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The Fortnightly Rant

Crossing an Unsavory Line

As everyone knows, these are hard times for newspapers. Readership is withering away and costs are rising. For the good of the industry and the country it's supposed to serve, we should welcome innovations that keep newspapers viable. Resorting to prostitution, though, seems a bit undignified — even for Nevada, where that sort of thing is legal.

We're sorry. We do try to run a family-friendly paper here. No other metaphor, though, describes so accurately what GateHouse Media — owner of the *Portsmouth Herald* — has just done with the *Las Vegas Record-Journal*. If they did it there, might they do it here? Let's face it — this town is not unfamiliar with that line of work. Maybe the Award-Winning Local Daily's editorial offices could move into that big brick bunker down by the bridge, and Marcy Street could go back to being Water Street.

In March, GateHouse purchased the *Record-Journal* for \$102 million — an unremarkable price for a daily paper its size. Under GateHouse's MO, such purchases are usually followed by the jettisoning of some staff and the MacDonaldization of the paper's content, as we have seen here in Po'Town.

Early in December, though, the story took a turn for the weird. It was as if GateHouse CEO Kirk Davis had accidentally wandered onto the set of A&E's real estate reality show "Flipping Vegas" and gotten lucky. GateHouse sold the *Record-Journal* to "undisclosed financial backers with expertise in the media industry" for \$140 million, a whopping profit.

A couple of things added to the oddity: the new investors were hiding their identity behind a Delaware LLC, and they made an agreement with GateHouse for it to continue operating the paper. So, other than installing a new manager, Michael Schroeder, the former editor and publisher of a couple of obscure Connecticut papers, they seemed to be taking a hands-off approach.

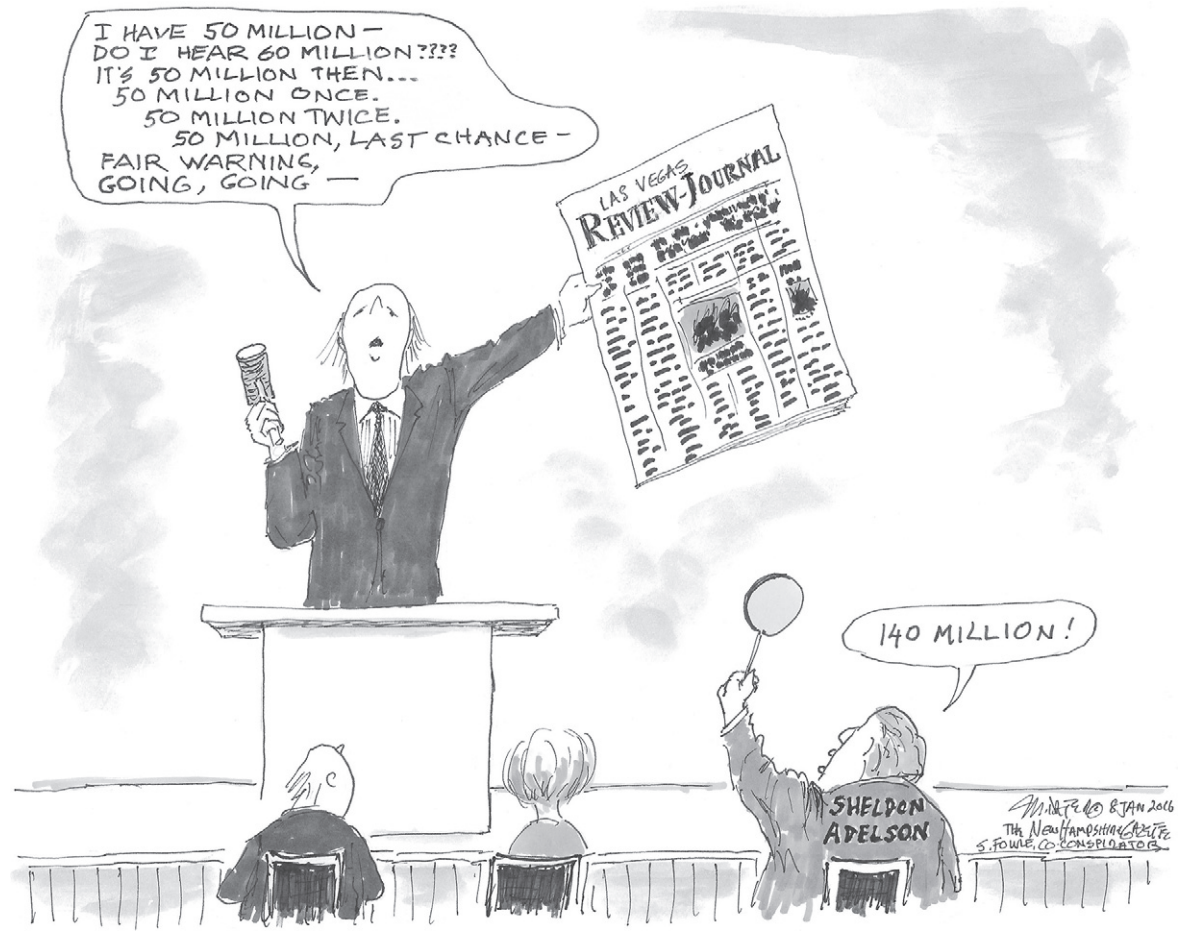
At an introductory meeting, *Record-Journal* editor in chief Michael Hengel asked Schroeder who the new owners were. Schroeder reportedly shot back, "don't worry about who they are."

"Stunned and demeaned in front of his staff, Hengel was speechless," the *LA Times* reported December 23rd. "Groans and sarcastic laughter echoed off the high ceilings."

The cohesiveness of the newsroom team deteriorated from there. Disregarding Schroeder's admonition, *Record-Journal* reporters went to work. They learned — and reported — who had bought their paper: Sheldon Adelson, casino tycoon, Republican Party donor, and Earth's 18th richest person. Hengel, meanwhile, accepted a "voluntary buyout," according to a *Record-Journal* editorial — except, in an interview conducted the day it was published, Hengel said he first learned of his buyout when someone read the editorial to him over the phone.

Schroeder's apparent qualifications for his new position were revealed shortly thereafter.

Earlier in the year, while negotiations for the *Record-Journal* purchase were still underway, Schroeder's papers in Connecticut



had, rather oddly, published a story critical of far-off Clark County, Nevada District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez. She just happened to be presiding over a wrongful dismissal lawsuit against — Sheldon Adelson. The story carried the byline of a mysterious Edward Clarkin, of whom no other traces have been found. Michael Schroeder's middle name, though, is Edward, and his mother's maiden name is Clarkin.

"Clarkin's" story had some other distinguishing features: made-up quotations and passages plagiarized from other sources. Those flaws may account for Schroeder's abrupt dismissal a week after he took over in Las Vegas.

Schroeder's gone, but Adelson remains in control of the largest

daily paper in Nevada, an early Presidential Primary state. There is no cause for alarm, say his defenders. He also owns a newspaper in Israel, and there is no evidence that he micro-manages that paper to further his own agenda. That may be because he doesn't need to; the politics of *Israel Hayom's* staff clearly reflect his own. Established just eight years ago and now the largest-circulation daily paper in the country, Israelis call the paper "Bibiton," after hard-line Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's personal nickname "Bibi" and the Hebrew word for newspaper, "iton." As might be expected, the paper fervently supports the Prime Minister.

Adelson's control of a newspaper, though, is a mere bagatelle compared to his influence over

a certain political party. Last March, most of the forty-seven Republican candidates made a pilgrimage to Las Vegas to kneel before him and kiss his ring. This brings us back to Judge Gonzalez. She is presiding over *Jacobs v. Sands*, in which allegations have been made that Adelson has ties to the triads — Chinese organized crime.

Now there's a pretty picture — Chinese gangsters on the one hand and Presidential candidates on the other, with a casino-owning billionaire in the middle. It remains to be seen whether any such link is established in court, but either way, GateHouse owns 166 daily papers in 23 states, and there's no reason to presume that any of them — including the AWLD — operate differently from the *Record-Journal*.

The Alleged News®

Coming Soon to This Space: 366 More Days of Foolishness [with eight off for time served]

Here we are, just a week and a day into the new year — a new Presidential election year, at that — and already we've got a fresh, roiling, boiling confrontation between the generally-accepted social construct known, ironically, as the United States of America, and a band of self-appointed armed people, mostly if not all men, apparently all melanin-deprived, who claim, while breaking the law, to be upholding the Constitution on which it's based.

