

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Study? What Study?

The nation's corporate media seem unable to cover much of anything these days except nuts with guns and Donald Trump's mouth. In their distraction they have failed to cover a story that may be more important.

Viewed from the perspective of a mere citizen, this media failure could be seen as a defect. From the corporate perspective, it's not a defect; it's a feature.

Ominous Findings

In 1977, top executives at Exxon were told by one of the company's own scientists that the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was rising due to the burning of fossil fuels and that the consequences of the trend could prove to be catastrophic.

The company launched a scientific study of the question in 1979. According to a 1982 summary, its findings were "in accord with the scientific consensus," i.e., dire. Another in-house document created that same year concluded it "would require major reductions in fossil fuel combustion" to reduce the greenhouse effect.

Odious Acts

Faced with the unsettling fact that their company's continued prosperity could come only at the expense of the climate, the planet, and humanity at large, Exxon's executives faced a stark, existential dilemma, a moral crossroad. Their initial response was to shrug and keep their traps shut.

Mere passivity and inaction, however, will not maintain executives' Alpha status in America's corporate jungle gym. By 1989 the company was funding bogus "studies" in an attempt to cover its tracks.

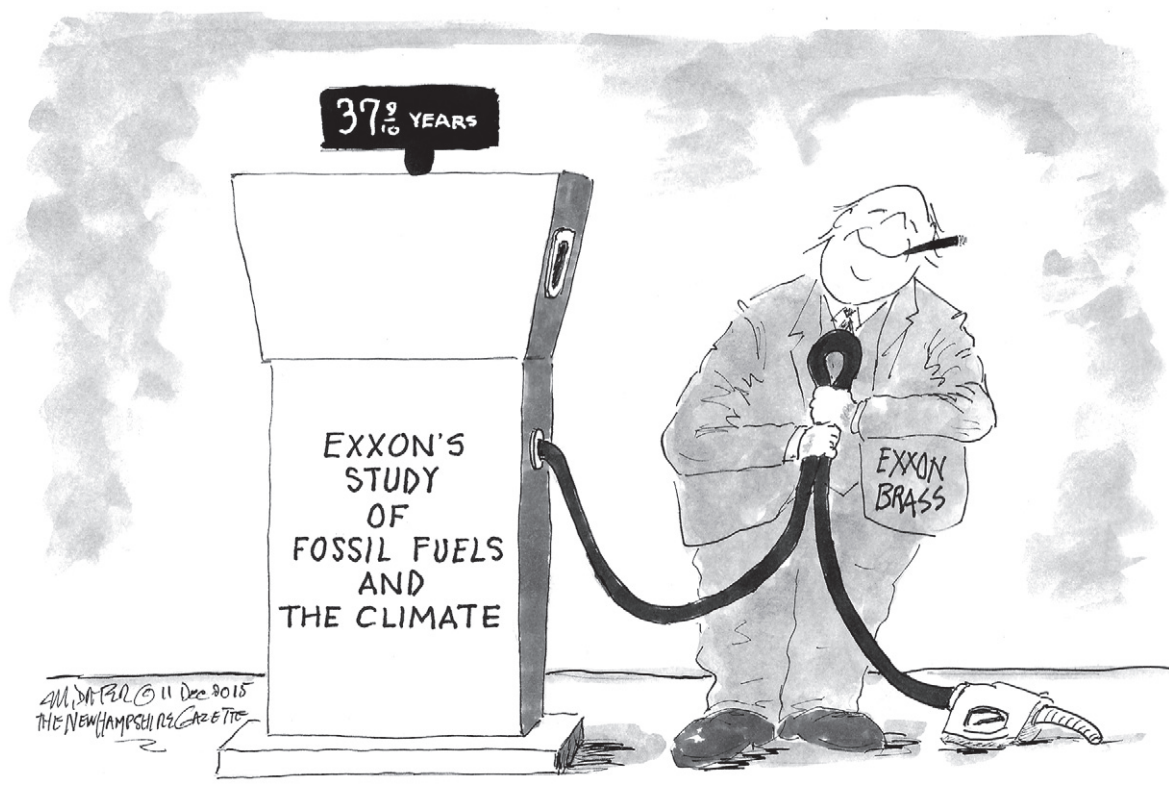
The Triumph of Propaganda

Since Spiro Agnew took his first bribe in the Office of the Vice President, it has been an article of faith in American politics that the nation's news media have a built-in liberal bias and that among those liberal media, National Public Radio represents the left wing. As for NPR's Diane Rehm, whose tagline is the oh-so-inclusive, "One of her guests is always you," it's probably safe to assume she has a portrait of Joe Stalin hanging above her bed.

Chris, a caller from Quincy, Ill., said on the Diane Rehm show on November 30th, "We're not going to save this planet until the public clamors for a solution ... and that's not going to happen here in this country until we confront the fact that our media is being bought and paid for by the oil, coal, and natural gas industries through the auspices of their lobbying arm, the American Petroleum Institute [API]."

Rehm asked Amy Harder, one of her panelists, to respond. "I think [Chris] raises some good points about the impact of the fossil fuel industry in our debate," Harder said. Then, instantly pivoting, Harder began talking about "an interesting shift in the oil and gas industry, [blah blah blah]."

Before we all expire in climate-induced agony, let us fully savor the irony of this moment. Rehm, *doyenne* of the left-wing media, is served an anti-capitalist softball by an irate member of the proletariat. Does she commence with a Castroesque tirade about the crimes of the capitalist oppressors? No.



Rehm instead hands the question over to Harder, who just happens to cover the energy and climate beat for climate-change denier Rupert Murdoch's *Wall Street Journal*.

Harder, in turn, quickly blows past the media angle with a dismissive "has some good points," then proceeds to blather about a few window-dressing "green" programs of some European oil companies.

Poof: a rare, tiny challenge of the oil industry's practice of neutralizing the media in general to protect its profits has been conveniently neutralized through the voluntary intervention of the allegedly non-corporate, biased liberal media.

If that's the best the Left can come up with to undermine the efforts of America's God-given oligarchs, you can hardly blame the Right for holding them in contempt.

Atmosphere Poisoning Institute

The exchange we've just dissected was unusual for a couple of reasons. It's rare that anyone even notices the interplay between corporate propagandists and the media in this country. As James Woods said of Flaubert's influence on modern fiction, it is too familiar to be visible.

It is also quite unusual for Rehm to have had a show about the climate and fossil fuels without having a spokesperson on hand from the API. Usually they're as unavoidable as the "minders" who watched visitors to the old Soviet Union. Perhaps they skipped this show because they understood that Murdoch's reporter could and would cover for them.

If Rehm represents ineffectiveness when it comes to toppling corporate power, the API represents her opposite — particularly when it comes to

cost-effectiveness. According to *Sourcewatch.org*, the API's annual budget is less than \$10 million. In 2013, Exxon made that much in two hours.

Best of all, API is, of course, registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(6). Oil companies get to write off whatever they pay API, and the taxpayers make up the difference on April 15th.

Crime and Immunity

Twenty-nine men died in one of Don Blankenship's coal mines. He has been found guilty of a misdemeanor and might serve one year in jail.

Eleven men died when a BP oil rig blew up in the Gulf of Mexico. Manslaughter charges against BP supervisors were dropped last week.

Exxon's executives have nothing to worry about.

Fine: A bribe paid by a rich man to escape the lawful penalty of his crime. — H.L. Mencken

The Alleged News®

The Republican Civil War Begins

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, and folks who prefer not to be categorized by age or gender — we are pleased to announce that the moment has arrived for which you have all been waiting: an all-out Civil War is underway within the Republican Party. Fittingly, the first shot was fired in Charleston Harbor, just three miles from Fort Sumter.

