

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

The Summer of Our Disbelief

Ted Cruz and John Kasich, their electoral chances dwindling, racked their brains. Then — aha! — came the solution: emulate the agreement signed 77 years ago by Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin.

Under the updated non-aggression pact signed on Sunday, Kasich agreed to pull his divisions from Indiana in advance of the battle scheduled for May 3rd, while Cruz vowed not to fight in either Oregon or New Mexico. Both hoped that their collusion would halt Donald Trump's drive towards victory.

In terms of trustworthiness, the two Republicans compared unfavorably with the Nazi and the Communist. The Hitler/Stalin pact lasted nearly two years, while Kasich stabbed Cruz in the back the next day.

This feckless maneuver is working about as well as your average Lucy Ricardo/Ethel Mertz scheme. In all five primaries held on Tuesday, Trump was victorious.

Cruz in particular should have known better. As Washington, D.C.'s premier promoter of popular culture, who famously read Dr. Seuss on the floor of the Senate while attempting to destroy government-funded child care and all else that is holy, he ignored the most obviously-applicable Hollywood trope: attacking the monster only makes it stronger.

In his quest for the magic number of 1,237 delegates, Trump remains on the track which presents the greatest amount of danger

for the Republican Party: he will just barely make it, or fall a little bit short; there will be no way of knowing until after California. The knives will be out all the way from here to Cleveland, also known, perhaps prophetically, as "The Mistake on the Lake." What a pity.

Alpha oligarchs Charles and David Koch, having failed to implant their desired clone into the host, have announced that they will skip this likely bloodbath and will deign to accept President Clinton.

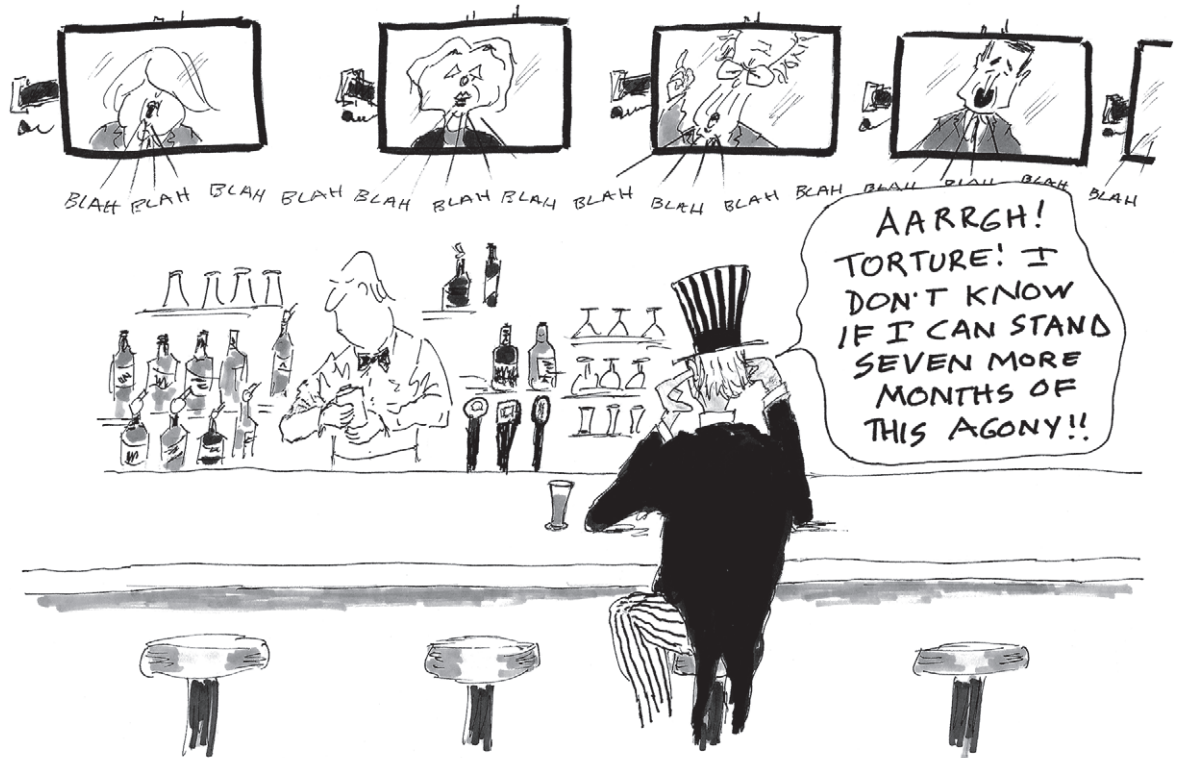
Is That All There Is?

Over on the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton knocked down four more victories to Bernie Sanders' one. Maryland and Delaware were blowouts for Clinton. Naturally, Tuesday's results prompted yet another chorus from Clinton supporters and the media pondering what Sanders hopes to accomplish by staying in the race. What a coincidence that is. They say practice makes perfect, but there's still something discordant about the media's tendency to ignore and marginalize Sanders.

So far he's only enticed Clinton to crib from his platform, energized the nation's disaffected youth, generally revitalized the nation's political discourse, and come damn close to winning. The old windbag.

Bipartisan Disillusionment

Tuesday's results left a vile taste in many mouths, including one of



M. DYER © 29 APR 2016
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE

the winners.

"[I]f you collude in business or if you collude in the stock market," Trump said, "they put you in jail. But in politics, because it's a rigged system, because it's a corrupt enterprise, in politics you're allowed to collude." He got it half right. The political system is rigged and corrupt. But where did he ever get the idea that people are jailed for colluding in business or the stock market?

Clinton was happy, of course. Sanders voters were less so. You don't have to be a Republican to believe the system is rigged.

In March, the New York City Board of Elections mailed 60,000 postcards to newly registered voters telling them that the Primary

was in September. The postcards failed to specify that they were referring to the state and local primaries, not the Presidential Primary, which was held in April.

The same Board of Elections admitted in April that "more than 125,000 voters in Brooklyn were removed from voter rolls and [that there were] widespread reports of voters having trouble accessing polling sites and other polling irregularities."

The City Comptroller promised an investigation, saying, "we intend to find out why the BOE is so consistently disorganized, chaotic and inefficient."

Umm ... because that makes it easier for entrenched politicians to achieve their desired results?

No, it can't be that simple.

Good News, Everyone

Finally, some good news. Reuters reported on Wednesday that "more than half of American voters believe that the system U.S. political parties use to pick their candidates for the White House is 'rigged' and more than two-thirds want to see the process changed."

As any old soldier can tell you, when it comes to survival — and that's what's at stake here — anger beats apathy every time.

Obscure Last Words

"The class which has the power to rob upon a large scale has also the power to control the government and legalize their robbery."

— Eugene V. Debs
Canton, Ohio, June 16, 1918

The Alleged News®

Weird Times in the Freaky First District

New Hampshire's First Congressional District has been rambunctious since its birth in 1847. (Previously the State had been a single at-large district.) Amos Tuck, the first man to hold the seat, won it three times consecutively without ever representing the same party.

Most obviously, there is the matter of turnover. The Architect of the Capitol has probably been tempted to install a revolving door to accommodate Carol Shea-Porter and Frank Guinta, who have swapped the seat three times in the past six years.*

Occupancy of the seat, though, is merely the plot; the story of the District is really a character-driven drama.

Enter the Drama Queen

Ten years ago Gary Dodds ran against Shea-Porter in the Democratic primary. Appropriately, it

was the heyday of *The X-Files*.

If Corey Corbin, Dodds' campaign manager, can be believed — and such caveats are *de rigueur* when discussing this District — he first met Dodds at The Breezeway, a Manchester gay bar Corbin owned. The political partners were allegedly introduced by a drag queen named Miss Toni, a gentleman in his 60s who favored poodle skirts. Dodds earned his 15 minutes of national notoriety — and a one-year felony stint in State Prison — with a faked car wreck, a 27-hour disappearance, and an anti-climactic denouement under a pile of wet leaves. Despite this impressive level of originality, he failed to win the Primary.

It's Strictly Business

A more recent contender was Dan Innis, a gay Republican, if we may be permitted that apparent oxymoron, and former local hotelier. Innis was previously the Dean of the former Whittemore School of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire.