Of course the fact that the incident in Harney County, Oregon, kicked off at the start of the year is a mere coincidence. As it happens, most of the denizens of this spinning, slightly damp ball of rock have come to accept, without a lot of thought, the arbitrary designation of one particular in-

stant during our orbit around an unremarkable star to be the end of one year and the beginning of another. One of these days, some crackpot with an abacus is going to tell us all we're all wrong and that the year properly begins on April 7th or something. And, thanks to the internet, that person will probably find followers.

In a more perfect world, the most-senior news organization in the most powerful political entity on the surface of this immense-but-tiny, hideous-but beautiful sphere would have something constructive to say about this absurd situation. All we have to offer, though, is the suggestion that the concept of intelligent design might require a little more work, and a hearty "Happy New Year."

Got a Match?

The proximate cause of this latest exercise in do-it-yourself Constitutional law was the re-incarceration of Dwight Hammond, Jr., 74, and his son Steven, 46. The Hammonds claim to be dutiful stewards of the land, well-meaning conservationists who innocently set a couple of fires to eliminate invasive species.

The prosecutor's case was recapitulated on October, 2015 in a statement issued by the U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon announcing the resentencing:

"Witnesses at trial, including a relative of the Hammonds, testified the arson occurred shortly after Steven Hammond and his hunting party illegally slaughtered several deer on BLM [Bureau of Land Management]

property. Jurors were told that Steven Hammond handed out 'Strike Anywhere' matches with instructions that they be lit and dropped on the ground because they were going to 'light up the whole country on fire.' One witness testified that he barely escaped the eight to ten foot high flames caused by the arson. The fire consumed 139 acres of public land and destroyed all evidence of the game violations. After committing the arson, Steven Hammond called the BLM office in Burns, Oregon and claimed the fire was started on Hammond property to burn off invasive species and had inadvertently burned onto public lands. Dwight and Steven Hammond told one of their relatives to keep his mouth shut and that nobody

needed to know about the fire." The jury found for the prosecution.

Welfare Cowboys

The Hammonds, in addition to being arsonists, are, like all Western ranchers grazing their cattle on BLM land, moochers posing as rugged free-market individualists. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, the going rate for grazing a cow and its calf on privately-owned land is about \$20 a month. The rate for grazing on BLM land is about \$1.35.

As it turns out, that \$1.35 rate covers only 15 percent of the cost of managing the BLM's land. The missing 85 percent is cov-

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from page one

ered by, oh, let's just say elementary school teachers in the Bronx, Post Office employees in East St. Louis, and coffee-swilling hipsters in Seattle.

Return of The Bundy Bunch

The appalling injustice of two upstanding welfare ranchers being hauled off to the hoosegow for the petty offense of burning a couple hundred acres of Federal land to hide the evidence of their poaching was just too much for Ammon Bundy to bear.

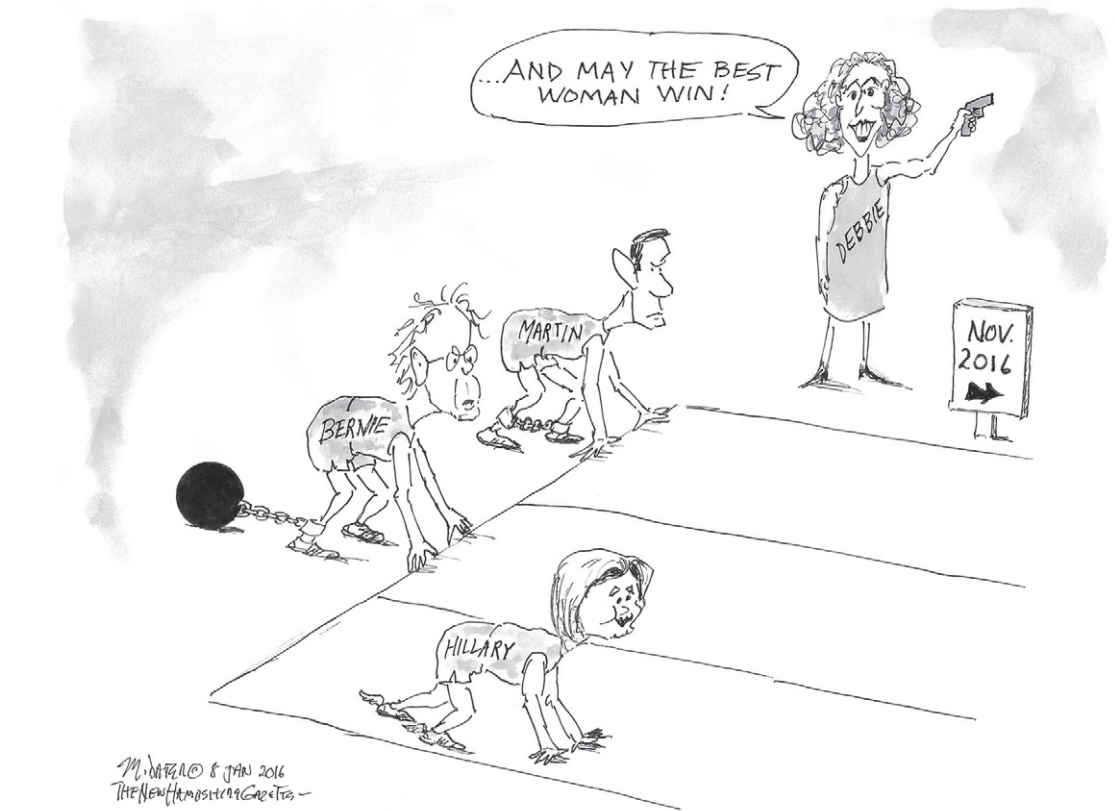
Ammon is the son of Cliven Bundy, the welfare rancher from Nevada who — after enriching himself for a couple of decades by freeloading on BLM land in Nevada without paying even the subsidized rate — starred in a passion play which ran for several weeks in the Spring of 2014. The villains in that controversial work were Federal employees who were just trying to do their jobs

while guns were being pointed at them. The BLM eventually caved. Bundy still owes about \$1 million in unpaid grazing fees, and his cattle still graze illegally on land set aside for the endangered desert tortoise.

Initially the spectacle received rave reviews from Sean Hannity of Fox News, whose duties include being both drama critic and drama queen. Support for the production waned somewhat after Cliven Bundy voiced his opinion that African Americans had been happier when they were enslaved and picking cotton.

If any relationship exists between the Nevada Bundys and Ted Bundy, the serial killer, Carol M. Bundy, the serial killer, or Al Bundy, the fictional shoe salesman, we have been unable to find it.

Ammon Bundy, his brother Ryan, and an undetermined number of other armed but apparently under- or unemployed persons joined several hundred



DNC CHAIR WASSERMAN SCHULTZ'S IDEA OF FAIR AND BALANCED



The Flag Police are rarely flustered, but they were somewhat flummoxed upon finding this fouled flag trying to fly over a financial institution on State Street. Forensic scrutiny of the photographic evidence suggests that the fly end of the flag had frayed, then fixed itself upon the pulley of the pole.

mostly-local people attending a rally in Burns, Ore., on Saturday, January 2nd, in support of the Hammonds. The Bundy bunch then took off on its own, both literally and figuratively. Heading 23 miles south of Burns to the Malheur Wildlife Refuge, its members occupied a visitors center.

That move was too much for the residents of Burns, who quickly disavowed that action. Stewart Rhodes, founder of the Oath Keepers, a self-styled militia for ex-military and law enforcement members which had been integral to the Bundy standoff in the spring of 2014, also criticised the move.

Who Are You Calling 'We'?

Bundy explained on January 2nd, "We are using the wildlife refuge as a place for individuals across the United States to come and assist in helping the people of Harney County claim back

their lands and resources." He called on supporters to sign a petition saying "The residents of Harney County believe that [the Hammonds] have served enough time and are asking the President for a commute of sentence for the remainder of the Appeals Court Sentence."

Yet, as *High Country News* reported on January 4th, "out of 1,700 signatures, only 157 indicate they're from the county, and the vast majority are from elsewhere."

Who Was On First?

Bundy has said that his goal is for the Federal government to turn over the Wildlife Refuge to the people of Oregon. If he got his wishes he might be surprised. The 350 or so members of the Burns Paiute Indian Colony might have a prior claim.

In 1872, President Grant established the area that is now the Wildlife Refuge as the Malheur

Indian Reservation, a refuge for "all the roving and straggling bands in Eastern and South-eastern Oregon, which can be induced to settle there," most of whom were Paiutes.