Standing aboard the *U.S.S. Yorktown*,* the Party's front runner, referring to himself in the third person, said, "Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can

figure out what the hell is going on." Unconfirmed reports suggest Trump may have been shod in extremely tasteful, very fashionable, custom-fitted jackboots while standing upon a rare, highly valuable, original copy of the U.S. Constitution.

Band of Estranged Botherers

Trump's Muslim ban was a Rubicon, which his rivals dared not cross. They were apparently hampered by some vestigial understanding of the document upon which Trump was unquestionably treading, whether figuratively or literally.

Instead, they threw spitballs, with varying degrees of ferocity.

Chris Christie issued what may have been a boilerplate response applicable to any Trump proposal: "This is the kind of thing that people say when they have no

experience and don't know what they're talking about."

J. Edgar "Jeb!" Bush, who is not a doctor, diagnosed Trump as "unhinged."

Trump is a "race-baiting, xenophobic religious bigot," said Lindsey Graham, winning the soundbite contest. "Do you know how you make America great again?" he asked rhetorically, for extra points. "Tell Donald Trump to go to hell."

The response of Rafael Edward "Ted" Cruz may have been the most curious. It was certainly the most cautious. "I disagree with that proposal," he said. As if to assuage any possible resentment that his remark might engender in the front-runner, he immediately added, "I like Donald Trump. A lot of our friends here have encouraged me to crit-

icize and attack Donald Trump. I'm not interested in doing so." The "I'm trying to hang onto my Veep slot here, people," was silent in Cruz's remark, like the 'k' in 'knife.'

A Revoltin' Predicament

Reince Priebus, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, should be wondering right about now why he ever wanted the job in the first place.

Trump, natural-born bully that he is, has warned the GOP to treat him with respect or else he'll run as an independent. If he does bolt, he'll split the conservative vote and hand the election to the Democrats. On the other hand, the longer Trump sticks with the Party, the more nails he drives into its coffin.

Asked to weigh in on Trump's Muslim Ban proposal, Priebus

responded with preternaturally measured restraint: "I don't agree. We need to aggressively take on radical Islamic terrorism but not at the expense of our American values."

At this point Priebus appears to have about a 50-50 chance of going down in history as the guy who was in charge when the Grand Old Party went belly-up. Trump's tweet on Tuesday, "A new poll indicates that 68% of my supporters would vote for me if I departed the GOP & ran as an independent," is not likely to improve Priebus's digestion.

The Bailout Theory

You're Donald Trump. You're rich — really, really rich. You are your own boss, and the master of

* Trump, though he avoided the Vietnam draft, seems to have a thing for Navy ships. In September, he used the battleship *U.S.S. Iowa* for a campaign event, hyping a bogus veterans service organization in the process.

The Alleged News®
from page one

all you survey.
Why would you give that up?
It's not like the food would be any better in the White House, or the beds any softer. You've already got a \$100 million Boeing 757 which you can zoom around in any time you like.
More to the point is what you don't have: an endless succession of people bugging you all day long about this petty detail and that petty detail ... hundreds of little bosses piling up work in front of you.
Who needs that?
Earlier this week MSNBC's Rachel Maddow did a nice job of explicating a theory that's been kicking around for a little while: Donald Trump may currently be angling for a face-saving way to end his run for President.

That theory makes more sense than anything else has since Trump entered the race.
An Historical Reminder
Ur-Republican Abraham Lincoln wrote a letter to his friend Joshua Speed in 1855. Its penultimate paragraph follows.
"As a nation, we began by declaring that 'all men are created equal.' We now practically read it 'all men are created equal, except negroes.' When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read 'all men are created equal, except negroes, and foreigners, and Catholics.' When it comes to this I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretence of loving liberty — to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy [sic]."
Just Vote for Jesus
Here's a bit of advice for indecisive Christian Republicans from comedian John Fugelsang.



This year's City of Portsmouth Illuminated Holiday Parade and Food Drive,™ on Saturday, December 5th, was somewhat out of the ordinary. The temperature was almost balmy rather than numbingly cold. As if to restore traditional balance, Krampus was on hand. A movie based on this ancient folkloric figure has just been released. The record will show, though, that he's been visiting Portsmouth for years.

"Cut out the middleman, America, and just vote for Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Who wouldn't want to vote for a peaceful, radical, non-violent revolutionary who hung around with lepers, hookers, and criminals; a man who never spoke English, was not an American citizen, was anti-wealth, completely anti-death penalty, anti public prayer — yes, he was, [bleep], Matthew 6:5 — anti-public prayer, but never once anti-gay, never once mentioned abortion, never once technically mentioned pre-marital sex, never called the poor lazy, never fought for tax cuts for the wealthiest Nazarenes, never asked a leper for a [bleeping] co-pay, and was a long-haired, brown-skinned, homeless, unarmed, anti-slut-shaming, community-organizing, Palestinian Jew."

Dick "Dick" Cheney Stoned
On Thursday, December 3rd, a marble bust of Richard Bruce

"Permanent Dick" Cheney was unveiled in the Senate wing of the U.S. Capitol. A remarkable piece of artistry, the bust was nearly indistinguishable from its subject. Cheney, never a Senator, was accorded this honor due to his tenure as President of the Senate, a position he held *ex officio* during his Vice Presidency.
It is customary for the subjects to choose their sculptors. Cheney chose William Behrends, of North Carolina, who has experience sculpting criminals. He created the bust of Spiro Agnew, who resigned from the Vice Presidency to avoid prosecution for accepting cash bribes in return for official favors. Behrends was paid about \$50,000 for his work; apparently, some people will do anything for money.
Representatives from Code Pink reported for duty, and lent at least a little dignity to the oc-

casion. They stood in front of the Capitol building holding up signs saying, "Arrest Dick Cheney — War Criminal."
2nd Amendment Days
There have been two Second Amendment Days since our last paper was published: three dead and nine wounded at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs on November 27th; 14 dead and 17 wounded in San Bernadino on December 2nd.
On December 3rd, the Senate voted to continue allowing people who are prohibited from buying plane tickets because they're suspected of being terrorists to buy guns.
The Senate also voted down a proposal — supported by 92 percent of Americans and 74 percent of NRA members — to expand background checks for gun purchasers.
The background check pro-

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posals was opposed by the NRA, however, which expended \$27 million on behalf of the Senators voting against it.

GOP Chairman's Eggnog Social

A "Chairman's Eggnog Social" was held by the Rockingham County Republican Committee at the Sheraton on December 2nd, according to the Award-Winning Local Daily.

Judging from the Party's own promotional material and the AWLD's reportage — we did not attend; perhaps our invitation was inadvertently misplaced — it was a very traditional Republican event. That is to say, there was a noticeable difference between what was advertised, and what was delivered.

Here is reporter Suzanne Laurent's lede: "While there was no eggnog actually being served..."

The Committee's own website also noted that while "Governor Jeb Bush, Candidate for President, is a sponsor," it carefully added, "(but will not be present)."

To make up for the lack of eggnog and "Jeb!," there was a Yankee swap. Gifts included items displaying that familiar and distinctive brand of Republican humor that joins tastelessness with lack of wit, i.e., "a pair of Barbie-like dolls labelled Nutcracker Hillary and Corkscrew Bill."