Innis somewhat controversial-

ly — though far too serenely to suit us — engineered the recent re-naming of the Whittemore School, so named in 1960 for the eponymous Laurence F., a farm boy from Pembroke who never attended college, but, as legend has it, worked his way to the top of the Boston & Maine Railroad, the Federal Reserve Bank, and the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. [We use the euphemism "engineered" because we're too poor and too busy to be fighting any frivolous libel cases.]

Whittemore was so honored in recognition of his long service to the school. He was kicked to the curb after Innis arranged a \$25 million donation from Peter T. Paul, a UNH alumnus and pioneer in the field of generating low-documentation sub-prime mortgages suitable for conversion into "financial instruments" of dubious value.

The name change took place at just about the time those clever instruments brought the global economy to its knees, costing

thousands of New Hampshire residents their jobs, homes, and financial security. Such are the indignities of life in a state packed with wealthy people who decline to pay an income tax.

A Damned Liar

In the 2014 Republican Primary, Innis went head-to-head with Guinta, who was then a challenger and is now the incumbent. Somehow, despite the Damoclean sword of an FEC investigation hanging over his noggin, Guinta won the Primary and the General.

In 2015, that sword fell: Guinta signed an agreement with the FEC acknowledging that he'd broken the law and lied about it for five years. He did not, however, let that agreement prevent him from subsequently denying that he'd ever done anything wrong.

Even with everyone's worst suspicions confirmed — the *Union Leader* famously published a five word editorial: "Frank Guinta is a damned liar." — the Congressman persists in wandering the District like Anne Boleyn, 'is 'ead tucked

underneath his arm, soliciting donations for a highly unlikely re-election. If he is sworn in again in 2017, scorekeepers should mark it down as a resurrection.

Don't Mention It

Innis took another shot at primarying Guinta earlier this year. His announcement last October set up a potential contest unusual enough to draw attention from the *Washington Blade*: "If [Innis and an already-announced Democratic candidate] succeed in winning their party's nomination on the day of the Congressional primary on Sept. 13, New Hampshire's 1st Congressional district would be home to a national first: Two openly gay Congressional candidates nominated by major parties competing against each other for a U.S. House seat."

Alas, it was not to be. Innis tweeted at 2:52 p.m. on March 25th, "Today I officially announced that I am suspending

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to page two

* The GOP has held the First District 88 percent of the time since James Pike, an incumbent Know Nothing, first took it as a Republican in 1857. Democratic challengers have deposed sitting Republicans three times between 1863 and 1967, only to lose the seat at the next election.

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from page one

my run for Congress in NH CD1. Thank you to all of my supporters!!” In a statement he cited time commitments which would prevent him from running a full-time campaign, all of which appeared to pre-date his October announcement.

Just five hours later Innis tweeted, “There is a ridiculous rumor that I am may be on Kyle Tasker’s ‘list.’ Absolutely untrue and unfounded.”

Tasker is a loutish young former Republican State Representative from Nottingham who was recently drummed out of the General Court. He is currently in jail facing multiple felony charges including soliciting of a minor for sex and possession with intent to sell a wide assortment of illegal drugs.

Innis is a mature gentleman who invariably appears as if he had just stepped from the pages of *GQ* to give poise lessons to James Bond. Tasker’s most stylish bit of attire is a two-gun shoulder hol-

ster, from which he’s been known to occasionally drop a semi-automatic during a hearing at the State House. Until Innis brought it up it had never occurred to us, or probably to anyone, that the two had ever met. Now that he has, we want to see Martin Scorsese make a gangster movie based on these characters.

Your Account Number, Please
“I founded this business with just \$5,000, working by myself in my apartment. During my last year at the company, we had \$5+ million in revenues and served students in approximately 40 U.S. states and 50 countries. In my last three years, we helped our students earn \$20+ million in scholarships. I sold the business for an eight-figure valuation to a private equity firm.”

It reads like an email that snuck past the spam filter, but no — it’s the LinkedIn profile for Shawn O’Connor, candidate for the Democratic nomination for the First District. And until a couple of weeks ago, the selling price of that business was a 10-figure sum — a cool billion dollars. Perhaps



that was a typo that’s been corrected.

Skepticism being a large part of our job description, let us pause for a moment. Between 2008, when he says he left Lehman Brothers, and 2015, when he says he sold Stratus Prep, he turned \$5,000 into \$10 million.

That is a factor of 2,000. People say compound interest is miraculous. If Daniel Fowle had invested \$5,000 at three percent in 1756, it would have taken the intervening 260 years to achieve the same result. Whatever he’s got he should bottle it and sell it, not run for Congress for a lousy \$174,000 a year.

What Do You Mean by “Stable”?

We’re basing the founding date of Stratus Prep on something O’Connor wrote in *Forbes* on December 12, 2011: “... about three years ago, I made the biggest decision of my life. I walked away from that traditional path, leaving Wall Street behind, to start my own venture — Stratus Prep. Given my passion for education and mentorship, I identified an opportunity to create value, and I seized it. The choice to leave my lucrative (and then stable) job at Lehman Brothers was a huge risk.”

The trouble is, three years before that dateline, in September of 2008, Lehman Brothers was far from stable — unless one considers bankruptcy to be a stable condition.

There’s a New Kid In Town

In July of 2013, the *Bedford Patch* began accepting a six-week series of blatant press releases touting the availability of Stratus Prep’s “subject matter tutoring, SAT/ACT Preparation, and College Admissions Counseling services to New Hampshire, convenient to local middle and high schools in the Manchester/Bedford area.” The July 16th post claimed that the expansion into Hillsborough County, New Hampshire was “in response to demand for subject matter assistance for middle and high school aged students as well as college preparation outside of New York, bringing the same high quality, personalized experience to the residential New England area.”

On November 25, 2014, WMUR’s James Pindell published an item carrying a far more credible reason for Stratus Prep to move to Bedford: “On Monday two job ads appeared in the Capitol Hill newspaper, *Roll Call*,

for a finance director and deputy finance director for a gay Democratic U.S. Senate candidate in New Hampshire. That description would fit O’Connor. After those job posts were revealed on Twitter, they were deleted.”

Here’s the Change-Up ...

Up until this point O’Connor had been steadily professing the alleged wisdom of “Third Way” politics — Republican-lite, in other words. For several years he wrote rah-rah columns for *Forbes*, extolling the virtues of entrepreneurship. As late as March, 2015 he was still talking about “breaking gridlock and finding common sense, New Hampshire solutions” — standard Third Way-speak.

Before too long, though, he would switch not just his goal, but his political philosophy, too.

In February of 2015 O’Connor filed papers to run against Carol Shea-Porter. This January 3rd, he endorsed Bernie Sanders — the farthest thing in the world from a “Third Way” candidate, and said, “I believe that I am the true progressive in this race.” He has since been contending that Shea-Porter represents “the establishment.”

That’s when O’Connor passed through the looking glass. Her



Considering the millions a certain automobile dealer has wrung from Portsmouth taxpayers through a series of lawsuits — not to mention said car salesman’s apparent relationship with a certain multi-billionaire running for the Republican Presidential nomination — the Flag Police were shocked and disappointed to find this ragged flag on the Route 1 Bypass.

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endorsement of Hillary Clinton notwithstanding, Carol Shea-Porter's record has been reliably progressive.

O'Connor on the other hand, hired a very establishment-sounding team in March of 2015, according to the *Union Leader*, including media consultants from SKDKnickerbocker, which helped get Barack Obama elected; a couple of people from Benenson Strategy Group, which, rather curiously, is run by Hillary Clinton's top strategist; Karen Finney, who is now Senior Spokesperson for Hillary Clinton; and as senior adviser, Tom McMahon, who was Executive Director of the Democratic National Committee for four years.

Say What?

Despite all that expensive help, public response seemed pretty well limited to "Shawn Who?" until April 6th. That's when O'Connor began accusing Shea-Porter's campaign of falsely calling him "a perpetrator of domestic violence." In fact, he said, he had been a victim of it. For those who have followed Shea-Porter's career, the accusation seemed more than a little unlikely; about on a par with being told that Mr. Rogers, when off the set, liked to smoke meth and ride with the Hells Angels.