In 1879, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs found it convenient to "discontinue" the Reservation. In January of that year the Paiutes then in residence were shackled in pairs and marched to the Yakama Reservation in Washington, 300 miles to the north.

A Case of Selective Dissent

For a movement that measures patriotism by the degree to which one despises his own government, this one can be curiously selective. Ammon Bundy, for example, took out an SBA loan in 2010 for more than half a million dollars to support his Arizona truck fleet servicing company. The occupying force, once installed at the Wildlife Refuge,

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issued a plea to supporters asking them to mail “snacks.” That would seem to require the assistance of the mostly-unionized U.S. Postal Service, not to mention State and Federal highways.

Is It Early-Onset Alzheimers?

In an interview published online at *Jacobin*, Margaret Corvid asked Bundy, “What figures in U.S. history inspire your beliefs and this action?” Bundy cited George Washington, “for what he did to help found this country.”

Bundy seems to have forgotten that Washington came out of retirement to put down Shay’s Rebellion, an insurrection which did much to convince post-Revolutionary Americans that the country needed a more powerful central government.

Papa Don’t Preach

Cliven Bundy told Oregon Public Radio, “I don’t quite understand how much they’re going to accomplish. I think of it this way: what business does the Bundy family have in Harney County, Oregon?”

Title 18 U.S. Code § 2384

“If two or more persons in any State or Territory ... conspire to ... seize, take, or possess any property of the United States contrary to the authority thereof, they shall

each be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.”

[Emphasis added.]

Black, Brown, and White

... if you was white should be all right
If you was brown stick around
But as you black, oh brother
Get back, get back, get back.

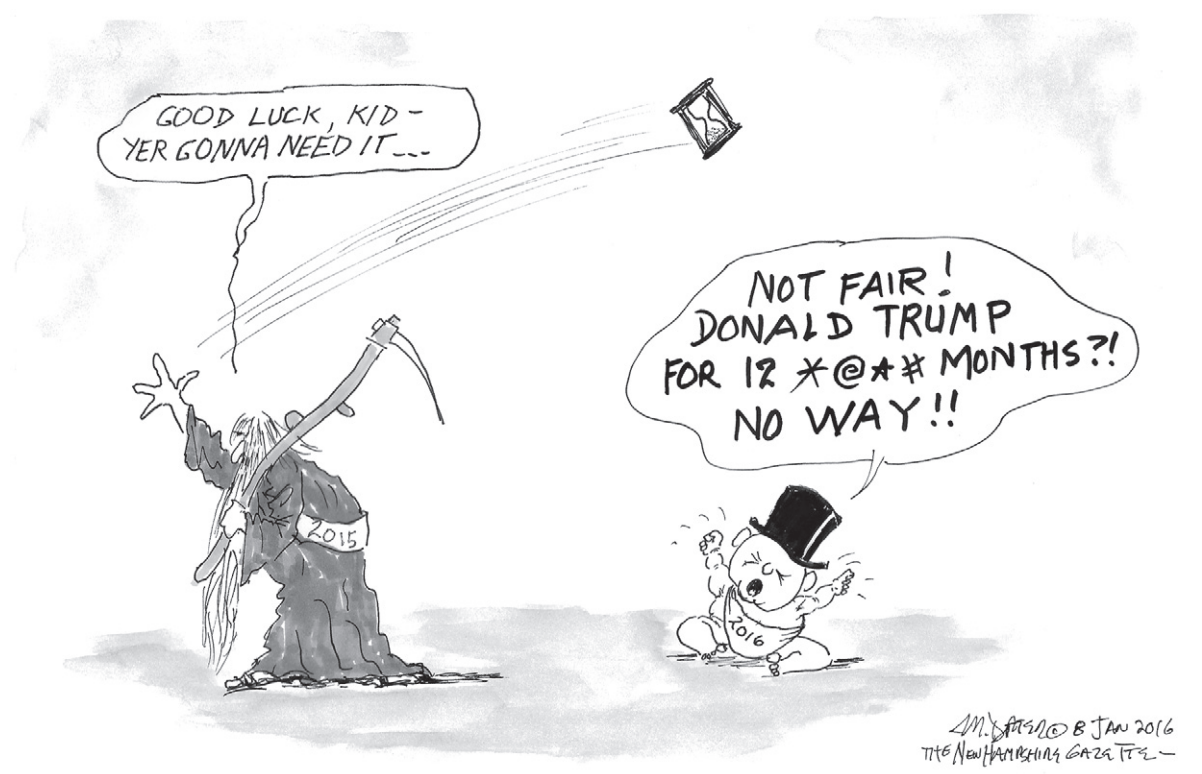
[Lyrics from “Black, Brown, and White,” by Big Bill Broonzy.]

Tamir Rice, a 12 year-old black boy with a toy gun, was shot dead in a Cleveland park last November, approximately two seconds after police officer Timothy Loehmann arrived on the scene. Adult white men armed with real guns broke into a Federal building in Oregon one week ago tomorrow. At press time, all were still alive. Not that anyone ought to be shot, but someday someone ought to figure out this disparity.

Oregon: a Racist Utopia

It is strangely appropriate that this example of white privilege should be unfolding where it is. As Matt Novak explains, in an article published at *Gizmodo* on January 21, 2015, the state of Oregon was founded as a racist utopia.

Here is Article 1, Section 35 of the Oregon state constitution, as originally adopted in 1857, taken from Novak’s article:



“No free negro, or mulatto, not residing in this State at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall come, reside, or be within this State, or hold any real estate, or make any contracts, or maintain any suit therein; and the Legislative Assembly shall provide by penal laws, for the removal, by public officers, of all such negroes, and mulattoes, and for their effectual exclusion from the State, and for the punishment of persons who shall bring them into the state, or employ, or harbor them.”

Article 1, Section 35 was repealed on June 28, 1927, but as Novak points out, it accomplished its goal: to this day only two percent of Oregonians are black. A caution for any pro-pluralism Granite Staters who might be feeling smug: only 1.1 percent of New Hampshire residents are black.

While We’re On the Topic

The African Burying Ground seems to be working. Ever since it was dedicated last spring, we’ve been noticing more and more just how deeply embedded

— buried, you might say — the issues of race, prejudice, and the overall consequences of slavery are in this country.

Take, for example, this quote from John Erlichman, Richard Nixon’s domestic policy advisor, quoted by Dan Baum in his exposé of the War on Drugs, *Smoke and Mirrors*:

“The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar Left, and black people. You understand what I’m saying? We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black. But by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”

[A tip of the hat to Charles P. Pierce, Esquire’s politics correspondent.]

Meanwhile, a newspaper in Britain published a news story about a scientific study that we have yet to see covered in any American news outlet.

“Barack Obama was made to look ‘blacker’ in Republican Party campaign ads,” read the *Independent’s* headline, “Finding reinforces charges that some Republican politicians seek to win votes by implying support for racist views and ethnic hierarchies,” read the drop head beneath it.

According to the abstract of the study, “Findings show that darker images were more frequent in negative ads — especially those linking Obama to crime — which aired more frequently as Election Day approached. We then conduct an experiment to document how these darker images can activate stereotypes, and show that a subtle darkness manipulation is sufficient to activate the most negative stereotypes about Blacks — even when the candidate is a famous counter-stereotypical exemplar — Barack Obama.”



Fresh flowers often adorn the African Burying Ground. Wreaths were added on Christmas Day.

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Madame Secretary!

To the Editor:

With the primaries just around the corner, be sure to ask candidate Hillary Clinton for her views on PPD-27. PPD-27 is President Obama's recent Presidential directive regarding our policy for the export of arms to foreign governments.

Although estimates vary, it's safe to assume in 2016 the U.S. will either sell (through DCS) or transfer (through FMS) over \$60 billion in armaments overseas — mostly bound for the Middle East with nearly half going directly to Saudi Arabia. For clarification, DCS means direct sales with America's military industrial complex cashing in, while FMS means "transfers" where we-the-taxpayer pay for the weapons, Washington gives them away, and the military industrial complex still cashes in.

Hillary will likely tell us that arming the Saudis is beneficial because it supports the war in Yemen and assists them in fighting ISIS. But, let's be real. Saudi Arabia and ISIS are Sunni led, governed by strict enforcement of Sharia, breed terrorism in its schools, and lop off body parts (including heads) for very petty crimes. So how is Saudi Arabia, cradle to the 9/11 wrecking crew, anything less than a shining beacon of hope for what ISIS aspires to achieve in Iraq and Syria?

