rat scat about New Hampshire.

Wayne Merritt
Dover, NH

How to Make an Atheist Pray

To the Editor:
So, let me get this straight: the neo-conservative jack-asses who got us into the mess in Iraq in the first place, under false pretenses no less, are suddenly popping up all over the place telling us what to do about its disastrous consequences. *Unbelievable.* Anyone who didn't predict what is happening today in Iraq as a result of our ill-conceived invasion is a raging *moron*. Simple logic and the reading of history would tell you this would happen. I predicted it and I am neither a politician nor a "pundit." I just took it upon myself to read up and learn instead of just believing anything the incredibly ill-informed media puked out.

Almost 4,500 American soldiers killed and tens of thousands maimed, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis killed (I know, who cares about them?) and almost 2 tril-

lion bucks spent so far and counting. And we have a Congress that wants to save a few bucks by cutting lunch programs for the poor people. *Wow.* You better get down on your hands and knees and pray to your God that there will be no judgment day. And even though I am an atheist, I will join you.

Robert "Wheel Gun Bob" Ford
Portsmouth NH

Guinta the Hypocrite

To the Editor:
I was surprised to read that Frank Guinta, our former First District Congressman, was promising to pursue funding for the Hampton Beach Ocean Boulevard strip project.

Please remember that Mr. Guinta was against federal funding for local projects. Like his "Just don't get sick" attitude toward healthcare, Guinta has a "Just don't get old" view toward infrastructure and a "you're on your own" brush-off for small communities that need help. He opposed federal funding for the Memorial Bridge, opposed the 2009 Recovery Act that paid for the bridge replacement, and voted for a bill (HR1 in 2011) that would have ended TIGER (transportation) grant funding.

Fortunately Congresswoman Shea-Porter did not share that callous disregard for New Hampshire communities. Shea-Porter worked successfully with her colleagues in the New Hampshire and Maine delegations to get the Memorial Bridge \$20 million in TIGER grant funding. Their joint letter stated, "Replacing the Memorial Bridge is critical to maintaining regional economic growth and vitality and preserving an essential crossing between our states." Exactly.

When choosing between the Tea Party and the critical needs of our communities, Guinta chooses the Tea Party every time.

Our communities don't need

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

Guinta back in Washington with his harmful "you're on your own" attitude.

Beth Olshansky
Durham, NH

Parsing William Marvel

To the Editor:
William Marvel compares comments made by a black American woman visiting Paris with the [LA Clippers basketball team owner] Donald Sterling statement [in which he asked his girlfriend not to bring her black friends to ball games]. Mr. Marvel concludes that blacks and whites are held to a different standard. But this analysis fails on at least two points.

Mr. Sterling is the public owner of a National Basketball Association team. His comments offended both the basketball players and the paying public. The basketball league through the commissioner took action against Mr. Sterling to avoid a public relations disaster. The American woman in Paris is a private citizen not held to the same standard of conduct.

Perhaps more important is that the woman's comment is an inoffensive observation whereas Mr. Sterling made a racist statement. The woman simply commented that she observed that young Parisian white women were not intimidated by her and her, presumably, black American friend. Such observations are a pleasure of travel. The American woman uses the "b" word to refer to the Parisian women, but that is the present slang among urban youth. Mr. Sterling on the other hand was recorded asking a friend not to be seen in public with a black man. His comment is offensive and apparently the most recent in a chain of racist actions.

Gregory Kalkanis
Oakland, CA

American Exceptionalism
To the Editor:
Exceptionalism is a neutral word as it can reference something exceptionally good or exceptionally bad. Human beings, and their respective nations, have clearly shown themselves to be capable of both.

The notion of American Exceptionalism has been in the news very recently — President Obama in his West Point commencement address said "I believe in American Exceptionalism with every fiber of my being." He also said that "The United States is the one indispensable nation." However, I feel that if we are able to take a sober, objective look at our nation, we will see that, like many other nations, we have done some exceptionally good things and some exceptionally bad ones. We fought and won an exceptionally good Revolution to create a democracy and free ourselves from the oppressive rule of a king; yet, in the building of a new nation we did some exceptionally terrible things — we committed genocide against the Native American people and participated in the brutal and murderous institution of slavery.

In my own lifetime I have seen both sides of our national character on display. Our journey to the moon and the first photos of the whole Earth were exceptionally wonderful contributions to humanity, as were our indispensable contributions to the developments of the internet, the mapping of the human genome and the development of the vaccine against polio. As a retired respiratory therapist I take great pride in the fact that one of our most exceptional contributions has been leading the worldwide struggle against the scourge of cigarette smoking. And I didn't think I'd live to see the exception-

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And Other Correspondence

ally wonderful accomplishment of the people of our nation coming together to elect our first African-American president.