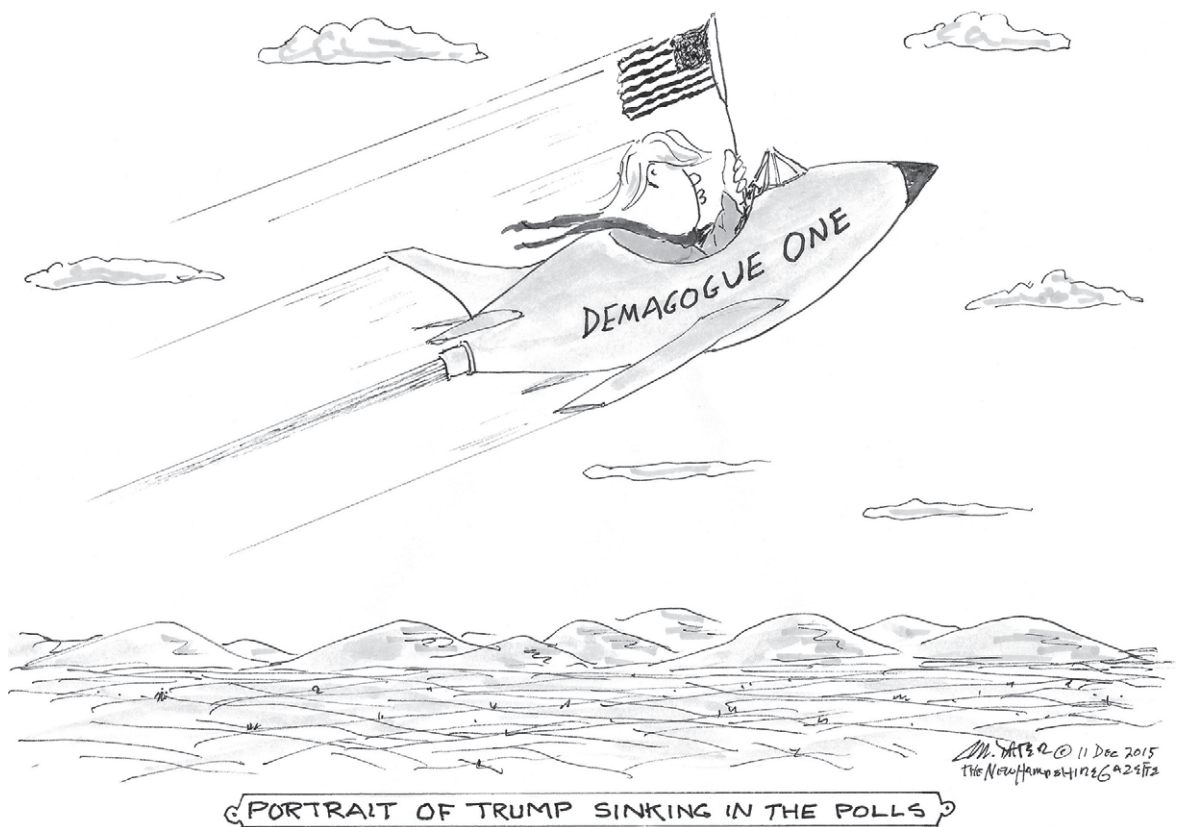
Black Lives Matter Vigil

A coalition of local organizations is organizing a Black Lives Matter Vigil to be held in Market Square in Portsmouth on Tuesday, December 22nd, at 5:30 p.m.

"Join us Tuesday December 22 to stand for equality and justice for everyone. The recent release



The Flag Police are never slow to act, or over-react, when their exquisitely-tuned sense of vexillological propriety is disturbed. Naturally, when Patrolman Third Class Wallstreet P. Snopes discovered on Saturday, December 5th, that the flagpoles at the Memorial Park were entirely bereft of flags, he sprang into action — provided your definition of "action" can be stretched to include the mundane act of collecting photographic evidence. Theorizing that his case merely involved the routine replacement of old flags in honor of Pearl Harbor Day, Snopes returned on Monday, December 7th. Aghast, he found the situation unchanged. A call to City Hall, which was transferred to the Public Works Department, quickly solved the mystery. All city flags are normally taken down for the winter, with the exception of the grand banner at City Hall and the six flags at Memorial Park. Apparently a city crew had misunderstood their instructions. On Tuesday the flags were flying again and all was right with the world.



of two videos shows that our society still needs work. The first, in Chicago, of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald being shot 16 times last year, has triggered protests. The second shows a South Boston, Virginia man, Linwood R. Lambert Jr., being tasered in front of the Emergency Room doors of the local hospital. Lambert was then taken away by police, returned to the hospital an hour later, and declared dead on arrival. There have been numerous other incidents which continue all too frequently.

"The message of the vigil is that we no longer accept the systematic abuse of people of color, and that militarized police forces, racial profiling, and patterns of excessive force by police are unacceptable, as is all institutionalized inequality.

"We can no longer stand by when black lives are discounted. The ongoing deaths of young black men are a breaking point in humanity's conscience and the inception of a new movement in

America. Please join us, get involved and show that humanity is better than this and that there will be change. <https://www.facebook.com/events/425787320947694/>.

This event is being organized by Occupy N.H. Seacoast and co-sponsored by the Durham Waysmeet Center, New England Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends Racial, Social & Economic Justice Committee. Occupy N.H. Seacoast is a local group working to promote social and economic equality worldwide. For more information contact: David Holt; Davholt@aol.com, phone: 603-781-8649 <https://www.facebook.com/OccupyNHSeacoast>.

AGOD Comes to Town

With Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, and the Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe looming, you never know what you'll run into on the streets of old Portsmouth. Even so, our Wandering Photographer was more than a little surprised on the evening of Friday, December 4th.

Drifting along Daniel Street, as is his wont, he vaguely noted a shiny, new, somewhat pretentious-looking black Chevrolet with Massachusetts plates, parked in front of the Clip Joint.

Then he read the plate.



Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition, let alone AGOD's ride sitting by the curb.

A check of the regulations reveals that the Mass. Registry of Motor Vehicles [RMV] generally prohibits duplicative, disparaging, offensive, vulgar, obscene, or sexual words on vanity plates, but says nothing about claims of Godhood.

We probably shouldn't have been surprised by that. If there had been a dispute between AGOD and the Mass. RMV, we'd have probably heard about it by now.

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Bernie Fights for Vets

To the Editor:

With the exception of Senator Lindsay Graham, who stands no chance at becoming President due to his own extreme hawkishness, it doesn't appear that the large crop of Republican candidates for President have served a combined one minute in the U.S. Armed Services. Yet, this doesn't deter them, at all, from being as bellicose as any group of Republicans that I can recall.

The bombastic rhetoric of these presidential hopefuls not only makes a mockery of the use of military force but also demonstrates: that they have no understanding of the meaning and cost of war, and that they are strictly the mouthpieces for their ultra-wealthy campaign contributors, for whom peace is not profitable, which is one of the exact reasons why we need to overturn Citizens United.

The individuals who are advising and funding GOP establishment candidates such as Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz and John Kasich are the same people who pushed the Bush/Cheney Administration to invade Iraq against the will of the UN Security Council, including France, (whom we lambasted: lest we forget about "Freedom Fries"), which gave birth to the menace of ISIS.

Senator Bernie Sanders is the only candidate from either party that has exhibited an understanding that war is employed

always as a last resort as he voted "yes" to hunting down the threat of al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan, but correctly voted "no" to the invasion of Iraq, an unmitigated disaster.

A worthy Commander-in-Chief also recognizes that the decisions he/she makes regarding war and peace directly impacts his/her most critical resource, the people ordered to do the fighting (i.e. veterans) and that those warriors must receive the best possible treatment following their service. Senator Sanders has been a true champion for veterans since his time in the House of Representatives.

As the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Bernie fought to pass the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, only to have it blocked by Senate Republicans, including some of the woefully unqualified war/fear-mongers currently seeking the presidency.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Remember Ayotte's Vote

To the Editor:

The passage of time dulls memories. The impending third anniversary of the Newtown mass murder on December 14th reminds us of the 20 small children and six adults who lost their lives that day at the hands of a deranged gunman.

A background checks bill requiring that felons and seriously mentally disturbed persons be prevented from buying guns was subsequently defeated in the U.S. Senate. Senator Kelly Ayotte was one of those who voted against the bill. Public reaction to Ayotte's vote was immediate and fierce.

