

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Chris Kyle: American Sniper Worker

"Unhappy is the land that needs a hero."
— Bertold Brecht, *Life of Galileo*

~

At last: a cultural phenomenon that bridges the gap between red meat-eating Red Staters and the most effete of America's leftist elites. National unity may be just around the corner.

The old white men who dominate the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and who so generously fund Democratic election campaigns, have offered up six Oscar nominations — including three of the biggies: Best Picture, Best Actor, and Best Adapted Screenplay — to a flattering biopic about a Texas rodeo-rider turned Navy SEAL. They weren't just honoring the film's financial success, either. The nominations for Clint Eastwood's *American Sniper* were made *before* the picture became a box office sensation.

Meanwhile, down on the ground in fly-over country, a large slice of the movie-going public is welcoming the movie like a prodigal son. And why not? Movies are the stuff of which our collective dreams are made. They allow us, for the price of a ticket, to be somebody else for a few hours. Apparently there's a big demand for the fantasy of being the muscled-up Christian soldier who shot more "savage" Muslims than anyone else.

An Unlikely Story

Books are typically written by probing people who are trying to get to the bottom of a subject with which they are obsessed. The Chris Kyle who wrote *American Sniper*, the book on which the movie is based, seems devoid of either curiosity or introspection. But then, writing an autobiography was not his idea. The book exists only because an editor at HarperCollins got wind of his story and set him up with not one, but two ghost writers.

One, Jim DeFelice, claims to have written over fifty books, including fourteen best sellers. The other, Scott McEwan, has otherwise written at least three "Sniper Elite" novels and a book of allegedly non-fiction SEAL stories. Their collective *oeuvre* seems to fall entirely within the surprisingly large

genre of literature devoted to blood, guts, and testosterone. Who knew that he-men read so much?

It is probably fitting that Kyle's autobiography was ghost-written. He claimed to have clear conscience. "Everyone I shot was evil," he wrote. "I had good cause on every shot. They all deserved to die." His post-combat behavior, though, perfectly fits the pattern of a man who is ghost-ridden.

Nobody's Perfect

Americans seem to have a penchant for flawed heroes. Either that or perfect ones simply don't exist. In his book, Kyle admits to driving his pickup truck while drunk and getting into lots of barroom brawls.

A flaw he never addressed in life seems more troubling. Judging from voluminous news reporting and a successful lawsuit against his estate, Kyle may have been as quick to tell a lie as he was to pull a trigger.

One More Tragic Hero

Kyle's most-redeeming feature, aside from the many lives he clearly saved by taking so many others, was the compassion he showed for other veterans more troubled than himself. His unquestioning devotion to the mission he was given nearly destroyed his life; it was devotion to his former comrades in arms that finally took it. As Will Rogers, an earlier icon from the American West, once said, "Heroing is one of the shortest-lived professions there is."

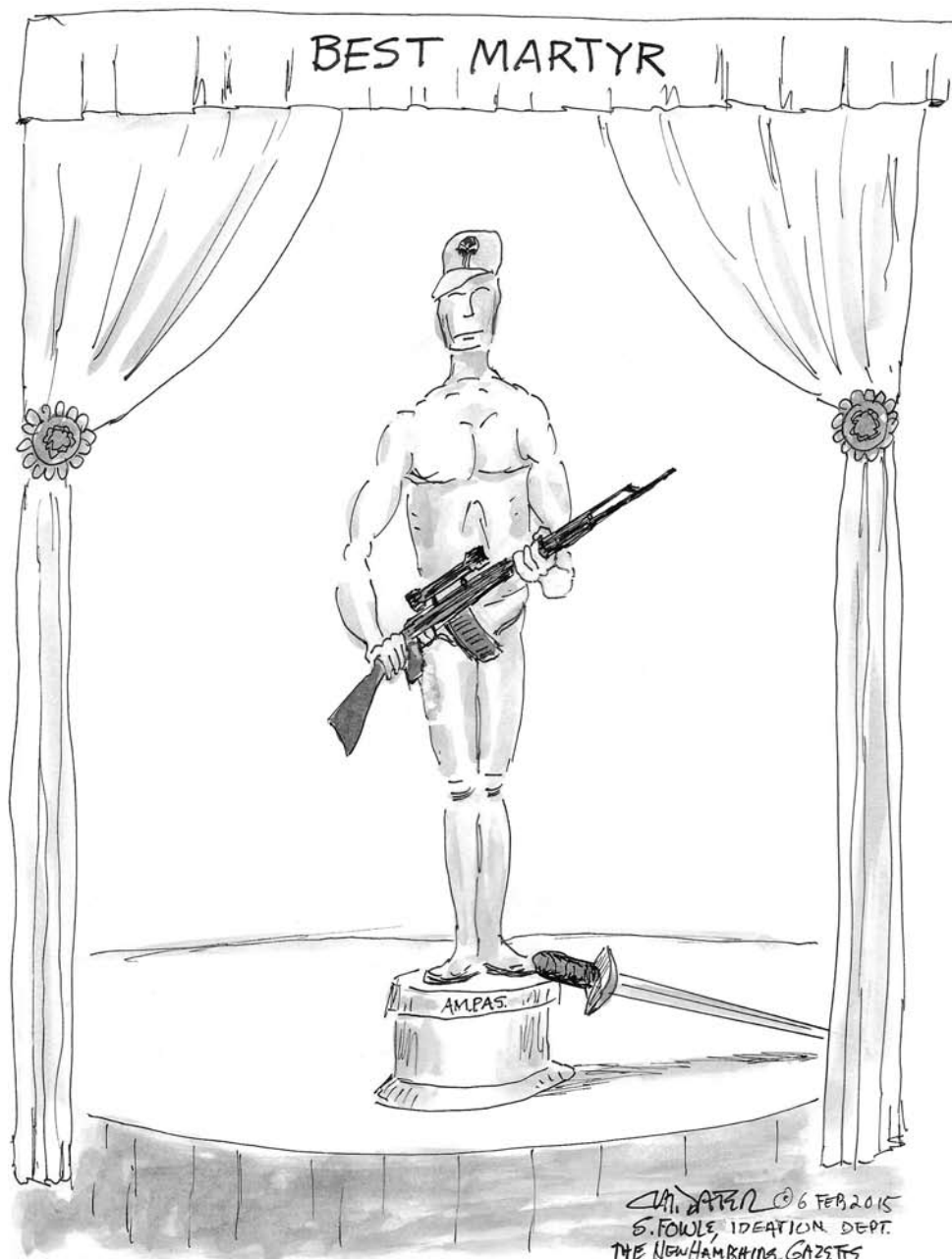
In Service To What End?

By turning an unlikely book about an unpopular war into a Hollywood blockbuster, Clint Eastwood has further obscured an important point: the war that made Kyle a hero was conducted in violation of international law.

Kyle chose to ignore that inconvenient fact. He seems to have seen himself as just a guy, doing a tough job for his country the best way he could. That's on him, and since he's dead the point is moot.

We the living, the supposed beneficiaries of his sacrifice, show no more interest in the war's illegitimacy than Kyle ever did.

We are similarly indifferent to the deviant route that was taken by the war's top perpetrator on his way to the Oval Office.



So it is, too, with the Wall Street collapse in 2008, that impoverished so many Americans. Just as some banks are too big to fail, the enormity of some crimes makes them too difficult to prosecute.

It's a shame. Even a flawed hero deserves to serve a better nation than that.

Aimed At The Wrong Target

An unsettling new book, *Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security*, argues that our War on Terror targets the wrong enemy. Radical Islam is not, in itself, the problem, writes Sarah Chayes. The problem is that the endemic corruption of illegitimate, kleptocratic governments, in Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and else-

where — which we support — generates vast numbers of people who are enraged at their condition. Radical Islamists point out that the Koran prohibits corruption. They then blame insidious foreign influences for its presence and call for a jihad.

The New, Global Gilded Age

The robber baron Jay Gould is alleged to have said, during America's First Gilded Age, "I can hire one half of the working class to kill the other half."