Google your own numbers, but if what I read is accurate, during the past 10 years we've sold or

given away over \$100 billion in bombs, missiles, planes, ships, and god-knows-what-else to our Saudi "allies." That's the potential for a lot of dead human beings. And now, suddenly, we see the Saudis going out of their way to provoke, inflame, and invite fist-cuffs with Shiite-led Iran. No connection, I'm sure.

I can't predict what former Secretary of State Clinton, President Obama, or the wonks over at the Coalition for Security and Competitiveness might be thinking, but I can't imagine any of this lunacy is going to end well for anyone except those in the lucrative business of proliferating death and destruction.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, NH
Rick:

We looked it up and found a moribund-looking website, Securityandcompetitiveness.org. It said the Coalition was formed "to achieve a more efficient, predictable, and transparent export control system that is an enabling component of America's broader national security strategy." Its roster included the likes of the Aerospace Industries Association, the American Association of Exporters and Importers, the Business Roundtable, and the Chamber of Commerce Space Enterprise Council. The most recent entry seemed to be dated 2007.

We can only assume that the site is neglected because the Coalition has already won all its battles.

The Editor

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**Here Comes the Dirt**

To the Editor:

With the impending prosecution of American icon Bill Cosby for sexual assaults, we are reminded that even the most trusted public figures can have a scandalous secret life. Now Donald Trump threatens to bring up Bill Clinton's alleged sex abuse scandals if Hillary wheels him out onto the campaign trail. Most of us who were politically

aware in the 90's know every detail about the Monica Lewinsky affair in the White House when she was an intern, and the allegations surfacing from Paula Jones, Juanita Broaddrick, and Kathleen Willey.

In 1998, Kathleen Willey, who had previously worked for Bill's campaigns, alleged he forcibly groped her in a White House hallway in 1993 when she went to see him to request a job.

In 1998, Juanita Broaddrick, a former Clinton campaign worker, alleged Clinton had forcibly raped her in a Little Rock hotel room back in 1978 when he was Arkansas Attorney General.

In 1994, Paula Jones alleged that in 1991, when she was a state employee and Bill was Governor of Arkansas, she had sought a promotion when he had her escorted to his Little Rock hotel room where he exposed himself and propositioned her. She later sued him for sexual harassment and the case ended in the payment of a hefty \$850,000 settlement.

There were at least six more incidents from as far back as college days, through Bill's stint as a law professor, and ultimately as an elected official in Arkansas. All reports contained similar patterns where the victims alleged they were either groped or that he exposed himself to them and propositioned them.

Most relevant, perhaps, is the accusation by Broaddrick and a couple others that Hillary pressured them to keep quiet in order to protect Bill's political aspirations.

Recently, in a campaign forum in Hew Hampshire, Hillary stated, "I want to send a message to every survivor of sexual assault. Don't let anyone silence your voice. You have a right to be heard, and you have a right to be believed. We're with you."

When asked by a member of that audience if that applied to

*Mash Notes, HATE MAIL*

Paula Jones, Juanita Broaddrick, and Kathleen Willey, Hillary replied that they should be believed until the evidence proved otherwise.

Whether these multiple allegations are true or not, Trump will take Hillary's stated position as an invitation to re-litigate each incident and that's what the November presidential campaign will be all about if these two win. Not income inequality, climate change, terrorist threats, foreign policy, health care, corporate corruption, or gun control. Those issues, which are of the utmost importance to Americans, will only be the subject of the presidential race if Bernie Sanders is the Democratic nominee because there is no sex scandal or other soap opera to steal the spotlight.

Theodore L. Bosen  
Berlin, NH  
Theodore:

*In our view, Sanders is the candidate America needs — but not because Trump is going to throw dirt at Hillary Clinton. The last thing we should do is allow that blowhard to exert prior restraint.*

The Editor

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Making 2016 More Peaceful

To the Editor:

It's a new year and already we're off to the same old tricks. Donald Trump released his first televised advertisement in which he doubled down on his threat to prohibit Muslims from entering the country if he becomes president, while also vowing to "chop the head off of ISIS." When he was informed that terrorists were using video footage of his comments, Trump proclaimed that he didn't care.

Although President Obama is announcing expanded background checks for gun purchases, many states are moving in the

opposite direction. Texas started the year with new legislation allowing people to openly carry their guns, and Florida looks poised to pass open carry as well as campus carry laws. This despite the fact that 27 Americans were shot and killed on Christmas Day alone, a number equal to the annual gun homicide rates in Austria, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, Estonia, Bermuda, Hong Kong and Iceland. Combined.

Just before the end of 2015, a grand jury in Ohio refused to indict the two white officers who shot 12-year-old African American. This does not bode well for better police-community relationships.

While Bill Cosby will finally stand trial for sexual assault, his defenders are still babbling incessantly about "his side of the story," a not-so-subtle code for "we don't believe the victims." Even less subtle are those who call the women "gold-diggers." Harvard University and Florida State University, both of which were critiqued for their poor response to sexual assault victims in the documentary film *The Hunting Ground*, have launched public campaigns to discredit survivors.

Despite being on the decline nationally, and its system being reviewed by the Supreme Court this year, Florida Governor Rick Scott is set to resume his execution binge on January 7th.

Not only did an armed militia group occupy a federal wildlife sanctuary, but media has in many cases referred to it as a "peaceful protest." I must be missing the peace part of their actions. The response by many on the left has been to mock the group, referring to them as "Y'all Qaeda," "VanillaIsis," "Yeekawdist," and "YokeHaram." How it is help-

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And Other Correspondence

ful to use the same demeaning language we decry when used to describe progressive activism escapes me.

A Florida woman admitted to killing her toddler and stuffing him into a suitcase because she believed the world is about to end in a great Biblical flood. Meanwhile, close to 500 children died in a six-year period, all while child welfare officials were either investigating or had investigated their homes for abuse and neglect.

While so many of us make New Year's resolutions for personal betterment, I think addressing these things and so many more should be our collective resolution for 2016. In addition to exercising more, spending more time with family and all the other things we vow to do annually, perhaps we can vow to take more seriously the call to reduce violence in all its forms. We should commit to being more careful with our language, to demanding better of our politicians and candidates, to supporting victims and families, to holding accountable those who perpetrate violence, and to promoting peace in our homes, schools, and communities.

Laura Finley
Miami, Fla.

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## Rousey Fights for Democracy

To the Editor:

Former Ultimate Fighting Championship [UFC] women's bantamweight champion Ronda Rousey just became the second professional mixed martial arts athlete that I'm aware of (with the first person being close to my heart and bearing my surname), to offer their support to Senator Bernie Sanders, who is fighting for the Democratic nomination for President.

Although I don't generally

place a lot of stock in the opinions of celebrities and athletes on politics or the issues, I must say I found Ronda's endorsement of Bernie to be extraordinary.

Rousey, up until her recent match, a tough loss against another talented mixed martial arts [MMA] athlete, had been as dominant as any athlete has been in their given sport. She had a 12-0 record in the UFC, competing against the best female MMA athletes in the world in a grueling gladiator sport, and had not had to go past the first round in any of her matches. She has, needless to say, amassed a fortune by being the world's number one in her profession and has no doubt increased her fortune with lucrative endorsements.

Hence, one could see how Ronda Rousey might be enticed by the Republican Party's platform of trickle-down economics and preserving the current status quo for the most powerful and wealthy individuals in this country. With women's issues also important to her, it would be perfectly understandable, since Ronda is the embodiment of women's empowerment, if she gravitated towards Hillary Clinton.

Well, I just discovered that Ronda is also brilliant outside the octagonal cage. When asked by an interviewer from Maxim who'll she be voting for in the upcoming presidential primary, she, expressing her complete frustration with politics as usual and the corrupting effect of money on our democracy, answered, "I'm voting for Bernie Sanders because he doesn't take any corporate money. I don't think politicians should be allowed to take money for their campaigns from outside interests."

Rousey, who knows a fighter when she sees one, not only

recognizes that big money in politics is, by far, the single most important issue, but that Bernie is the fighter best suited to take it on!

