

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

The Ides of March

The Ides of March have come and gone. Marco Rubio, unable to spin one more “victory” out of a second-place finish in his home state, is gone too. John Kasich, having eked out a mere plurality in the state which he governs, slogs ahead praying he can draw to an inside straight.

The Republican Party is clearly hell bent on nominating Donald Trump for President of the United States. The last putative obstacle in his way is Ted Cruz, the most-hated man in the U.S. Senate. That leaves Republicans with a choice that's been characterized by one of their own as “death by being shot or poisoning.”

The only good that can come of this revolting situation will be the entertainment derived from watching the nation's dominant political party erupt in chaos at its national convention. Fortunately, the odds of that happening are increasing daily.

On the other side of the aisle, despite an astonishingly successful, out-of-nowhere challenge, it appears less and less likely that Bernie Sanders, the New Deal Democrat, will be able to overcome the delegate advantage of Hillary Clinton, a hybrid neocon/Rockefeller Republican political product.

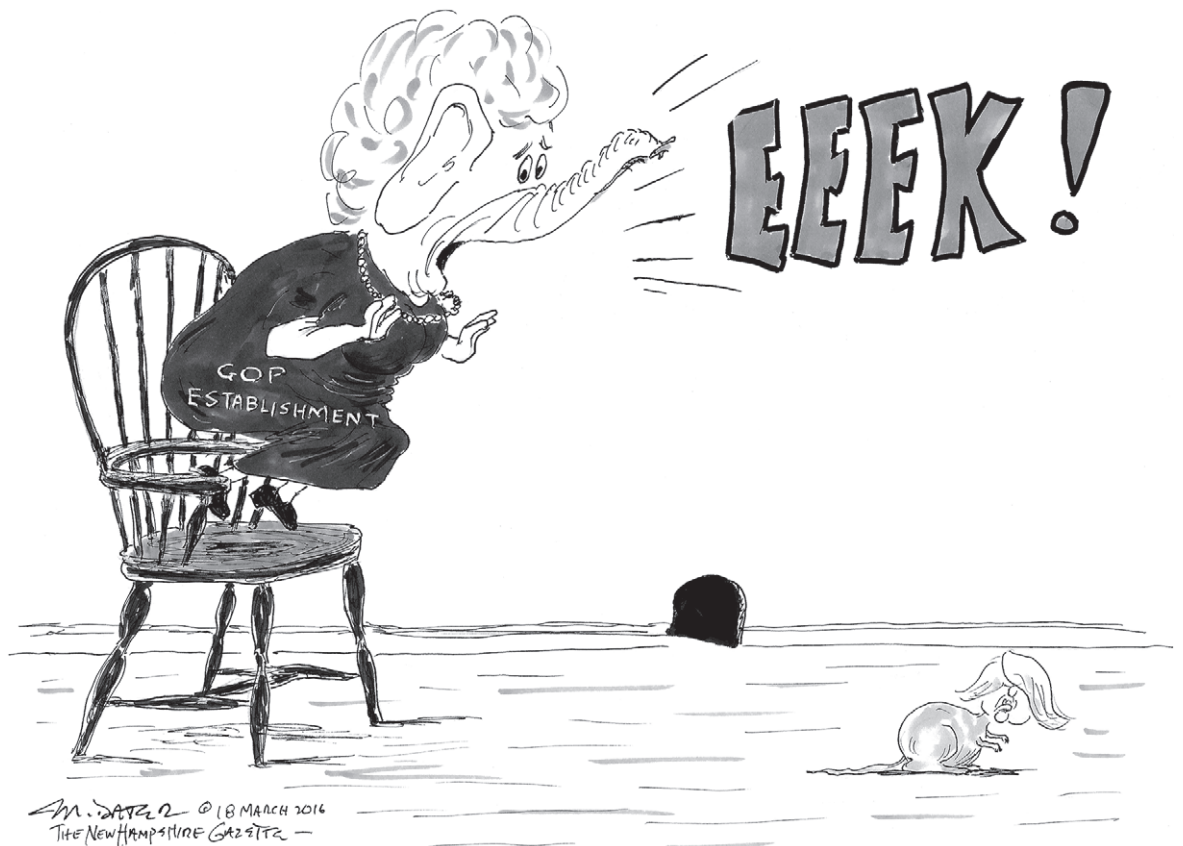
In all likelihood, by the year 2020, the American public will have either had a Bush or a Clinton in the White House for 24 out of 32 years, or four years under a man whose name anagrams into Tan Dumphord.

To whoever might someday pluck a yellowed copy of this newspaper from the broken rubble of what was once a pretty good country, we owe an account of how we got here.

Since the day Trump glided down his gilded escalator in the summer of 2015, he's been able to command the cameras of the nation's alleged news media. We've seen the phenomenon so many times in recent months: a podium, the carefully-placed lights, that improbable mass of oddly-colored fibers atop his head, those gesticulating hands with their stubby little fingers, and that mouth — above all, that weirdly fish-like mouth.

You never know what's going to come out of it, and therein lies its power. Most of the time it might as well be someone singing scat: making meaningless sounds which are endlessly repeated. Every once in a while, though, and often enough to keep it compelling, he'll utter something truly bizarre and outrageous. In February, for example, Trump said he'd pay the legal fees for followers who punched protestors. On Tuesday he said, “I never said I was going to pay for fees.” When the candidate might be seconds away from dictating tomorrow's headlines, it's awfully hard for a television producer to cut away to someone talking sense.

The candidate's supporters also seem capable of just about anything, as do the security forces around him. At a Trump rally in



North Carolina a black protestor was arrested for getting punched by a white man.

As a result, Trump has garnered, according to the *New York Times*, nearly \$2 billion in free media exposure. That is double the cost of the most expensive presidential campaigns in history. Hillary Clinton has received less than 40 percent of that figure, and Sanders less than 17 percent.

On Tuesday night, Sanders delivered a one-hour speech. Among other things, he excoriated Republican efforts to restrict access to the polls. “If you are afraid of free and fair elections,” he said, “get out of politics. Get another job.” An extremely cogent point

— but boring, according to our corporate media overlords.

CNN, Fox, and MSNBC all ignored Sanders' speech. CNN's cameras added insult to injury by showing Trump's empty podium in front of nine U.S. flags, along with text saying, “Breaking News: Standing By For Trump.”

We were reminded recently by a faithful reader of our prediction, many months ago, that sooner or later Trump would bail out. That prediction was based on the theory that, faced with a stark choice between living the carefree life of a goofball billionaire or actually buckling down to a mountain of tedious assigned labor, he would make the smart choice. So much

for trying to read the mind of a psychopathic authoritarian meg-alomaniac.

It all just goes to show — you should always follow the Golden Rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

For the better part of a year we have been mocking the Republicans' fear of Donald Trump. Now we're terrified. Considering that his most likely opponent is Hillary Clinton, we're depressed, too.

The polls say don't worry — in a general election matchup, Clinton has a ten-point lead over Trump.

With the election more than seven months away, that seems like an awfully thin reed to lean on.

The Alleged News®

Republicans Behaving Badly

It's been an unquiet fortnight in the Granite State.

First Kyle Tasker, one of our most prominent State Representatives — or best-known, anyway, after he dropped his pistol during a hearing at the State House, and also the highest vote-getter in his district — was arrested at a secluded spot in Nottingham, where he allegedly planned to ply the underage object of his affections with alcohol and illegal drugs. A subsequent search of his home turned up “vast amounts of controlled drugs” which were “packaged for sale.”

Then Jerry DeLemus, a state co-chair for the Republican Presidential frontrunner and husband of a State Representative, was thrown in the Strafford County Jail just for hauling his .50-calibre, semi-automatic Barrett sniper rifle, capable of throwing a 1.7-ounce slug four miles, out to Nevada to support a welfare rancher who's been cheating the government, for threatening Fed-

eral employees trying to enforce the law, and for turning away a pair of armed nutjobs who went on to Vegas and murdered a civilian and two cops.