We now live in a new, Globalized Gilded Age, but some things never change. As the Wobblies pointed out a hundred years ago: "A bayonet is a tool with a worker at each end."

The Alleged News®

Politics: Somewhat Less Awful Than the Weather

Thank God for the 2016 First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election® — the consistently high-value entertainment it provides shields us from the despair we might otherwise feel when we see yet another snowstorm in the weather forecast.

Let us start with Mitt Romney, while we all still remember his name. As we reported in our last issue, Romney first announced his intention to run, then began "crafting a rationale" for his campaign.

Early this past fortnight, the man who owns the house on the beach in La Jolla that has an elevator in it for cars unveiled his great, burning ambition: "We're

going to ... finally end the scourge of poverty in this great land!" This being a nation full of cynics, people laughed.

Romney's popularity among Republicans isn't what it used to be. From an 85/13 ratio of favorable-to-unfavorable, according to Public Policy Polling [PPP], he's slipped down to 62/24.

Even so, he's more popular than the rest of the GOP field. A PPP poll published January 30th had Romney at 21 percent, Jeb Bush at 17 percent, Ben Carson at 15 percent, Scott Walker at 11 percent, Ted Cruz and Mike Huckabee tied at nine percent, Chris Christie at seven percent, Rand Paul at four percent, and Rick

Perry at two percent.

The punch line, of course, is that the GOP's most popular candidate dropped out of the race last Friday.

Approximately one year before the New Hampshire Primary, Mitt was informed that he had lost the Invisible Money Primary.

According to a report in the *New York Times*, a string of wealthy and influential Republicans whose names the public at large have never heard, led by a former Romney backer, conferred privately and decided to cut the former Massachusetts governor's campaign off at the knees.

Their consensus was never mind what Romney wants and

never mind what the public wants — we want a candidate who can win, up front, right away. To be avoided at all costs: another long, drawn-out knife fight in the abattoir, like the catastrophic 2012 primary season.

Third Time's the Harm

Having given Mitt the hook, the GOP's establishment now seems bent on foisting yet another Bush on the long-suffering American public. (Lord, how they must hate us.) It's hard to see, though, how pushing Bush #3 will lead to the smooth and tranquil nominating process they so desire — because their base hates his guts.

This was demonstrated by New Hampshire's own Bill O'Brien

during his January 24th address to Rep. Steve King's Iowa Freedom Summit. O'Brien, who referred to himself as "the present New Hampshire House Leader" — an honor he bestowed on himself after his bid for the House Speakership was rebuffed — spoke before Romney had bailed out.

His five-minute speech was a clarion call to battle — against the leaders of his own party — which might as well have cited Bush by name as a *casus belli*.

Warning against nominating — "again" — a candidate who "either does not have the cour-

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age of his conviction, or has no convictions,” O’Brien said, voice dripping with disdain, “I don’t know what is worse, nominating someone merely because he’s been nominated twice before, or nominating a liberal supporter of Common Cause ... uh ... Common Core ... because he has a familiar name.”

Though they came from a minor figure from a distant state, O’Brien’s remarks drew a rousing response. They boosted his profile at home, too. Rep. Al Baldasaro Tweeted, “Republican Caucus Ldr Rep Bill O’Brien putting

NH on the map by being invited to speak @ Freedom Summit.” Baldasaro is right — O’Brien did get a mention in Roger Simon’s column at *Politico*. It was headlined, “GOP clown car runs into ditch.”

Criticism aside, the Iowa event gave Bush and Romney a chance to demonstrate their political savvy — they skipped it.

The Thrilla From Wasilla

The most talked-about speech of the Iowa Summit came from another semi-eclipsed but much better known figure — former Vice Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin.

Republicans often fail to “get” irony, but that doesn’t make them



Five leading New Hampshire Republicans, narcissistically posing with photographs of themselves, turn their backs on a U.S. flag being desecrated for the sake of a group photo being taken to tout their allegedly patriotic political party. The Union Leader, the state’s largest and most consistently self-righteous newspaper when it comes to patriotism, published the photo on January 25th, making no reference to the fact that its subjects were, in apparent conspiracy, violating Title 4, Section 8, Paragraph (b) of the Flag Code: “The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.” The guilty parties are, from left to right, State Sen. Nancy Stiles, R-Hampton; former state Rep. Marilinda Garcia, R-Salem, former state Senate candidate Eddie Edwards of Dover, former state Senate candidate Phil Nazzarro of Newmarket, and former Congressional candidate Dan Innis of Portsmouth. The travesty was organized by Renee Plummer, of Portsmouth.



immune to it. Palin, who has regaled her audiences countless times with references to President Obama’s alleged reliance on a teleprompter, suddenly found herself facing a dead one.

Never known for her clear syntax, she proceeded to outdo herself, serving up a word salad so bizarre it rendered neutral observers nearly speechless. Scott Conroy, who followed Palin for years and wrote a book about her, Tweeted, “I don’t say this lightly. This is the strangest speech I’ve ever seen Sarah Palin deliver.” Even the *Washington Examiner’s* Byron York — no leftie, he — quoted an Iowa Republican Tweeting, “Palin made ... Trump look like a serious presidential candidate.”

Journalists and the odd Iowan may have found her ramblings incoherent, but the bulk of her audience understood her — or thought they did. She got a standing ovation.

Rupert Helps Out

Donald Trump, another “ready

for Fox News but nothing else” quasi-candidate, also popped up in Iowa, with the latest installment of his long-running, Andy Kaufman-inspired performance art piece. “I was leading in every poll,” he told the *Des Moines Register*, “I regret that I didn’t stay in ... I would’ve won the race against Obama.”

Presidential Primaries seem to have become, for the Republican Party’s never-gonna-happen grifters, what they imagine welfare to be for disease-ridden illegals with calves the size of cantaloupes: a rich opportunity for freeloading. Events like King’s Iowa Summit are like cheap time slots on cable TV — a chance to put an infomercial in front of a gullible audience.

Prime time for this sort of scam, of course, is Fox “News,” which brings us to an intriguing theory whose source, unfortunately, we cannot recall. By giving so much air time to full-on loonies like Palin and Trump, Murdoch deprives

actual GOP only-half-loony candidates of the air time they need both to get out their message, and to hone their media skills.

We’re filing that theory under “hilarious if true.”

Here’s a bit of supporting evidence: in a CBS poll taken shortly before the Summit, 30 percent of Republicans said that Palin should run for President, making her more popular at this point than Ben Carson, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Bobby Jindal, Rand Paul, Rick Perry, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum, and Scott Walker.

The Real Candidate

Jeb Bush is currently walking point for the Plutocrat Wing of the GOP — right into a Tea Party ambush. That crowd just won’t have him.

Scott Walker, on the other hand, who is said to have acquitted himself well in Iowa, is also looked upon with favor by the Plutes. Perhaps their plan is to push Bush now just to knock him off quickly. That would clear the

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way for Walker without a long, drawn out, and divisive primary season.

The Real Summit

Iowa was bread and circuses for the plebians. The next day was serious: the Emperors and their entourage conducted job interviews with some of the somewhat less unlikely Presidential candidates.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and U.S. Senators Ted Cruz [R-TX], Rand Paul [R-KY] and Marco Rubio [R-FL] all reported to grovel before the Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce — aka Charles and David Koch and their billionaire cronies. The event took place at Rancho Mirage, CA — a rich person's paradise named for an optical illusion. The assembled fat cats let it be known they are willing to pay \$889 million to lease the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government for the next four years, with an option for another four.

To drive home the point that this is their world, and we just live in it, the Brothers Koch arranged a panel discussion among the supplicants, streamed live on the Web to news organizations and moderated by ABC News' White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl.

U.S. Trade Policy, Tweeted™

1) This whole trade agenda makes no sense. It's not just that it outsources middle class jobs to countries like Vietnam.

2) It's also that the U.S. has given away our technology, our industrial base, and our know-how to the Chinese.

3) For instance, nearly all base pharmaceutical chemicals, most invented in the U.S., are now sole sourced in China.