Well, That Degenerated Quickly

Shea-Porter's campaign manager denied the charges, calling them "a sad, untruthful and desperate attack." O'Connor then threatened to sue Shea-Porter for defamation.

The state's Democratic Party weighed in Monday. It said O'Connor had been threatening to sue it, too. Furthermore, the Party said, O'Connor had suggested that somebody "should pay Mr. O'Connor money to withdraw from the congressional race."

The affair continues to degenerate. The last we heard, O'Connor somehow found it necessary to issue a statement that included this sentence: "I do not know where one would purchase rats nor do I know where the kitchen is in the Puritan Backroom."

RIP Albert Clark Welch

Enough of politics. For something a bit more uplifting, let's turn to the obituaries. We're serious. Obituaries of remarkable people can really be very inspiring.

Foster's Daily Democrat recently published one for Albert Clark Welch, Lt. Col. U. S. Army (Ret.), who died Tuesday, April 12th in Leesburg, Fla., at the age of 76.

"Clark was born in Dover, N.H.," it reads. "He was a 1957 graduate from Oyster River High

School and was the class president."

Welch's obit doesn't mention that he was offered a full scholarship to UNH but instead joined the Army at 17. A mustang, he rose through the enlisted ranks and served in Special Forces before being commissioned as an officer. His outstanding military career was duly mentioned, and his official achievements were tallied. But it made no mention of October 17th, 1967.

On that day, in Ong Thanh, South Vietnam, Welch's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Terry Allen, a hereditary officer and West Point graduate, rejected his advice and marched 155 men of the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division into an ambush set by 1,400 NVA. Sixty-four men, including Lt. Col. Allen, were killed in about two hours, 75 were wounded, and two men were missing in action.

That any of them lived was due in no small measure to Lt. Welch. Despite being wounded five times, he rallied his men, directed their fire, and cannibalized damaged radios to call for artillery fire. Welch raced through a crossfire to kill an enemy soldier about to fire an RPG into what was left of the Command Group, receiving a wound that incapacitated his left arm.

General William Westmoreland, then the Commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam, pinned a Purple Heart on Welch's chest a month later in Japan. Still recovering and partially sedated, Welch told Westmoreland, "The [expletive] damned Army is [expletive] up from the President of the United States on down to my boss the Colonel, and I'm glad he's dead."

Welch was eventually awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions at Ong Thanh — 38 years later. The original paperwork had been lost. Retired General James Shelton, a Major in Welch's battalion at the time,



is trying to get Welch's Distinguished Service Cross upgraded to a Medal of Honor.

New Hampshire Gazette News

This Sunday is May 1st, known to much of the planet as May Day, or International Workers Day. It was so designated in 1891 by the Second International, to honor those killed in Chicago during the Haymarket police riot of 1886.

The U.S., by assiduously ignoring May Day, joins such beacons of liberty as Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. We get, instead, Labor Day — an annual reminder, as if one were needed, that summer is over and it's time to return to our drudgery. Along with that we get, of course, year-round praise from propagandists lauding the wealthy, who are, by definition, job creators, even if they are idle twits.

Celebrators of May Day have forever been marginalized in this country. Take Thomas Morton, for example. As a "landsman" for Ferdinando Gorges, Morton established a trading colony in Massachusetts called Merrymount, which was notable for its fair trading and friendly relations with the indigenous peoples. Nearby Puritans, enraged by Morton's

erection of a huge May Pole and the accompanying debauched celebrations, destroyed the May Pole. They imprisoned Morton for a time on the then-unoccupied Isles of Shoals.

May Day is a big one for us. It was on May 1, 1899, that we obtained the legal trademark of *The New Hampshire Gazette*, duly signed and gold-sealed by New Hampshire's Secretary of State [for Life] Bill Gardner. It was on May 1, 1999 that, after a decade of episodic publication elsewhere, we commenced publishing under our fortnightly schedule, here in Portsmouth, where the paper was founded in 1756. By now we've distributed some two million individual copies for free. Stacked up they would create a pile 4,766 feet high — 1.75 times the height of the Burj Khalifa, tallest building in the world. What a mess if the wind blew

Barring any last-minute technical difficulties, we expect to mail out papers to subscribers today fully barcoded to U.S.P.S. specifications. It is our hope that this will speed delivery. Subscribers are hereby encouraged to let us know if their papers are arriving any sooner.



With an external application of sunshine and an internal application of anti-freeze, life was good on the decks on Sunday afternoon, April 17th.

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**America
Needs To Hear From You**
To the Editor:

If you have suffered through the Viet Nam war, either as a military veteran or as a resister or as a partner of a veteran or a child or a sibling of a veteran or just as a caring citizen of this country, you need to know that your voice is needed. On Memorial Day, May 30th, we will be delivering letters to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) with heartfelt messages to those young men and women whose names are on The Wall. Please join us.

Your note can be one paragraph long or many paragraphs. It can be written to a specific name on The Wall or just as a general cry out against war. Last year we laid 151 letters and 32 postcards at the foot of The Wall in a ceremony that not only profoundly affected us but also those who read the letters as they passed by. Rest assured that your letter will be treated with the respect and caring it deserves — this ceremony is not a political action. It is an act of remembrance and grief.

But it also is more than a reaching out to the past. It is a message to the future. You who have first-hand knowledge of that war need to have your voices heard. For the next ten years we will be witnessing a series of fifty year commemorations that will mark the Viet Nam War in the minds of many young people. They need to know more than the “official” story of that war. They need to know the

many truths that only you can tell. Please join us.

You have until May 14th to write your letter and send it either as an email message to rawlings@maine.edu or as a handwritten letter to Doug Rawlings, 13 Soper Road, Chesterville, Maine 04938.

I will guarantee that your letter will be placed in a business envelope, opened at the top, with the words “PLEASE READ ME” emblazoned on the front flap, and then placed at the foot of The Wall at 10:30 a.m., Memorial Day, May 30th. Last year, the National Park Service collected all of our letters and then asked if they could place the letters in a special display. We agreed. Our voices continue to be heard. Please put your voice alongside ours.

Doug Rawlings
Veterans For Peace
Chesterville, Maine

Doug:

What a brilliant way to allow people anywhere to, in a small way, be there, at that very special place, on that day. We are glad to do our part by letting our readers know about this effort.

The Editor

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**Hillary, the Stealth Republican**

To the Editor:

Yes, I have heard of Bernie Sanders, and I would like to hear even more on his foreign policy thoughts, objectives, and his intended methods of engagement with regard to NATO, the Ukraine, Russia, and the Middle East. Furthermore, I would be delighted, perhaps ecstatic, if on election night, no matter what the impending outcome, I could retire early, safe in the knowledge that the power of the Neocon-men, Wall Street, and the corporations has been diminished, and that the controlled media and the pundits have been discredited. But, this can only be true if the election is one in which it is Bernie vs The Donald.

If Bernie Sanders is defeated

by Hillary Clinton will we then see minorities, labor unions, and the Occupy movement supporting the favorite candidate of Wall Street, the banks, the free traders that put American workers in competition with workers earning twenty-five cents a day, the Military-Industrial complex, and a future of perpetual war and a declining Middle Class, or will they at least consider Mr. Trump, just as the Neocons will not only be considering but supporting Hillary if Donald Trump is the Republican nominee?

Unfortunately, like rabid sports fans who define themselves by the team they support and overreact to wins and losses, those who define themselves strictly by membership in a party, in order to maintain their self-identity, will find every way possible to rationalize their paradoxical choice. But, this will likely not be so with the rank and file of the labor movement, many of whom, black, white, Mexican, male and female, will vote for Trump.

John Dente  
Wilmington, Del.

John:

*We have to agree with you about the likely choice of many of the rank and file in a Clinton vs. Trump race — much to our dismay.*

The Editor

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Not Feeling the Bern

To the Editor:

In downtown Portsmouth the other day, I saw one of those ubiquitous “Feel the Bern” bumper stickers, and it made me think. I may be the only one who feels this way, but that bumper sticker has a dark and sinister meaning.