Sheesh — where have our freedoms gone? Does Live Free or Die mean nothing anymore?

Non-News You Can't Use — Twice

The Award-Winning Local Daily, as it is wont to do, lurched aboard an already-overloaded bandwagon on Saturday, March 5th. On page 8B, it ran a generic wire story summing up America's fascination with a certain British soap opera on the occasion of its demise.

The reader might object that the AWLD jumping on a bandwagon is a “dog bites man” story, at best. The reader would be right — so far. An exciting development in journalism follows, though, after a slight digression.

It is not our place to say how a daily paper should be run, but the AWLD does seem to have missed an excellent opportuni-

ty to exploit a local connection. Highclere Castle, the grandiose rockpile venerated in “Downton Abbey,” once had as its Grande Poobah-esse — or whatever the proper term is — a woman with roots in the banks of the Piscataqua.

In 1922, Anne Catherine Tredick Wendell, of Kittery and New York City, married Henry George &, &, &. Herbert, aka Baron Porchwell, or, less formally, “Porchy.” Porchy's father, the 5th Earl of Carnarvon, is famous for having sponsored the ~~looting~~ exploration of Tutankamen's tomb. The 5th Earl died the following year, laid low by an infected mosquito bite. As the cultured say, *et ceciderunt fortes*.

Porchy, of course, was promoted to 6th Earl upon the death of his dear Papa, becoming quite literally the Lord of the manor. Good thing, too — had he and the former Miss Wendell been people of lower social standing, living in some seedy council flat, their mar-

ried life would have been quite scandalous. After serial adulterous liaisons on the part of both parties, the couple divorced in 1936. The Portsmouth Athenæum mounted a splendid exhibit in 2012 exploring the Portsmouth connection to Downton. The salacious bits were handled most tastefully.

For the Portsmouth paper to have run such a story, however, would have required local staff to write it. GateHouse, our presiding daily media overlord, prefers to run our daily paper with a presumably-overworked skeleton crew; the fewer local reporters, the better.

Many of the tasks which were formerly done at the AWLD's cavernous plant at Pease — like the laying out of pages — are now accomplished at a centralized Design Center in Austin, Texas. [Apparently GateHouse doesn't think Chinese workers are ready for those jobs yet.]

GateHouse's zeal in staff-reduction can be measured by the

advertisements it has run in its own real estate section, soliciting occupants for the excess space at its cavernous plant at the Pease Tradeport. Here's a thought: perhaps the City of Portsmouth could find some suitable municipal use for that building.

But enough with the digressions — now to that exciting development of which we spoke.

The Irish writer Rebecca West once defined journalism as “the ability to meet the challenge of filling space.” In laying out the aforementioned March 5th “Downton Abbey” story, someone in GateHouse's Design Center made a *huuge* breakthrough in journalism, at least according to West's standard.

The story was 1,143 words in length — barely enough copy to fill half a page. Rather than giving up and ending the story when he got to the last paragraph, our

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to page two

The Alleged News®
from page one

unsung Austin genius developed a whole new technique in the field of typography. Call it “dittography.” He simply appended the second through the 16th paragraphs, all over again. Bingo! A full, completed page.

Until quite recently, newspapers were considered a dead-end investment. Thanks to innovative techniques like dittography and photo caption recycling — another innovative technique in which a single caption is used multiple times under different pictures on the same page — GateHouse has become the nation’s largest publisher of newspapers, owning approximately 575 publications in

32 states.

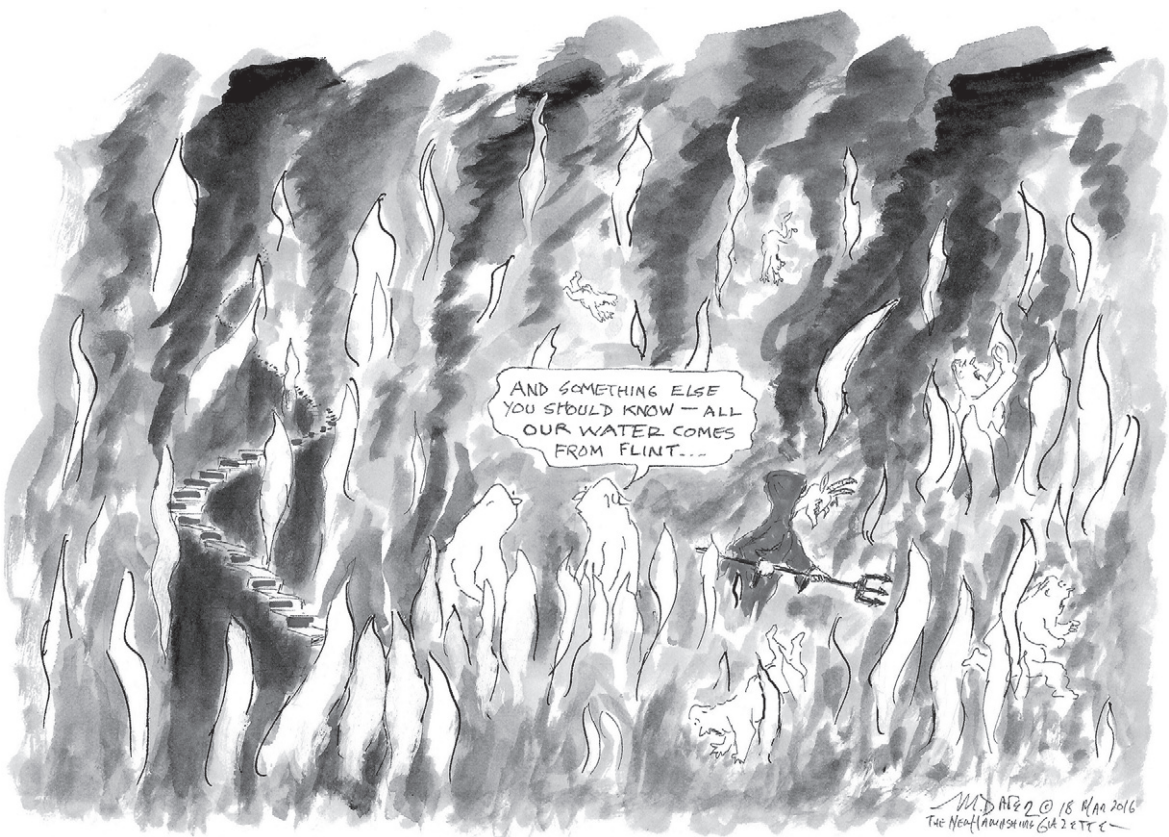
By focusing on its core competency, “creating content, attracting eyeballs to it and then monetizing against those eyeballs,” as one industry observer described it, GateHouse is able to meet its strategic goal of producing a profit for its parent company, the \$60-billion hedge fund Fortress Investment Group.

RIP, Cabot Lyford

The sculptor Cabot Lyford died January 21st in Brunswick, Maine. He was 90, and had been in hospice care. Lyford resided in New Harbor, Maine after his retirement from Phillips Exeter Academy, where he taught for 23 years and directed the art department. One of Lyford’s works, “The Whale,” is in Prescott Park.



This block of Islington Street was once the site of Governor Ichabod Goodwin’s mansion. That stately dwelling was moved to Strawberry Banke in 1963 and replaced by a building which housed Atherton’s Furniture. That building was destroyed in a three-alarm fire on the night of July 12, 1979. It was replaced by a low, undistinguished brick structure, roughly similar to the one which, until recently, housed Kline’s Furniture a few blocks east. Atherton’s closed in the mid-1990s, and Olde Port Traders moved in. Olde Port has now moved on to Peverly Hill Road, and the former Atherton building was demolished. The Klines building is gone, too. The difference is that here the new construction fits the site.



Another, “My Mother the Wind,” is on Four Tree Island.

According to a profile of the artist by Tammi Truax, published in the *Portsmouth Herald* on January 2, 2015, the latter work is “essentially an anti-war protest since it depicted a mother and child fleeing from war.” Lyford was said to be pleased that it ended up “in front of the Portsmouth Navy Yard.” Lyford’s opposition to war came naturally; he had served with the 96th Infantry during the Battle of Leyte.