On the other hand we have an exceptionally violent side which has led to some exceptionally bad actions: the assassinations of President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, the holocaust that we visited upon Vietnam with our carpet bombing and massive use of chemical weapons, our illegal invasion of Iraq, our nightmarish development of drone warfare and a military budget that dwarfs the rest of the world. It is also exceptionally bad that we have the largest prison population in the world with 80,000 people in solitary confinement and that we remain the only industrial democracy in the world to not guarantee health care for all its people. We also have an exceptionally bad record when it comes to the issues of income inequality and dealing with the planetary emergency of global warming.

In thinking further about the notion of exceptionalism I conclude that, until we encounter another heavenly body teeming with such an astounding diversity of life, it is only our precious and indispensable Earth that can lay unequivocal claim to being exceptionally wonderful.

Jeff Vogel
Sunnyside, NY

§
Looking Down The Barrel
To the Editor:

Guns are literally stitched into the American fabric. The U.S. possesses more guns per capita than any other country in the world. Yemen is a distant second. Frequently in strife, Yemen has an active branch of Al Queda.

Not only are we number one in possessing guns, we're at the top of the list for using them le-

thally. Countries with the lowest gun homicides, almost zero per 100,000, are Japan, South Korea and Iceland, all of which have strong gun laws. Homicides from firearms are over 32 times greater in America than in the United Kingdom and Australia.

The cost — mostly to taxpayers — for medical treatment, criminal justice proceedings, security precautions and reduction in quality of life due to sky-high American gun violence has been estimated at \$100 billion annually. The extent of this unhealthy situation should be self-evident.

With 300,000,000 guns in America, and sales surging, it's unrealistic to expect America to make meaningful inroads into this problem given the failure to have done so in the face of perpetual gun crimes.

The Second Amendment right to bear arms, a favorite argument on the part of the gun proponents, is a ruse. The landmark 2008 Supreme Court case did uphold the Second Amendment, but they also took pains to carve out many exceptions, calling for reasonable restrictions on that right. This is true of our constitutional rights generally — they're not absolute. We must be reasonable. Just as we have the First Amendment right of free speech, one can't yell fire in a crowded theater nor disturb the peace, &c.

A generation ago, conservative Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger, put it strongly. "The Second Amendment has been the subject of one of the greatest pieces of 'fraud,' on the American public by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime."

The "good guy" against the "bad guy" is another rallying cry by gun devotees. But just who are the good and bad guys? Recently

two cops were fatally ambushed by a couple who viewed the law as the enemy. Good guys, bad guys and in between are in the eyes of the beholder — note the Trayvon Martin case.

The gun lobby would have you believe that the real aim is to confiscate all their guns. This is hype to rally the base because guns are as American as apple pie. We have a long history of hunting and gun ownership.

Today in America, more than 18,000 children are shot by guns each year in assaults, suicides and accidents! Guns used in these tragedies are often from their own home, or that of a friend or family member — unsafe access. About 1.7 million kids live with unlocked and loaded firearms. Hiding guns is not enough and just talking to children is not enough. They are curious, and if they find guns they're likely to play with them.

Since the Newtown massacre there have been 74 school shootings! The life of each of our children, every single one, matters and is worthy of our passionate protection. Rights demand responsibility. This right does not extend to terrorists, it does not extend to criminals and it does not extend to the mentally disturbed.

A gun-besotted nation where each citizen has the right to possess as many weapons of potential mass destruction as he or she wants, that right being considered sacred and inviolable, surrenders to a deep-seated vulnerability and opens the gates to chaos.

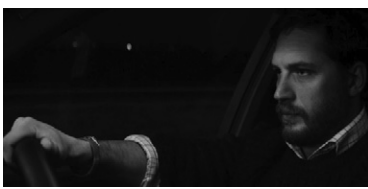
Michael Kulla
Pleasant Valley, NY
§
Havenstein's Out of Touch
To the Editor:

The more I read about GOP gubernatorial candidate Walt Havenstein, the more convinced I become that he is ill-informed and out of touch with the middle class New Hampshire voter.



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More Hate Mail, &c.
to page six

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Northcountry Chronicle

The Man to Blame

by William Marvel

Eight years ago my wife and I bicycled to Canada the day after school closed, but as the Fourth of July weekend approached I grew anxious to return. We left our campground neat Saint-Herménégilde Friday morning, scaring up a bear just past the entrance, and after breakfast in Canaan we followed the Vermont side of the river as far as Lancaster. To avoid the thickening traffic — and the increasingly thick drivers — we ground up over a precipitous mountain road to Lost Nation, coming out on Route 2 in Jefferson that evening just as it began to rain. Cars and trucks were zipping by uncomfortably close, so when my wife spotted the Starr King Grange she made for it. We pitched our tent on the porch, finishing our trip in the lighter traffic of early morning.