The *Valley News* wrote (4/20/13), "Meanwhile, those who believed that the deaths of 20 elementary school chil-

dren and six adults in Newtown, Conn. would result in sufficient horror and revulsion to overcome Second Amendment absolutism are left to wonder: Just how many deaths will it take before elected officials like Ayotte summon the courage to follow the wishes of their constituents rather than the dictates of the gun lobby."

The *Portsmouth Herald* wrote (4/21/2013), "If we don't like how she voted Wednesday, it's up to all of us who care about this issue to show Ayotte she was mistaken by voting her out of office."

Former editor of the *Concord Monitor*, Felice Belman, commented (4/24/2013), "Since the vote, we have been deluged with letters, the vast majority critical of Ayotte's decision. I'm not surprised at the sentiment expressed by the readers — it mimics the polling on this issue in recent weeks, both nationally and in the state, which has found that about 90 percent of Americans and New Hampshire residents are in favor of background checks ... the sheer volume is making a point about the fury of local residents over the vote in a way news reporting hasn't. Consider the writers' language in describing Ayotte: 'out of touch,' 'enabler' of mass murderers, 'spineless' and 'disgusting.'"

How much has Kelly Ayotte changed on the issue of gun safety in the ensuing three years? She has changed not at all. On December 3rd, Ayotte voted against and helped defeat an amendment that would block known or suspected terrorists from purchasing guns and explosives. With her vote, Ayotte showed to me that she is more concerned about the gun lobby and her re-election than the lives and well being of her fellow Americans.

Vote Kelly Ayotte out of office in November, 2016.

Gary Patton
Hampton, N.H.

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL**

You Call That an Advantage?

To the Editor:

Just like clockwork, whenever a new property assessment is undertaken in any town or city in New Hampshire, a huge outcry is the result. Many residents complain that their house assessment is unfair or that the taxes are too high. All of which, they claim, could force them to move out of their family homestead or to another town (I assume somewhere in New Hampshire). I have lived in New Hampshire now for over 30 years in two different towns and the reaction is always the same. In fact, all of the reasons for residents objections are in fact true and valid. The property values are not fair, the taxes are too high, and no one really cares if you are forced to move out of your family's homestead as a senior on a fixed income. That is just the New Hampshire Way (or Advantage). It is sad but it is the reality in our state. Our state is a great place for high earners to establish a residence since we have no income tax. It is not a coincidence that we are the 8th wealthiest state in the union. Unless we are willing to reduce the local services that we depend on, our towns and cities in New Hampshire have only two ways of generating the revenue they need to operate their municipalities: the tax rate and the property assessment. Since it is the State of New Hampshire that finalizes our tax rate, and since the towns and cities do not have any significant way to generate revenue on their own, they have to make sure that the property values together with the tax rate generate enough revenue. This is the way our unfair tax system in New Hampshire functions. If you don't like it, you can only change the situation by convincing a majority of residents that we need a

more fair tax system such as a broad-based income or sales tax. This would allow the State of New Hampshire to fund more town and city services, instead of forcing them to rely primarily on the property tax. This situation is not the fault of your town or city.

Peter Somssich
Portsmouth, N.H.

Not Keen on Christie

To the Editor:

It is regrettable that the *Union Leader* has endorsed Christie. I registered as a Republican so that I might vote in the primary election in New Jersey. My hope is that my vote will help to accomplish two goals: 1) support an un-electable ticket, such as Cruz/Bachmann, Perry/Palin, or anybody/Trump, and, 2) to deny Christie the nomination in his home state. My political position and Christie's are even farther apart than his back pockets.

Pete Posthumus
West Milford, N.J.

Pete:

Don't worry about it. The Union Leader hasn't endorsed a winner since Calvin Coolidge was reincarnated.

We should have thrown your letter out because of the fat joke, but we're just not that evolved.

The Editor

Gun Fervor

To the Editor:

In the first 336 days of this year there have been 356 mass shootings in America where 4 or more people have been killed or wounded. Sadly the shootings in Colorado and San Bernardino were little more than an everyday occurrence in this country. We cannot blame the killings on any religion. It is the religious fervor of the NRA's Wayne LaPierre, Donald Trump, Senator Kelly Ayotte and the other

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"... Ted Cruz is a nightmare of a human being ... If he agreed with me on every issue, I would hate him only 1% less."

- Ted Cruz's freshman roommate Craig Mazin

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And Other Correspondence

GOP members in Congress and state houses to flood this country with guns. Politicians who say 18 months is not enough time to vet refugees from Syria also say one day is far too long to vet anyone who wants a gun or 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

There are more guns than humans in this country. It has not made us safer. It just increases the odds of someone having a gun when they lose their temper. Every nation has people who cannot control their temper, yet they do not suffer the mindless violence we do. They have learned to be civilized societies. It is time we did as well.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth NH

Democracy's Deadly Sins

To the Editor:

Are you sick of the political survey calls, the e-mails seeking a campaign contribution, constant TV coverage of poll results, pitiful debates and candidate meet and greets? The election is still a year away and the TV spots and direct mail pieces have barely begun. Will we remain sane under this onslaught of mind blowing bombast?

John Adams said, "There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide." Are we on this path? I hope not, but there are too many serious cracks forming in our foundation to ignore.

There are at least seven deadly sins of our democracy within just the overall election process. They are inextricably intertwined, enabling and/or reinforcing each other. How we elect our leaders would shock and dismay our founding fathers and causes other democracies around the world to roll their eyes.

These process defects have negative consequences that weaken our democracy, turnoff

the electorate and certainly do not generally lead to the election of our best and brightest. I'll just state them here and explain the negative consequences in subsequent letters.

Our presidential campaigns are too long, measured in years not months. The cost of these campaigns is grossly excessive, forecast to be \$5 billion this cycle. The funding of the campaigns has become a battle of special interests and individuals of extreme wealth. The lack of uniform rules governing our election process causes for serious problems with voter registration and election day operations. Our redistricting process is heavily manipulated and extremely partisan. The Electoral College no longer achieves its original intent and just adds an extra layer of complexity to the presidential election. No term limits for elected federal officials leads to them worrying more about re-election than solving the countries problems.

You might think, what a mess! How did it get to this state of affairs? But, this is not all new news. Remember that 70-odd years ago Churchill said, "Democracy is the worst form of government except for all the others that have been tried." A rather passive view I think. Did he mean we shouldn't try to improve?

I don't believe so. Our approach needs to be a comprehensive process improvement initiative which would gradually fix the excesses, inequalities and gross inefficiencies. I'll outline some specific actions that are being taken now and how concerned citizens can participate in subsequent letters.

In the meantime heed the wise words of Dr. Seuss, "Unless someone like you cares a whole

awful lot, nothing is going to get better."

Watch this space!
Dave Potter
North Hampton, N.H.

New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment

To the Editor:

Opposition to protecting the rights of people and nature typically comes from those who stand to benefit from the way the corporate structure is currently operating. We need to stay focused on the fact the New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment expands fundamental rights and protections for individuals, communities and their natural environments by recognizing that sustainable economic and environmental development can be achieved only when the people affected by governing decisions are the ones who make them.

Communities from all across the Granite State are behind the New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment, not because of any one single corporate activity, but because Granite Staters are realizing we do not live in the democracy we thought we had. Under existing law, corporations can use State and Federal laws to override a community's attempt to protect themselves from corporate activities within their boundaries regardless of local opposition, public or environmental harm. Private corporations regularly invoke these rights and privileges when their interests conflict with the communities' attempts to protect themselves from being used as for-profit resource colonies against their will.