Statue Proposed for Local Hero

While we’re on the topic of statues in Prescott Park, a new one has been proposed by city resident Brian Kelly.

On the website *Change.org*, Kelly laments that there is “currently no statue of Portsmouth native Ronnie James Dio ... anywhere in Portsmouth,” and has created a petition for the City Council to ask them to remedy that situation. Dio, a musician, was born Ronald James Padavona in Portsmouth

on July 10, 1942. He died of cancer on May 16, 2010.

“We would like to set the statue in Prescott Park, the heart of the Arts in Portsmouth,” Kelly wrote, “honoring the legacy of this influential man. Preferably there would be a water feature on this memorialization considering our strong maritime tradition. We believe it should be constructed of metal (naturally). We would defer to the artists for all decisions, of course, and we are open to discussion.”

Kelly appears to be quite serious, and is clearly not alone — the petition racked up 500 signatures in less than a day.

With new signatures coming at a rate of one every 2.7 minutes, it appears quite likely that the proposal will end up before the City Council.

If it does, Councilors will be presented with an interesting problem. They would be asked to place, in an area where neighbors are, shall we say, rather jealous of their peace and quiet, a monument

to one of the loudest heavy-metal musicians in the world. Of course, no one has suggested that the statue be equipped with a sound system: yet, anyway.

Those who are unfamiliar with the genre might assume that Dio was probably a nasty, nihilistic, drug-addled maniac, like Lancaster, N.H. native G.G. Allin [1956-1993].

They would be surprisingly wrong about that. In a remembrance published in *Rolling Stone* shortly after his death, Robert Sheffield wrote that it “wasn’t just his mighty pipes that made him Ronnie James Dio — it was his moral fervor. ... what always stood out was Dio’s raging compassion for the lost rock & roll children in his audience, his fiercely anti-clerical religiosity, his hatred for the kings and queens who blind our eyes and steal our dreams. Dio barely ever sang about women unless he was empathizing with them, as in ‘Invisible,’ where he also empathized with gay teen-

Gary Blake
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agers, which was (to say the least) a bold move from a straight rock star in 1983.”

For what it’s worth, a statue of Dio would not be unprecedented.



The one shown above was erected in Kavarna, Bulgaria, in 2010.

A Reassuring Reality Check

Overly-conscientious readers may recall A.O., a faithful subscriber in Laconia who informed us some time ago of a phone call she’d received from a robot. It wanted to know if she was pro-life.

Early this fortnight A.O. called again, to tell us about an item she had found in her local supermarket. Its packaging proudly an-

nounced that its contents were “100 percent real.”

A Year In Their Life

Ever wondered what life was like for the Native people who called the Berwick area home? Now’s your chance to hear Dana Benner discuss what a typical year would have been like for them.

Dana is of Abenaki (Piqwacket, Penobscot, and Micmac), English and German descent. He has been writing and lecturing about Native American history and all aspects of the outdoors for 30 years. He holds an M.Ed. in Heritage Studies and a B.A. in U.S. History and Native American Culture.

Sponsored by the Old Berwick Historical Society, the program will be held on Thursday, March 24, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Berwick Academy’s Jeppesen Science Center on Academy Street. The public is invited, and volunteers will serve refreshments. Donations are welcome. For additional



On Wednesday afternoon, March 9th, the temperature got up to 76° and stayed there for three hours — long enough to make it worthwhile to haul out the old drum set. That’s about 26 degrees warmer than that day’s average high temperature. Until now, scientists have been loath to attribute specific unusual weather events to climate change. On March 12th, the National Academy of Sciences published a paper about “extreme event attribution,” a “relatively young science” that “seeks to tease out the influence of human-cause climate change from other factors, such as natural sources of variability like El Niño, as contributors to individual extreme events.” Now scientists can “attribute an increased magnitude or frequency of some extreme weather events to climate change.” That’s great news. Any day now, Sen. James Inhofe [R-Okla.], Chairman of the Senate Environment Committee, is bound to announce a crash program to address the problem of climate change.

information, visit oldberwick.org or call (207) 384-0000.

The Fight for Community Rights

Two New Hampshire communities have just taken steps to determine their own futures.

In Barrington, residents at Town Meeting voted 795 to 759 on March 8th to adopt a Community Bill of Rights asserting their right to clean air, pure water, and local, community self-government. The rights-based ordinance bans corporate gravel extraction and water withdrawals as a violation of those rights.

For three years, residents have worked to educate elected representatives, neighbors, and other local groups of the threat posed by corporate interests intent on gravel mining and withdrawing water from the Isinglass River. These extraction activities risk harm to the local economy, drinking water, and the environment.

Residents requested the assistance of the Community Envi-

ronmental Legal Defense Fund [CELDF, at celdf.org] to help provide organizing, education, and legal support, as part of their work to protect themselves. Their perseverance since 2013 resulted in tonight’s enactment of the Community Bill of Rights to Protect the Waterways of Barrington Ordinance.

In Barnstead, residents unanimously enacted an unprecedented “Community Bill of Rights” law at their annual Town Meeting on Saturday, March 12th, establishing the right to be free from religious identification requirements. The first-in-the-nation law was drafted at the Town’s request by CELDF to protect Barnstead residents from political and civil persecution based on their religious beliefs. The passage of the Right to be Free From Religious Identification Ordinance comes during the 2016 presidential election campaign in which Republican candidate Donald Trump spoke

of the possibility of requiring people to carry religious identification cards.

On March 9th, the House Legislative Administration Committee voted CACR 14, the Community Rights state constitutional amendment, inexpedient to legislate. The Committee ignored the standing-room-only crowd urging them to support the measure, instead favoring industry, which wanted the measure blocked. The full House voted to end consideration of the amendment as part of a package of bills on the consent agenda. The measure was sponsored by House Representative Susan Emerson (R - Cheshire, District 11).

Michelle Sanborn, CELDF’s Community Rights Organizer, said “We are enthusiastic that CACR 14 received the support it did from Representative Emerson and her colleagues, and we are undaunted by the outcome ... We will be back next year.”

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Provocateurs, Not Protesters
To the Editor:

Those that protest against Donald Trump are either poorly informed, chronic malcontents, hypocrites, or varying combinations of all three.

Otherwise, how does anyone explain the large presence of the Occupy Movement supporting Hillary Clinton, the consummate Wall Street insider and protector.

Why aren't they picketing her rallies? And why do we not see those with a visceral hatred for the Bush/Cheney/neo-con Middle East agenda not holding Obama and Hillary accountable for adopting and extending those policies? When Donald Trump is the only one questioning the very sanity of these policies, why is it he who is being demonized?

Answer: These violent anti-Trump rallies have the fingerprints of the neo-cons all over them. After all, it's not coincidence that these riots started shortly after a meeting at Sea Island where a stop-Trump agenda of the Beltway and financial elites was hammered out. And, as always, they are using dupes, drawn from the chronically malcontent who will join any movement, poorly-educated college students, and those with cognitive dissonance who can hate Bush/Cheney/Wall Street policies, yet support the same policies when carried out by Obama/Clinton.

And why does not the media, all the candidates, and the politicians speak out against those who

want to deny a candidate his right to speak, while they feel a right to protest in a violent and threatening manner. In fact, the other candidates are blaming Trump himself, asserting that he is divisive, by which they mean he disagrees with them.

There is madness in seeing those who allegedly condemn empire supporting Hillary Clinton; particularly those in the Occupy Movement, who rail against the banks and Wall Street. They join with George Bush, Dick Cheney, Bill Kristol and all the other neo-cons, as well as the other Republican candidates, in trying to stop the man who is in the forefront of a revolution that expresses and supports an America-first foreign and domestic policy. Of course, on the other side is Bernie Sanders, who, now that he has pledged a neutral stance on the Israeli/Palestine issue, has increased his appeal, but is unfortunate in that he is running within the party that has super delegates, making the very party's name — Democratic — an oxymoron, and erecting for Sanders a mountain he probably cannot climb.