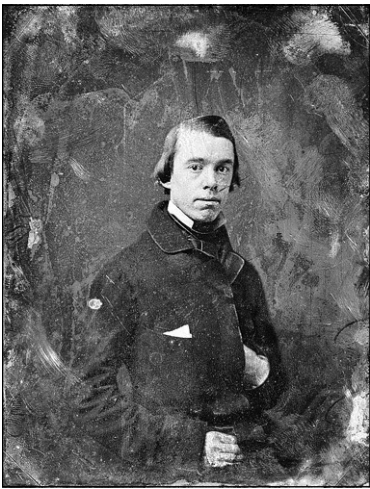
I had only a vague notion of who Thomas Starr King was. His name popped up frequently in newspapers during the Civil War

years, and especially early in 1864, during his last illness.

His career as a Unitarian minister offered little interest to me, and his posting to California from 1860 effectively removed him from the political environment; I always thought his reputation for keeping California in the Union badly overblown.

I was, however, aware that he had written a book about his travels in the White Mountains, and that seems to have been his claim to local fame and infamy. His professed object in *The White Hills: Their Legends, Landscape, and Poetry* was to “direct attention to the noble landscapes” on the way to the White Mountains, and he certainly did that. From its appearance in 1859 his book traveled north with thousands of visitors, especially after 1861, when the Mount Washington stage road made it possible for even the laziest tourists to enjoy the view from New England’s loftiest peak. The publishers had to keep printing new editions to meet the demand.

Seeking to please everyone, King offered at least a modicum of flattery for each town along the way, but his eternally positive tone left the impression that anything short of a superlative compliment reflected damnation by faint praise. That seemed to be the case with Conway, which he barely mentioned alongside the better-known village a few miles north. He noted that Conway “naturally divided” the long stagecoach ride from Center Harbor to Pinkham Notch, remarking on the sprawling Conway House as “a large and excellent hotel,” but he observed that most people considered it “a mere resting-place for the night.” Those who failed to rise early enough to catch the stage for North Conway and the Glen House hardly knew what to do with their day, he claimed, so he offered a couple of halfhearted suggestions. They might spin down to see Mount Chocorua and its lake, a few miles off the main road, or they could visit Elbridge Potter’s farm, with its panoramic view of the mountains from the



Thomas Starr King

hill overlooking what King called “Gould’s Pond.”

He saved most of his more glittering adjectives for the sites around North Conway, advocating for Diana’s Baths, the ledges, “Kiarsarge,” Artist’s Brook, and the view from Sunset Hill — which, with his penchant for imprecise local nomenclature, he identified as Artist’s Hill, or simply “the hill in North Conway.” Throughout the book, even after he had finished the chapter on the Saco Valley, he kept alluding to North Conway as the central

memory of his tour, but once he left the Conway House he had no more to say about that village.

When Nathaniel Abbott died in his home beside the Conway House, late in 1863, local creditors who had expected to claim much of his fortune found that he had left little worth taking. His presumed wealth had been undermined entirely by debt, and his insolvency plunged the local economy into a tailspin. Abbott owed the most to the owner of the Conway House, and the blow precluded much-needed renovations for the tourist season of 1864. Thenceforward, Conway steadily lost ground as the premier stopping place on the trip north.

Starr King succumbed to diphtheria early in March that year, out in California, but new printings of his books were still persuading travelers to bypass Conway and continue on to North Conway. Two men who died during the same winter did more than anyone to seal the fate of the village by the next summer, consigning it to a more pedestrian destiny.

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

Pretty Boy Perry

To the Editor:

Is the GOP really going to let Rick Perry indulge his Texas sized ego as a presidential candidate, again?

Perry is the quintessential example of the old adage, beauty is only skin deep. While very nice looking on the outside he is definitely not nice on the inside.

Texas has 515 executions in the last 4.5 years — the next highest total is 111 in Oklahoma. Perry says that the people of Texas want to take the life of anyone who

takes the life of women and children.

Ultimate Penalty Perry has vigorously denied Medicaid to between 1 and 2 million citizens, which will result in the deaths of between 2,000 and 3,000 women and children. Does this behavior qualify the Governor for his people’s punishment principle — the death penalty?

Perry, a talking but not thinking mannequin, demonstrates every time he speaks on an issue that his understanding and preparation are skin thin. Yet he claims

to have invincible judgment on the execution process. He also believes that he has the solution to the country’s job problem based on what has happened in Texas. It pays to be overconfident when you don’t see beyond your own ambition.