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, NH  
Wayne:  
*Inspiring!*  
*The Editor*

~~~~~

The Civil War, 1861-2016

To the Editor:

How about a little sympathy for the old Klan?

Sure, on the surface everything looks rosy, what with a major political party adopting their entire agenda. But success can be a double-edged sword.

How do you hold onto your image as the bad boys of white supremacy when the big dogs — first the Tea Party, now the whole GOP — move in and take over your game? Must feel like actors on a *Sons of Anarchy* film set when a bunch of Angels roll up.

It can't be easy to get the ole boys to sheet up and hang around a cow pasture in the dark, burning scrap lumber, when they could be warm and dry at a campaign rally.

And you gotta feel like you're standing on shaky ground, as a Grand Dragon, when you turn on your TV and see a bunch of rich politicians competing for your job.

John Irvine
South Berwick, Maine
John:
[Speechless.]
The Editor

~~~~~

## Medical Insurance Is Expensive

To the Editor:

I felt like my insurance company wanted me out of healthcare when I received my new premium information for 2016. I paid over \$1,600 a month for my wife and I to have medical insurance in 2015. Last fall I learned my current policy would increase to over \$1,950 per month. I had the

option to change policies, which would have lowered my premium to \$1,500 a month. The change would also have significantly reduced my coverage. In the process I learned that just going to the Emergency Room would be an automatic \$500 charge on my current policy and any other policy that I would change to. I chose to stick with my current policy and in 2016 my medical insurance will be \$23,600. That's a lot of money.

I can see what is coming this fall of 2016. I will receive my letter telling me that my current insurance will probably be increased to \$2,300 to \$2,500 per month. I can't pay that kind of premium and will be forced into a plan that will cost \$1,600 to \$1,800 per month and will pay less on medical expenses. The name of the game is the insurance company assuming less liability. They want you to buy the insurance and then pay as much of your medical expense as possible.

I hear too many reports of people opting out of surgeries because they can't afford to pay the deductible and the copay. Many Americans who still cannot afford to buy health insurance are now being penalized. Some are opting to pay the penalty instead of buying the insurance.

We have to simplify our current American health insurance fiasco.

Keep poor Americans on Medicaid. Allow all Americans with preexisting conditions to be on Medicaid. If they make over \$40,000 then they should buy into Medicare. Lower income people should pay less than those with higher wages.

Make medical insurance competitive over state lines. Allow citizens to shop across the country for the best insurance deals. Encourage insurance companies to advertise across the country. Give people a choice. Also, open



the door to Canada's pharmacies. An approved list of pharmacies that Americans can do business with would give us another option.

Finally, we have to slow down government's involvement in our medical care. The job of the government is to keep us safe and provide an environment where we can conduct business and live our lives. The government is being bilked by billions of dollars by health care providers each year. Each year our national debt grows. This means our grandchildren will be paying our medical bills. Involving the government more and more into the health care industry only means a larger national debt and Uncle Sam telling you and your doctor how long you are allowed to stay in the hospital after an appendectomy.

America is in a healthcare crisis that is spiraling out of control. We must elect leadership with a real business plan or we are going to be out of the healthcare business.

Glenn Mollette  
Washington, D.C.

Glenn:

*You know what's really expensive? Allowing profit-seeking drug-manufacturing corporations to dodge taxes and use the excess cash to hire lobbyists to write laws guaranteeing that their stockholders may profit when they jack up*

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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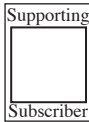
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The Northcountry Chronicle

Lady Macbeth

by William Marvel

As a longtime columnist and erstwhile reporter for *The Conway Daily Sun*, I often sit in on editorial boards with passing presidential candidates. It can be very revealing to meet those aspirants beyond the focus of television cameras, and that opportunity for more uninhibited exchanges is probably the best argument for preserving our small-state inaugural primary. Now and then, however, come those candidates whom we already know well enough as public characters to write off as undeserving of further consideration, and no amount of personal interaction can rehabilitate them. If Donald Trump condescended to drop in at the *Sun*, for instance, I would not bother to attend because his wild commentary has already irreparably discredited his candidacy; wholesale retractions alone would suffice, and that would only worsen his air of unpredictability.

Similar reasoning persuaded me to forego the interview with Hillary Clinton. My aversion to Ms. Clinton's campaign is

grounded in a sense of betrayal by someone I mistook for an ally, which forges far deeper and more enduring opposition than political disagreement with a philosophical opposite. Her entry into the U.S. Senate initially offered some consolation for the disaster of George W. Bush's "election" to the presidency; I thought she might really be the better half of her husband, leavening his political acumen with more genuine sensitivity, but she proved merely to be the distaff version of the same politician.

As George Bush rescued his faltering popularity with military bravado, I expected Hillary Clinton would stand near the head of a congressional coalition that confronted such reckless jingoism. A majority of Americans swallowed administration propaganda over Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and supported the invasion, but most of the world and a significant faction in the U.S. recognized the falsity of that excuse for aggression. That was the time for a principled congressional leader to galvanize opposition to the devastating, destabilizing neocon frolic.

Senator Ted Kennedy and Representative Bernie Sanders made the attempt in their respective chambers, ranting against the dishonesty of the administration and the naiveté of its supporters.

Vigorous support from their colleagues would have encouraged an earlier, more effective antiwar movement and challenged the conceit of an arrogant war party. Instead, most of the more sympathetic congressmen contributed little more than a shy refusal to endorse the invasion. Most Senate Democrats, cowed by the mindless public clamor and the fear of eventual voter retaliation, lacked the spine to even deny executive authority for military action and voted to invade. With more concern for her own political future than for the welfare of her nation or the Middle East, freshman Senator Hillary Clinton lent her disproportionate prestige and trotted for the forefront of that herd — the Judas goat for the stampede to war.

To me, that coldly calculating choice disqualified her from further elective office. Her porous defense of having made the best

decision she could "with the information available at the time" fails to rehabilitate her, and instead reinforces her image as a self-interested servant of the momentary majority, intent mainly on remaining in high government office. Much of her tenure as secretary of state was wasted on Middle East problems arising from her freshman infidelity, but like another scheming wife she could not eradicate the damned spot. All the perfumes of Arabia would not smother the stench of her transgression.

The Clinton campaign is cultivating the assertion that she is a strong woman who can get things done. That appears to have become the mantra of those who are more concerned that the next president be a woman, regardless of character or principles, and it may come back to haunt them. Effectiveness is not an especially desirable trait among politicians who are inclined to satisfy the fickle demands of fluctuating constituencies. Shifting political boundaries can lead to bitter disappointment for such a president's original supporters, as many of us who voted for Barack

Obama have been serially reminded. That phenomenon is further illustrated by Ms. Clinton's recent support — under pressure — for the Black Lives Matter lobby's agenda, which conspicuously includes complaints about mandatory minimum sentences. That ought to trouble the voters she wooed in 2008 with tough-on-crime rhetoric about mandatory minimum sentencing, and those 2008 comments should be no comfort to her latest coveted voting bloc.

Political parties are ruled by establishment committees that try to guide the nomination process toward the center. Presidential contests therefore often pit very similar candidates against each other, depriving the general public of any substantial choice in the general election, because popular choice has the potential to upset the establishment apple cart. The Democrats have the best chance to give the people a real choice in 2016, and if they again seek victory by falling back on a Republican lookalike — and especially this perfidious self-promoter — they do not deserve to win.

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

the prices on medicines they can't live without because they watched expensive advertising on the boob tube.

The Editor

~~~~~

Year of the American Baby

To the Editor:

Please forward to as many Americans as you can!

When in the course of human events ...

2016: Declared the year of the American baby.

Right to life is not a violation of the principle of the separation of church and state for our nation was founded on this first unalienable right ... the right to live.

It is only on this principle of life the American nation will remain standing.

Roe v. Wade is declared barbaric and therefore irrelevant.

The unborn have the same right to life as you and I.

Planned Parenthood or any

health provider will treat the unborn's needs and right to life equal to those of the mother.

If a mother's life is in danger, or there is trauma too great to bear from rape or incest, exceptions can be made. Take an ultrasound, do no harm.

Anyone committing murder on the unborn will be charged accordingly.

We need to educate and learn to respect life ... from an early age.

The heart of America and protection from God depend on it.

William Sturtz

Durango, CO

William:

Regardless of what you may have been told by myriad power-hungry demagogues, your emotional response to a Pavlovian signal does not constitute a legitimate basis for converting our Constitutional system of government to a dictatorship headed by yourself.

We would caution you, too, not to

trust any God who cares more for American babies than, say, Somalians.

The Editor

~~~~~

Pre-Senior Citizenry

To the Editor:

I, with self-assuredness, consider myself to be a healthy, active, physically fit, middle-aged male (nearly 55). I can, indubitably, still comfortably fit into the military uniforms that I wore throughout my lengthy career

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Why Have Major TV Networks Pulled The Plug On Bernie?

by Jim Hightower

Let's go to the scoreboard to see who's winning the exciting game of "Presidential Election Media Coverage."