It's a simple choice: The neo-cons versus Donald Trump. If those who support Western aggression, the Military-Industrial Complex, and the Wall Street economic policies want to protest peacefully, then let them do so — but let it be peaceful. And they should at least know what they are protesting and what it is they themselves believe, and not allow themselves to be led by demagogues, who will use them as a power base, but are, in reality, their worse enemy.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

John:
After all the years you've been reading this paper, you're still backing Trump? We are also baffled by your suggestion that Trump protesters are violent and his supporters are peaceful. It is the failure to ac-

curately identify the demagogue in the picture which troubles us most, though.

The Editor
~~~~~

**GOP Principles v. Government**  
To the Editor:

Candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton filled their debate on Sunday (March 6) in Flint, MI, with full-throated empathy and calls for billions (Hillary) and a trillion dollars (Bernie) to fix our nation's crumbling (and crummy) infrastructure. One fact they forgot to point out is that the poisoning of Flint's water system was the direct result of the Republican principle to "run government like a business."

Businesses are run by cutting costs and raising prices to increase profits. The water was cheaper from the Flint River than from the Detroit Water System, especially when anti-corrosion purification processes were omitted. People will suffer a lifetime because of that Republican principle. And who profits?

Government fills the needs that a profit-driven market system cannot fulfill. Republican principles have no business running government.

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, CA

*Bruce:*  
Had the nation's news media been doing their job, the absurd notion you challenge here would have been smothered in its crib.

The Editor  
~~~~~

A Foxy Tale

Back in the Bill Clinton Presidency, recall the savagery of those neocon committees, the abuse of the radio talkers, the poison-pen pundits, and Fox News weaving factoids with fiction to suggest dark scandal, conspiracy, dirty money, and murder. Then came the ultimate "gotcha," a sex scandal so inescapable that Clinton found himself pummeled and bloodied in the public square. A

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL**

First Family pursued like dogs, impeached and humiliated.

It always confused me why conservatives treated the Clintons with such contempt, never acknowledging Bill's behind-the-scenes success at driving America's progressive agenda back into the stone age. NAFTA, Wall Street deregulation, welfare reform, and all the rest? Reason says they should be best buds! Is it possible the abuse was a smokescreen and we-the-people were victims of the greatest political con ever? Or, are ingrate Republicans just "like that"?

One thing is certain, Bill Clinton (the Silver Fox) is still standing. With his 165 IQ intact, the former President remains a consummate master of southern treachery with lots of free time these days to think. So, enter old friend Donald J. Trump (the Red Fox), serial tycoon, and hustler extraordinaire. The Donald is running against Hillary, but at the same time, he is raining down terror and destruction on virtually every one of the Clintons' historical opponents and detractors. Indeed, Trump may be the chosen one to strike that final fatal blow that levels the party of Lincoln forever! Should he succeed, it would certainly settle a lot of old Clinton scores.

So is there a back story here? After all, "Slick Willy" and "The Donald" are arguably two of the most accomplished con-artists of modern time, and their collective brilliance for fomenting mischief could easily take on quantum dimensions if unleashed. Or, is such speculation merely conspiratorial fantasy born of idle prattle between cynics as the chardonnay decanter nears empty?

Still, you've got to wonder! Who among us would knowingly sit in on a poker game with Slick Willy, The Donald, and Hillary

(the three foxes) and lay our personal fortune on the table? Do we-the-American-people really want to take on such risk with our country? Oh unholy triumvirate, how dark be thy quest?