If you look behind the curtain it is not Perry’s ideas that fuel the economic growth in Texas. It is oil, oil, oil. The guy is very oily but doesn’t deserve credit for the works of Mother Nature.

If you offer companies huge incentives and tax breaks, subsidi-

dized by oil revenues, as well as weak labor and tort laws, they will move to Texas from other states. As recently pointed out on CNN, the Texas economy benefits the most from geology, geography and demography, none of which have anything to do with Perry’s policies. An abundance of natural resources, proximity to a huge Mexican market and an endless supply of cheap, low-end labor make Perry lucky but not a business guru.

Unfortunately, the sick, poor and under-educated folks in

Texas are not so lucky. The state funds and tax breaks Perry directs toward his business friends and campaign contributors come at their expense. Perry is also not providing the necessary funds for transportation, new sewer and water systems, and additional schools the increased population requires. To look good now, he is leaving that funding problem for the next several governors.

Texas’ job gains are someone else’s loss. Rustling jobs has become the newest unscrupulous practice in Texas. Despite what

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The Arrogance — and Ignorance — of Power

By W.D. Ehrhart

As I watch events unfolding in Iraq over the last weeks, I find myself wondering if Iraq War veterans are feeling the way I felt in March and April of 1975 when the fiction that was South Vietnam collapsed like a house of cards. Eight years earlier, I had arrived in Vietnam as an 18-year-old Marine, convinced of the rightness of our cause, and eager to save the Vietnamese from the scourge of communism. I left Vietnam thirteen months later, wounded in body and spirit, struggling to process the reality that our Saigon allies were corrupt and incompetent, their soldiers largely unwilling or unable to fight, while my Viet Cong enemies were dedicated and relentless. When, seven years after my return, the entire edifice crumbled in a matter of weeks, even after more than twenty years of U.S. support and a decade of massive U.S. military effort, I was neither surprised

nor angry nor jubilant. I just felt empty. Utterly empty. Fifty-eight thousand dead Americans, some of them my friends. Millions of Vietnamese and Laotians and Cambodians. And for what? Years later, Dean Rusk blamed our defeat on the failure of the American people to have the will to soldier on to victory. Peter Braestrep blamed it on the liberal media who, he argued in his book *The Big Story*, made the U.S. victory at Tet 1968 look like a U.S. defeat. The redoubtable Col. Harry Summers, Jr. (Ret.) argued that we never lost a single battle. Others blamed the antiwar movement or the meddling politicians who made the military “fight with one hand tied behind its back.” It never seems to have occurred to any of these very bright and powerful people that Vietnam was not and never had been ours to win or lose. It never occurred to them that Vietnamese dedication, motivation, and determination — an ancient proclivity to resist the presence of armed foreigners

in their midst — might have had something to do with the U.S. defeat. One might reasonably argue: not something, but everything. Now, once again, we are witnessing the incompetence, corruption, and inability of a government we created and have supported for over a decade. And once again, according to a June 14, 2014, op-ed piece in the *Washington Post* written by a prominent counter-insurgency expert, “by declining to provide a long-term security assistance force to an Iraq not yet able to handle the fight itself, we pulled defeat from the jaws of victory.” He goes on to argue, “We are reaping the instability and increased threat to U.S. interests that we [emphasis in the original] have sown through the failure of our endgame in Iraq There is a clear lesson here for those contemplating a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.” It does not seem to occur to him or those who agree with him, as it did not occur to the politi-



cians and generals who created and persisted in the disaster that was the Vietnam War, that Iraq was never ours to win or lose. Just as we could not train our Saigon allies to become self-sufficient in spite of massive U.S. aid and intervention, now we seem to have failed to create a viable and self-sufficient government in Baghdad — and it’s all our fault because we pulled out too soon instead of having the moxie to stay the course. It has nothing to do, according to this point of view, with the motivation, composition, determination (or lack of determination) of our allies and their opponents; it is all about us: US. U.S. The Iraq War is not, of course, the Vietnam War. The differen-

ces are myriad. But there are two similarities, and these two trump all the differences: 1) in each case, U.S. policymakers tasked the military with achieving goals that were and are unattainable by force of arms; and 2) when you send scared and heavily armed kids into a hostile environment they have no hope of understanding or navigating, nothing good will result. Oh, yes, there is one more similarity, and that is the arrogance of bright and powerful people who persist in imagining that American military might can accomplish whatever they desire, and in blaming their failures on anything and anyone but their own ignorance. § W.D. Ehrhart holds a Ph.D. from the University of Wales at Swansea, and teaches at the Haverford School in suburban Philadelphia. He is the subject of *The Last Time I Dreamed About the War: The Life and Writing of W. D. Ehrhart* (McFarland 2014).