The right of local, community self-government is fundamental to our American heritage; the denial of this right was a principal reason for the American Revolution. The basis for the New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment can be found within the Declaration of

Independence and the United States Constitution. This right is also embedded in the New Hampshire Constitution which includes the following excerpted words from Articles 1, 2, 8, and 10 from Part First, the Bill of Rights — that all men have certain natural, essential and inherent rights; that all government of right originates with the people and is founded in consent; and that all power resides originally in, and is derived from the people and all magistrates and officers of government are accountable at all times to them; and whenever the ends of government are perverted, the people have a right and duty to reform the old, or establish a new government.

The early revolutionary history of this country was one that called for a government that protected all people equally and to lay down a new vision of government which sought to permanently guarantee that no other authority — including their own governments — could ever act in the same way again. The Community Rights people's movement that is swelling across the nation is once again calling for a government that protects all humans equally; not favoring corporate or political interests over the interests of those that government is created to serve.

The New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment, sponsored by Representative Susan Emerson, has received bipartisan support from cosponsors: Reps. Suzanne Smith, Mary Cooney, Stephen Darrow, Wayne Burton and Senator Jeanie Forrester. Representative Emerson said, "The amendment is needed because when it comes to protecting the inalienable rights of citizens in our local communities, neither they nor their local governments should be told they cannot enact local laws to do just that. Too often the interests of big corporations are considered



and the rights of our constituents are ignored. This amendment will put self-government at the local level back into the hands of the people."

To learn more about the New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment and participate in petitioning a Resolution Supporting the New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment for your town meeting, visit www.nhcommunityrights.org, or email info@nhcommunityrights.org. We the People, We Decide!

Michele Sanborn
Alexandria, N.H.

Michele:
Right on, Sister!
The Editor

It's Tarantino's Fault

To the Editor:

Most of the violence in Europe has been created by fanatic terrorists that have radical religion beliefs, yet a large percentage of violence in America has been the result of pure greed. People of all ages in this country have been watching more than ever to see violent movies, TV series and electronic games that include more dangerous guns. Common sense tells us that continuously watching this type of violence can eventually produce temptations of mass shootings in real situations. Many of them are so mentally saturated with violence that they cannot see the differ-

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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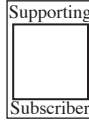
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The Northcountry Chronicle

Voyage to Nagasaki

by William Marvel

Richard Nunez called me for the first time in 1998. I had just taken over the house from my father, who had recently passed beyond the sound of any telephone, and I found my caller unusually affected by the news. Mr. Nunez, a retired school superintendent from Lafayette, La., had been a teenaged sailor in my father's division aboard an attack cargo ship in the final year of World War II, and he had kept in touch for more than half a century; I remembered his name from Christmas cards that came when I was a child.

"He was a leader of men," Mr. Nunez remarked, in that Cajun drawl peculiar to south Louisiana, "and he was like a father to me." He described my father as a demanding taskmaster capable of scathing rebukes for the negligent, but a kind and generous friend in times of trouble. As a frequently errant son I was more familiar with the former quality, although I also knew the latter one.

I had begun to suppose that

Mr. Nunez had joined the great majority himself until he called again last week. He turned 90 in September, and he is among the last few — if not the very last — of those who turned out for the christening of the *U.S.S. Ottawa* at Charleston, S.C., on February 1, 1945. In the accompanying photo of that ceremony my father stands at far left in the front row of officers, and Fireman Nunez is somewhere among the White Hats.

It was perhaps the consciousness of inevitable mortality that led Mr. Nunez to prolong last week's conversation, and he ventured for the first time into the story of their voyage. From Charleston they sailed through the Panama Canal and spent the next few months tacking back and forth across the Pacific, delivering troops, tanks, and trucks ever closer to Japan itself. In June they joined a convoy bound for Okinawa, and after delivering cargo there they turned back to pick up part of the 2nd Marine Division. By early August their task force was moving in for an invasion of the Japanese main-

land, but they put into Guam at news of the surrender. They finally disembarked the Marines at Nagasaki, to serve as occupation troops rather than as a landing force.

Somewhere during that cruise — probably back in June, as they approached Okinawa — a kamikaze squadron found their convoy. The *Ottawa* had so much freeboard that it made an inviting target. Young Fireman Nunez was scrambling up the ladder to his battle station, near the bridge, when one plane came so close that he could see the pilot, who seemed to be a mere boy. He remembers raising his hand, in something of a wave, as the plane passed just over their loading boom toward the next ship; he thinks the pilot smiled. Seven decades may have given those memories a romantic cast, but in the event it seems to have been a very frantic half-hour, and they anticipated far worse when they attacked the mainland.

My father related innumerable tales of his many years at sea, from riding out a typhoon on the *U.S.S. Henderson* with a loose



Christening of the U.S.S. Ottawa, Reuben J. Marvel Sr., front row, far left.

tool chest careening around the engine room to staying up all night off Hollandia, New Guinea, repairing a ship's generator by flashlight. He described an incidental encounter with Lieutenant Hyman Rickover in China that did not endear him to the future admiral. He spoke of hunting pigs on Luzon before the war, and of inspecting the devastation at Nagasaki only weeks after the bomb fell. His main references to WW II involved the former shipmates who died on Battleship Row at Pearl Harbor; except for his brief amble ashore at Nagasaki, he never mentioned anything about his time on the *Ottawa*. I had to piece it together this week from family photos and his personnel file.

I wonder if that cruise was among the things he was thinking of, a few weeks before he died, when he lamented that there was a lot he had wanted to tell me. I invited him to start telling me right then, but with his habitual "harumph" he said there was no time. Knowing him, he probably only wanted to remind me again to sweep out the stovepipe and the furnace baffle every time I cleaned the chimney, or to check the level of the spring regularly, so the feed line didn't lose suction. His was a generation that kept the machine running equally well in tedium or catastrophe, expecting no special notice and no reward beyond the satisfaction of a job well done. In a few short years, the last of his like will be gone.

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

ence between fantasy and reality. At the same time, the gradual deterioration of the American family values and morals have been a major part to the violent entertainment industry. Movie producers and directors in Hollywood (for example, Quentin Tarantino) are out to make as much money as possible, regardless of the serious consequences. It appears that the political and wealthy celebrity friends are not willing to blow a whistle on a dangerous movie, TV series or

game that can be detrimental to the minds of the American people. As result, more violence will continue in the near future. Meanwhile, shallow-minded Democrats have been trying to make us to believe that things will be much better for this country by simply adding more gun laws, and nothing else.

Ken Senkow
San Antonio, Texas
Ken:
We suspect that existential despair caused by the prospect of a life

without hope or meaning probably causes more violence that watching colored lights move on a screen.

The Editor

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**He Wasn't Kidding**

To the Editor:  
No, I'm not kidding.  
If anyone still pays any attention to the debates they are either ill informed or just plain crazy. America is no longer a democracy; it is an oligarchy. The politicians who ask for our vote want to be the ones chosen as the

hired help for the wealthy, and to be crowned the Israeli Viceroy. They are no different from the nannies, the cooks, the butlers, the chauffeurs, and the other servants, except of course that these people actually do the jobs they are hired to do — although, at a much lower salary.

So as America copies Greece and Europe in transferring billions to the wealthy and imposing austerity on the other ninety-nine percent, what is the future? The future is more

austerity with cuts in Medicare and what remains of the the social safety net. The Republicans have no problem with this, and Hillary is comfortable with Wall Street, while Bernie Sanders does speak for the Middle Class on domestic policy. Yet Donald Trump seems to get to the solution — bring manufacturing jobs back to the United States. Only he seems to understand that the enormous trade deficits the United States has is due to the fact that the Ameri-

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## Can Craft Beer Drinkers Defeat The Beer Monopolists?

by Jim Hightower

Everybody in BeerWorld, listen up: This Bud's for you!