Conspiracy or not, I hope our Wise Old Fox from Vermont has an ace or two tucked up his sleeve because he's going to need them, along with all the support we can offer between now and the convention!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

~~~~~  
**Do Your Job, Senate**  
To the Editor:

Over the years my political views have moderated to such an extent that I get pummeled by both sides equally on a regular basis. I'm a mix between a Barry Goldwater conservative and a Daniel Patrick Moynihan liberal, a "Burton for Certain," "Feel the Bern," middle-of-the-roadah.

One issue that's caused my being thrashed from the right was the death of Supreme Court Justice Scalia. I've read, re-read, and re-re-read Article II., Section 2., of the Constitution and if my layman's understanding is correct, it's the President's responsibility to nominate, and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint a replacement for Judge Scalia to the Supreme Court. I see no rhyme nor reason the United States Senate should hedge on its responsibility to follow through although North Carolina's two foggy-brained senators (Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, and others) seem bent on obstructing any forward motion attempted by President Obama.

If the election was to be held say, one week after the date of Scalia's death, perhaps an argument could be made for waiting until the President, and the President elect, would (together) de-

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novelist, publisher

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# And Other Correspondence

velop a nominee to submit to the Senate.

But the election is not a week away, it's eight months plus 70-odd days before the next President is sworn in. It has been reported that President Obama is vetting Brian Sandoval, the centrist Republican governor of Nevada, which would certainly throw a monkey wrench into the GOP's efforts to block Obama's choice to fill the vacancy on the high court.

In any case, the President is right in making the appointment, the Senate would be wrong to obstruct or otherwise delay that appointment.

David L. Snell  
Franklin, N.C.  
David:  
*You're entirely right. After having sent more than enough signals of its contempt for the Constitution, this latest one from the GOP is entirely superfluous.*  
The Editor

### The Real Threat

To the Editor:  
In the March 6th *New York Times Sunday Review* there were no less than three major opinion pieces highly critical of the current Republican Presidential front runner, Donald Trump. These follow a blistering speech this past week from Mitt Romney in which he tore apart Mr. Trump. While I agree totally with the sentiments expressed in these article about Mr. Trump, I am concerned that they might be inadvertently, or in some cases intentionally, placing American democracy at an even greater risk than represented by Donald Trump.  
While Donald Trump certainly represents a threat to America and the world, it is Ted Cruz who represents an even greater threat. Donald Trump, despite his many faults, personality issues and lack of experience, is in no way a radi-

cal ideologue. On the other hand, Ted Cruz represents a dangerous ideology based on his religious fanaticism. This ideology of his would destroy any pretense of separation of church and state, and endeavor to turn America in to a Christian Taliban-like state.

Ted Cruz's religious theology is based on the dominionist evangelical theology called, Seven Mountains Dominionism, where Christians must take domain over seven aspects of culture: family, religion, education, media, entertainment, business and government. If this sounds strikingly familiar, I refer you to Germany in the 1930's.

Beyond Mr. Cruz's religious issues, which directly form the basis for all his policy positions, lie his dangerous social, military and interpersonal relations positions. Mr. Cruz would severely curtail women's rights, nominate stridently conservative Supreme Court Justices, expand current military conflicts, and even potentially start new conflicts. After all, he did state he wanted to "carpet bomb" Syria and to "find out if sand glows in the dark." He was also one of 47 Republican Senators who sent a letter to the leaders of Iran in an attempt to sabotage the nuclear deal that was being negotiated by America and five other nations. He preferred war with Iran than a possible peaceful settlement. It is also Mr. Cruz who personally caused the government to shut down in 2013, costing the American taxpayers billions of dollars.

It is a very sad commentary about today's Republican Party when the likes of Ted Cruz becomes what some consider a more rational alternative to their front-runner, Mr. Trump. Mr. Cruz, the most disliked member of the Senate, even among his fellow Republicans, who has not received

a single endorsement from one of his fellow Senators, has now become the possible savior of the Republican Party. My great fear, knowing that it is unlikely for Donald Trump to be elected President if he wins the Republican nomination, is that Ted Cruz could actually win, and that would be a much greater disaster.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
Rich:  
*Thanks for scaring us out of our wits.*  
The Editor

### Fla. Economic Report

To the Editor:  
If someone who does not read the news about the U.S. economy were to land in Palm Beach County they would think we are doing just fine, thank you.

The auto indicators are as follows; Rolls Royce, Bentley, Lamborghini, Ferrari, and Corvettes (the new ones) top the list of toys. Audis, Lexuses, Mercedes Benzes, and Jaguars abound. The unusual cars are things like Subarus and Chevrolets.

Housing indicators suggest boom times. Condo and single home developments are going up all over. The one right by us starts at \$800,000. Lots with a knock-down house on a canal are one million. Moolah is flowing.

Ken Fowle  
Palm Beach County, Fla.  
Ken:  
*How did you get past security?*  
The Editor

### "Make America Hate Again"

To the Editor:  
With the endorsement of Donald Trump by Chris Christie and Maine's Governor LePage, they admit to being happy to "Make America Hate Again."  
This troika of trash talkers, specializing in crude, crass, and cross behavior should call themselves "The Three Bully Goats Gruff." A truly grim trio that should scare

any reasonable person who wants America's current values to carry on.

If Trump picks Christie as a running mate I will look forward to the general election and to what depths "The Hot Air and The Balloon" ticket will sink in political pandering, scapegoating and exaggerated promises. We already know they would be angry, acrimonious and exceedingly annoying.

We know that Trump is great at marketing a nightmare as a fairy tale. But please realize that the "The Donald" has no clothes.

Dave Potter  
North Hampton, N.H.  
Dave:  
*Please, in the future, try to refrain from presenting us with such revolting images.*  
The Editor

### Trump's Business Acumen

To the Editor:  
Former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, sounding quite similar to hilarious comedian John Oliver from his recent segment on Donald Trump (see "Trump is America's Back Mole") and even implying that billionaire real estate mogul Donald Trump has somehow amassed his wealth any less laissez-faire capitalistically or honestly in comparison to him (Romney), took time out from his busy retirement this past week to enlighten America on Trump's less than stellar business record.

Trump, coming to his own defense, intimated that he is a very wealthy man, and that Romney is most likely extremely jealous of him because he is several times wealthier than Romney. He also reminded us that Romney, the consummate establishment Republican, despite being more than delighted to accept a Trump endorsement at the Trump Plaza Hotel in 2012, had choked in his two attempts at the Presidency. Trump additionally made it clear



that his road to the nomination has been far more expeditious than Romney's was in 2012.

Now, no matter how fair it may have been for Romney to set the record straight on Trump's checkered business past, he failed to give Trump the credit he deserves for successfully applying his business and acting acumen to his run for the White House. A very smart businessman, Trump has surrounded himself with an astute marketing and sales team (*i.e.* campaign advisors), which apparently was quick to identify the largest segment of the Republican voting base and to provide advice on how Trump would effectively attract that segment so he could extract the GOP nomination from a crowded group of 17 Republicans. Obviously, Trump advisors explained that he needed to target the people (today's working class white males whose anger has been displaced towards "the other" by the Republicans and Right Wing Media) that President LBJ spoke of when he signed the Civil Rights Act in 1965: "The Democrats just lost the Southern White vote forever."

This business practice has worked well for Trump and he even expressed his satisfaction at his victory speech in Nevada, where he told his admiring audience, "I love the poorly educated!"  
Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, N.H.

### Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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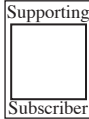
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The Northcountry Chronicle

The Conquistadors

by William Marvel

Regardless of the outcome, the annual town and school meetings are almost always a frustrating exercise anymore. That is particularly true for those who spend their winters learning the arcane complexities of the various budgets, only to see the logic and mathematics of January vanquished by the emotional histrionics of March. It should be no mystery that seats on the Municipal Budget Committee are the only offices going begging for candidates most of the time, or that in the rare year when those seats actually are contested it is by proponents of special interests. The meetings are long, the content is dull, and those who attend conscientiously to the duties of the office inevitably make themselves easy targets for the self-righteous lectures of those who undertake no such obligation.

Once upon a time, those liabilities were counterbalanced by the more distant satisfaction of helping to preserve a town-meeting tradition in which open debate was truly the process by which a com-

munity made its decisions. At most levels of local government, that tradition has now been supplanted by a ritual in which debate becomes nothing more than a perfunctory prelude to the formal ratification of predetermined decisions. The boredom incidental to that annoying prerequisite is alleviated only by opportunities to invite applause or admiration with cheap popular sentiments.

The ability for political cohorts to communicate electronically and with relative privacy has contributed substantially to factional polarization at public meetings, and perhaps in American politics generally. That factionalism has proven especially beneficial to commercial interests in towns that have sacrificed their cultural identity for the illusory advantages of lucrative but unsustainable industries. In those communities, industry resources usually overcome reason through propaganda and a system of economic reward and intimidation; sustaining the interests of that industry therefore becomes the mantra of any who would succeed, economically or politically. Such manipulative tactics must be ap-