cowpoke Perry may preach, the vast majority of job growth in Texas does not net new jobs for America. Perry has been visiting other states to entice their CEOs to close up and move to Texas. I guess this is his version of the southern good neighbor policy? Chief Poacher Perry has brought new meaning to the concept of the war between the states, but why not? He often speculates about secession as good for Texas. Does Perry really think that anyone outside of Texas will vote for him in 2016? If he does he needs some of the “reparative therapy” that he advocates for gays. Dave Potter North Hampton, NH

Koch Brothers Stunned To Find Some Non-Rich People In Their Lobby

by Jim Hightower

The gabillionaire Koch brothers feel entitled to occupy the people’s elections, barging in with sacks full of corporate cash. So, how would the brothers feel if the people barged into their political affairs? To find out, a few citizens recently paid a visit to “Koch Companies Public Sector,” the grandiose name the brothers give to their Washington, DC, lobbying headquarters. From there, a covey of high-dollar Koch-headed sapsucker lobbyists flits all around

town trying to get lawmakers to take away our Social Security, Medicare, minimum wage, etc. — while also making sure that the two, “free-enterprise” proselytizers keep getting their billion-dollar-a-year package of government subsidies. So, some “commoners” came calling on the Kochs. Okay, it was more than some — more like 600. They’re affiliated with National People’s Action, a scrappy, grassroots network of farmers, workers, clergy, retirees, environmentalists, students, and just plain folks. The visitors occupied the grand

lobby of the lobbyists’ building — forming a picture-perfect contrast between the Powers That Be and the Powers That OUGHT To Be. First, a couple of ministers in the NPA group called on the Kochs to “repent” their narcissistic political push to pervert our democracy into their privatized plutocracy. Then, several of the out-of-towners gave personal testimony about the real-life impacts that the Kochs’ extremist ideological agenda is having. Patricia Fuller, for example, told of struggling to make it on Michigan’s \$7.40-an-hour minimum wage, then asked

why the billionaires would spend millions to try to knock it lower — or, as Charles Koch advocates, eliminating America’s wage floor entirely. Of course, the visitors were tossed out, but their point was made: It’s time to toss these corporate oligarchs out of the people’s business. § Copyright 2014 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laura@jimhightower.com) for more information. §

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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.

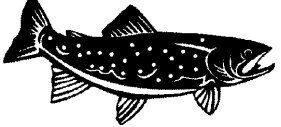
Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream

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, June 29	Monday, June 30	Tuesday, July 1	Wednesday, July 2	Thursday, July 3	Friday, July 4	Saturday, July 5
2006—"It was not always certain," says George W. Bush, "that the U.S. and America would have a close relationship." 2002—George W. Bush invokes the 25th Amendment, making Dick "Dick" Cheney President while Bush's colon is inspected. 1989—<i>The Washington Times</i> reports that high officials in the Reagan & Bush I administrations are under investigation for involvement in a homosexual prostitution ring. The story quickly and conveniently evaporates. 1987—"We don't care," declares Attorney General Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese, "about the political or ideological allegiances of a prospective judge." His audience bursts out laughing. 1966—U.S. starts bombing major oil facilities in Hanoi and Haiphong harbor. 1956—The U.S. Federal Highway Act OK's construction of 42,500 miles of highway so the Pentagon can move stuff around in case the Cold War turns hot. 1940—The Smith Act, requiring aliens in the U.S. to register with the government, is enacted. 1620—Tobacco growing is banned in England, giving the Virginia Company a monopoly. 1613—The Globe Theater burns to the ground during a performance of Shakespeare's <i>Henry VIII</i>.	2009—Oil futures prices hit an eight-month high when an unauthorized trader buys 7 million barrels during an epic drunk. 2003—<i>The Army Times</i> reports that the Bush administration wants to cut combat and family-separation pay for troops in combat zones. 2001—Surgeons find a small, hard, black object in Dick Cheney's chest and attach a pacemaker and defibrillator to it. 1980—Jimmy Carter signs a bill creating a U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corporation, charged with reducing our dependence on foreign oil. 1973—The last man drafted in the U.S. enters the Army. 1971—Richard "I am not a crook" Nixon orders his "Plumbers Unit" to break into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. 1956—A DC-7 and a Lockheed Super Constellation collide over the Grand Canyon. Both crash, killing all 128 on board. The accident leads to the creation of the FAA. 1908—A mysterious 40 mega-ton explosion flattens a huge area around Tunguska, Siberia. 1882—Chanting "I am going to the Lordy, I am so glad," Charles Guiteau is hanged for assassinating President Garfield. 1864—NH-born Treasury Sec. Salmon P. Chase resigns, charging speculators are plotting to prolong the War for monetary gain.	2002—Two America West pilots, after consuming nearly three gallons of beer, are thrown out of a Miami bar about 4:45 a.m. Slated to pilot Flight 556 to Phoenix, they are busted instead. 1991—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush nominates Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. 1973—Military conscription ends in the U.S., succeeded by an all-"volunteer" force. 1968—South Vietnam officially takes over the Phoenix Program. 1968—A chartered DC-8 carrying 214 American soldiers to Vietnam goes off course, strays into Soviet airspace, and is forced to land in the USSR. 1956—Elvis Presley appears on the Steve Allen Show and sings "Hound Dog" to a basset hound dressed in formal wear. 1946—The U.S. Army detonates the world's 4th nuclear explosion at Bikini Atoll. The U.S. Navy orders sailors to board radioactive target ships the following day. 1917—In Boston, 8,000 march against the war. 1916—On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 19,240 British soldiers die and 35,493 go missing. 1884—Allan Pinkerton, founder of the strike-breaking, union-busting detective agency, dies from an infected tongue after biting it accidentally in a fall.	2003—George W. Bush says, "There are some who feel that the conditions are such that they can attack us [in Iraq]. My answer is, bring 'em on." 1982—Vietnam vet Larry Walters, 33, ascends to 16,000 feet in a lawn chair buoyed by 45 helium-filled weather balloons. 1976—The Supreme Court rules there's nothing cruel or unusual about the government killing certain selected people. 1970—Word gets out that South Vietnam is torturing prisoners at Con Son Prison. 1932—One year after predicting that highway speeds of 100 m.p.h. would soon be common, Fred Duesenberg rolls his Duesenberg at high speed. He dies three weeks later. 1917—A carload of white males conduct a drive-by shooting in black East St. Louis starting the 20th century's worst race riot. 1894—Attorney General (railroad director) Richard Olney gets an injunction against striking Pullman workers. 1881—In Washington, Charles Guiteau, a Republican of the "Stalwart" faction, shoots President Garfield in the back. 1776—Twelve colonies vote to support the Declaration of Independence at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.	1993—In Littleton, NH, punk rocker and native son GG Allin is buried in the St. Rose Cemetery, clad in a leather jacket, dog collar, and jockstrap. 1988—The <i>U.S.S. Vincennes</i>, confusing an Iranian airliner for an F-14, shoots it down; 290 civilians die. 1960—George Lincoln Rockwell leads an American Nazi Pary rally on the Mall in Washington, D.C. It devolves into a riot. 1940—To prevent its falling into Nazi hands, the British Navy sinks much of the French fleet at Mers-el-Kebir, off Algeria. 1894—President G. Cleveland sends federal troops to Cleveland to break up the Pullman Strike, citing the indispensibility of mail delivery as his justification. 1890—The 43rd state is admitted to the Union. Idaho's name, once thought to be Shoshoni, is more likely a hoax concocted by one George M. Willing. 