4) Same with food preservatives, vitamins, phones, semiconductor assembly, computers, air conditioners, etc.

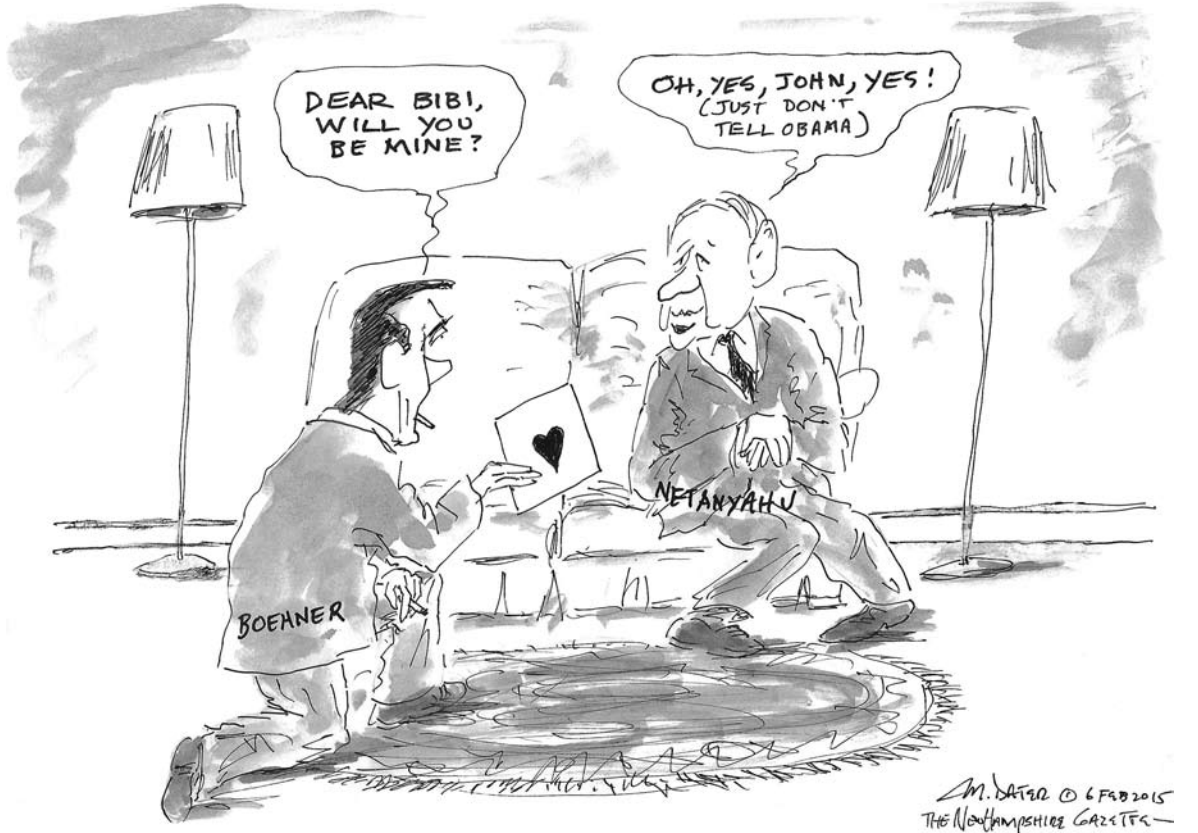
5) We got a glimpse of the problem when China threatened the U.S. and our allies over rare earth minerals in 2010.

6) The problem has to do with thousands of different critical components in our supply chains, now bottlenecked in China.

7) The Chinese are only taking what we're giving them. It's not that they are aggressive, we are just short-sighted.

8) Every one of these bottlenecks is a point of leverage and a flash point for possible conflict. This is very dangerous stuff.

9) We need a much safer form of globalization, one without single points of failure and with



redundancies and more social equity.

10) Our post-WWII trade policies made sense because we ensured that trade patterns were managed safely. Starting with NAFTA however

11) People bought into the "end of history" and saw the flow of capital as reality and the flow of stuff as virtual. The opposite is true.

12) From the 1790s to the 1990s, the U.S. managed its trade policy to remain independent from foreign powers. No sole source dependencies.

13) The idea that what really matters is flickering dots on the computer screen of banks is a form of madness.

14) Being able to feed and protect oneself and self-govern have been core traits of the American order since 1790s.

15) A trade agenda that pushes factories overseas and deskills and demoralizes our workers is so foolish.

— @matthewstoller; 1/20/15

MWRC Keeps It Classy

We see from the *Conway Sun* that the Mount Washington Valley Republican Committee re-elected Ray Shakir as Vice Chairman last month.

Shakir's fifteen Warholian minutes came during the summer of 2011 when *Mother Jones* quoted him describing President Obama as a "jungle alien."

"Shakir said *Mother Jones* quoted him accurately," the *Sun* reported, justifying the term by saying "the president [is] from Kenya and that country's terrain has jungle." He's not a racist, though — he supports Ben Carson for President.

Knocking Out Submarines

On Wednesday, February 11, the Portsmouth Athenæum will present a lecture entitled "Portsmouth Navy Yard's Record Setting World War II Submarine Production."

Drawing on his book, *32 in '44: Building the Portsmouth Submarine Fleet in World War II*, Captain Rodney Watterson USN (Re-

tired) will analyze the Navy Yard's remarkable wartime performance.

The talk will be held in the Athenæum's Research Library, beginning at 7 p.m. It will be free to Athenæum Friends and Members; the public is welcome, subject to a \$10 General Admission fee. Reservations are requested since space is limited. Call (603) 431-2538 X2 at least 48 hours in advance.

'Twas Ever Thus

"The money was all appropriated for the top in the hopes that it would trickle down to the needy. Mr. Hoover ... didn't know that money trickled up. Give it to the people at the bottom and the people at the top will have it before night, anyhow. But it will at least have passed through the poor fellow's hands."

— Will Rogers, Nov. 26, 1932



Larry Kent, Custodian of the Warner House, digs out following the blizzard. The January 27th blizzard, not the February 2nd blizzard.

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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Welcome to Shoebox Flats

To the Editor:

Portsmouth may not have to wait for sea level rise to sink: between Shoebox Flats to the North (sorry, but a few ornate facades and some tasteful lighting and fencing do not a shoebox unmake) and the erections at the approach to the Memorial Bridge, the city is rapidly being canyonized, public views of river and shipyard being eliminated one after another. There'll soon be no State Street view of the bridge until the final turn is made onto the approach.

One wonders if the developers gave any thought, with respect to the edifice rising beside the bridge, to the sounding of the siren and clanging of bells as the bridge is raised and lowered half-hourly during the summer months, or to the successive grade crossings traversed by the tracks alongside which the North End's most recent addition is being raised, at which Pan Am's diesels are required to sound their melodious air horns.

Could it come to pass that a panoramic view of the city's historic downtown might be had only from one of the noisy red helicopters?

John Simon
Portsmouth, NH

John:

Socialist freeloaders have been taking advantage of this town's undeveloped lots for far too long. It's about time a brave entrepreneur figured out a way to privatize — and

profit-ize — the visual experience of this burg.

As for your snide comments about the free sound effects available at some of our toniest new addresses — did it ever occur to you that the developers might be thoughtfully providing housing for the deaf?

The Editor

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**Support Anaerobic Digestion**

To the Editor:

My dogs get off-leash exercise at Pierce Island almost daily. The only thing out of place between our working port's ships, the South End's picturesque view, and Fort Washington's historic remains is our wasted bi-product being trucked off the island to a Rochester landfill.

Portsmouth is considering investing \$80 million in a new Pierce Island waste water treatment plant because our effluent is currently only treated at the most basic level. Expanding the existing city-owned plant at Pease into a regional facility would be more cost-effective due to ratepayer cost-sharing and available space to incorporate an anaerobic digester.

Anaerobic digesters pay for themselves by microorganisms converting waste bi-product into a sustainable energy source that powers the plant by breaking down biodegradable material into biogas. A Pease anaerobic digester could even convert stored curbside compost into sustainable fuel. Anaerobic digestion should be included in Portsmouth's largest capital project ever.