plied surreptitiously, and stealth is best achieved through the judicious use of internet contact lists or by word-of-mouth communication across a broad network of overlapping groups.

Few towns have sold their souls to an industry in this way more overtly than ours has, even though that dominant industry promises to undermine its own viability at a speed directly proportionate to the degree of its success. The rural appeal on which local tourism depends declines a little more with the construction of each new home and the arrival of every new resident or retail outlet, yet the chamber of commerce strives mightily to accelerate that suicidal trajectory. Meanwhile, the gradual urbanization blights alternatives for a successor industry at the same time a burgeoning population demands one.

Maintaining support for so self-defeating an economy requires the mobilization of everyone who profits even remotely from some element of its perpetuation, however incompatible their personal interests may actually be. The result is a coalition of voters whose

organization and internal communication affords them the power of a majority, and allows them to overcome disaffected individuals and disconnected constituencies that might heavily outnumber them — in much the same way that Francisco Pizarro's phalanx of 168 trained soldiers conquered tens of thousands of Incan warriors who were unaccustomed to cooperative action.

The core of this coalition consists of a number of non-profit organizations, several of which have adopted the name of Mount Washington Valley something-or-other. Most of them operate from Conway's Tech Village; the others gather there frequently to communicate with each other and with representatives of large blocs of potential voters — teachers, hospital workers, and the like — who might be persuaded to vote a certain way. When the Tech Village was first proposed, many of us wondered what it was supposed to do besides providing at least one executive salary. The nominal intention may have been to spur economic development, but the suspected purpose of pro-

viding a seat for Conway's secret government seems more obviously to have been realized.

Cartels are usually designed to eliminate competitive pricing, but the aim of this Mount Washington Valley cartel is evidently to eliminate divergent opinion. Its back-room influence is surely evident when the turnout at public meetings that have always been poorly attended suddenly surges, and especially when that turnout is accompanied by unusually lopsided elections. A lifetime ago, handfuls of local barons dictated the course of New Hampshire politics by leaning on their mill hands and factory workers at town meetings that elected everyone from the hog reeve to the governor. Today a few nonprofit executives perform the same feat by summoning the troops in their respective networks to vote at town or precinct meetings. When well-respected public servants of long tenure are abruptly and resoundingly defeated by competitors who lack any experience or name recognition, you can be pretty sure the cartel has set out to silence another critic.

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

Tirade Against Taxation

To the Editor:

Our original intent to protect inalienable rights and the journey and fight to complete our experiment of freedoms is not complete as a nation.

Both Democrats and Republicans depend on income and property taxes as the principle means of funding government rule. Because this control to taxation is absolute then the power is absolute and we are subservient to that taking. Our main means

of survival, home and income, are first owned by the government and then allowed to us as the government so orders in tax code and kick backs.

Neither Party advocates true liberty because these types of taxation — property and income taxes — are the most controlling and repressive, not progressive [and deny us] the independence we declared we wanted from the rulers of England. We live today, as then, with the same controlling means of survival, our home and

income, being first owned by the government and then allowed to us to retain as the government so orders with kickbacks divvied up to those closest to the rulers.

The original Constitution allowed us the most liberty and freedoms, it had no income tax and depended on import taxes, but the founding fathers were so indoctrinated with the power concept of fiefdoms under control of a Sovereign ruler they never outlawed property taxes, the true individual freedom to be immune

from rulers.

So too did Karl Marx's principles of government, as we do today, advocate control by land rents- property taxes- and progressive income taxes, both exactly what Democrats and Republicans have approved time and time again.

Our nation has one concern — do the rulers spend those taken rights of private ownership wisely and better than we can for our families when they control and spend the wealth they have taken?

The most fearful freedom to this growing progressive control would be to outlaw income and property taxes to provide true freedom taxes — those you can afford to pay and must pay but by choice. If we institute freedom taxes, those that tax success of a nation — uniform sales and import taxes — we will truly be free to judge the success and failures of government leadership to promote the economy. Most people spend 90 percent of their annual earnings and the savings creates

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Bernie Battles Clinton — and the Corporate Media

by Jim Hightower

Political contagion is sweeping across our land, spread by America's corporate media outlets. Its name is "media bias," and it's slapping Bernie Sanders wherever he goes. At first, the media mocked his run for the White House as a joke, declaring that no one would support a Democratic-Socialist Senator campaigning on issues of inequality, corporate

greed, and big money corruption of government. But — wow! — at each of his rallies, tens of thousands of supporters flocked to hear him. Well, hruumped the anti-Bernie media, he can't raise the money to be a serious contender. But — wow! — millions of ordinary Americans donated an average of under \$30 each to create a \$100-million, people's campaign fund to back Sanders. Well,

snapped the media snipers, his supporters are young people and alienated working-class people who won't turn out to vote. But — wow! — they are turning out, helping him win victories from New Hampshire to Colorado, Oklahoma to Michigan. Well, the dismissive media huffed, Sanders is losing African-American voters to Hillary Clinton, so he hasn't packaged the whole Democratic constituency it

takes to win. But — wow! — he is winning the votes of young African-Americans, as well as getting overwhelming majorities from all voters under-30, independents, and progressives. That's a pretty good package — and it also shows that Clinton doesn't have the whole package, either. Still, the contagion spreads. Even with Sanders' impressive come-from-behind victory in Michigan, the media hruumpers

kept inventing negatives. One website mocked their bias with this satirical headline: "Can Bernie Recover From His Devastating Win In Michigan?" It's hard enough to run against Clinton's Wall Street-financed machine without having the corporate media pile on, too. But — wow! — Bernie just keeps going. Copyright 2016 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laura@jimhightower.com).

industry. A federal balanced budget amendment is first and foremost a serious pressing need to stop the unchecked failed rule and takings do date from both parties. With that must be a super majority override borrowing authority for only national, in our boarders [sic], emergencies that must provide for short term repayments back to a balanced budget to Treasury. Until we comply with these truths of self evident rights to freedom of property — income and land ownership — we will never reach the promise of individual independence but forever stay subservient to the rule of an unaccountable Sovereign power. We still have a revolution to complete in understanding and making history by cementing our principles of governance. Shall we continue to be subservient and dependent completely? Can we take the next and last step to true freedoms stated in the U.S. Constitution Article IV, Section 2 and provide for the — Immunities of Citizens in the several States — with an amendment to protect our freedom of property and hard earned income from absolute takings? We must decide soon if a true freedom, that of an individual's choice as to what they can afford in spending and its taxation is inalienable. We can balance

the demands of a nation with the rights to be immune to takings of real estate and earnings and its repression of liberty and ownership. This reality must be understood to achieve and then demand for these principles, which are and were, most important in our Declaration of Independence. We should demand now to re-enforce them back into the Constitution to provide the mechanism for those principles of freedom. No power on earth should have the ability to take home and earnings at will. Those rulers and oppressive powers must be dethroned once again and citizens permanently immunized from taking of these purest of inalienable freedoms to survival and pursue happiness without extortion. Jeff Frost, Former Republican Chair, Manchester N.H. Alexandria, N.H. Jeff: For some reason we are not surprised that you were once the chair of Manchester's Republican Party. You seem to have fully absorbed most of the essential elements of Right Wing groupthink. Keep going in this direction and you'll end up like Plainfield's Ed and Elaine Brown. The Editor ~~~~ Supremely Bad Judgement To the Editor: Kelly Ayotte wants to be viewed

as a bi-partisan and moderate Senator in hopes of convincing independents to vote for her in November. Let's be clear about her motivation, it has nothing to do with the way our government should work or what citizens should expect from its representatives. Her motivation is simply winning the next election. Her actions belie her assertions. A message to the Senator— whoever is advising your campaign is incompetent. They don't seem to see that the majority of the positions you take and the image you hope to create are mutually exclusive. And now they have you claiming that no action can be taken on a Supreme Court replacement until the American people speak, again! Why would that be important to you, Senator? N.H. citizens spoke up on Planned Parenthood, closing gun show loopholes, expanded Medicaid and open carry but you didn't support the majority position. So much for that rationale. Not only are you wrong in the above cases you are wrong about how to convince voters you are an independent thinker and not subservient to Republican party leadership and far right doctrine. On balance you have, and are displaying, supremely bad judgement that in the court of public

opinion certainly diminishes your appeal for re-election. Dave Potter North Hampton, N.H. ~~~~