Or so we're told by the excitable executives of Anheuser-Busch InBev. It's the conglomerate maker of Budweiser and dozens of other brands, and it's thrilled to be buying out SABMiller's beer brands to create "the first truly global beer company." Hmm, I find that more chilling

than thrilling — and sort of a silly thing to be publicizing.

After all, even the suits at headquarters admit that the merger of the world's two largest brewers is being driven by their own poor sales, which have gone flat as us quaffers switch to small, local, and better craft beers. The macro brands "are now in decline" reports a trade publication, because customers — especially young ones — seek more choic-

es, richer flavors, and the cachet of trying unique brews created by independent artisans. So beer drinkers are saying "local," but Big Beer is going "global." Genius.

This consolidation has nothing to do with satisfying customers, however, and everything to do with amassing corporate power to browbeat distributors and retailers. With 70 percent of U.S. sales under one roof, the An-

heuser empire would have the monopoly clout to force bars, convenience stores, &c. to deny shelf space to the little guys. If you're not on the shelf, you're in the ditch, empowering the bully to give beer drinkers a choice between Bud ... and Budweiser.

But even if our wimpy anti-trust regulators let this deal go down, I don't think it'll work out that way. In my travels — even to small cities like Ithaca, Des

Moines, and San Mateo — there is a rebellious, savvy, and tenacious Good Beer community that will stay loyal to the diversity of local brews — and defeat the best laid plans of the monopolists. To join the rebellion, go to [www.BrewersAssociation.org](http://www.BrewersAssociation.org).

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can consumers are purchasing products manufactured overseas while they should be consuming products manufactured in America, which of course they cannot do because those jobs have been sent elsewhere.

And with reference to the Middle East, it is a choice between the foreign policy fanatic fantasies of Sheldon Adelson supporting Republicans — except for Donald Trump who is not vying to win the Bombing for Dollars promises Adelson is seeking, while on the Democratic side we have the same promises given to Haim Saban, another Israel-first Zionist billionaire. It is indeed refreshing to see Trump accepting the boos of Israel-first Jewish donors as he refused to endorse Jerusalem as Israel's capital and questioned Israel's desire for peace with the Palestinians, while saying "I know why you're not going to support me, because I don't want your money."

And even when Trump is wrong he does a service, as when he referred to Syrians celebrating in Liberty Park New Jersey when the Trade Towers were burning. It was not Syrians, but Israelis and their Jersey City spy network — the leader of which fled to Israel — that were cheering. This error at least brought back into

focus the lack of investigation as to why these Israelis were setting up cameras before the planes crashed into the Trade Center. I doubt it was just an unusual clairvoyance on the part of innocent tourists.

Oh, and as for Sanders, yes he was against the invasion of Iraq, but he supports the Saudi Arabian invasion of Yemen, the coup government of Ukraine, the 2014 war in Gaza, and has a belligerent position on Russia.

I do not agree with some of Trump's immigration policies, but he is correct to reinforce the idea that the United States is more than an idea; it is a geographically defined nation that has the right to control its borders.

So on foreign policy, jobs, and less so on immigration, "The Donald's" America-first stances trumps them all.

Yes, he is brash, opinionated, sometimes wrong, but he is real. He is not the run-of-the-mill politician with no core beliefs who transforms himself based on the results of well targeted opinion polls and the wishes of those who are paying his bills.

The fact that he is not a professional politician might be his best recommendation; unless, of course you are happy with

the policies of Israeli, AIPAC, Christian Zionist, and neo-conservative goals of perpetual war, combined with austerity for the middle class and the poor, while billions are transferred to the bankers and financiers who gamble in the Wall Street casinos, setting America up for another economic crash.

John Dente  
Wilmington, Del.

John:

*We really were unsure, after your last letter, if you were serious about Trump. Thanks for clarifying that issue. Now we're even more troubled. If you can see through the debates and our malfunctioning democracy, how can you not see through Trump?*

*No candidate performs more poorly when fact-checked — he is a veritable factoid factory, an overflowing font of truthiness.*

*We share your distaste for politicians who blindly support Right Wing Israeli efforts to oppress Palestinians — but that's where we draw a line. Careless talk about the President being an Israeli Viceroy smacks of something quite sinister.*

The Editor

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### Clinton's Clear Vision

To the Editor:

I support Hillary Clinton for President because of her strong

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and deep commitment to fight for our country at all levels and in all areas. That commitment is proven by her history. Since she was a young lawyer, she has been fighting for social justice for children and women. She has proven, beyond any doubt, that she will fight for a stronger America and world.

During the last Democratic debate, she gave a clear vision for the country and articulated the ways she has been fighting for us for decades. Her speech at the Council of Foreign Relations in November, showed she is ready to confront an unstable world. She outlined a comprehensive strategy to defeat ISIS and combat radical jihadism, laying out her vision for the role American leadership must play in supporting our allies, protecting our homeland, and forging a safer world. It reflected her strong knowledge and preparation, but also her compassion for victims of the violent group.

Sonia German  
Franconia, N.H.

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### Re: "Throw Away That Vote!"

To the Editor:

I respectfully disagree with the Editor that a vote for me as a write-in candidate for president of the United States is a

protest vote against Sen. Bernie Sanders. I also respectfully disagree that a vote for me would amount to throw-away vote and would amount to a vote for Donald Trump. Please allow me to explain.

War is undeniably evil, yet Sanders supports war, including the ongoing U.S. airstrikes in Iraq and Syria. He may not be as hawkish as other Presidential candidates, but both his votes as a U.S. Senator and his campaign rhetoric have clearly and repeatedly demonstrated that he's not above bombing, killing, and terrorizing the enemies of the U.S. government.

My premise as an outsider is that each vote counts, no matter the outcome of the election. If I vote for the lesser of two evils in order to prevent the greater of two evils from winning an election, then I have lost. That's because I would have cooperated with evil by voting for evil. A write-in vote for me as president is a vote of non-cooperation with evil.

Alex J. Boros  
Rochester, N.H.

Alex:

*In an abstract sense, you are right. We do not, however, live in an abstract world.*