First, some context: whether you’re a liberal socialist or a conservative capitalist, it’s a huge mistake to believe that war and violence are acceptable ways to resolve conflict in the modern world. As the Dalai Lama has so aptly pointed out, “War is outdated.”

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL**

Bernie Sanders, who is the most progressive of the fawned-upon candidates, likes to repeatedly point out that he voted against the war in Iraq, as if that one vote as a U.S. Senator magically makes him a peacenik. But Bernie can only be perceived as a peacenik by comparison to a more hawkish Hillary.

Sanders is certainly not the most hawkish candidate for president, but he’s definitely no dove, as evidenced by his vote for the war in Afghanistan, by his support for the ongoing U.S. military airstrikes in Iraq and Syria (which numbered nearly 10,000, as of January 12th), and by his support for the U.S.-backed rebels on the ground in Syria. In fact, Bernie has gone on the record stating, “I am not a pacifist, ... war is always an option.”

Furthermore, Bernie has also stated on the record, “I am prepared to take this country into war.” It seems Bernie does not consider U.S. military airstrikes to be a real form of warfare.

“So what?” you may be asking. To which I respond, “When even the most progressive of the popular candidates for President cannot rule out war, and when the news media doesn’t question this, and doesn’t investigate the real cost of war, which includes unintended consequences to civilians, then we have a real problem on our hands. To ignore this problem is a real problem, because it represents irresponsible journalism which enables war.”

Does any news media editor or journalist in the United States care about the collateral damage from U.S. military airstrikes? Surely, not every single U.S. military airstrike has hit its intended target, but not one single news media outlet lifts a finger to investigate.

This leads me back to the ubiquitous “Feel the Bern” bumper

sticker. How many Iraqi and Syrian children have been privileged to “feel the burn” from the fires caused by exploding U.S. military airstrikes in Iraq and Syria — airstrikes which Bernie “Feel the Burn” Sanders proudly supports?

Alex J. Boros
Rochester, N.H.

Alex:

We are relieved to see that you’re apparently no longer asking people for their vote. We are perplexed, though, that you’re hammering so hard on the one candidate who’s least likely to conduct drone warfare.

The Editor

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**Disingenuous Legislation?**

To the Editor:

While I do appreciate Senator Kelly Ayotte’s efforts to assist the victims of domestic violence with her PAWS Bill, I find it severely lacking in addressing the most significant issue leading to the killing of women and even animals in domestic violence situations. I also find it somewhat curious as to why it took the Senator almost her full six-year term to introduce this legislation. Could it have something to do with the upcoming election?

However, the most serious issue is what is not included in the PAWS Bill, the absence of any restrictions on guns by potential domestic violence perpetrators. The data regarding guns and domestic violence are compelling and frightening. For example, more than half of women killed by a gun in the U.S. are murdered by their partner. Fifty-one women are shot and killed every month by a former or current boyfriend or spouse [according to the non-profit] Everytown for Gun Safety. Having a gun in the house increases the risk of homicide twenty times when there is a history of domestic violence, [says the] Johns Hopkins Center for

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# And Other Correspondence

Gun Policy and Research.

Senator Ayotte's PAWS Bill is designed to assist women to leave abusive situation and seek help. Unfortunately this may be much too little much too late. If the Senator wants to fully protect women, she should include some restrictions on gun ownership of those involved in domestic violence. She has not. The Senator could also have signed on as a cosponsor to S. 1290, The Preventing Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act of 2013. This bill would prevent the sale to and possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a misdemeanor crime of stalking. She did not. The Senator could lobby her Republican Senate leadership to move S. 1290 out of committee where it has been buried, to the Senate Floor for a vote. She has not. And lastly, the Senator could have voted to support legislation to expand background checks for gun purchases after the Sandy Hook disaster. She did not.

I fully understand why Sen. Ayotte has not taken any of the above actions. The Senator has receive a grade of A from the National Rifle Association (NRA) for all her votes against any and all gun safety legislation. Certainly the Senator does not want to jeopardize this excellent rating by the NRA or the other forms of political support they provide her.

In the end, the PAWS Bill, which may accomplish some good, avoids the real threat to domestic violence victims. It is a well meaning piece of legislation hamstrung by political ideology and expediency.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
*Rich:*  
*We naturally assume that anything Ayotte does, no matter how seemingly benign, is to some extent designed to work for her own political benefit.*

*Thanks to your careful research and clear explication, our prejudices are once again confirmed.*  
*The Editor*

~~~~~

Bigot or Savior? You Pick
To the Editor:

The GOP establishment is suddenly amazed at all the vituperation and hate that Donald Trump is bringing out. Wow. Isn't that a shock!

After years of telling U.S. citizens to disrespect President Obama, after years of obstructionism, after haranguing the populace with the message that government is evil, after comparing the Affordable Care Act to Naziism, after all the over-the-top rhetoric about "taking back the country" and the threat from immigrants, minorities and anyone who is "different," after all the hyperbole — they are surprised?

Oh, and now they are "concerned" that many voters have drawn the logical conclusion to their rhetoric and actions: an authoritarian narcissist who owes little or nothing to the party, but promises to "Make America Great Again." The GOP establishment has pulled out all the stops to derail the Trump steamroller, and they will probably succeed.

So, the Republican answer to this self-inflicted disaster is the most disliked senator in the U.S. Congress. A man who shut down the U.S. Government for his own petty reasons, at the cost of billions of taxpayer dollars and the disruption of services nationwide; an extreme Tea Partier and crusading Christian who wants to deport millions, break up families, jail women, and carpet bomb the Middle East: Ted Cruz. Cruz wants to set up a Christian Nation, a theocracy, with himself as high priest. Is this what the GOP now stands for?

If Ted Cruz is the answer, it

must be one awful question!

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.
~~~~~

**Tell It, Bernie!**  
To the Editor:

Senator Bernie Sanders has been far too modest regarding his own talent for giving speeches. He has often pointed out to Americans, and justifiably so, that his opponent for the Democratic nomination has had some extremely handsome paydays for speeches provided to Wall Street entities. We've all heard him jokingly remark, "must have been one heck of a speech, she should share it with all Americans!" As a matter of fact, we've just discovered, from Bernie having released his most recent tax record, that he and Jane combined (his salary and their monthly Social Security benefits) made less in one year than his opponent makes for just one speech to Goldman Sachs, which is testimony in and of itself that Bernie has used his position and power strictly for the common good and not to amass wealth, which is an extremely rare quality for a person in the U.S. Congress.

I am currently reading the contents of one of the best speeches that I've ever read or heard, authored by none other than Sen. Bernie Sanders, who delivered it on the floor of the Senate on behalf of ordinary Americans on December 10, 2010, in which he provided a scathing 8 1/2 hour indictment of the newly minted, radical Tea Party Republican Congress and President Obama for their agreement to extend the Bush era tax cuts (benefiting only millionaires and billionaires), reducing estate taxes and diverting funds from Social Security to do so.

This speech, which captured the true essence of Bernie, and expressed his deep concerns over corporate greed and the disappearance of the middle class in America, was so good that it im-

mediately caught the attention of progressives all across America and was given the label, "The Speech."

Bernie has also received accolades for other speeches he's given, which turned out to be prophetic, that have opposed ill-advised trade pacts (NAFTA, the TPP, and the Panama Trade Pact) and disastrous war and regime change interventions like the invasion of Iraq. It's no wonder that the Vatican has invited Bernie to speak to the world about social and economic justice!