Two other unrelated proposals presented by the Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices last November are gaining momentum on the Seacoast. On January 31, Rye's Deliberative Session will discuss a Pay As You Throw warrant article for a fairer solid waste disposal program to save taxpayers who reuse, recycle, and compost money. Meanwhile,

the well-drafted, legally-sound ordinance banning single-use, carry-out, plastic bags that the South Church's Green Sanctuary has been helping to gather signatures of support for will be presented at February second's City Council meeting, with a request for a subsequent meeting first reading.

Josh Denton  
Portsmouth, NH

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Death From Dignity?

To the Editor:

Paul Ryan has suddenly become concerned about restoring dignity to the poor and middle classes. This is a wonderful objective, but how he plans to go about it brings his quest into question. His budget principle should be called "The Ryan Reverse Robin Hood Regimen" — take from the poor and give to the rich. Who is redistributing wealth now!

The proposed budget cuts \$4.1 trillion from programs that help the poor and middle class to fund tax cuts of \$4.4 trillion to benefit the top earners. I guess if you add insult to the injury of a section of society they will come out of the experience with more dignity.

Ryan gets his cuts by repealing the ACA, cutting Medicaid, food stamps, Head Start, school lunches, heating assistance, public health and other safety net programs.

If there seems to be something illogical about Representative Ryan's scheme you have not been paying attention to what Republicans want our society to look like in the future. Already the top 1 percent possess 35 percent of the nation's wealth, up 130 percent since 1979. In the same period the top 20 percent gained 28 percent but the bottom 80 percent actually lost share.

I'll have to think some more to understand why this group needs another tax cut and why Ryan believes that the rest of us should

give up anything to help them. Let's get Ryan's vision straight. If you have been laid off you will feel much better about yourself if you are panhandling or foraging in the woods in between job interviews, rather than accepting unemployment insurance or food stamps.

If you cannot afford college tuition, wait until you can save up the money. You'll feel better about that diploma if you pay for it in cash. Pell grants and student loans are very bad for your self-esteem and will probably negatively affect your education. On your minimum wage it may take 10-15 years of saving, but good things come to those who wait.

When it comes to your healthcare, "tough it out." That beats accepting a handout that hurts your dignity. The science which claims not having health insurance or regular healthcare can be detrimental to your health is exaggerated.

With this kind of Republican thinking in Congress the rich will get richer, the poor will get poorer and probably sicker, all for the crazy notion that cutting programs that support the poor will return their dignity to them.

On the contrary, this attitude denies, denigrates, deprives and discourages those that are in need while doing nothing to restore their dignity.

Could it be that "Death from Dignity" becomes a category in annual U.S. death records as a result of these budget cuts to the well being of so many?

Dave Potter
North Hampton, NH

Dave:
Your concern for older Americans is touching but deeply flawed. Ryan and his steely-eyed cohorts understand that the only Americans worth worrying about are the young ones

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,**

— the very young ones. After they've left the womb, they're on their own.

The Editor

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**Local Eyes Oval Office**

To the Editor:

Israel, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Super Bowl! Trust me, there's a story.

In 1991 I found myself in the middle of Saudi Arabia. Operation Desert Storm was only 10 days old and I was flying nightly missions into Iraq and the Kuwaiti Theatre of Operations (KTO). Our F-15's were focused on Medium Range Missiles called SCUD's that were terrorizing Israel and Saudi Arabia. On this night, families across America would take a break from war on CNN and watch Super Bowl XXV. Whitney Houston would sing the National Anthem before an Empire State matchup between the New York Giants and Buffalo Bills. A lifelong NFL fan, I really missed home about then.

I received our mission orders for the night at the duty desk. I must have looked stunned as I read them over and over. "Proceed to three known SCUD sites. Remain on station dropping a 500-pound bomb every 15 minutes during the Super Bowl. It is imperative no SCUD launch interrupts coverage of the event." Seriously?

Two hours and one tricky air refueling later there I was, flying in Western Iraq delivering a message from Uncle Sam every 15 minutes. The Super Bowl will go on! As we flew in the darkness between targets there was time to reflect. In one single mission we were "Defending Israel, Guarding Saudi Arabia, Liberating Kuwait and for the People of New York ... Protecting a showcase event for the World." Now that's Foreign Policy!

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# And Other Correspondence

The world has become a very small place. America is forced into war when diplomacy and politicians fail. Americans I speak with across the nation are asking people around the world to take more responsibility for their own future. No longer interested in policing the world alone, we will stand ever vigilant with freedom loving nations in our mutual quest for peace on Earth.

Chris Hill  
Bedford, NH  
*Christopher V. Hill is a former U.S. Air Force combat pilot and Veteran of Desert Storm. He is currently a Republican candidate running for President of the United States in 2016.*

Chris:  
*You were OK with preserving the Bush #41 Administration by defending the sanctity of the Super Bowl, yet you're willing to compromise our current stance of autonomous world policeman? You'll have to come up with a better message than that to beat the 108 votes you got in 2012.*  
The Editor

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The Right to Meddle
To the Editor:
This weekend New Hampshire Right to Life [NHRTL] held its annual March For Life Rally. There were over 400 people in attendance at our event, which culminated in a wonderful speaker presentation by Catherine Adair.
As a past employee of Planned Parenthood in Boston, Ms. Adair shared her experiences of what really happens within the walls of a Planned Parenthood clinic. Ms. Adair's speech was thought-provoking but warmly presented and our NHRTL March For Life was most fortunate to have Ms. Adair as our event speaker.
The fact that so many supporters of life, including many State House legislators rallied in

frigid temperatures to participate in our March For Life is a testimony to the growing Life movement here in New Hampshire and beyond. Every life matters!
NHRTL would like to also thank Fr. Rich and the St. John the Evangelist Parish, Bishop Labasci who not only officiated the Mass service at St. John's but spoke at the New Hampshire State House rally, Pastor Garrett Lear, and Fr. Christian Tutor of All Saints Anglican Church in Concord, and the Knights of Columbus, all of whom assisted in making this rally such a successful event.

Jane Cormier
Hooksett, NH
Jane:
Perhaps some day you will reconcile for us the mutually-exclusive concept of a small, limited government that has the power to force women to bear children.
The Editor

~~~~~  
**Trigger Warning: Mash Note**  
To the Editor:  
As a long time resident of the Seacoast, I have been thinking of writing to you for years now. I am a subscriber to your paper, which I truly consider the voice of sanity in an insane political world. Without your thoughtful publication, I would miss out on the real story and the true facts behind timely headlines. Plus, we share a common disdain and mistrust of the current GOP. Speaking of which, I was disheartened but not surprised to see that our local GOP Reps, save Carol Bush, voted in favor of allowing guns on the New Hampshire Legislative floor. The very people who are in favor of it are those who shouldn't be allowed to own firearms, given their general outlook as seeing anyone who disagrees with them as the enemy. I fear the day when Mr. O'Brien and his cronies be-

come upset about some (reasonable) legislation that has been passed, and open fire. If I were a parent with a school-age child, I would feel forced to forbid them from any field trip that included visiting the New Hampshire State House in Concord. Very sad day for our state.

Anyway, please keep up your important work of fighting the good fight. Thank you!  
Cate Jones  
Portsmouth, NH

~~~~~  
Barack and Teddy
To the Editor:
While there is considerable criticism from the militant right about President Obama's foreign policy, there are many of us who welcome a return to the "walk softly" part of Teddy Roosevelt's famous quote. Roosevelt described his style of foreign policy as "the exercise of intelligent forethought and of decisive action sufficiently far in advance of any likely crisis." It is reassuring that Mr. Obama, the most powerful man in the world, works with our allies to cautiously and thoughtfully consider the big picture and all the alternatives before risking our young men and women in a military action.