The Editor

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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, DECEMBER 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    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| <p><b>2003</b>—U.S. troops drag S. Hussein out of a hole in the ground; final victory in Iraq must be imminent. U.S. death toll so far: 547.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Al Gore decides he'd rather be righteous than be president.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—In Texas, Ray Landry's death is delayed 14 minutes when a tube falls from his arm and lethal chemicals spray across the room.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The Susan B. Anthony dollar is released to an anxiously awaiting public.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Defecting oceanographer Slava Kurilov leaps from a Soviet cruise ship, swims for three days, and reaches the Philippines safely.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Harry S Truman lets J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover scare him into agreeing to purge "disloyal" government workers.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—An American League proposal to legalize the spitball fails.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Nanjing Massacre begins.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—In the visitors gallery of the U.S. House, deranged sporting goods store clerk Martin Kemmerer brandishes a .38 revolver and demands twenty minutes to speak. Rep. Melvin Maas (R-Minn.) talks him into dropping the gun.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Paraguay declares war on Brazil; by war's end half its population is dead.</p> <p><b>1774</b>—Paul Revere rides to Portsmouth with news that the export of powder and arms to America have been prohibited.</p> | <p><b>2012</b>—N.H.-born Adam Lanza shoots his gun-enthusiast mother, six other adults, and 20 kids at a Newtown, Conn. school.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—"This is a farewell kiss from the Iraqi people, you dog," yells Muntadhar al-Zaidi, as he flings his shoe at George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—George W.[MD] Bush blames his Iraq War on "faulty intelligence."</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Chrysler admits it sold thousands of used cars as new ones.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager begin a nine-day, non-stop, around-the-world flight.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Richard Nixon personally thanks the U.S head of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church for his support.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The last men leave the moon.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Richard Nixon authorizes air delivery of explosive Christmas presents to Hanoi.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Shipyard workers strike against the Commie government in Gdansk, Poland.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Roald Amundson beats Robert Scott to the South Pole.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—The seven-masted schooner <i>Thomas W. Lawson</i> runs aground off Cornwall, resulting in the world's first major oil spill.</p> <p><b>1906</b>—The <i>U1</i>, Germany's first submarine, goes into service.</p> <p><b>1774</b>—Local militiamen seize powder and arms from Fort William and Mary, near Portsmouth.</p> | <p><b>2000</b>—Sen. Phil Gramm gives Enron what it wants: energy futures deregulation hidden in a 11,000 page appropriations bill. One year later Enron is bankrupt.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Paula Jones' lawyers maneuver Bill Clinton into signing a legal document claiming he'd not had sex with government workers.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Sicilian-born sculptor Arturo Di Modica installs a 16-foot long, 3.5 ton bronze bull in the middle of Broad Street in New York, in front of the Stock Exchange — without a permit.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Bill Casey, CIA director, suffers a well-timed seizure, preventing him from testifying about Iran/Contra.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Ed Meese denies Ebenezer Scrooge exploited Bob Cratchit.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The Mormon Church reaffirms its "no black priests" policy.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Richard Nixon announces a third round of troop withdrawals from Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—A 2.5 mm-deep defect collapses the 39 year-old Silver Bridge over the Ohio River, killing 46.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Walt Disney dies in Los Angeles. Contrary to rumor, his remains are burned, not frozen.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—U.S. drops 12 tons of bombs on Haiphong.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Palm Beach police arrest N.H. resident Richard Pavlick before he can kill John F. Kennedy with his dynamite-laden Buick.</p> | <p><b>2013</b>—Scott Brown's law partner announces that the former Senator has packed his carpetbag and is moving to New Hampshire.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—<i>The New York Times</i> reports that the NSA has been tapping U.S. telephones without a warrant.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—U.S. troops at Tora Bora ask for help catching Osama bin Laden. Donald Rumsfeld denies their request; Osama walks.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Bush #41 nominates Sen. John Tower, a notoriously boozy womanizer, to run the Department of Defense.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Lyndon LaRouche, perennial Presidential candidate and arguably the most notable person ever born in Rochester, N.H., is convicted of tax and mail fraud.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Gen. Westmoreland, already commanding 200,000 men in Vietnam, asks for another 243,000.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Two airliners collide over NYC killing a total of 134.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Hitler overrules his generals and mounts a massive attack in the Ardennes Forest.</p> <p><b>1835</b>—A two-day fire destroys 674 buildings in New York, bankrupting insurance companies and kicking off the Depression of 1837.</p> <p><b>1811</b>—New Madrid, Mo., is hit by the first in a series of four massive earthquakes over a six week period.</p> <p><b>1773</b>—"Sons of Liberty" disguised as Mohawks dump 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor.</p> | <p><b>2010</b>—Street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi sets himself afire, thereby igniting the Tunisian Revolution and the subsequent Arab Spring.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Bill Kristol, on "Fox News Sunday," says "Barack Obama is not going to beat Hillary Clinton in a single Democratic primary. I'll predict that right now."</p> <p><b>1998</b>—Pres. Clinton takes time out from being impeached to use half the Pentagon's cruise missiles in Iraq.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Peruvian guerrillas crash a party at the Japanese embassy in Lima, take hostages, and stay for four months.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt goes for a swim in heavy surf and disappears.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—An Air Force C-131 crashes into a steepie in Munich, then falls onto a trolley car killing all 20 on the plane, 18 in the trolley, and 11 more on the street.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Adm. "Bull" Halsey sails the 3rd Fleet into a typhoon. Three destroyers sink; nine other ships are damaged, 100 aircraft are lost, and 790 sailors die, mostly by drowning.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—Hit off Provincetown by the Coast Guard destroyer <i>Paulding</i>, the U.S. sub <i>S-4</i> sinks. Six of the 40 aboard survive the initial sinking but can't be rescued in time.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—Gen. Grant issues an General Order No. 11, barring "Jews and other unprincipled traders" from his district.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—"Not only can we win the war in Iraq—we are winning the war in Iraq," says George W.[MD] Bush, 962 days after "Mission accomplished."</p> <p><b>2004</b>—"America's Most Wanted's" John Walsh says he most wants Jabbir and Alfonso Fowle caught.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—"If this were a dictatorship," says George W.[MD] Bush on CNN, "it'd be a heck of a lot easier, just so long as I'm the dictator."</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Kenyan students protest the killing of a student the previous day. Police kill two more students.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—G-Man Earl Pitts is arrested for moonlighting for the KGB.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—R. Nixon starts a campaign of B-52 strikes against North Vietnam. Three Stratofortresses are shot down the first night.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—The first watts of nuclear-generated electricity begin lighting up used car lots and neon signs.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker flies over Broadway scattering Damon Runyon's ashes.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—Outnumbered 10 to 1, U.S. forces lose Guam to the Japanese.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Congress submits the 18th Amendment to the states for their approval. After it passes, Prohibition begins.</p> <p><b>1867</b>—Differing track widths cause a train to derail in Angola, N.Y. One wooden car drops 40 feet and catches fire; 49 passengers burn to death.</p> | <p><b>2013</b>—"My returning to New Hampshire is strictly personal," Scott Brown says disingenuously.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—Fire breaks out near "Dick" Cheney's office. Likely cause: spontaneous inhuman combustion.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—As Bill Clinton is being impeached for some hanky-panky, Speaker-elect Bob Livingston resigns to cover up a bit of his own.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Due to a work speedup, 27 miners are killed in Utah.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Norris Cotton slides a resolution through the Senate giving the senior Senator from New Hampshire the right to commandeer the "Daniel Webster" desk.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—During his Tonight Show monologue, Johnny Carson jokes about a non-existent toilet paper shortage. The next day there is one, and it lasts three weeks.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—The Viet Minh take on the French in Indo-China.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—Disgruntled former corporal A. Hitler becomes Commander in Chief of German Army.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Spurred on by the Baltimore <i>Sun</i>, that city passes a law legally mandating racial segregation of residential areas.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—A coal mine explosion kills 239 in Jacobs Creek, Pa.</p> <p><b>1777</b>—Washington's army arrives at Valley Forge, Pa.</p> <p><b>1776</b>—Thomas Paine's <i>American Crisis</i> is published; "These are the times that try men's souls . . ."</p> |
| <p>12:04 12:08</p> <p>5:54 6:29</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    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| SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | MONDAY, DECEMBER 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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**2002**—The ten largest U.S. brokerage houses cough up \$1.44 billion in fines rather than risk a trial over charges that they fleeced their customers.

**2002**—Sen. Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) steps down after lamenting Strom Thurmond's failure to win the Presidency on a racist platform in 1948.

**1989**—The U.S. invades Panama to arrest CIA agent Manuel Noriega.

**1983**—Once and future Defense Secretary Don Rumsfeld visits Baghdad to shake mass murderer Saddam Hussein's hand and convey Ronald Reagan's best wishes.

**1979**—*The Washington Post* publishes a correction: National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski did *not* unzip his fly during an interview with a female *Post* reporter.

**1978**—Former Nixon Chief of Staff H.R. "Bob" Haldeman is released from prison after 18 months.

**1972**—Six B-52s are shot down over North Vietnam.

**1786**—Hannah Ocuish, a developmentally-disabled 12-year-old Pequot Indian girl, thanks her executioner for his kindness just before becoming the youngest person ever hanged in U.S.

**1669**—In the first jury trial in Delaware, Marcus "The Long Finn" Jacobson is sentenced to be flogged, branded on the face, and enslaved for insurrection.