A non-partisan media monitoring firm that has been tracking the nightly news broadcasts of ABC, CBS, and NBC reports that Trump is tromp, tromp, tromping over the airtime of everyone else. From last January thought November, these domi-

nant flagship news shows devoted 234 minutes of prime-time coverage to the incessant chirping of the Yellow-Crested Bird-brain, with no other contender getting even a fourth of that.

Take Democrat Bernie Sanders, who's stunning the political establishment with a fiery populist campaign that's drawing record crowds. Indeed, Sanders' upstart campaign is getting higher poll ratings in the Democratic contest than Trump is getting

in GOP race. And — get this — polls also show Bernie topping The Donald by 10 points if they face each other in November's presidential showdown. So surely he's getting a proportional level of media coverage by the networks on our public airwaves, right?

Ha, just kidding! The ABC, CBS, NBC devotion of 234 minutes to all-things-Trump was "balanced" by less than 10 minutes for Sanders. Most egregious,

was ABC, the Disney-owned network. ABC's "World New Tonight" awarded 81 minutes of national showtime to Trump last year — and for Bernie: 20 seconds.

How self-serving of the media moguls! The one candidate who is effectively rallying large numbers of voters to oppose the rise of corporate oligarchy — including in the media — has the plug pulled on him. Of course, this only amplifies the truth of what

Sanders is saying about the villainy of corporate profiteers, and it fuels a greater determination by his millions of grassroots supporters to end the reign of greed in America. For information and action, go to [www.BernieSanders.com](http://www.BernieSanders.com).

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that ended nine years ago and know I would perform well in my age/gender category on a USAF PFT. However, my whitish beard obviously betrayed me as I was humbly reminded of my own mortality when I received an invitation from a representative of Senator Bernie Sanders' Dover Office, to attend a conversation on senior citizen issues with the Senator at the McConnell Center.

The young lady representing Senator Sanders suggested to me that it is never too early, since I'm a "pre-senior," for me to start thinking about Social Security and Medicare, for which the Senator has been a relentless fighter.

Bernie asserted that Social Security, which recently turned 80 years old, is "the most successful federal program in modern American history," stating that prior to its implementation, almost 50 percent of senior citizens lived in poverty, with that number having been remarkably reduced to less than 10 percent today. The Senator cautioned us that the GOP, despite Social Security's long-term success, is hell bent on instituting "reforms" (i.e. privatization and/or cuts).

In response, the Senator founded the Senate Defending

Social Security Caucus. Bernie assured us that, despite the Republican's groundless claims regarding the patriotic and popular program's solvency and sustainability, Social Security has a \$2.6 trillion surplus and can pay out benefits, averaging \$1,328 per month, for the next 29 years. He promised to extend the program for the next 75 years and make it stronger, starting with a \$65 per month benefit increase. President Bernie Sanders will accomplish these feats by simply and fairly eliminating the cap subject to payroll taxes on earned income above \$250,000.

Like so many other Americans, I've been working hard and contributing to Social Security since the age of 16 and Bernie and I are absolutely determined to supplement my retirement income so I can continue to pursue happiness and reach the tops of mountains in my actual senior years.

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, NH  
Wayne:  
*That payroll tax cap has got to go.*  
The Editor

Linguistic Proposal Re: Trump  
To the Editor:  
The word should be a noun, as in: "He was just spouting a load

of Trump."

John Stephenson  
Portsmouth, NH  
John:  
*We'll be on the horn to the folks at the Oxford English Dictionary in just a trice.*  
The Editor

Cautionary Thoughts  
To the Editor:  
Yes, we all know Trump is racist, bigoted and can't put together a decent English sentence, and as such many of my fellow liberal thinkers who perhaps have a bit more faith in America than I do are hoping he prevails in the primary so as to grease the skids for another Democratic presidency.

Trump, however, may be more dangerous than liberals think. I sense a gathering storm from the many people I know in the building trades, as well as some of the low-information musicians I know, as well as even some of the welfare-and-pills people I know from my not-so-distant past. His support is fierce and growing. Plus, he has a lot of cards to play: a possible fundamentalist Christian VP who will deliver some number of millions of votes in a tidy little here-you-go basket, the leftover anti-Obama cabal protest vote, knee-jerk generic Clinton hatred (if it's her), good old

anti-Semitism (if it's him), and the lure of a power bonus with a GOP Congress. He is essentially a Reagan thinker minus the sheen of affected decency, and I know he will turn out the vote on his side.

Will we on ours?  
Chris Elliott  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Chris:  
*Because the man is so spectacularly unsuited for the office, and the consequences of his attaining it would be so ghastly, people tend to think it couldn't happen, and make jokes. Like Mama used to say, though: it's all fun and games until somebody gets hurt.*  
The Editor

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Scene: Man on riverbank gazing at water.

Man's voice: Longing for the Apocalypse? I did. I was looking for a reason to live. Hi. Are you feeling tired? Irritable? Stressed out? Well, you might consider Nature.

Woman's voice: From the

people that brought you, Getting Outside, comes prescription strength Nature. Non-harmful medication shown to relieve the crippling symptoms of modern life.

Man's voice: Nature's recommended for humans of all ages. And it's great for pets, too.

Woman's voice: Nature can reduce cynicism, meaninglessness, anal-retentiveness, and murderous rage. In clinical studies, Nature is proven to decrease work-induced catatonia.

Man's voice: Caution — Nature may cause you to slow down, quit your job, or seriously consider what the [bleep] you are doing with your life.

Woman's voice: If you are overly cynical, jaded, or emotionally numb, you may need to increase your dose of Nature. Do you have trouble being even mildly uncomfortable? Nature may not be right for you. Side effects may include spontaneous euphoria, taking yourself less seriously, and being in a good mood for no apparent reason.

Man's voice: So ask your doctor if Nature is right for you.

Footnote: Results may vary. Golf is not nature.

Source: <http://www.nature-rx.org>. Our thanks to Shane Kevin for the tip.

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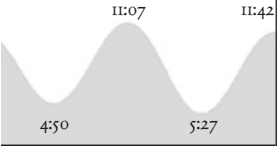
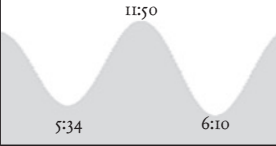
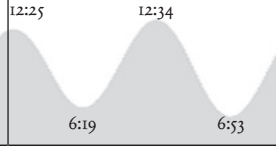
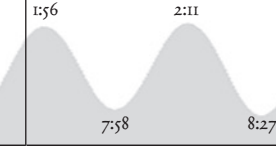
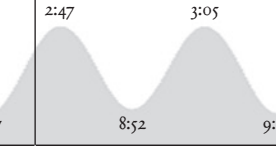
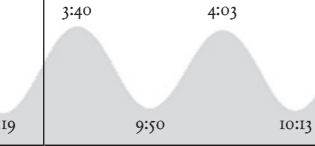