America still carries a "big stick" and Mr. Obama has it in reserve as he works with Britain, France, Germany and the European Union to negotiate limits on Iran's nuclear development. A proposal by Congress to impose new sanctions could cause these delicate talks to blow up completely. Inviting Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel to lobby Congress for more sanctions is a hostile act against the president which sends exactly the wrong message to Iran and our allies.
It is one thing to battle with the President about taxes and regulations, and certainly lawmakers have the right to disagree with him about foreign policy, but it is

a whole different thing to undermine his efforts to work with other peaceful nations to find a reasonable solution to a potentially explosive global issue. Is there no point at which the animus against Mr. Obama, present since day one of his presidency, is mediated by love of country and patriotism?

Cynthia Muse
Rye, NH
Cynthia:
How cleverly you incite Republican heads to explode by comparing Obama favorably to one of their favorite Presidents!
The Editor

~~~~~  
**Inflate Gate**  
To the Editor:  
Concerning the brouhaha over the inflation of the footballs used in the Patriots/Colts game, there is a very simple explanation, particularly in view of 11 of 12 having been found to be under inflated. It has to do with how a gas behaves with temperature changes.

I assume the balls were inflated inside the stadium, approximately two hours and 15 minutes before game time, and then moved outside to the playing field. When they were inflated, the surrounding temperature was at some level, which I am assuming to be 80 degrees F. The temperature on the field at kickoff was announced to be 50 degrees F. The balls are to be inflated at 13 psi nominal, plus or minus 0.5 psi.

With this, we can do a straightforward physics calculation that any high school student who has studied physics or chemistry can do. We use the basic gas law, which is

Pressure times volume equals a constant times temperature.  
The temperature is referenced to absolute, which is minus 451 degrees F.  
In symbols, PV = nRT, where R is Rydberg's constant, and n is the number of moles of gas.  
We're interested in the change



in pressure of the ball due to a change in temperature of the ball. To do that, we take the total differential of the above equation which is  
 $PdV + VdP = nrdT$   
Divide this by the first equation to get  
 $dp/P + dV/V = dt/T$   
There is no change in volume, so that term vanishes.  
The result is  
 $dP/P = dT/T$   
Solving for dP, the change in pressure, we get  
 $dP = P \text{ times } dT/T$   
plugging in numbers, the change in pressure, in psi = 13 psi times (80-50)/(80 + 451), or  
 $dP = 13 \text{ times } 30/531$ , which is 0.734 psi.

The cooling of the balls due to being on the cooler playing field is more than enough to cause the pressure to be below spec.  
A secondary effect is that, when air is pumped into a ball, it heats up. Over time (like 30 minutes or so), it will cool, lowering the pressure. As a result, a ball that is inflated to spec most likely will be out of spec within an hour or so. It's highly probable that every NFL game ever played had balls out of spec at kick off.  
It would be an interesting experiment to check the balls used at the upcoming Super Bowl: check them at the time of inflation.

**More Hate Mail, &c.**  
*to page six*

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Northcountry Chronicle

Trimming the Consumer

by William Marvel

When I was a boy, there were several barbering choices in Conway. Marsh Newton had a shop in the corner of the Western Auto building. For a while there was Pret the Barber, and a guy named Bob, where Fire 21 is now. Bill Huey barbered in the front room of his house, and Dippy Dearborn cut hair in the tiny building where the Chinook Café started its existence; don't ask me what Dippy's real name was. The most expensive of those fellows charged \$1 for a haircut, and the village bigwigs patronized them, as did the more vain and affluent boys at the high school. Bill charged 75¢ — but Dippy, who was quite the butcher, only asked 50¢. Before the onset of my teens and the accompanying vanity, I would take the 75¢ my parents gave me for a haircut and

go to Dippy for a 50¢ hack-job; I usually spent the remaining quarter on a 10¢ comic books and a 15¢ Classics Illustrated at Harold Demeritt's paper store, beside the Majestic Theater. By my late 20s, local haircuts ran between \$3 and \$5. Having inherited my father's fear of wasting money, I began to cringe at the price of keeping myself in trim. One afternoon I stopped at John Downs's shop in my usual hurry to be somewhere else, but he had closed for the day on a whim, so that night I spent an hour in front of a mirror with a pair of shears. I just snipped off short lengths until everything seemed even, and never went to a barber again. For several years I wore a ponytail, until too little of it was left to keep up the pretense, and since then the remnant has been easy to mow with a \$30 pair of clippers. I've avoided about 600 haircuts in

the meantime, saving me a whole lot of quarters. One day 40-odd years ago, while wandering downtown Tacoma, Washington, I spotted a brand-new straight razor in a shop window. When I was growing up we had a pair of my grandfather's straight razors in a dual leather case, but I was never allowed to try them, so when I saw that one for sale I snapped it up, along with a razor strop to hang in the bathroom. That was all I needed for a lifetime of shaving supplies, save for an occasional bar of soap to fill my shaving mug, and a new brush every couple of decades. Since then I've always shaved with what most police now consider a deadly weapon. I've worn a beard most of the time since I got out of the army, and that obviates the need to shave around

the corners of my mouth (which is always the trickiest part of the process with a straight razor), so the choice has cost me little in either blood spilled or time spent. Never again did I have to buy a package of blades for my safety razor, either. Those dangerous little things sometimes worked their way into the most ridiculous places when they fell out of the package or cut through the bottom of a trash bag. The straight razor seemed safer environmentally, and I was able to keep it just as sharp as disposable blades with the same whetstone I used to sharpen my knives. Honing good steel to a fine edge is such a Zen activity, after all. My father once gave me an electric razor. It gave a close enough shave, but more by pulling the whiskers out by the roots than by clipping them. In addition to that,

it used up electricity. The handle on my original straight razor broke when I took it on a backpacking trip, so I bought a plastic sheath for its replacement. Even with that expense I'm way ahead on razor blades alone; at two shaves to the blade, that's about 620 dozen. Last summer I finally had to give up my ancient Honda, and started looking for a small, used pickup. The prices shocked me. In 1968 I bought a 1962 Ford for \$100, which then represented less than two weeks pay in this perennially minimum-wage town; this summer, I bought an 11-year-old truck that cost over twelve weeks' pay in our household's only full-time regular salary. That was pretty depressing until I calculated how much I've saved on tonsorial supplies and services during my lifetime. Turns out it paid for the truck.

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

tion, and then check them again just before kick off. I would predict none of them would be "in spec" at kick off. Gene McManus Pictou, Nova Scotia Gene: And you did not even take into consideration the Patriots' practice of vigorously rubbing the balls in order to provide a better gripping surface. Rubbing = friction = heat. The Editor

Tick, Tick, Tick To the Editor: Mr. Ali Soufan is a former FBI Supervisory Special Agent who headed up investigations in several cases involving the al Qaeda

terrorist network, including its attack on America on September 11, 2001. He is currently the Chairman and CEO of the Soufan Group, a company that "provides strategic security intelligence services to governments and multinational organizations." He wrote me the following note in response to a courtesy copy, provided by me, of a recent letter to the editor, referencing a mutual friend, on "Enhanced Interrogation Techniques" (EIT): "Dear Wayne, "Thank you for sharing your letter with us and thank you for the proactive role you are taking in countering the spread of misinformation concerning the use of torture. Steve Kleinman is a trea-

sured friend and colleague, as well as an upstanding advocate against torture. He has done this nation a great service — both by his skilled collection of intelligence in the legal, moral, and smarter way, and in standing up against torture's defenders. "I agree that the 'ticking time bomb' fallacy is one that should be entirely dispelled. Please feel free to reference any of my work and writings as you continue your great work on this issue. "Sincerely, Ali Soufan" Mr. Soufan has also done America a great service. In 2002 he was assigned the major responsibility of extracting intelligence from Abu Zubaydah, the top terrorist in U.S. custody. Zubaydah was the

al Qaeda member that former officials of the George W. Bush Administration, particularly former VP Dick Cheney, still frequently make reference to in justifying the use of torture, especially for "ticking time bomb" scenarios. Long before the arrival of the CIA (and private contractors) and the start of the Bush/Cheney torture program, Ali Soufan was able to obtain all the actionable intelligence from Zubaydah, using legal and proven interrogation approaches, that led to the capture of 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and "dirty bomber" Jose Padilla. Furthermore, there was a 47-day gap in between Soufan's last interrogation and those involving the il-

legal, incessant torture of Zubaydah, yielding no more intelligence, which completely debunks the Bush Administration's "ticking time bomb" rationale. Wayne H. Merritt Dover, NH The National Association of Gun Right Attacks The Constitutions Article V as "Snake Oil" To the Editor: The National Association for Gun Rights has recently undertaken a campaign to smear hundreds of thousands of great patriots around the nation that are responding to the call of the founders to use the single most powerful tool given to us to save our nation. This group contempt-

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## Insiders Aiding Online, Off-Shore Loan Sharks

by Jim Hightower

When it comes to pursuing their prey, sharks are master maneuverers. Loan sharks, that is.

These days, this usurious species goes by the less threatening name of "payday lenders." But they are no less voracious, targeting folks in rough financial straits and luring them with easy-money come-ons. With lethal interest rates of

more than 700 percent, automatic renewal clauses, and other razor-sharp gotchas, a \$500 payday loan can sink a hapless borrower thousands of dollars into debt. That's why states have been restricting the sharks' interest-rate gouging and entrapment techniques.

But, with a flip of their tails, many payday lenders are simply swimming around state laws by operating online and offshore from such regulatory safe-harbors

as the Bahamas, the Isle of Man, and Malta. From there, sharks can make loans, then begin devouring their borrowers' bank accounts, even in states that ban such loans.

How can shady operators pull-off billions of dollars worth of these devious — and maybe illegal — transactions each year? With inside help from such pillars of the financial establishment as Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, and Wells Fargo. Of course, these up-

standing corporate citizens don't dirty their hands (or reputations) by making these predatory loans, but they willingly allow offshore sharks to tap directly into the borrowers' checking accounts and withdraw unconscionable interest payments electronically ... and mercilessly.

There's a four-letter F-word for what the banks are doing to their own depositors: Fees. Automatic withdrawals by the sharks can

cause a tsunami of overdrafts in a borrowers' bank account — and banks happily collect fat fees for every overdraft.

To help stop this multibillion-dollar feeding frenzy on hard-up people go to [www.ResponsibleLending.org](http://www.ResponsibleLending.org).