1863—Portsmouth-born Benjamin F. Falls captures a flag at Gettysburg. He is later decorated with the Medal of Honor. 1850—Australian newspaper publisher James Harrison dooms New Hampshire's ice-exporting industry by demonstrating the first mechanical refrigeration plant. 1754—George Washington finds it necessary to surrender Fort Necessity to the French.	2004—Joe Frost makes the final sale ever at The Book Guild on State Street. 1991—During Portsmouth's "Welcome Home Desert Storm Vets" Parade, 'Nam Vets are applauded 17 years after the Fall of Saigon. 1961—The Soviet sub <i>K-19</i> lives up to her nickname, "<i>Hiroshima</i>." 1951—Baltimore's regular fireworks display is preceded by a mock "atomic bomb" explosion complete with two collapsing houses, burst water and gas mains, and evacuation of the "wounded." 1947—The Boozefighters, a subset of "The Greatest Generation,®" take over Hollister, CA. Three days of debauchery spawn a movie, <i>The Wild One</i>, and a generation of pos-seurs, mostly accountants. 1932—A spark prematurely ignites fireworks carried by daredevil Louis "Speedy" Babbs as he parachutes over Santa Monica. He plunges into the Pacific in a ball of fire but soon resumes his career. 1924—Thousands of Ku Klux Klansmen meet in New Jersey to burn crosses and celebrate the failure of a Democratic Party campaign plank which would have condemned the Klan. 1911—Nashua registers New Hampshire's highest temperature to date, 106 degrees. 1898—At Hampton Beach, a tornado kills 3 and injures 120.	1989—Lt. Col. Ollie North gets his wrist slapped for trampling on the Constitution. 1968—The Marine base at Khe Sanh, defended through a 78-day siege ending three months earlier at a cost of 737 lives, is abandoned. 1950—Private Kenneth Shadrick, 20, of Skin Fork, WV, becomes the first American killed in the Korean Conflict. 1946—In Paris, Micheline Bernardini appears wearing the world's first bikini. 1943—Residents of Boise City, OK are startled when, at 12:30 a.m., a lost B-17 drops six training bombs in the town square. 1934—During a dock workers' strike in San Francisco, Joseph Roush, a Federal Laboratories sales rep, fires a long-distance tear gas shell at strikers. Hit in the skull, one later dies. Roush writes to his boss, "as he was a Communist, I had no feeling in the matter and I am sorry that I did not get more." 1894—A massive fire, probably set, destroys six buildings at the World's Columbian Exposition, including Machinery Hall, where Daniel Fowle's printing press was last seen by the public. 1861—Abraham Lincoln suspends <i>habeas corpus</i>, permitting the arrest of 18,000 subversives and peace activists. 1810—Happy B'day P.T. Barnum.
Sunday, July 6	Monday, July 7	Tuesday, July 8	Wednesday, July 9	Thursday, July 10	Friday, July 11	Saturday, July 12
2013—A runaway fuel train derails and burns, destroying half of downtown Lac Megantic, Quebec. 2006—Riding a bike in Scotland, George W. Bush takes a hand off the handlebars to wave at police. Bush falls and strikes a policeman, who is hospitalized. 2003—A <i>New York Times</i> op-ed by Joseph Wilson accuses George W. Bush of "twisting" intelligence to justify a war against Iraq. 2001—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and exhibitionist Robert Hannsen pleads guilty to selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then the Russians. 1971—Troubled by leaks, the Nixon Administration forms the "Plumbers" unit. 1959—A C-124 with a nuke on-board (minus its fissile core) crashes at Barksdale AFB, LA. Both plane and weapon are destroyed. 1933—The first All-Star Game is played at Comisky Park. Babe Ruth hits the first homer. 1916—The U.S. Army begins using dog tags to improve its method of accounting for dead GIs. 1894—U.S. troops land in Nicaragua to protect U.S. interests. 1892—Pinkerton "detectives" and striking miners begin fighting it out in Homestead, PA; 20 die. 1887—Hawaii's King Kalakaua signs away his power inking the "Bayonet Constitution" at gunpoint.	1967—North Vietnamese General Nguyen Chi Thanh dies of a heart attack after excessively celebrating the Politburo's approval of his plan for a Tet Offensive. 1954—As Ngo Dinh Diem arrives in Saigon to serve as premier, U.S. Gen. John W. O'Daniel, says "the war in Vietnam can be won without bringing in one single American soldier to fight." 1950—FBI Chief J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover proposes the permanent detention of 12,000 people he deems "potentially dangerous to the internal security of the country." 1924—President Coolidge's son Calvin Jr. succumbs to blood poisoning resulting from a blister he got playing tennis with his brother on the White House lawn. 1905—Kentucky hangs Robert Mathley, but he's six feet tall and the rope stretches. Officials with shovels dig until his feet don't touch the earth. 1844—In Philadelphia, nativist Protestants and Irish Catholics armed with cannon fight it out at the Church of St. Philip Neri. 1826—In Frankfort, KY, Jereboam O. Beauchamp, Esq. is hurriedly hanged for murder before he can bleed to death from a self-inflicted knife wound. Beauchamp and his wife Anna are then buried, embracing, in the same coffin; her end of the suicide pact succeeded.	1976—The State of New York yanks Richard Nixon's license to practice law. 1969—The U.S. begins withdrawing troops from Vietnam instead of adding more. 1959—Viet Cong forces attack Bien Hoa air base, killing two U.S. advisors as they watch a movie. 1947—Radio reports say a UFO has crashed at Roswell, NM. 1944—Japanese-speaking Marine Private Guy Gabaldon single-handedly takes custody of 800 prisoners on Saipan. 