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, N.H.  
~~~~~

Ayotte Plays Charades
To the Editor:

As I write this letter, 34 days have elapsed since the nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court. During this time, no action on his nomination has been taken by Senate Republicans. In the history of our republic, at least 82 individuals have been nominated and confirmed for the Supreme Court in less than 34 days. These justices include John Roberts, Sandra Day O'Connor, John Paul Stevens, Harry Blackmun, Warren Burger, Abe Fortas, and Byron White.

This failure by Senate Republicans to hold hearings and vote Merrick Garland up or down has left the Court with only eight justices, opening the possibility of a four-to-four split vote which would leave the legal question under consideration unanswered.

That possibility became a reality when on March 28 the Supreme Court voted four to four, rejecting an appeal by conservative Republicans to allow non-union workers to avoid paying for unions' collective bargaining activities. This blow to Republicans was of their own making as a full nine-member Court might have to come to a different decision.

The foot dragging by Senate Republicans is condemned by the



public, who by a 63 to 32 percent margin feel that Merrick Garland deserves hearings and an up-down vote on his nomination (*Washington Post*-ABC News poll, March 3-6).

Some Republican senators, including Kelly Ayotte, have tried to put their opposition in a better light by holding "friendly chats" with Garland. These chats have nothing to do with the confirmation process and are simply a distraction conjured up by Republicans, like Ayotte, whose seats are at risk in the November election.

The *New York Daily News* (April 13th) writes, "On Wednesday, Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire is set to receive Garland 'out of courtesy and respect.' There is neither courtesy nor respect in empty ceremony."

This whole Republican charade is simply designed to protect a conservative majority on the Court. The weight of historical precedent, decency, and integrity is not on their side.

Gary Patton
Hampton, N.H.
~~~~~

**Guns are People, Too?**  
To the Editor:

Mitch McConnell and the Republican Party have said over and over again that they are refusing to consider President Obama's nomination to fill the vacancy created by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia because they want

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

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Oxford English Dictionary

by William Marvel

The Oxford Democrat of June 21, 1861, carried a short piece of serialized fiction on the front page called “A Country Romance.” The second page revealed a version of the real thing under a headline warning of a “probable homicide” in Fryeburg.

Harriet B. Swan, a 39-year-old widow whose farm sat on the Bridgton Road, just above Lovewell’s Pond (adjacent to today’s Osgood Brothers), had been found dead in her bed at dawn of June 17. A scarf was tied around her throat, and her own hands gripped the knotted ends of it, as though she had strangled herself. Two young children were found sleeping with her.

Ephraim Gilman, the young hired man, was quickly accused of murdering her. He had been sparking the eldest daughter, Abbie Swan, who was then keeping house for a woman a mile away, but Mrs. Swan was opposed to

the match and for that reason Abbie had finally rejected him on the very night her mother died. When Mrs. Swan was last seen alive, Ephraim had just returned to her farm from that rejection. He put his horse and wagon away, milked the cows, and went inside to prepare for bed, which he shared with Mrs. Swan’s older son. None of the children remembered anything out of the ordinary during the night.

At four the next morning Ephraim drove the wagon to another farmhouse to collect a pig Mrs. Swan had bought. Returning for breakfast at 5:00, he found no one stirring and called upstairs, getting no answer. As he told it, he went up, saw that she was dead, and ran to the nearest house, reporting that Mrs. Swan had killed herself. The neighbors came to investigate and discovered a crude note sitting on a book. “Bea Good Children,” it read, “for I am atiar of liven in this world.”

Ephraim’s relationship with

Abbie made him an early suspect, and he was soon arrested. No one could explain why there was no sign of a struggle, or why the children who slept with Ephraim or their mother had not seen, heard, or felt one, but at the inquest Ephraim was asked to write down the text of the note while the coroner dictated the phrasing. The writing looked very much alike, but so did the orthography of most minimally educated people in an age when all children were required to copy the same script to avoid the ferule.

The trial began in the Oxford County Courthouse in South Paris on March 19, 1862, and it may have been the first in the nation to involve handwriting analysis. The prosecutor admitted that if Ephraim Gilman did not write the “suicide” note, they had no case against him. Abbie initially said it was her mother’s handwriting, but then she changed her mind. George Comer, president of a “commercial college” in Bos-

ton that taught penmanship, presented himself as an expert and said the person who wrote the note could not have written Mrs. Swan’s signature, which was the only sample they had. The capital B was indeed different in the signature from the one in the note, but several of Ephraim’s capitals were also different from the note. His misspellings, however, were all the same. Spelling counts, and the jury took only three hours to find him guilty. He lost an appeal to the Supreme Court, and on August 27, 1863, he began a life sentence in the state prison.

The Swan orphans were parceled out to relatives and neighbors. Mary, who awoke beside her dead mother, spent many years as a housekeeper for Dr. Lowell Lamson, who had helped examine the victim’s body. Four years later Abbie married Alzo Ingalls, of Denmark, after he got out of the army. In 1866 she gave birth to a daughter, but she and the baby promptly died. Alzo lived until

1917, through two more wives. In 1861 Ephraim Gilman’s father, stepmother, and siblings lived on a rented farm in North Fryeburg. They soon left scandalized Fryeburg and returned to the ancestral Gilman homestead in Denmark.

The last surviving witness to that rustic tragedy was the murderer himself. For 43 years Ephraim Gilman hammered rocks in the quarry at the Thomaston prison, but in 1906 Governor William T. Cobb granted him a Christmas pardon. He came home to Denmark at the age of 68 and moved into one of his family’s old houses on the Brownfield Road. He lived out his days as a laborer on other people’s farms, including that of his brother William, but William died in 1913. Thereafter Ephraim had to scrounge for work to the end of his days, living alone. When he died in 1925, at 87, he may have been the last person on earth who remembered Abbie Swan.

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

the people to have a say about the direction of the Supreme Court. The people spoke in 2008 and elected President Obama. The people spoke again when they re-elected him in 2012. Republicans have not listened to the American people — they have continually obstructed and delayed in order to frustrate the President’s attempts to appoint senior federal officials.

There are currently 49 nominees to federal court positions that the Senate has not acted upon — some of them from as far back as February of 2015. In addition there are 143 people awaiting confirmation for nonjudicial federal jobs, such as secretary of the

Army, Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, as well as the Ambassador to Mexico.

Polls show a majority of the people feel the Senate should hold hearings and vote on the president’s nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, and the Republicans are still not listening. Mr. McConnell has struggled to come up with a rationale for not acting. In his latest statement he said, “I can’t imagine that a Republican majority in the Senate would want to confirm, in a lame-duck session, a nominee opposed by the National Rifle Association.”

“Lame-duck session?” The elec-

tion is over six months away! And now “the people” has morphed into the NRA. Perhaps they have obtained personhood like the corporations did with Citizens United. Just who are Republicans listening to? Certainly not the voters — perhaps “the people” who finance their election campaigns?

Cynthia Muse  
Rye, N.H.

Rebel Yell

To the Editor:

The day after Congresswoman Shea-Porter voted in 2014 against training moderate Syrian rebels to fight the Islamic State, I thanked

her for her vote and informed her that I was leaving her Congressional Staff. I departed on a personal high note having argued that arming the moderate Syrian rebels could have similar results to the 1980’s arming of Afghanistan’s Mujahedeen which led to al Qaeda, that not deploying American ground troops in concert with arming rebels or with airstrikes could create power vacuum for the Islamic State to expand like President Obama’s “biggest regret” of “failing to plan for the day after” the 2011 airstrikes against Libyan Colonel Muammar Gaddafi’s forces, and that any American military action needed a buy-in

from the American public.

European partition of the Ottoman Caliphate after World War One created extremely complex nation states by not considering their ethnic or religious compositions. A century later, a popular uprising against Syrian President Bashar al Assad devolved into combatants protecting their own, the dissolution of the North South artificial Iraqi-Syrian border, and the establishment of the Islamic State in its place. Over the past five years, to preserve his Alawite sect’s hegemony, President Assad has killed 183,827 mostly Sunni Syrians. Meanwhile, despite their headline-grabbing

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Why Bernie Will, Should, and Must Stay in The Race

by Jim Hightower

Surprisingly, this week's prize for Stupidest Political Comment in the presidential race doesn't go to Donnie Trump or Ted Cruz.

Rather, that honor goes to the clueless cognoscenti of conventional political wisdom. They've made a unilateral decision that Bernie Sanders must now quit the race for the Democratic nomina-

tion. Why? Because, they say: "He Can't Win."

Actually, he already has. Sanders' vivid populist vision, unabashed idealism, and big ideas for restoring America to its own people have (1) jerked the presidential debate out of the hands of status quo corporatists, (2) revitalized the class consciousness and relevance of the Democratic Party, (3) energized millions of young people to get involved, and

(4) proven that Democrats don't have to sell out to big corporate donors to run for office.

