

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Generally Speaking ...

Don't bother going to an audiologist — that sound you hear coming from the Cabinet Room is just the medals rattling. Our future Commander-in-Chief is larding his cabinet with star-laden former generals.

We shouldn't be surprised. Like much of the nation since the early 1970s, he has a complex, curious, and twisted relationship with military service. He's not the only one who's over-compensating.

His Own Private Vietnam

Undisciplined and underprivileged adolescents of that era often found themselves in reform school. The undisciplined, over-privileged Trump had a father who sent him to the New York Military Academy. Trump has credited that experience with having built his character. Maybe the Academy had achieved perfection, or maybe Trump decided too much character would be a flaw; either way, at a time when Vietnam was offering open enrollment in post-graduate character-building courses, Trump went to some lengths to avoid them.

Trump likes to claim that it was his high lottery number which saved him from the draft. As the *New York Times* delicately put it last August, though, his "public statements about his draft experience sometimes conflict with his Selective Service records." Those records show four annual student deferments, the first in 1964, followed by a 1-Y medical deferment issued in October of 1968. Since the Selective Service called up 283,586 men in 1969, and the first draft lottery wasn't held until December of that year, it's safe to say his 1-Y deferment may well have saved Trump's life. You'd think he could give it a little credit, just out of gratitude.

To be fair, our President Elect has not always exempted him-

self from hazardous duty. "It is a dangerous world out there," he once told Howard Stern, during a wide-ranging philosophical discussion about New York City nightlife. The odds of acquiring sexually-transmitted diseases were "scary, like Vietnam It is my personal Vietnam. I feel like a great and very brave soldier." Judging from that comment, Trump will be quite comfortable integrating the military viewpoint into civil governance.

It may take a while for the rest of us, though, to get used to having generals running parts of the government. After all, it's been more than forty years since we turned national defense over to a permanent, professional military; everyone who ever answered the call of the Selective Service is now eligible to collect checks from Social Security — provided that they survived their war, of course.

Our Empire 'Tis of Thee

It may sound strange, in a country that's been constantly at war for fifteen years, but just four-tenths of one percent of Americans currently serve in uniform. That figure is an historical low for the post WW II era, but higher than it was for most of our history. The uptick seems to be a consequence of the creation of the national security state through the National Security Act of 1947. While all the other manufacturing nations in the world were supine and enrubled, America factories were fired up and ready to go. Using the Soviet Union as a convenient if improbable foil, American industrialists leaned on the government to make the world safe for capitalism — which they decided to spell f-r-e-e-d-o-m. The result is an even, though gruesome, balance: the number of people who are contractually obligated to risk their



lives in defense of the nation's global market share is approximately equal to the number who actually profit from the empire they are defending.

The Teflon General

This may be why Trump wants General David Petraeus for Secretary of State. Petraeus famously "wrote the book" on counterinsurgency — which is what empires call their half of an asymmetrical war. Asymmetrical wars are what happens when people get fed up with neocolonialism.

Another reason might be to pick up pointers from a master of public relations. The alleged pacification of Mosul convinced the press of Petraeus' greatness — an accomplishment that disappeared like the Cheshire cat. "[A]ll the guys he was supposedly training in 2004 are nowhere to be seen and Mosul basically collapsed after he left," a former U.S. diplomat who had served in Iraq told the

Guardian in 2008. The reputation survived, though the city did not, inspiring the diplomat to call Petraeus "the Teflon General."

The nickname still seems to apply. Last year Petraeus pled guilty to giving top secret information to a woman with whom he was having an illicit affair, and lying to federal investigators. Though he did on purpose what Hillary Clinton only risked by accident, no one is yelling "hang the bastard." If he wins Senate confirmation, Petraeus would be the first Secretary of State to need permission from his probation officer to leave the country.

Blood, Guts, and Tin Foil Hats

Trump's pick for Secretary of Defense, Marine General James Mattis, is a brilliant man who has spent his lifetime commanding men and studying military history so that their lives might be spent as frugally as possible. He is also a fount of colorful, bloodthirsty

aphorisms, such as "Be polite, be professional, but have a plan to kill everybody you meet." If Trump picked Mattis for his scholarship, the editor will eat a combat boot.

Retired Marine General John F. Kelly, a candidate for Secretary of Homeland Security, ran the U.S. Southern Command for three years. That actually makes him a logical choice — unless one objects to the militarization of police functions being carried out on a global scale.

Army Lieutenant General Michael T. Flynn, with his paltry three stars, brings up the rear of our parade of brass hats. The National Security Advisor is a chronic regurgitator of bogus news stories comparable to the one which inspired a real-life dumb guy with a gun to shoot up a D.C. pizza joint on Sunday afternoon.