~~~~~

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~~~~~

ibly refers to the lawful, orderly, and Constitutional process in Article V as "snake oil." They invoke the names of men like James Madison and Benjamin Franklin, and refer to the date of the Philadelphia Convention as being 1789. (What?)

The use of Madison's name to somehow imply that men like James Madison would oppose this effort is nothing short of preposterous if not disingenuous. It was James Madison himself in August of 1830 who wrote, "Should the provisions of the Constitution as here reviewed be found not to secure the Government and rights of the States against usurpations and abuses on the part of the United States the final resort within the purview of the Constitution lies in an amendment of the Constitution according to a process applicable by the States."

Those that wrote and signed the Constitution voted unanimously to give the states' equal power in the process along with Congress. They saw this as a "life or death" issue for the Republic.

Tom Dowdy  
Haslet, TX

Tom:

Thanks for writing — always heartening to learn about one gang of fourflushers attempting to swindle

another. As for the Article V Convention you so fervently desire, let's try using the Constitution we have before we roll the dice for a new one.

The Editor

~~~~~

Accept No Substitutes

To the Editor:

One one hand, the turnout in last November's elections was pitiful. On the other, there are huge numbers of a massive yet largely untapped political energy. Unfortunately, the only organized political reach-out to these justifiably angry citizens so far has been the Tea Party. I say unfortunately because it is not what it first appeared to be. Instead, as is better known today, it is manipulated by incredibly selfish plutocrats tapping into legitimate frustration at Washington.

Faux populism is not good enough. We need the real thing.

History shows that populism is one of America's strongest traditions. It's been an integral part of American culture since the 1700s. Of course both major parties have skittishly shied away from it. Oh, they'll say a couple of populist words, then as quickly as they can, move on. Under the power of their corporate funders, they recognize the power but remain afraid.

The days of the right's exclusive

ownership of the term are gone. There is a profound stirring lately, at least in New Hampshire, and mainstream Presidential candidates had better pay attention to its great potential.

Up for grabs in the next election is the huge and growing number of disaffected occasional voters. The vast majority of young people didn't even bother to vote this time.

A great many citizens are sick and tired of needing to hold their noses to get themselves to vote. People really want candidates to vote for, with enthusiasm. To seriously address the real economic issues facing us.

More and more of us recognize that the transformation from a republic to a plutocracy is nearly complete. Meanwhile, sheepish middle-of-the-road candidates of both parties ignore this as they kowtow to their Wall Street benefactors.

Today everyone understands what is meant by the 1 percent. At its very beginning, America was founded on replacing the royal plutocracy, demanding democracy and a republican system instead. And yet look where we find ourselves today. Our government is not really ours any more. Especially in New Hampshire, we

treasure self-government. What we see at the national level is anything but. The recognition that Washington is simply not serving us is growing fast.

There is great potential for a new and powerful populist coalition. If the middle class were strong, populism would have less appeal.

The brave candidate who champions populism will fire up a powerful new coalition. Think about the confluence of right and left on such issues as: people being able to participate in decisions which affect them. Stop protecting the big banks at the expense of everyone else. End government spying on its citizens. Cut wasteful military adventurism and far off bases. Democratize the Federal Reserve. Cut the power of big banks, big oil, and big insurance. Protect Internet freedom. Make sure police serve the common good. Drug laws decided by states or regions. Prison reform. Local/regional control or ownership of public utilities. Encourage locally grown food and small businesses. Freedom and community: what a concept.

These are but a few of the opportunities on which a powerful new left/right populist coalition can agree on and in doing so, re-

store traditional republican and democratic (yes, small r and d) American values.

People want candidates to vote for, with enthusiasm. "Centrists" who throw their lot in with Wall Street and the interests that currently own our government won't connect with this powerful and potentially massive new bloc of voters.

More of the same-old is not going to inspire angry voters in 2016. As in the 1770s, we want a government that serves the common good. Some 2016 hopefuls seem to be getting this.

Burt Cohen
New Castle, NH

Burt:

The sooner more Democrats understand this the better.

The Editor

~~~~~

### From a Renewal Note

To the Editor:

Please send Mr. H's subscription for another year. He will be 103 in February and still loves the Gazette.

L.H.S

L.

We're pretty old ourselves, and pretty jaded, too. That said, we're thrilled to hear this. Our very best wishes to Mr. H.