ADMIRAL FOWLE’S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

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, JANUARY 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | MONDAY, JANUARY 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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                            | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      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                                              | SATURDAY, JANUARY 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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| <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush denies ever meeting Enron CEO Ken Lay, his largest campaign donor.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Crewmen at Warren AFB, near Cheyenne, Wyo., responding to a false alarm about an accidental missile launch, park an armored car atop the silo as a precaution.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Lester Maddox, high school dropout turned <i>restaurateur</i> who gave pick-ax handles to customers to prevent integration, becomes Governor of Georgia.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Four black churches and homes of two black leaders in Birmingham, Ala. are bombed.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—“I hate war as only a soldier who has lived in it, only as one who has seen its brutality, its stupidity,” traitorous U.S. Army Chief of Staff Dwight D. Eisenhower reveals in Ottawa, Canada.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Victor Berger (Socialist-Wis.) is refused a seat in Congress for opposing WW I.</p> <p><b>1880</b>—Emperor Norton's funeral draws 20,000 in San Francisco.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—Overloaded with machinery to maximize profits, the Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Mass. collapses. A fire ensues. The worst industrial accident in state history kills 145 workers and injures 166.</p> <p><b>1855</b>—The last 88 Clackamas Indians sign away the best timberland in Oregon for \$500 and some food.</p> <p><b>1776</b>—Thomas Paine's <i>Common Sense</i> is published.</p> | <p><b>2008</b>—“There will be a signed peace treaty [between Israel and the Palestinians] by the time I leave office,” says George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—“You can count on this,” Donald Rumsfeld tells Saudi Prince Bandar, showing plans for the Iraq War. “This is going to happen.”</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Joe Foss, 86-year old ex-Governor of South Dakota, is detained at a Phoenix airport because security personnel mistake his Medal of Honor for a weapon.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—“Rarely is the question asked,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “is our children learning?”</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Joint Chiefs Chair Admiral Moorer is reported to have spied on the executive branch to get secret info on U.S. diplomatic initiatives.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Twenty-three years after George Seldes reports that smoking is hazardous to health, the U.S. Surgeon General does, too.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—Edward Aloysius Murphy Jr., of “Murphy’s Law,” is born.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—A fire consumes 39 buildings comprising a munitions plant in Kingsland (now Lyndhurst) N.J. Thanks to warnings from switchboard operator Tessie McNamara, 1,400 workers escape.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—In Lawrence, Mass., 32,000 women and children strike for bread — and for roses, too.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—For refusing to obey the law by registering as Asian, Mohandas Gandhi is jailed in South Africa.</p> | <p><b>1991</b>—Congress authorizes the first Bush vs. Hussein War.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Reagan Deputy Secretary of Defense W. Paul Thayer resigns after being charged with insider trading. He ends up in the can.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Rev. Philip Berrigan is indicted for conspiring to kidnap R. Nixon and bomb federal buildings.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—For the first time, U.S. helicopters engage in a combat mission in South Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State and brother to CIA chief Allen Dulles, announces that the containment of Communism is over and the threat of massive retaliation is here.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Wheelchair-bound Albert Guay, convicted of bombing an airliner, rolls to Canadian gallows.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Ms. Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Ark.) becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Ruth Snyder becomes the first woman to be photographed dying in the electric chair.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Kit Carson and his fellow heroes kill 11 Navajos in Canyon de Chelly, Arizona Territory.</p> <p><b>1833</b>—Congress makes it illegal for any Indian to remain within the bounds of the state of Florida.</p> <p><b>1641</b>—In James City, Va., a law is passed providing that, if any Indian commits a crime, the first Indian caught must pay the penalty—with his life, if necessary.</p> | <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush passes out and hits the floor of the White House. He blames a pretzel, but an ex-British Foreign Secretary later says that lab techs found alcohol in a sample of Bush's blood.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Japan apologizes for having made sex slaves of tens of thousands of Korean women during WW II.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Dr. Hunter S. Thompson throws a Super Bowl party; one guest: George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Cumberland, Md. gets lucky: a B-52 crashes, but the nukes on board don't go off.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—In a house 100 yards from the home of the future editor of this paper, Timothy Leary, Alan Ginsberg, and Jack Kerouac drop acid.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—The Supreme Court rules that there's nothing cruel or unusual about electrocuting a man a second time if you fail to kill him on the first go-round.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—In Paris, 500 GIs adopt an Enlisted Man's <i>Magna Carta</i>, calling for radical reforms of the master-slave relationship between officers and enlisted men.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—New York City cops, 1,600 strong, beat unemployed demonstrators. Police Commissioner Abram Duryée calls it “the most glorious sight I have ever seen.”</p> <p><b>1842</b>—Of 4,500 British soldiers who began a retreat from Kabul a week earlier, William Brydon rides into Jalalabad, alone.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—“[M]an should never try to put words in God's mouth,” says George W.[MD] Bush on TV.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—“This is still a dangerous world ... of madmen and uncertainty and potential mental losses,” warns George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Near Hawaii, a rocket explosion aboard the nuke-powered <i>U.S.S. Enterprise</i> starts a fire. The fire sets off about 18 500-lb. bombs, killing 27 and injuring 85.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The First Human Be-In is held, in San Francisco.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—“I never should have switched from Scotch to Martinis,” says the dying Humphrey Bogart.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—Death of Rev. Charles L. Dodgson, author and fervent admirer of little girls.</p> <p><b>1893</b>—Joseph Conrad quits the sea of salt water for a sea of ink.</p> <p><b>1878</b>—The U.S. Supreme Court confirms the right of railroads to provide unequal levels of service on the basis of race.</p> <p><b>1850</b>—Imprisoned anarchist Mikhail Bakunin is sentenced to death. After that sentence is suspended, he spends years in a dungeon, comes down with scurvy, is sent to Siberia, escapes, travels the world making trouble for authorities, and eventually dies in Switzerland at 62.</p> <p><b>1794</b>—Dr. Jesse Bennett performs the first successful Caesarean section in the U.S., in Edom, Va., on his own wife.</p> | <p><b>2009</b>—Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger safely lands a malfunctioning Airbus on the Hudson River.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—G.W.[MD] Bush promises an administration that “will see service to our country as a great privilege and who will not stain the house.”</p> <p><b>1992</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush, campaigning in N.H., says “[W]e are blessed. So don't feel sorry for...don't cry for me, Argentina.”</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Near Dak To, SP/5 Dwight H. Johnson engages so fiercely in a firefight that he is later awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1971 he's shot to death in a suicidal robbery.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Jeanette Rankin, 87, Congresswoman who voted against WW I and WW II, leads a march against the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Air Force's “Texas Tower 4,” damaged during construction and again by Hurricane Donna, collapses into the Atlantic 60 miles off New Jersey with a loss of 28 lives.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Future S.C. Senator Strom Thurmond has backseat sex with murderer Sue Logue as she's being driven to the electric chair.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—New Hampshire hangs stockbroker Frederick Small for chloroforming, bludgeoning, strangling, and shooting his third wife.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—In Boston, 2,300,000 gallons of molasses, intended for manufacturing explosives, escape from a badly-built storage tank, killing 21 and injuring 150.</p> | <p><b>2008</b>—Megachurch pastor and Bushian “Point of Light,” Earl Paulk confesses that he is an habitual fornicator.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Space Shuttle <i>Columbia</i> takes off for the last time.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Mistaken for a drug trafficker, Jimmy Buffet and his seaplane are fired on near Jamaica.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—The Dept. of Energy announces a seven-year search for a nuclear waste dump site. One potential site: Hillsborough, N.H.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Paul McCartney is arrested in Barbados for pot possession.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Paul McCartney is jailed briefly in Japan for pot possession.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Anti-drug pencils are recalled in New York because “Too Cool to Do Drugs” becomes, on sharpening, “Cool to Do Drugs,” then “Do Drugs.”</p> <p><b>1979</b>—Rep. Michael Myers [D-Pa.] is charged with assault and battery after a drunken brawl.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Vesna Vulović falls 33,000 feet from a bombed DC-9, lands on a snow-covered slope, and lives.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Serial killer &amp; cannibal Albert Fish is executed at Sing Sing.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Prohibition takes effect: 13 years to the next legal drink.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—German Foreign Secretary A. Zimmermann telegraphs the German ambassador in Mexico telling him to propose a German/Mexican alliance and offering the return of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.</p> |
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| SUNDAY, JANUARY 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | MONDAY, JANUARY 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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                            | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      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                                              | SATURDAY, JANUARY 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     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**2014**—NRA Board Member Ted Nugent, on TV, calls President Obama a “mongrel,” and says liberals should be prosecuted for treason.

**2003**—George W.[MD] Bush tells wounded troops at Walter Reed we “must provide the best care” for veterans the same day the VA cuts off health care for 164,000 veterans.

**2003**—Gertrude Janeway, the last known widow of a Union Civil War veteran, dies at 93. When they married, he was 81 and she was 18.

**1998**—As Drudge is reporting that *Newsweek* has spiked a story about his having sex with an intern, Bill Clinton denies under oath having had sex with Monica Lewinsky.

**1997**—Newt Gingrich's lawyer tells a Congressional subcommittee his client's lies were merely “glaringly inconsistent.”

**1991**—Gulf (& Exxon) War I begins with air attacks on Iraq.

**1986**—Ronald Reagan authorizes the secret (and illegal) sale of weapons to Iran.

**1968**—George W.[MD] Bush miraculously passes the Texas Air National Guard's pilot aptitude test with a score of 25 percent.

**1966**—An Air Force tanker and a B-52 collide over Spain, dropping H-bombs & scattering radiation.

**1961**—President D.D. Eisenhower warns against the “acquisition of unwarranted influence” by the “Military-Industrial Complex.”

**1990**—Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry is busted in a drug sting.

**1982**—During a training mission at Indian Springs, Ariz., four Air Force Thunderbirds fly their T-38 jets into the ground.