**2008**—Todd Carmichael reaches the South Pole after traveling 692 miles on skis and on foot, solo.

**2006**—In Turkmenistan, the administration of President for Life Saparmurat Niyazov comes to an end. His legacy consists primarily of golden statues of himself.

**2004**—In Fort Valley, Ga., Larry Taylor refuses to give his cell phone to a would-be thief, who then shoots him in the head. Taylor walks two miles to his mother's home, only to find she has moved to a nursing home. Despite this setback, he survives.

**2001**—"All in all," says George W.[MD] Bush three months after 9/11, "it's been a fabulous year for Laura and me."

**1996**—After two years of denial, Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) admits to ethics violations.

**1989**—Vice President J. Danforth Quayle sends 30,000 Xmas cards in which "beacon" is spelled "beakon."

**1988**—PanAm Flight 103 explodes over Lockerbie; 270 perish.

**1970**—At the White House, Elvis gives Tricky Dick a chrome-plated Colt .45; Dick gives Elvis a Narcotics Bureau badge.

**1968**—The *Apollo 8* astronauts become the first humans to leave Earth's gravitational field.

**1962**—The U.S. exchanges \$53 million in medical supplies for 1,113 Bay of Pigs prisoners.

**2001**—Richard Reid's shoe-bomb fails to down American Airlines Flight 63. Regardless, all footwear must be X-rayed pre-flight.

**1984**—Asked for money on a New York subway, Bernhard Goetz responds with lead instead. Then he flees to New Hampshire.

**1981**—Ronald Reagan authorizes the distribution of 30 million lbs. of moldy cheese to the poor.

**1974**—Congress passes an act to relocate Big Mountain Indians — away from coal deposits.

**1965**—Henry House is the first U.S. soldier court martialed for protesting the Vietnam War.

**1944**—To a German demand for surrender, surrounded General Anthony McAuliffe replies, "Nuts."

**1937**—Hotel clerk and author Nathanael West and his wife Eileen McKenney die in a car wreck during their honeymoon.

**1891**—Edward L. Bernays, the father of PR, is born in Austria.

**1882**—Thomas Edison makes the first string of electric Xmas lights.

**1849**—Nearly naked and tied to a pole, Fyodor Dostoevsky finds his death sentence commuted to four years in Siberia moments before the executioners' guns were to fire.

**1813**—Eighteen acres in downtown Portsmouth, N.H. burn, from Daniel Street to Court Street, and Fleet Street to the river; 272 buildings are destroyed.

**2004**—NASA reports that the asteroid Apophis has a 1.6 percent chance of hitting Earth in 2029.

**1997**—Woody Allen, 61, marries his ex-wife's adopted daughter, Soon-Yi Previn, 27.

**1994**—Crooked FBI agent John Connolly warns Whitey Bulger that arrests are pending for him and his Winter Hill Gang. Whitey takes a powder.

**1986**—The airplane *Voyager* lands in California, having circumnavigated the world nonstop.

**1982**—The EPA empties Times Beach, Mo., due to dioxin contamination.

**1981**—The Foye Building, adjacent to the Portsmouth Athenæum, partially collapses.

**1972**—Survivors of an Andean plane crash are rescued; their diet improves markedly.

**1955**—James Kutcher, who lost both legs in WW II, loses his disability payments because he's in the Socialist Workers Party.

**1953**—In Korea, 21 American POWs refuse to go home.

**1948**—Japan's General Hideki Tojo is hanged as a war criminal.

**1927**—Two policemen are mortally wounded when a bank in Cisco, Texas, is held up by a gang whose leader wears a Santa Claus suit. A standing \$5,000 reward for shooting bank robbers inspires a gun battle: four more die and eight are wounded.

**1992**—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush pardons "Cap" Weinberger, Bob McFarlane, and 4 other Iran-Contra creeps, coincidentally sparing his own sorry self.

**1979**—The Soviet Army enters Afghanistan to prop up the Marxist government. Oops.

**1972**—Over Vietnam, B-52 tail-gunner Albert E. Moore becomes the last man to down a MiG 21 with machine guns.

**1971**—Her airliner having fallen apart after being hit by lighting two miles above the Amazon, Julianne Koepcke, 17, falls into the jungle and survives with minor injuries.

**1970**—Nine G.I.'s are KIA and 9 WIA by "friendly fire" in Vietnam.

**1968**—The crew of *Apollo 8* photographs Earth rising behind moon.

**1964**—VC blow up the Brink Officers Quarters in downtown Saigon, killing two and injuring 107.

**1913**—Thugs hired by copper bosses yell "Fire" during a Christmas party in Calumet, Mich.'s Italian Hall. In the ensuing panic, 73 people die, including 59 children.

**1907**—In Philadelphia, I.F. Stone, journalist, is born.

**1883**—Major Henry Rathbone, increasingly deranged since being stabbed by John Wilkes Booth during the Lincoln assassination, murders his wife.

**1806**—St. John's Church and 13 other Portsmouth, N.H. buildings burn.

**1989**—Romania celebrates Christmas with the firing squad execution of former President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena.

**1978**—At Plymouth, Mass., four Santa Clauses climb the fence at a nuke plant and get arrested.

**1974**—Marshall Fields, wearing Arab garb, crashes a Chevy Impala through the White House fence and up to the North Portico. Four hours later he surrenders.

**1956**—Birmingham, Ala. anti-segregationist Fred Shuttlesworth's home is bombed.

**1950**—Students remove the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey's Coronation Throne and bring it home to Scotland.

**1946**—A demonstration at the White House demands the release of WW II conscientious objectors.

**1945**—Four thousand GIs march in Manila, protesting their slow re-deployment back to the U.S.

**1914**—German and British troops leave trenches, sing Christmas carols, shake hands, and share smokes.

**1868**—Despite much opposition, President Johnson grants unconditional pardons to all those involved in the "Southern Rebellion."

**1802**—In Portsmouth, N.H., 132 buildings are destroyed by fire.

**1776**—2,400 men under George Washington surprise the British and Hessians at Trenton. Another 3,000 get lost on the way.

**2004**—A massive tsunami kills 300,000 around the Indian Ocean.

**1996**—JonBenet Ramsey is found murdered and inexplicably gets more press than the other 1,499 kids murdered this year.

**1991**—The Supreme Soviet meets and dissolves the USSR.

**1971**—Disgruntled Vietnam Vets occupy the Statue of Liberty.

**1966**—"American troops are the defense, protection and salvation not only of our country, but, I believe, of civilization itself," says Cardinal Spellman.

**1966**—An apparently confused *Time Magazine* bestows upon "The Younger Generation" the title "Man of the Year."

**1919**—Harry Frazee sells Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees.

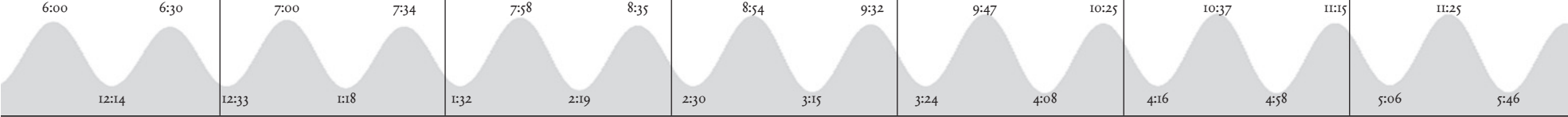
**1917**—Pres. Woodrow Wilson orders U.S. railroads seized for the duration of the war.

**1913**—Disgruntled Civil War vet Ambrose Bierce writes his last published lines before disappearing behind Mexican lines.

**1908**—Jack Johnson beats Tommy Burns in 14, becoming the first black heavyweight champ.

**1862**—In the largest hanging in U.S. history, 39 Santee Lakota Sioux meet their ends.

**1787**—An anti-Federalist mob armed with barrel staves attacks and nearly kills Constitution-framer James Wilson.



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