The Editor

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### Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"Women and cats will do as they please,  
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— Robert Heinlein (1907-1988)  
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| <b>9</b> <b>Paul Combs</b> 8PM, NO COVER<br>Larry Garland JAZZ JAM @ 6PM                     | <b>16</b> <b>Matt McCabe</b> 8PM, NO COVER<br>Larry Garland JAZZ JAM @ 6PM                                                          |
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| <b>11</b> <b>The Silver Linings</b> 9PM, NC<br>Dave Talmage 9PM, NC                          | <b>18</b> <b>Jim Dozet</b> 9PM, NO COVER                                                                                            |
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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, February 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Monday, February 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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                                                                                                                     | Thursday, February 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             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| <p><b>2001</b>—Knight-Ridder quotes an Air Force official who says “The public was misinformed” about the alleged Democratic looting of Air Force One. “There was no china or anything like that missing.”</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Operation Lam Son 719, a U.S.-supported ARVN incursion into Laos, begins. It ends three weeks later, a complete disaster.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—The U.S. Military Assistance Command for Vietnam (MACV) is formed in Saigon.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The House Un-American Activities Committee recommends prison camps for Japanese-Americans.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Nevada becomes the first state to kill someone in a gas chamber: Gee Jon, a hit man for the Hop Sing Tong.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—The Japanese make a surprise attack on Port Arthur, Manchuria, beginning the Russo-Japanese War.</p> <p><b>1855</b>—A 100 mile stretch of strange tracks called “The Devil’s Footprints” appears in England.</p> <p><b>1692</b>—A Salem, MA doctor says three teenage girls are under Satan’s influence, setting off witch trials.</p> <p><b>1587</b>—For conspiring against Elizabeth I, Mary, Queen of Scots, is executed. It takes the drunken executioner three blows of the ax, after the first of which, Mary is said to have said, “Executioner, achieve your work.”</p> | <p><b>2007</b>—A Pentagon report concludes that Douglas Feith’s policy office inappropriately manipulated intelligence on Iraq.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—UNH nursing student Maura Murray vanishes in Haverhill, NH.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The <i>USS Greenville</i> surfaces under the 191-foot Japanese trawler <i>Ehime Maru</i> off Hawaii, while giving thrill-rides to 16 civilians, half with Texas oil and Bush connections. Nine die.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush denies he ever used the phrase “voodoo economics.” Then NBC plays the tape.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Satchel Paige becomes the first Negro League player inducted into the Hall of Fame.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The Beatles appear on Ed Sullivan’s show.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—“I have here in my hand,” says Sen. Joe McCarthy, “the names of 205 men that were known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping the policy of the state department.” Years later he admits he held a laundry list.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—<i>HMS Venturer</i>, submerged, torpedoes and sinks <i>U-864</i>, also submerged, off Norway’s coast.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—First federal legislation prohibiting narcotics (opium).</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Jefferson Davis is elected President of the Confederacy.</p> | <p><b>2009</b>—<i>Iridium 33</i> and <i>Kosmos 2251</i> collide 491 miles above Siberia and turn into two tons of space junk.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—Senator Barack Obama announces he’s running for President.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—<i>The Washington Post</i> reports an apparent six-month gap in George W. Bush’s Air National Guard service record.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The Bush Administration touts plastic sheeting and duct tape as a first line of defense against the Axis of Evil.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Benzene-laden Perrier Water is pulled from the shelves.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—The WWF evades regulation by admitting that wrassling is an exhibition, not a sport.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Protests take place across the nation in response to the U.S. invasion of Laos.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Captured U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers is released by the Soviet Union during a spy swap in Berlin.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Five members of the Bloomsbury group, disguised as Abyssinian royalty, trick Royal Navy officers into giving them a tour of <i>HMS Dreadnaught</i>.</p> <p><b>1897</b>—<i>The New York Times</i> first proclaims it publishes “All the news that’s fit to print.”</p> <p><b>1355</b>—In Oxford, England, a dispute over beer between local residents and university students ends with 63 students and about 30 locals dead.</p> | <p><b>2013</b>—KRTV in Great Falls, MT announces that “the bodies of the dead are rising from their graves and attacking the living.”</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Dick “Dick” Cheney becomes the second sitting Vice President to shoot a man when he “peppers” his pal Harry Whittington in the face.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—“I’d like to thank my family for loving me and taking care of me,” says mentally handicapped Johnny Frank Garrett as Texas prepares to poison him, “and the rest of the world can kiss my ass.”</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Eight workers are contaminated when 100,000 gallons of radioactive coolant leak at the Sequoyah 1 nuclear power plant in Tennessee.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—The CIA creates a “Domestic Operations Division.”</p> <p><b>1937</b>—The Great Flint, MI Sit-Down Strike ends in victory for the workers.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—The Mexican government nationalizes all church property.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Emma Goldman is arrested for the crime of telling women about birth control.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously resolves not to interfere with slavery.</p> <p><b>1812</b>—Massachusetts gets “gerrymandered” by Republican governor Elbridge Gerry.</p> | <p><b>2014</b>—Eight Corvettes worth a total of \$1 million fall into a sinkhole under the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—<i>USA Today</i> reports that former top Texas Air National Guard officers say files were “cleansed” to protect George W. Bush.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—In Fallujah, Iraq, a convoy including the U.S. commander Gen. John Abizaid is ambushed.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—The Senate fails to convict Bill Clinton.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The U.S. takes over training of the South Vietnamese military.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Sixty protesters burn draft cards in New York City.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—A mob of thousands in Bisbee, AZ herds 1,200 members of the IWW into boxcars to be shipped off and dumped in the New Mexico desert.</p> <p><b>1839</b>—The boundary dispute between Maine and New Brunswick known as “The Aroostook War” begins. No one is hurt.</p> <p><b>1831</b>—A solar eclipse inspires slave Nat Turner’s rebellion.</p> <p><b>1809</b>—Birth of Abe Lincoln.</p> <p><b>1781</b>—<i>The Vermont Gazette</i> or <i>Green Mountain Post-Boy</i> is begun on the Stephen Daye press, brought to America in 1638.</p> <p><b>1554</b>—Queen “Bloody Mary” Tudor has the cousin whom she succeeded, the sixteen-year-old Lady Jane Grey, decapitated.</p> | <p><b>2008</b>—The Senate passes legislation telling the CIA to lay off the waterboarding.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—An Al-Qaeda tape calls George W. Bush a drunk gambler.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Former Rumsfeld assistant Ken Adelman predicts the Iraq War will be a “cakewalk.”</p> <p><b>1991</b>—A U.S. laser-guided bomb kills some 400 Iraqi civilians in a bunker in Baghdad.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—After hitting three spectators with his first two shots at the Bob Hope Classic, Veep Spiro “Ted” Agnew throws down his clubs and quits in disgust.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—At Ft. Jackson, SC, five Army soldiers are arrested for praying for peace.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The National Student Association reveals it has “secretly and indirectly” received over \$3 million from the CIA over 15 years.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—LBJ advisor Walt Rostow says “Bomb Hanoi.”</p> <p><b>1950</b>—A B-36 flying over the Pacific near Vancouver Island develops engine trouble. An H-bomb aboard, minus its plutonium core, explodes killing 5 crewmen and scattering 45kg of uranium into the atmosphere.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—The day he’s honorably discharged, black vet Isaac Woodard is beaten and blinded by white cops in Aiken, SC.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—Confederacy OKs slaves as soldiers if their owners approve.</p> | <p><b>2008</b>—Pentagon generals announce they’ll shoot down a failed U.S. spy satellite.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—The White House releases some of George W. Bush’s military records, but they fail to prove he was present for duty.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—The Ayatollah Khomeini puts a fatwa on Salman Rushdie.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The first American POWs released from North Vietnam arrive at Travis AFB, CA.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Nixon’s secret taping system is installed in the White House.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The fire-bombing of Dresden enters its second day.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—Al Capone’s gang wipes out “Bugsy” Moran’s gang in the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre. Asked by a cop who shot him, Frank “Tight Lips” Gusenberg says “nobody,” then dies.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Bernard Harden “Bern” Porter, Manhattan Project scientist and Henry Miller’s first U.S. publisher, is born in northern Maine.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—Congress OKs voting machines for U.S. elections.</p> <p><b>1884</b>—Typhoid fever kills Teddy Roosevelt’s mother. Hours later his wife dies, two days after giving birth.</p> <p><b>1873</b>—Jack Gaffney is hanged for murder in Buffalo, NY by Erie County Sheriff and future president Grover Cleveland.</p> <p><b>1849</b>—James Knox Polk becomes the first U.S. president to have his photograph taken.</p> |
| <p>1:43 1:55</p> <p>7:43 8:03</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      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**2013**—A previously unknown meteor explodes over Chelyabinsk, Russia, injuring 1,500 people.

**2003**—In the largest global protest ever, between 10 and 25 million people around the world denounce the coming war in Iraq.

**2000**—“We ought to make the pie higher,” says G.W. Bush.

**1973**—Nixon tells the Joint Chiefs that the return of our POWs presents “an invaluable opportunity to revise the history of this War.”

**1962**—“I support Pres. Kennedy to the hilt [in Vietnam],” says Richard Nixon, “I only hope he will step up the build-up ...”

**1944**—Mistakenly believing it is full of Nazi troops, Allied bombers destroy the 1,415 year-old monastery at Monte Cassino. Fortunately its historic treasures, previously moved to the Vatican by 100 Nazi trucks, are saved.