1932—The Dow-Jones average bottoms out at 41.22 points. 1911—Nan Jane Aspinwall arrives in New York City having left San Francisco 310 days earlier, traveling more than 4,500 miles on horseback. 1886—In Britain it rains snails. 1853—Commodore Matthew Perry convinces the Japanese that it's better to trade with the U.S. than get shelled by them. 1835—The Liberty Bell tolls upon the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Legend says it cracked this day, but that's been disputed. 1788—In Canterbury, CT, hail falls to a depth of 34 inches. 1776—In Philadelphia, the as yet un-named Liberty Bell summons citizens to hear the Declaration of Independence read for the first time by Colonel John Nixon.	2004—"I trust God speaks through me," says George W. Bush to an Amish group. "Without that, I couldn't do my job." 1986—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese publishes a 1,960 page report on pornography meticulously listing 100 pages worth of obscene movie, magazine, and book titles. 1982—Unemployed and barefooted Englishman Michael Fagan, 31, climbs a drainpipe, enters Buckingham Palace, and wakes Queen Elizabeth in her bedroom. 1958—Fourteen thousand U.S. troops, equipped with nuclear-capable rockets, invade Lebanon. 1958—A landslide falling into Lituya Bay, AK, causes a megatsunami over 1,700 feet high. 1951—The House Un-American Activities Committee sentences tubercular <i>Maltese Falcon</i> author Dashiell Hammett to six months in prison for reticence. 1937—Oliver Law, a battalion commander in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the first African-American to lead white troops, is killed in action in Spain. 1918—Two trains collide head-on in Nashville killing 101 and injuring another 171. It is the deadliest train wreck in U.S. history. 1848—Marines of the <i>U.S.S. Portsmouth</i> row ashore and raise the flag at Yerba Buena (now San Francisco) claiming California for the U.S.	2007—China punishes Zheng Xim-aoyu, Director of the State Food and Drug Administration. He took bribes that led to 40 deaths; they kill him. 2001—George Tenet tries to warn George Bush and Condi Rice about Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, but can't get their attention. 1989—Fifteen tornadoes rip through the northeast, causing \$100 million in damages. 1985—French secret police in the South Pacific blow up Greenpeace's boat, <i>Rainbow Warrior</i>. 1972—In the Chandka Forest of India, a herd of stampeding elephants, driven mad by the heat, flattens a village killing 24. 1926—At Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey, a bolt of lightning strikes a powder warehouse. Several million pounds of explosives go off over a three-day period, destroying 187 of 200 buildings, killing 19 and injuring 38 more. 1923—In Germany, to accomodate inflation, a 500,000 mark banknote is introduced. 1805—RIP Revolutionary War soldier Col. William Butler who was court martialled for refusing to cut off his ponytail. "Bore a hole through the bottom of my coffin," he wrote in his will, "[so that] the damned rascal [his ex-commanding officer] will see that, even when dead, I refuse to obey his orders."	2003—Condi Rice improbably denies White House knowledge of Joe Wilson's Niger investigation; Ari Fleischer tells reporters Valerie Plame works for the CIA; Karl Rove tells a <i>Time</i> reporter that Wilson's wife sent him to Niger, and his report is suspect; and CIA head George Tenet takes the rap for the White House's lies about Iraq getting uranium from Niger. 1995—The U.S. establishes diplomatic relations with Vietnam 22 years after pulling out its troops. 1979—After a period of global anxiety, <i>Skylab</i> crashes to earth in the outback of Australia. 1966—Poet Delmore Schwartz dies in a New York hotel. No one notices until two days later. 1955—Congress puts "In God We Trust" on all U.S. coins and paper currency. Which one isn't specified. 1953—Ike OK's the overthrow of Iran's Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq. What could go wrong? 1947—In Georgia, 8 black prisoners are killed for refusing to work without boots in a swamp. 1864—On a parapet at Ft. Stevens, four miles north of the White House, Abraham Lincoln comes under enemy fire. 1804—At Wechauken, NJ Alexander Hamilton fires into the ground in front of Aaron Burr, who takes aim and shoots Hamilton in the chest, killing him.	1982—The Federal Emergency Management Agency pledges that, in the event of a nuclear war, the mail will get through. 1973—A fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO destroys the only copy of the service records of 16 to 18 million Army and Air Force veterans. 1962—In Pennsylvania, a garbage dump fire spreads to a coal mine where it will burn for more than twenty years. 1917—Armed vigilantes in Bisbee, AZ round up striking copper miners, herd them into cattle cars, take them east into New Mexico, and abandon them in the desert without food or water. 1916—Lyudmila Pavlichenko is born in the Ukraine. As a Red Army sniper, she kills over 500 Nazis during WWII and becomes the first Soviet citizen welcomed to the White House. 1908—Birth of Milton Berle, the first American transvestite to have his own television show. 1892—The Pennsylvania militia wins the battle against striking Homestead steelworkers. 1836—In Cincinnati, a pro-slavery mob destroys type used by James Burney to print his abolitionist paper, <i>The Philanthropist</i>. 1834—Botanist David Douglas of the eponymous fir is trampled by wild bulls in a Hawaiian pit trap.

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