Bernie has substantively — even profoundly — changed American politics for the better, which is why he's gaining more and more support and keeps winning delegates. From the start, he said: "This campaign is not about me" — it's a chance for voters who've been disregarded and discarded to forge a new political revolution

that will continue to grow beyond this election and create a true people's government.

The keepers of the Established Order fear that, and they know that this year's nomination is still very much up for grabs, so they're stupidly trying to shove Sanders out before other states vote. But Bernie and the mass movement he's fostering aren't about to quit — they'll organize in every primary still to come, be a major

force at the Democratic convention, and keep pushing their ideals and policies in the general election ... and beyond.

That's what real politics should be — not merely a vacuous campaign to elect a personality, but a momentous democratic movement fighting for the common good.

Copyright 2016 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laura@jimhightower.com).

brutality, the Sunni Islamic State has only killed 2,196 mostly Shia Syrians. These statistics from the Syrian Human Rights Network explain why the mostly Sunni moderate Syrian rebels fight to end the Syrian regime, the root cause of the Syrian Civil War, and not the Islamic State, which is just a symptom.

Since 2013, the CIA has been covertly paying, training in Jordan, and arming moderate Syrian rebels with American weapons such as TOW antitank missiles from Saudi Arabian stockpiles. For a billion dollars annually, this program has sent nearly 10,000 rebels, known as the Knights of Righteousness, back into Southern Syria to fight the Assad regime. Meanwhile, the Pentagon's 2014 program that the Congresswoman voted against was meant to overtly train an anticipated 5,000 moderate Syrian rebels to fight the Islamic State. Last fall, this \$500 million program introduced a force of 54 into Syria and Al Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, the Nusra Front, immediately took their leader and equipment. The Pentagon has since deployed Special Forces into northeastern Syria to arm, advise, and call for air support for the Syrian Democratic Forces, an overwhelming Kurdish force seeking a self-autonomous Kurdish region or nation from the Islamic State territory they retake.

Last September, in order to protect their only naval base on the Mediterranean, Russia began demonstrating the benefits and perils of overtly sup-

porting their besieged Syrian ally with airpower and ground forces. Eighty to ninety percent of Russian sorties indiscriminately targeted the moderate Syrian rebels, ending not only their advance on Damascus, but their years-long hold on territory around Aleppo, Syria's prewar financial capital. In addition, the decimated Knights of Righteousness faced advances from the Islamic State in northwestern Syria and the Syrian Democratic Forces from northeastern Syria. The Syrian Democratic Forces' expansion westward like an invading Kurdish army towards the outskirts of Aleppo has resulted in reports of America now fighting itself by proxy.

Despite Russian President Vladimir Putin's mission accomplished moment, an estimated 3,000 – 6,000 Russian military personnel remain in Syria serving as everything from artillerymen to combat advisors to their Israeli-made drone operators. On forward operating bases, long-range bombers are being replaced by attack helicopters to provide counterinsurgency and close air-support to the ongoing operations. Meanwhile, just two weeks ago, memorial services were held for the Russian soldiers killed when their attack helicopter went down. Although there are numerous differences comparing America arming rebels fighting the regime and Russia arming a regime fighting rebels, there are fewer differences between Russia arming Syria to fight Syrian rebels and America arming Iraq to fight

the Islamic State.

My experience of watching an armored personnel carrier from the Iraqi Infantry battalion I was advising retreat in a fire-fight against an insurgent with an AK-47 left me doubting the Iraqi Army's resolve and ability to defend Iraq without significant assistance from American ground forces. Since March, my old 9th Iraqi Armor Division has been playing a major role in the Iraqi Army's offensive to retake Mosul, Iraq's former second largest city. The 4,500 mostly Shia Iraqi troops participating are equipped with U.S. supplied Humvees, light arms, and anti-tank missiles, and are augmented by Shia militias, Kurdish forces, and American surveillance, air support, and artillery.

Several weeks ago, a Marine was killed and eight others wounded when the Islamic State rocketed Fire Base Bell, located just fifteen miles from the Islamic State. The small outpost's hundred plus Marines and their four 155mm howitzers provide daily fire support, smoke screens, and illumination for the Iraqi offensive. However, similar to how the Iraqi Army surrendered their uniforms, weapons, and vehicles in June 2014 as the Islamic State approached Mosul, the Iraqi Army led offensive has stalled. In response, this week the Pentagon announced that in addition to the 5,000 American service members already serving in Iraq, the deployment of both Apache attack helicopters and some 200 combat

advisors that can now embed with Iraqi battalions.

The United States has helped liberate a quarter of Islamic State territory despite the dizzying number of groups working out of tandem to accomplish often polar objectives. Meanwhile, my arguments against arming the moderate Syrian rebels may be coming to fruition. Fears are growing of extremists being able to down an airliner, due to a second Syrian Air Force jet being shot down in less than a month and its pilot captured by the Nusra Front, despite the United States, Turkey, and the Persian Gulf states supposedly refraining from arming Syrian rebels with surface-to-air missiles. Furthermore, in recognizing that arming the moderate Syrian rebels or providing air support will not create stability, more service members are joining the 11,000 Americans that have already fought to defeat the Islamic State without any buy in from the American public.

Josh Denton  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Josh:

Thank you for writing. We can't say it's comforting to read your well-informed take on these issues. It does seem that if we re-read them a few more times, we might finally begin to have some sketchy sense of what's going on.