**1969**—Peace talks begin in Paris between U.S. and Vietnam.

**1943**—The Red Army breaks the 890-day Nazi siege of Leningrad.

**1941**—Epinard, one of the great race horses of its time, is stolen in France. The nag is later discovered hauling a delivery wagon.

**1932**—Spanish anarchists proclaim a libertarian commune; the government soon jails its members.

**1911**—In San Francisco Bay, Eugene B. Ely becomes the first man to land a plane on a ship.

**1884**—Five are killed and many injured when a steam boiler explodes at the Wallace Brothers Shoe factory in Rochester, N.H. Its malfunctioning safety valve had been weighted down with bricks.

**1863**—Apache chief Mangas Colorado, having entered Fort McLane, N.M. under a flag of truce, is manacled, tortured, then shot. His skull is sent to a phrenologist.

**1676**—Rhode Islander Joshua Tefft, the Algonquin-speaking widower of a Wampanoag woman, accused of high treason during the Great Swamp Fight, becomes the only Englishman ever drawn and quartered in North America.

**2004**—Over 100,000 Iraqis turn out to protest the U.S. occupation.

**2001**—On his last full day in office, Bill Clinton admits he perjured himself when he denied having sex with Monica Lewinsky.

**1996**—Hollywood producer Don Simpson's \$2,000/day drug habit kills him at the age of 52.

**1983**—Apple Computer unveils the Lisa, innovative but doomed precursor of the Macintosh.

**1977**—Pres. Jerry Ford pardons Iva Toguri “Tokyo Rose” D'Aquino.

**1968**—Attempting to placate Howard Hughes, the AEC detonates an H-bomb 90 miles further from his penthouse; not far enough.

**1915**—Two Britons are killed and three injured in the first Zeppelin attack of WW I.

**1915**—To preserve order, factory guards in Roosevelt, N.J. shoot 20 rioting strikers.

**1915**—George Claude patents the neon tube sign.

**1847**—Charles Bent, the new Territorial Governor of New Mexico, is scalped at his Taos home in front of his wife and children.

**1825**—The process of canning food in tins is patented.

**1810**—Portsmouth's temperature drops 50 degrees overnight.

**1809**—Edgar Allan Poe is born.

**1570**—In Linlithgow, the Earl of Moray becomes the first man to be assassinated with a firearm.

**2009**—Administering the Oath of Office to President Obama off the top of his head, Chief Justice John Roberts blows his lines.

**2009**—Top Congressional Republicans gather and scheme to sabotage the administration of the newly-inaugurated President.

**2005**—J.P. Morgan Chase admits two banks it swallowed had taken slaves as collateral years before.

**2001**—George W.[MD] Bush becomes #43. Chaos ensues.

**1981**—Minutes after Ronald Reagan is sworn in as president, 52 American hostages in Iran are released: a coincidence. He goes on to trade arms for hostages, bankroll the future al-Qaeda, rob Social Security, and triple the national debt.

**1942**—Nazi officials at Wannsee determine a “final Solution” to the “Jewish problem.”

**1936**—England's King George V is euthanized with an injection of cocaine and morphine, timed so his death could be reported in the more-dignified morning newspapers, rather than the evening rags. His last words were, “God damn you.”

**1902**—In the Philippines, U.S. Major Littleton Waller summarily executes 11 native guides. He is acquitted of murder at court-martial.

**1932**—A peasant uprising begins in El Salvador, eventually leading to the Matanza Massacre in which 30,000 are killed.

**2001**—The *New York Times*, ignoring 20,000 jeering demonstrators, reports George W.[MD] Bush's inauguration may bring a “new era of ... social justice.”

**2000**—“When I was coming up,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “it was a dangerous world, and you knew exactly who they were. It was us vs. them, and it was clear who them was.”

**1997**—Newt Gingrich becomes the first Speaker of the House to be disciplined for unethical behavior.

**1996**—Bill and Monica enjoy their fifth illicit encounter.

**1977**—Pres. Carter pardons up to half a million draft dodgers.

**1968**—The NVA begins a 78-day siege of U.S. Marines at Khe Sanh. Outnumbered 5 to 1 and suffering 737 KIA/MIA, Marines prevail.

**1968**—A malfunctioning heater ignites unauthorized foam seats aboard a B-52 over Greenland causing it to crash and scatter parts of four H-bombs.

**1959**—Former Little Rascal Carl “Alfalfa” Switzer is fatally shot in the belly by a bear-hunting companion in a dispute over a lost dog.

**1908**—A new law bans smoking on New York streets—by women.

**1867**—Emperor Norton I of San Francisco is arrested for involuntary treatment of a mental disorder. Civil unrest follows. The Police Chief apologizes to the Emperor, and cops begin saluting him.

**2008**—The Center for Public Integrity documents 935 instances of “orchestrated deception” by President George W.[MD] Bush and seven top officials leading up to the Iraq War.

**2005**—Donald Rumsfeld cancels an appearance in Germany to avoid a possible arrest for war crimes.

**1997**—Lottie Williams, walking in a Tulsa park, takes a glancing blow on the shoulder from a small falling chunk of a Delta rocket.

**1987**—Pennsylvania Treasurer Budd Dwyer, charged with fraud, blows his brains out on live TV.

**1973**—The Supreme Court issues its *Roe v. Wade* decision.

**1967**—Salvadorans protest against state violence in Managua; government troops kill 200.

**1959**—Ordered illegally to dig coal from under the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, with nothing to gauge their clearance, twelve miners drown when the river breaks through.

**1957**—George “The Mad Bomber” Metesky, stiffed on a worker's claim, is arrested in New York for planting 30 bombs over 16 years.

**1948**—Boston Mayor James Curley asks MIT to study whether flamethrowers could be used to clear snow.

**1945**—Arthur Kasha becomes the third muckraking Minneapolis newspaperman in 11 years to be shot dead on the street.

**2005**—The U.S. Ambassador to Iraq confirms its Defense Minister Hazim al-Shaalan is under investigation over a missing \$300 million (which sum quickly triples).

**2004**—“[T]he illiteracy level of our children are appalling,” says George W.[MD] Bush.

**2001**—The *LA Times* reports that “W” keys are missing from White House computers. It's not true.

**2000**—Campaigning for President in Salem, N.H., John McCain tells reporters, “I would never do this again.”

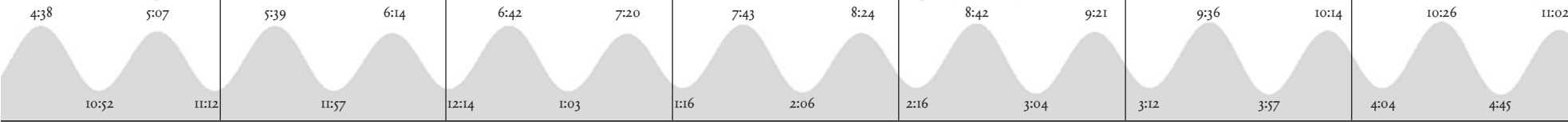
**1986**—In a mixup, half a ton of uranium is pumped into the sea at Windscale, England.

**1973**—Richard Nixon claims his “peace with honor” deal with Ho does not betray our allies, abandon our prisoners, or let the war continue in Indochina. It does all three.

**1968**—North Korea seizes the *USS Pueblo* for spying within its waters.

**1957**—Klan members in Montgomery, Ala. force Willie Edwards Jr. to jump from a bridge. A judge quashes the indictment of 3 men 19 years later, saying “forcing a person to jump from a bridge does not naturally and probably lead to the death of such person.”

**1870**—On the Marias River in Montana, Maj. Eugene Baker's soldiers massacre 173 Blackfoot women and children. Chief Heavy Runner dies holding a U.S. flag given to him to assure their safety.





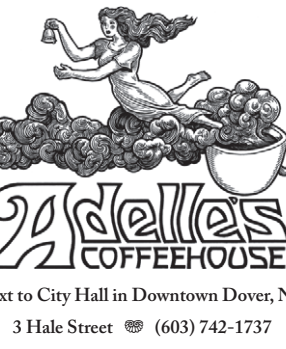
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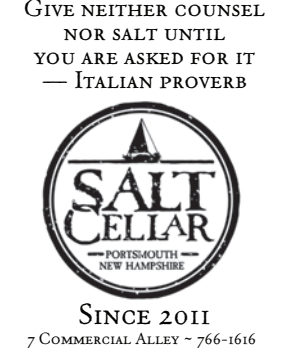
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