**1942**—Japanese attackers, though outnumbered 2 to 1 by British and Australian defenders, take Singapore. Lt. Gen. Gordon Bennett escapes; his name later becomes synonymous with “running shoes.”

**1933**—An attempted assassination of FDR results in death of Chicago mayor Anton Cermak.

**1910**—An International Ladies Garment Workers Union strike ends victoriously.

**1898**—The battleship *U.S.S. Maine* explodes in Havana harbor.

**2006**—The U.S. Army decommissions its last M.A.S.H. unit.

**1986**—“Baby Doc” Duvalier flees Haiti.

**1982**—An aide to Nancy Reagan explains that the First Harridan will no longer accept “loaned” threads from big name designers because she “really just got tired of people misinterpreting what she was doing.”

**1978**—The first computer bulletin board goes on-line, Chicago.

**1968**—Draft deferments for grad students end.

**1964**—A week after security in Saigon is “tightened,” a Viet Cong bomb in an American movie theater kills 3 U.S. soldiers and wounds another 50.

**1962**—A two-day anti-nuclear march on Washington begins.

**1959**—Fidel Castro becomes Premier of Cuba.

**1916**—Emma Goldman is busted for lecturing on birth control.

**1899**—Félix Faure, President of France, dies of apoplexy in his office while receiving oral sex.

**1868**—“The Jolly Gorks” change their name to “The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.”

**1848**—Womens’ Rights Convention, Seneca Falls, NY.

**1804**—U.S. Navy Lt. Stephen Decatur climbs aboard the captured *Philadelphia* and burns it. He’s promoted to Captain.

**2006**—Six days after Cheney shot him in the face, Harry Whittington, 78, apologizes to the Vice President for “all that [Cheney] had to go through.”

**2003**—Covert CIA agents grab Abu Omar in Milan, ruining an Italian surveillance program and leaving evidence that gets 23 of them convicted of kidnapping.

**2000**—“I hate the gooks,” Sen. John McCain tells reporters. “I will hate them as long as I live.”

**1985**—Gen. William Westmoreland abandons his libel suit against CBS, which had reported he had covered up VC troop strength.

**1979**—China invades Vietnam—again. They never learn.

**1974**—Disgruntled Army PFC Robert Preston steals a chopper from Ft. Meade, lands without opposition 150 ft. from the White House, flies back to Ft. Meade, then returns to the White House where he lands his chopper after it is shot up by authorities.

**1971**—The U.S. Army’s top enlistee man is indicted for conspiracy to defraud enlisted mens’ clubs.

**1942**—Armed whites in Detroit attack African-Americans moving into public housing.

**1933**—Prohibition ends.

**1864**—The *U.S.S. Housatonic* achieves the distinction of becoming the first ship ever sunk by a submarine.

**2010**—On Fox TV, Glenn Beck modestly calls Thomas Paine “kind of the [Glenn Beck]” of his generation.

**2007**—*The Washington Post* reveals the sordid conditions at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

**2001**—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and exhibitionist Robert Hansen is arrested for selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then to the Russians.

**1979**—For the first time on record, snow falls on the Sahara.

**1970**—The Chicago 7 are found innocent of conspiring to incite riots, but guilty of crossing state lines to incite riots.

**1962**—“We are going to win in Vietnam,” says Bobby Kennedy in Saigon. “We will remain here until we do win.”

**1952**—Four men in a 36-foot lifeboat brave 70-knot winds to rescue 32 sailors from the sinking *Pendleton* off Monomoy Island.

**1943**—Anti-Nazi students of “The White Rose” are caught leafletting the University of Munich. Later they’re beheaded.

**1930**—Elsworth W. Bunce becomes the first man to milk a cow aboard an airplane in flight.

**1928**—When the cornerstone of the Eastland County (TX) Courthouse is opened, a horned toad, allegedly placed within 31 years earlier, hops out.

**2009**—CNBC’s Rick Santelli pitches an anti-Obama fit on TV.

**2007**—New Jersey OKs civil unions for homosexual couples.

**2003**—Turkey demands \$4 billion to let the Pentagon unload heavy equipment for the Iraq war. The Pentagon balks.

**2000**—“I understand small business growth,” says George W. Bush, “I was one.”

**1988**—Prosecutors in Passaic County, NJ move to dismiss 1966 murder indictments against Rubin “Hurricane” Carter.

**1986**—After due deliberation—37 years—Congress ratifies UN treaty outlawing genocide.

**1965**—Antiwar protests are held in 30 cities across the U.S.

**1964**—The CIA informs the State and Defense departments that South Vietnam is making little progress against the ‘Cong.

**1945**—In a Burmese mangrove swamp, several hundred Japanese soldiers are killed by crocodiles.

**1942**—FDR puts 120K Americans in concentration camps.

**1912**—In Lawrence, MA, 200 club-wielding police beat 100 women pickets.

**1847**—Rescuers reach the leftovers of the Donner Party.

**1807**—Ex-Veep Aaron Burr is arrested in Alabama for treason by plotting to create a new nation out of parts of Mexico and Louisiana.

**2007**—The BBC reports that U.S. plans for attacking Iran include nuclear sites.

**2005**—Dr. Hunter S. Thompson takes his leave the way he lived—entirely on his own terms.

**2000**—The last original *Peanuts* comic strip is published.

**1985**—Sot Chitalada defends his WBC flyweight title, then loses his \$104,000 purse to a ringside pickpocket.

**1971**—A screw-up at the National Emergency Center orders U.S. TV and radio stations off the air. The situation goes uncorrected for 30 minutes.

**1943**—Hollywood film makers say they’ll let the Office of War Information censor their movies.

**1939**—Fritz Kuhn, a German veteran of WWI and naturalized U.S. citizen, leads 22,000 people in a pro-Nazi rally at Madison Square Garden.

**1862**—Abe Lincoln’s son Willie dies of typhus at the age of 11.

**1815**—Almost two months after the Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812, the *U.S.S. Constitution* captures two British sloops off the coast of Portugal.

**1725**—Indian fighters under command of Captain John Lovewell take 10 scalps from sleeping Indians in Wakefield, New Hampshire, which they later redeem in Boston for £100 each.

**2012**—Caught by the Piscataqua’s current during construction of the New Memorial Bridge, the tugboat *Miss Stacy* nearly sinks.

**2001**—“You teach a child to read,” says G.W. Bush, “and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test.”

**1988**—Televangelist Jimmy Swagart interrupts his regular broadcast to confess to an unspecified but heinous sin.

**1975**—Three of R. Nixon’s former henchmen, John Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman, and John Erlichman, are sentenced to prison.

**1965**—Malcolm X is assassinated as he begins a speech at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem.

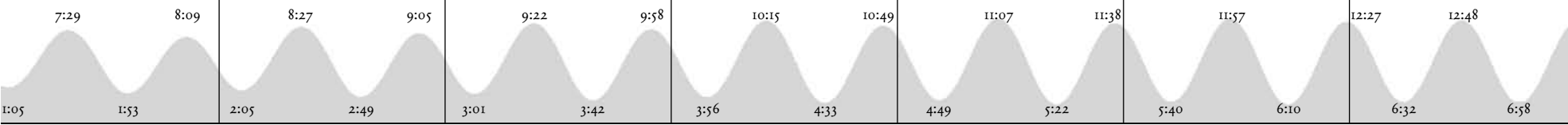
**1958**—Britain’s Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War adopts the “peace symbol.”

**1940**—Germans begin building a concentration camp at Auschwitz.

**1934**—The U.S.-backed Nicaraguan National Guard assassinates rebel leader Augusto César Sandino. According to legend, his head is then delivered to D.C.

**1922**—The 410-foot airship *Roma*, Italian-made, hydrogen-filled, and operated by the U.S. Army, crashes during a test flight in Norfolk, VA. Thirty-four die in the nation’s greatest aeronautical disaster to date.

**1828**—First issue of the newspaper *Cherokee Phoenix* is printed, in English, using the newly-invented Cherokee alphabet.



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