The Editor

~~~~~

New Hampshire Gazette
July 21, 1795

To the Editor:

Thought you might be interest-

ed. I just finished a book, *Jefferson and Hamilton: The Struggle for Democracy in America*, by Claude G. Bowers, 1925. Cited on page 282 is *The New Hampshire Gazette* for a piece published on July 21, 1795 regarding New Hampshire Senator John Langdon's position in the debate over the treaty with England, the Jay Treaty.

This book is something I think you in particular would enjoy. Every page is so completely the debate we are now struggling through, with our current "Federalists" going to extremes such as those you continue to ferret out, to deny and exclude "we the people" from even the slightest crumbs. I, who possess a pretty deep and long held understanding of how this battle goes, was astonished at how the debate of Jefferson and Hamilton is so unchanged. As they say, "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose."

Your *Gazette* has provided me with great pleasure for many years since my mother, Barbara Wyman, discovered it and now through the subscription of my wife Heidi Wells. Thank you for your continuing works to bring truth and enlightenment to "we the people."

Biff Wyman
Jefferson, N.H.

Biff:

Thanks very much. We'll be looking for that book. Returning the favor, may we suggest to you *The Tyranny of Printers: newspaper politics in the Early American Republic*, by Jeffrey Paisley, 2001?

The Editor

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

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

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

Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

SUNDAY, MAY 1	MONDAY, MAY 2	TUESDAY, MAY 3	WEDNESDAY, MAY 4	THURSDAY, MAY 5	FRIDAY, MAY 6	SATURDAY, MAY 7
2003—President G.W.[MD] Bush and his pneumatic codpiece are delivered to an aircraft carrier to tell his biggest lie to date: “major combat operations in Iraq have ended.” U.S. death toll so far: 140. 1999—<i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> resumes regular (fortnightly) publication in Portsmouth. 1989—N.H.’s Secretary of State for Life William Gardner assigns legal ownership of <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> to the current editor. 1978—An employee of the Digital Equipment Corporation sends the first spam e-mail. 1977—The cops arrest 1,414 Clams at Seabrook. 1975—Thomas Polgar sends the last cable from the CIA’s station in Saigon: “It has been a long fight and we have lost....Let us hope that we will not have another Vietnam experience and that we have learned our lesson. Saigon signing off.” 1971—Saying, “If the government won’t stop the war, we’ll stop the government,” 45,000 protestors assemble in Washington, D.C. 1970—U.S. troops join ARVN soldiers in the Cambodian “Incursion.” 1960—Russians shoot down CIA pilot Gary Powers’s U-2. 1894—Jacob Coxey is arrested for walking on the grass of the Capitol; his “Army” is dispersed. A proponent of “greenbacks,” he is accompanied by his infant son, Legal Tender Coxey.	2011—Osama bin Laden, having outlived the G.W.[MD] Bush Administration, is killed by SEAL Team 6 under orders from his successor. 2006—In Lucasville, Ohio, executioners take 86 minutes and 19 needle punctures to kill Joseph Clark by lethal injection. 2003—Richard Perle, its architect, writes the Iraq War “ended without the Arab world rising up against us, as the war’s critics feared, without the quagmire they predicted, without the heavy losses in house-to-house fighting they warned us to expect.” 1985—Brokerage firm E.F. Hutton pleads guilty to 2,000 federal charges; agrees to cough up \$10 million. 1972—J. Edgar “Mary” Hoover croaks, finally, at 77. (See 1957). 1967—The California State Assembly is visited by 26 armed Black Panthers. 1964—The <i>U.S.S. Card</i>, a 496-foot escort carrier, is sunk at the dock by a mine in Saigon. 1963—Schoolchildren in Birmingham, Ala. march against segregation; 600 are arrested. 1957—Sen. Joe McCarthy croaks. 1940—Mississippi Governor Paul Johnson, 60, creeps up behind <i>Jackson Daily News</i> editor Major Frederick Sullens and bashes his skull with a hardwood cane. Sullens, 62, knocks the Governor to the floor and beats him mercilessly. 1933—Hitler abolishes all German labor unions.	2011—Disney files a patent for the phrase “SEAL Team 6.” 2003—The Old Man of the Mountain succumbs to gravity. 2003—George W.[MD] Bush vows WMDs will be found in Iraq. 1995—Alabama Governor “Fob” James reintroduces chain gangs. 1987—The same day Sen. Gary Hart’s (D-Colo.) challenge, “Follow me around” appears in print, the <i>Miami Herald</i> reports that a woman not his wife spent the night in his D.C. townhouse. 1986—The U. of Maryland announces that hundreds of boxes of papers donated 12 years earlier by Spiro Agnew have not been inspected or cataloged and won’t be for another 3 to 5 years. 1970— “[The North Vietnamese] have been in a war for years and years,” says Veep Spiro T. Agnew, “I don’t think they are capable ... of continuing this fight.” 1963—Birmingham, Ala. Sheriff “Bull” Connors turns firehoses and dogs on civil rights marchers. 1946—After “Gruesome Gertie,” Louisiana’s electric chair, wired by a drunken trustee, fails to kill him, Willie Francis, 17, is escorted back to his cell on Death Row. One year later Gertie succeeds in killing Willie. 1945—The RAF bombs the German ship <i>Cap Arcona</i> in the mistaken belief it’s carrying SS officers. Of 4,500 concentration camp inmates aboard, only 350 survive.	2004—The U.S. Army reveals that 10 prisoner deaths and 10 abuse cases in Iraq and Afghanistan are under criminal investigation. 1990—Six-inch flames shoot from Jesse Joseph Tafero’s head as Florida’s “Old Sparky” takes three jolts and seven minutes to kill him. 1989—U.S.M.C. Lieut. Col. Oliver North is convicted of four felonies in the Iran-Contra scandal, but a Congressional screw-up lets him skate. 1970—Ohio National Guard troops shoot 13 unarmed students, killing four, at Kent State. 1961—The Freedom Rides begin throughout the south. 1948—Norman Mailer’s <i>The Naked and the Dead</i> is published. 1942—The Battle of the Coral Sea begins. It lasts four days; 14 ships are sunk or damaged, 159 planes destroyed, and 1,565 men are killed. It was a great victory. 1940—Nora Joyce says to James, “Well, Jim, I haven’t read any of your books but I’ll have to someday because they must be good considering how well they sell.” 1926—A national General Strike begins in England. 1904—Rolls meets Royce. 1886—In Chicago’s Haymarket Square, demonstrators against May 3rd police brutality at the McCormick Reaper plant are attacked by more police. A bomb kills seven cops; a dubious trial later convicts eight anarchists.	1994—Screaming Lord Sutch, the 3rd Earl of Harrow and head of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party, achieves his highest percentage of the vote ever—4.2 pct.—in British Parliamentary elections. 1985—President Reagan lays a wreath at a cemetery full of Nazi soldiers at Bitburg, Germany. 1981—In Ireland’s Maze Prison, Bobby Sands dies of starvation. 1970—To the chagrin of Bill Loeb, Jerry Rubin speaks at UNH. 1961—New Hampshire’s own Alan Shepard recites a prayer, “Please, dear God, don’t let me f_ _k up,” moments before becoming America’s first man in space. His prayer is answered. 1960—U.S. announces that Gary Powers’s U-2 was a “weather research plane” and its pilot a “civilian employed by Lockheed.” 1945—The collier <i>Black Point</i> is torpedoed by <i>U-853</i> within sight of the Point Judith, R.I. lighthouse. 1945—At a Sunday school picnic in Bly, Ore., five Sunday school children and a minister’s pregnant wife are killed by a Japanese balloon bomb. 1925—John T. Snopes is arrested in Tennessee for teaching evolution. On the team prosecuting Snopes is a man named Sue K. Hicks. 1886—In the Bay View neighborhood of Milwaukee, Gov. Jeremiah Rusk orders 250 National Guard soldiers to fire on a crowd of strikers. They comply; seven die.	2010—An imaginary bus bomb causes a panic in Portsmouth, N.H. 2010—A Londoner scamming from his parents’ basement causes The Invisible Hand of the Market™ to get the jitters: the Dow drops nine percent in five minutes. 1982—Explaining why so many blacks have died in LAPD choke holds, Chief Darryl Gates explains it’s because “in some blacks ... the veins or arteries do not open up as fast as they do in normal people.” 1981—Maya Ying Lin’s controversial design is chosen for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. 1978—In Chicago, First Lady Rosalynn Carter is photographed shaking hands with Polish Constitution Day Parade chairman & serial killer John Wayne Gacy. 1973—FBI besieges Native Americans at Wounded Knee. 1970—At Jackson State University in Mississippi, two black students are killed by soldiers. 1967—Gen. Wallace Greene, Jr., U.S.M.C., says in Manchester, N.H. that America is winning the war in Vietnam, “and I say that without any doubt whatsoever.” 1868—Angry that Samuel Mills had dropped from sight when the gallows opened under him, hundreds of ob-servers riot in Woodsville, N.H. 1864—During the second day of the Battle of the Wilderness, five generals are killed in action.	1999—Due to a C.I.A. screw-up, a U.S. B-2 drops five “smart bombs” on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, leaving 3 dead and 27 wounded. 1998—Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan successfully quash an effort to regulate credit default swaps. 1992—Pesky reporters reveal that Ross Perot’s fervor to aid U.S. POWs in Vietnam was motivated largely by a desire to bolster Richard Nixon’s presidency. 1985—New York throws a ticker tape parade for 25,000 Vietnam veterans. Better late than never. 1984—Vietnam veterans’ suit for damages from chemical companies which sold Agent Orange to the U.S. is settled for chump change. 1964—Francisco Gonzales, a former Olympic yachtsman, shoots the pilot and co-pilot of Pacific Air flight 773 which then crashes killing the other 41 people on board. 1960—After lying for a week, and only after Khrushchev reveals the Soviets have its pilot, the U.S. admits that the U-2 is a spy plane. 1954—The Viet Minh overrun the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu. 1942—More than 100,000 Japanese-Americans are sent to concentration camps. 1896—Gilmanton-born Herman W. Mudgett, aka “Dr. H.H. Holmes,” murderer of 100 or more women, is hanged for murdering some guy.