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[Note: The following tirade was received in ALL CAPS. We have changed the case in order to spare the ears of our readers. Words which were rendered in red ink in the original have been italicized. For the sake of public decency we will ignore the accompanying obscene printout of an internet meme depicting former President Bill Clinton complaining to President Barack Obama about Congressional unfairness. — The Ed.] The time has come for all of you to drop any form of liberalism & return to reporting & printing the "Truth". Stand up to this Muslim government & start telling your readers what this Muslim S.O.B. real agenda & direction is for our country under his leadership. All of you know the Muslim bastard hates America & our military &

he proves it daily. More than once he has shredded every law of the U.S. Constitution but not a damn one of you have done or said anything. "Stand-up now"! Your silence has to be broken. It's time to start printing every damn lie and illegal law this Muslim S.O.B. has pushed on the American people. Leave out nothing! All of his executive orders are illegal and America needs to know it. [Note: Ambiguous command which could be construed as encouraging illegal behavior deleted. — The Ed.] Here's the Muslim S.O.B.'s email address: \*info@barackobama.com\* email the bastard daily! Get off your damn "knees" & stand up! Take back our country! "We" hold all the power! SSgt. Luther W. Lassiter RVN-'66-'70 Purple Heart Plant City, Fla. Luther: We commend your enthusiasm, but we decline to follow your orders. We would do so even if they were based in reality and made some kind of sense. There's a Vet Center over in Lakeland. You should check it out. The Editor ~~~~ "Thanks for another year of magnificent commentary and appalling news." — J.T., Acworth, N.H.

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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, MARCH 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | MONDAY, MARCH 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                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| <p><b>2003</b>—U.S. ground troops invade Iraq to protect The Homeland from Saddam's innumerable weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Religious fanatics release nerve gas in Tokyo subway.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus says Iraq has agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Press Baron William R. Hearst's granddaughter Patricia is convicted of bank robbery.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—"If the [Vietnamese] Communists continue to suffer the losses they have been taking," says French Chief of Staff Gen. Paul Ely, "I don't know how they can stay in the battle."</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Germany opens its first concentration camp at Dachau.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—"Get to hell out of here, you son of a bitch," would-be FDR assassin Giuseppe Zangara tells the chaplain before his electrocution for killing the mayor of Chicago. "All capitalists lousy bunch of crooks. Goodbye to all poor peoples everywhere! Push the button!"</p> <p><b>1905</b>—An old boiler explodes at the Grover Shoe Factory in Brockton, Mass. and shoots through the roof. The building collapses, trapping hundreds of workers. Several barrels of naptha catch fire. Fifty-eight die and 150 are injured.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—Martha Place strikes a blow for gender equality by being executed in New York's electric chair, the first woman to do so.</p> | <p><b>2003</b>—Richard Clarke, the senior U.S. counter-intelligence officer since G.H.[H.]W. Bush, says G.W.[MD] Bush ignored al Qaeda until 9/11.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Mississippi ratifies the 13th amendment outlawing slavery. Failure to register nullifies the action, though.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—"Gents, this is an educational project," says condemned murderer Frederick Wood in New York. "You are about to witness the damaging effect electricity has on Wood."</p> <p><b>1962</b>—At Edwards AFB, a bear named Yogi is the first living thing ejected from a plane at supersonic speed.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—South African police kill 89 unarmed black protesters in the Sharpeville Massacre.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—In Cleveland, disk jockey Alan Freed throws the "Moondog Coronation Ball"—the first rock 'n roll concert.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—New York Police find compulsive hoarder Homer L. Collyer buried under newspapers in his junk-crammed Harlem townhouse.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—Marines land in Honduras to "protect American interests."</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Slavery is the cornerstone of the Confederacy, declares its Vice President, Alexander H. Stephens.</p> <p><b>1851</b>—Josiah Warren and others form "Modern Times," an anarchist colony, in New York.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—Millerites are re-disappointed.</p> <p><b>1843</b>—The world fails to end as William Miller had predicted; Millerites are disappointed.</p> | <p><b>2006</b>—<i>MV Queen of the North</i>, a Canadian ferry four miles off course, hits an island at 17 knots and sinks with a loss of two lives. Union reps deny crewmembers were having sex at the time.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The chief officer of <i>RMS Mülheim</i>, getting out of his chair while on watch, catches his trousers on a lever, falls and hits his head, losing consciousness. The ship runs aground at Land's End in Cornwall, a total loss.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—A load of 3,168 tons of garbage leaves NYC aboard the barge <i>Mobro 4000</i>. After a futile 162-day, 6,000 mile odyssey it finally returns to the Big Apple for incineration.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—David Funchess, a black former Marine with a Purple Heart and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, shuffles off this mortal coil in Florida's electric chair, the first Vietnam veteran executed in the U.S.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—A technician looking for air leaks with a lighted candle starts a fire causing \$100 million in damages at the Brown's Ferry nuclear power plant in Alabama.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—During a meeting with Richard Nixon, John Dean, John Mitchell, and H.R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman coins the phrase "modified limited hangout."</p> <p><b>1972</b>—National Commission on Marijuana recommends that marijuana be legalized.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—An Undersecretary of Defense warns his boss bombing North Vietnam is useless.</p> | <p><b>2004</b>—A bipartisan group of 19 Members of Congress gathers in a Senate office building to watch a gold-ast crown being placed on the head of convicted tax cheat and <i>Washington Times</i> owner Rev. Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—A convoy of the 507th Maintenance Co. gets lost, then ambushed near Nasiriyah, Iraq; 11 soldiers are KIA, five are wounded, and six taken prisoner, including Pvt. Jessica Ryan.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—A U.S. missile downs a British fighter jet over Iraq.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Acting president Ronald Reagan, clearly suffering a flashback, proposes a space-based anti-missile system similar to one portrayed in the 1940 film <i>Murder in the Air</i>, in which he played Lt. "Brass" Bancroft.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—The Tennessee legislature bans the teaching of evolution.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—In London, a bullet-catching trick by American illusionist William Robinson (aka "Chung Ling Soo, the Marvelous Chinese Conjurer") goes fatally awry.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—U.S. troops capture Filipino rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo, whom the U.S. had earlier backed in his fight against Spanish colonial powers.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Mormon leader John D. Lee is executed by a firing squad for his role in the Mountain Meadows Massacre. He leaves 19 wives and 56 children.</p> <p><b>1842</b>—The House of Representatives censures Congressman Joshua R. Giddings for introducing a resolution opposing slavery.</p> | <p><b>2004</b>—At a black-tie dinner, President George W.[MD] Bush cracks up A-list broadcast journalists with gags about "his" failed search for WMDs. Less amused: families of dead GI's; of which there are 691 at this point.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Exxon demonstrates its commitment to the environment in Prince William Sound via the <i>Exxon Valdez</i>.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Alex Mitchell, a British bricklayer, dies of laughter while watching BBC's "The Goodies."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports, thanks to stolen FBI documents, that letter carriers, a Swarthmore switchboard operator, and a local police chief have been spying on Philadelphia activists.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Operation Lam Son 719, the ARVN invasion of Laos, ends. Huge U.S., VC, and ARVN casualties but no winners.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—His parachute destroyed by fire, RAF tail-gunner Nicholas Alkemade jumps from his crippled bomber 18,000 feet over Germany. Pine trees and snow break his fall; he lives until 1987.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—Robert Allison becomes the first American to buy an American-built automobile. It's a Winton.</p> <p><b>1834</b>—The Bank of Maryland collapses, the victim of "stupendous fraud;" depositors lose between \$2 and \$3 million.</p> <p><b>1832</b>—Mormon prophet Joseph Smith is beaten, tarred, and feathered in Ohio.</p> | <p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush signs an Executive Order giving Dick "Dick" Cheney unprecedented power to classify information.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The top four generals at the Air Force Academy are sacked after a massive rape scandal.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Florida's "Old Sparky" does it again, setting Pedro Medina's head on fire as it kills him.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Three dairy coops get \$600 million in milk price supports for a \$427,000 "contribution" towards Nixon's re-election.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Fifteen WW II and Korean War veterans burn discharge papers in NYC to protest the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Montgomery, Ala., 25,000 civil rights marchers complete a march from Selma.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The U.S. Customs Service seizes Allen Ginsburg's "Howl" as "obscene."</p> <p><b>1931</b>—In Alabama, the Scottsboro Boys are arrested.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—RIP, Ida B. Wells.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire kills 146 sweatshop workers in New York City. An investigation shows that the factory's fire doors had been locked to enhance productivity.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—"Coxey's Army" of 100 men sets out from Massillon, Ohio, headed for Washington, D.C., protesting for government jobs during the nation's worst depression to date.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—Quintessential Yankee poet Robert Frost is born—in California.</p> | <p><b>2006</b>—On the steps of a Boston church, Justice Antonin Scalia is photographed making an obscene gesture.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev returns to Earth. The USSR which sent him into orbit is no more.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Don Rumsfeld, once and future U.S. Defense Secretary, schmoozes in Baghdad with Iraq's Foreign Minister and gives him Ronald Reagan's best wishes.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Ground is broken in Washington, D.C. for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Gen. John D. "Jack" Lavelle loses his job as Commander of the 7th Air Force and is stripped of two stars for following secret White House orders to bomb North Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—A dozen "Wise Men" tell LBJ it's time to get out of Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Gen. Westmoreland asks for 40,000 more men in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Carried back up onto the scaffold after the rope breaks, James Johnson tells his executioners in Poplar Bluff, Mo., "Hurry up, boys, and get me out of my misery."</p> <p><b>1892</b>—The poet Walt Whitman utters his last words, "Hold me up, I want to s__t."</p> <p><b>1804</b>—Federal government informs Indians that they must all move west of the Mississippi.</p> <p><b>1676</b>—Narragansetts wipe out a force of 60 Colonial soldiers and 20 Wampanoag allies in what's now Central Falls, R.I., nine by torture.</p> |