6:37 7:19 12:21 12:57	7:40 8:16 1:23 1:55	8:41 9:12 2:24 2:51	9:39 10:04 3:22 3:45	10:34 10:56 4:18 4:37	11:28 11:46 5:11 5:28	12:20 6:03 6:18
SUNDAY, MAY 8	MONDAY, MAY 9	TUESDAY, MAY 10	WEDNESDAY, MAY 11	THURSDAY, MAY 12	FRIDAY, MAY 13	SATURDAY, MAY 14

2007—GOP lawmakers, worried about re-election, get all up in George W.[MD] Bush’s grill about Iraq.

2006—CNN’s Headline News commits moral suicide by adding Glenn Beck to the lineup.

2004—Dick “Dick” Cheney tells prosecutor Patrick J. Fitzgerald he knows nothing about Valerie Plame.

2003—A cargo door on a Russian built plane flown by a Ukrainian crew pops open over the Congo. Three-fourths of the 200 aboard are sucked from the plane.

1979—Salvadoran police maintain order by killing 23 and wounding 70 at a cathedral.

1972—Nixon bombs Haiphong.

1970—“Hardhats” beat antiwar demonstrators in New York. Nixon later makes a leader Secretary of Labor.

1970—At the University of New Mexico, 11 people protesting the Vietnam War are bayoneted by National Guardsmen.

1967—Muhammed Ali is indicted for refusing to be inducted.

1963—In Hue, Ngo Dinh Diem’s goons kill nine Buddhists for flying their flag, then blame the ‘Cong.

1958—In Lima, Richard Nixon is stoned and spat on by Peruvians.

1951—British hangman Albert Pier-repont sets a record. James Inglis is dead 7.5 seconds after leaving his cell.

1755—In Portsmouth, murderer Eliphaz Dow becomes the first man executed in New Hampshire.

1989—“What a waste it is to lose one’s mind,” Veep Candidate Dan Quayle informs the Negro College Fund, “or not to have a mind is being very wasteful, how true that is.”

1980—A Liberian-flagged freighter, Summit Venture slams into the Sunshine Skyway Bridge near St. Petersburg, Fla. A chunk of bridge and a Greyhound Bus plunge into Tampa Bay, killing 35.

1974—Congressional hearings on the impeachment of Richard Nixon begin. Finally.

1970—Richard Nixon holds a weird 4 a.m. conversation with antiwar students on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

1963—The U.S. orbits 480 million bits of wire .7 inches long in a failed communications experiment.

1961—FCC chair Newton Minow calls American television “a vast wasteland.”

1969—*The New York Times* reports the U.S. is bombing Cambodia.

1967—Muhammad Ali is stripped of his heavyweight boxing title for refusing induction.

1960—“The” pill is approved.

1947—Louisiana successfully electrocutes seventeen year old Willie Francis. A year and six days earlier, it tried and failed.

1926—Admiral Byrd flies over the North Pole, he says. Maybe.

1879—Wilbur Trafton wires up Portsmouth’s first telephone.

2005—In Tbilisi, Georgia, a grenade is thrown at George W.[MD] Bush. The grenade, like its target, is a dud.

2001—To solve the budget surplus problem, Congress passes G.W.[MD] Bush’s biggest tax cut yet.

2000—“I think we agree,” George W.[MD] Bush says to John McCain, “the past is over.”

1973—Nixon cronies John Mitchell and Maurice Stans are indicted, along with Robert Vesco, for Vesco’s illegal \$200,000 campaign contribution.

1969—U.S. troops attack strategically useless, tactically challenging Hamburger Hill. Because why not?

1967—Capt. Howard Levy is jailed for 3 years for refusing to train U.S. soldiers for Vietnam.

1963—The City of Birmingham commits to desegregate within 90 days.

1945—New Hampshire adopts the motto, “Live Free or Die.”

1933—Germans, backing Hitler’s plan to limit freedom of the press and individual thought, burn books in public squares.

1908—The first Mother’s Day Service is held in W.Va. at the instigation of Anna Jarvis, who is arrested on Mother’s Day 40 years later for protesting its commercialization.

1869—Leland Stanford [aka “Stealin’ Landford”] fails to drive the Transcontinental Railway’s “Golden Spike,” because he’s drunk. “Every step of that mighty enterprise,” says one Senator, was “taken in fraud.”

2012—The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission finds George W.[MD] Bush, Dick “Dick” Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Tony Blair and others guilty of war crimes.

2006—*USA Today* reports that the NSA is tapping U.S. phones.

2003—In a rare display of candor, *The New York Times* publishes a four page confession that one of its reporters had been writing fiction.

1975—In New York, 80,000 celebrate the end of the Vietnam War.

1969—A fire nearly destroys the Rocky Flats nuke factory 15 miles upwind of Denver; fortunately the dispersal of plutonium falls somewhat short of catastrophic.

1968—In France, the three largest labor federations turn out in support of student protests.

1966—“It appears,” says Defense Sec. Robert Strange McNamara, “that the Viet Cong is [sic] losing what support it had from the rural population.”

1963—Blacks in Birmingham, Ala., lose their patience after two more KKK bombings and begin to riot.

1933—Dust storms begin ravaging the central U.S.

1894—The Pullman Railroad Strike begins.

1886—The *Milwaukee Daily Sentinel* publishes an article headlined “No Poles Need Apply,” praising the rail-roads for firing immigrants.

1854—Birth of Ottmar Mergenthal-er, inventor of the Linotype.

2015—Years of bald-faced denial notwithstanding, an FEC report reveals that Rep. Frank Guinta has finally agreed to pay back an illegal \$355K campaign loan and pay a \$15K fine.

2003—Paul Bremmer, Bush’s new administrator, arrives in Iraq. Everything’s gonna be OK now.

1996—On “60 Minutes,” Secretary of State Madeleine Albright tells Lesley Stahl that the deaths of 500,000 children in Iraq due to sanctions is “a very hard choice, but ... we think the price is worth it.”

1984—The No. 2 man at HUD says Hispanics live in crowded homes, not because of poverty, but out of “cultural preference.”

1975—Khmer Rouge naval forces using ex-U.S. Swift Boats seize the U.S. container ship *Mayaguez* and 39 crewmen off Cambodia.

1958—Future Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara says cabbage and broccoli will protect Americans from atomic fallout.

1947—Trunk murderess Winnie Ruth Judd escapes from the Arizona State Insane Hospital for the 3rd time.

1916—Weakened by bullet wounds, James Connolly is shot sitting down for his part in the Easter Rising.

1913—New Hampshire passes a bill establishing a Presidential primary by popular vote.

1854—The steeple of the old North Church is pulled down in Market Square, Portsmouth.

2015—The day after 8 die in a Philadelphia derailment, Congress votes to slash Amtrack’s budget.

2005—The Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) commission recommends closing the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

1985—To end a stand-off, a Philadelphia police helicopter bombs MOVE headquarters, killing 11 and leaving 250 homeless.

1971—Richard Nixon tells his flunkies to get him a new IRS head: “a ruthless son of a bitch ... who will go after our enemies and not go after our friends.”

1968—In Paris, alleged Peace Talks begin between U.S. and Uncle Ho.

1958—Richard Nixon gets stoned in Caracas—literally.

1957—Ngo Din Diem is treated to a ticker tape parade in New York City.

1930—The New Hampshire Historical Society announces the acquisition of one of three known copies of *The Monster of Monsters*, the pamphlet that got Daniel Fowle thrown in prison in 1754.

1862—Robert Smalls, enslaved helmsman of the Confederate military transport *Planter*, commandeers the vessel, pilots it out of Charleston harbor, and turns it over to the U.S. Navy.

1846—Congress declares war on Mexico.

1842—Dorr’s “Peoples’ Government” fails in an attempt to seize an arsenal in Rhode Island.

2005—D. Delsalle lands a French helicopter atop Mt. Everest.

1992—The Bush I administration opens up 1,400 acres of spotted owl habitat for logging.

1980—Jimmy Carter changes his policy on the Mariel, Cuba boatlift in mid-stream.

1975—The Khmer Rouge take the captive crew of the *Mayaguez* to mainland Cambodia.

1970—The Red Army Faction is formed in Germany.

1969—Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas resigns in disgrace, a precedent which, sadly, has not been followed.

1961—On Mother’s Day, Klansmen in Anniston, Ala., set fire to a bus. Freedom Riders escape the fire but are savagely beaten.

1960—A.J. Liebling in *The New Yorker*: “Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one.”

1939—In Lima, Peru, Lina Medina gives birth to a son. She is five years and seven months old.

1932—Mayor Jimmy Walker leads 150,000 New Yorkers in a “We Want Beer” parade.

1930—A 157-word *New York Times* story about the New Hampshire Historical Society’s acquisition of *The Monster of Monsters*, a 18th century pamphlet, mis-states who was jailed and for how long, calls Daniel Fowle the printer (it was his brother Zech-ariah), and mistates the name of the newspaper he founded.

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