| <p>10:09 10:40</p> <p>3:49 4:23</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    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| SUNDAY, MARCH 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       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                                                                                                                                                        | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | THURSDAY, MARCH 31                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | SATURDAY, APRIL 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               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**2003**—Iraq "can really finance its own reconstruction and relatively soon," U.S. Undersecretary for Defense Paul Wolfowitz tells Congress. "There's a lot of money to pay for this that doesn't have to be U.S. taxpayer money."

**1986**—Congress slashes welfare while approving \$100 million for a drug gang called "The Contras."

**1980**—A Norwegian oil platform collapses in the North Sea. Of the 212 on board, 123 perish.

**1977**—Two Boeing 747s collide on the ground in the Canary Islands. Of the 644 on board, 580 perish.

**1964**—The "Good Friday" earthquake and tsunami destroy a large part of Anchorage, Alaska.

**1953**—The U.S. State Department cleanses its overseas libraries of the works of WWI vet Dashiell Hammett.

**1952**—Sam Phillips establishes Sun Records in Memphis, Tenn.

**1931**—Having drunk Parisian tap water three weeks earlier to prove that it was safe, British novelist Arnold Bennett dies of typhoid fever.

**1814**—A tally of severed noses reveals that General Andrew Jackson's troops, with their three-to-one advantage, managed to massacre 85 percent of their Creek opponents at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa.

**1800**—Federalist Senators find Philadelphia *Aurora* editor William Duane in contempt for publishing the truth about them.

**2007**—Phyllis Schlafly tells Bates students that by getting married a woman "has consented to sex, and I don't think you can call it rape."

**2003**—Two U.S. "Warthog" aircraft mistakenly strafe British tanks in Iraq killing one soldier.

**2003**—"The enemy we're fighting [in Iraq]," General William S. Wallace admits, "is different from the one we'd war-gamed against."

**1979**—A stuck valve causes a nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania to melt.

**1947**—Disdaining his assigned route, driver William L. Cimillo leaves the Bronx in a nearly-new 44-passenger bus and drives to Hollywood, Fla.

**1942**—Britain conducts an experiment on the city of Lübeck. Incendiary bombs destroy 80 percent of timber-framed buildings.

**1942**—British commandos disable a vital Nazi-controlled dry dock at St. Nazaire by ramming it with an explosive-laden destroyer.

**1939**—The Spanish Civil War ends as Franco takes Madrid.

**1920**—On Palm Sunday, 38 tornadoes in 8 states kill 380 people.

**1884**—In Cincinnati, townspeople unsatisfied with lenient treatment of a confessed murderer torch the courthouse. Forty-two die and 128 are injured as the State Militia restores order.

**1871**—A parade is held in Paris to celebrate the Commune's accession to power.

**2003**—*Newsweek* publishes a poll saying 74 percent of Americans think the Bush administration has "a well thought-out military plan."

**1984**—Owner Robert Irsay sneaks his Colts out of Baltimore to avoid an eminent domain seizure by the City.

**1973**—Army Master Sergeant Max Beilke becomes the last U.S. combat soldier to leave Vietnam. He will die at the Pentagon, a civilian, on 9/11/01.

**1972**—The EPA lays off enforcement for a lead smelter in Idaho in exchange for a \$100,000 "contribution" to the Nixon re-election campaign.

**1971**—A court martial elects Lt. W. Calley No. 1 scapegoat for My Lai. For at least 22 murders, Calley gets life in prison, later reduced to three years confinement to his apartment.

**1960**—For reasons which remain unfathomable, France launches a nuclear submarine.

**1951**—Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are convicted of espionage.

**1929**—Abdulaziz ibn Abdal Rahman Al Saud's army defeats Ikhwani rebels at Sabilla, demonstrating the obsolescence of camel-mounted cavalry and the efficacy of machine guns.

**1903**—A regular wireless news service begins between New York and London.

**1843**—At a Cabinet meeting, Secretary of War John C. Spencer lunges at Secretary of the Navy Abel P. Upshur. The ensuing fistfight is halted by President John Tyler.

**2012**—Two N.J. State Police cruisers escort a caravan of high performance sports cars at over 100 mph down the Garden State Parkway.

**2008**—As he throws out the first pitch at Washington's new National Park, George W.[MD] Bush is met with a resounding chorus of boos.

**2003**—Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announces "we know where" Iraq's WMDs are: "the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south, and north somewhat."

**2003**—During a live Fox News broadcast from Iraq, Geraldo Rivera reveals the 101st Airborne's current location, where they're going to attack next, and when.

**1981**—In D.C., John Hinckley Jr. empties a six-shooter at Pres. Ronald Reagan. One shot ricochets off the armored limo and hits Ronnie. Al Haig announces, "As of now, I'm in control here." Meanwhile, in Denver, John's older brother Scott cancels a scheduled dinner engagement with V.P. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush's son Neil.

**1972**—Hanoi's Easter Offensive sends 200,000 PAVN soldiers across the DMZ; the mightiest attack since China crossed the Yalu.

**1965**—A Viet Cong car bomb explodes outside the U.S. Embassy in Saigon killing 22 and injuring 183.

**1870**—The 15th Amendment passes, giving the right to vote to all, regardless of race. All males, that is.

**2004**—In Fallujah, four American contractors are ambushed, killed, and displayed from a bridge.

**1995**—Selenia Quintanilla-Pérez, Queen of Tejano, is shot to death by the president of her fan club.

**1990**—More than 100,000 people gather in London to protest Maggie Thatcher's Poll Tax. The demonstration morphs into the Battle of Trafalgar Square.

**1980**—The American banking industry is deregulated. What could possibly go wrong?

**1969**—As per his instructions, the body of Dwight D. Eisenhower is transported via baggage car, like any other U.S. serviceman, to its final resting place in Abilene, Kan.

**1968**—Lyndon Johnson announces he won't run for re-election, delighting millions who have no inkling of who will replace him.

**1966**—In New York City, 200,000 gather to protest the Vietnam War.

**1951**—U.N. troops fight their way back to the 38th parallel in Korea.

**1931**—The Motion Picture Production Code starts taking fun out of life.

**1929**—PR pioneer Edward Bernays, working for the American Tobacco Co., pays women to publicly smoke Luckies in New York's Easter Parade.

**1880**—In Wabash, Ind., the first electric street lighting is turned on.

**1854**—Persuaded by Commodore Perry's cannons, Japan opens two ports to foreign trade.

**2013**—In Portsmouth Harbor, the tanker *Harbour Feature* allides with the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge.

**2010**—Somali pirates fail to hijack the frigate *U.S.S. Nicholas*.

**2004**—Britain declassifies "Blue Peacock," a 1957 scheme to bury tactical nukes in Germany with live chickens to keep the electronics warm. The release's timing leads some to think it's a joke, but it's not.

**2003**—Bush administration propagandists claim Special Forces have "rescued" PFC Jessica Lynch.

**1997**—A blizzard dumps 18 inches of snow on Portsmouth.

**1968**—U.S. Army begins Operation Pegasus to try to reach besieged Marines at Khe Sanh. Two months after the siege is lifted, the base is abandoned.

**1966**—RIP Flann O'Brien.

**1965**—LBJ OKs 20,000 new REMF's, 2 new battalions of Marines, and combat patrols in 'Nam.

**1946**—In Hilo, Hawaii, a tsunami kills 159 people.

**1939**—The U.S. government recognizes Francisco Franco's fascist government of Spain.

**1920**—Five duly elected members of the New York legislature are expelled. And why not—they're only socialists.

**1865**—John Milton, Governor of Fla. and a descendant of the poet of the same name, shoots himself in the head because "Death would be preferable to reunion."

**2004**—Mrs. Dick "Dick" Cheney halts reissue of her steamy lesbian romance novel *Sisters*.

**1992**—It is revealed that Secretary of State James Baker III (R—Bush) made 11 personal trips at the taxpayer's expense at an average cost of \$33,781.72.

**1982**—Argentina invades the Falkland Islands.

**1974**—As David Niven is introducing Elizabeth Taylor at the Oscars, Robert Opel streaks across the stage.

**1969**—Chicago riots are quelled by National Guard troops.

**1963**—M.L. King, Jr. leads a voter registration drive in Birmingham. Police Chief "Bull" Connor responds with dogs and fire hoses.

**1958**—Herb Caen introduces the term "beatnik."

**1942**—Three soldiers, two black and one white, are shot to death, and five are wounded, near Ft. Dix, N.J., in a fight over a phone.

**1917**—In his Capitol Hill office, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (R-Mass.), 67, punches Alexander Bannwart, one of his constituents, in the jaw.

**1917**—Montana elects Ms. Jeanette Rankin to Congress.

**1865**—In Richmond, Confederate troops burn the city to the ground as President Jefferson Davis flees.

**1863**—In Richmond, women riot in the streets over bread until dispersed at bayonet point by troops directed by President Jefferson Davis.

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