All this, already, and still six weeks to go before the inauguration.

The Alleged News®

Welcome to Stage Three

The nation's non-deplorables have hit Stage Three of the Kübler-Ross grief model: with just six weeks to go before President Obama tosses the White House keys to a thrice-married quadruple bankrupt with funny hair and the attention span of a three-year-old, disparate elements of the reality-based community are bargaining left and right further left.

A lot of Clintonistas are fairly excited because Hillary's lead in the popular vote has now grown to more than two percent. Their candidate appears to have vanished, but that doesn't seem to matter; as in the campaign, being right is what's important. Winning is just external validation, irrelevant to those with self-esteem.

Neo-Anti-Federalism

One potential tack towards a Trump-free future would be to somehow negate the Electoral College. The numbers make it clear that there's a case: Clinton beat Trump with 48.2 percent of the popular vote to his 46.2; Trump, though, clobbered Clinton with 56.88 percent of Electoral College votes to her 43.12 percent.

This obvious disparity — on top of The Horror — sparked an immediate and visceral anti-Electoral reaction. In the first four days after the election, four million desperate Americans signed an online petition begging the Electors to vote for Clinton. The signature count has barely budged

since then; apparently cranial activity began to kick in once the initial shock wore off. While the number of people horrified by a Trump presidency is enormous, the number who can imagine Republican electors actually catering to the wishes of a bunch of whiny liberals seems more limited.

Time to Complete Abolition?

Even disregarding the immediate emergency, several sound arguments can be made against the Electoral College: good housekeeping, for example. The Electoral College was created as bait nearly 230 years ago: a compromise engineered to give slave-holding states an edge in political power, offered as an incentive to join the union.

Since the South's "peculiar institution" was abolished more than a century and a half ago, abolishing the Electoral College now would provide a dose of poetic, if tardy, justice.

Speaking of "peculiar institutions," doesn't that term seem equally applicable to the Electoral College, itself?

Where's the Return Counter?

If the Founding Fathers were still alive, and the Electoral College were a product, we could sue the old bastards for false advertising.

Alexander Hamilton — an architect of the archaic artifact in question — said in *Federalist Paper No. 68* that the Electoral College "affords a moral certain-

ty, that the office of President will never fall to the lot of any man who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications. Talents for low intrigue, and the little arts of popularity, may alone suffice to elevate a man to the first honors in a single State; but it will require other talents, and a different kind of merit, to establish him in the esteem and confidence of the whole Union, or of so considerable a portion of it as would be necessary to make him a successful candidate for the distinguished office of President of the United States. It will not be too strong to say, that there

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to page two

The Alleged News®
from page one

will be a constant probability of seeing the station filled by characters pre-eminent for ability and virtue."

We rest our case.

Irrelevants for Somebody Else

Four Electors in Colorado, joined by two more in Washington and one elsewhere, formed a group called the "Hamilton Electors" on November 29th. Their web page makes a poignant plea to other members of their peculiar institution to prevent the coming train wreck.

Noble as their cause is, six of the seven are Democrats who would have to convince 37 Republican Electors to cast ballots which would go against the intent of the voters of their states — and, in many cases, go against state laws — a plan that seems to have no more chance of success than that pleading online petition.

The Bold and the Doomed

That being said, there is one Trump elector in Texas who has not only read Ol' No. 68, but written an op-ed about it which was published in Monday's *New York Times*. Chris Suprun specifically

cites Trump's divisiveness as the central characteristic which makes him "unacceptable." The President Elect, he wrote, has shown "again and again that he does not meet these standards. Given his own public statements, it isn't clear how the Electoral College can ignore these issues, and so it should reject him." He concluded by calling on electors to "unify behind a Republican alternative, an honorable and qualified man or woman such as Gov. John Kasich of Ohio."

Kasich, for his part, has asked any would-be faithless electors to forget it, on the grounds that such an action would "only serve to further divide our nation, when unity is what we need."

Where that last quality might come from has yet to be determined.

I Want My Phone Call

By way of encouragement, Lawrence Lessig, the Harvard lawyer who ran a rather ineffectual campaign to ... to ... do something during the last election, is said to be organizing a legal defense fund for faithless Electors. Let us hope that it is needed.

Should the faithless Electors prevail, we sincerely hope that the



The Portsmouth Athenæum celebrates the holidays in a tasteful, subdued manner, as befits an institution about to celebrate its bicentennial year.

millions of disappointed hardcore Trumpeters will go quietly back to their homes in the red states and accept the inauguration of John Kasich — a full-blown crank in his own right, who only appeared reasonable in comparison with a rogue's gallery of stellar cranks, crooks, and fools — with serene equanimity.

Our two cents: the only candidate with a hope in hell of successfully presiding in the event of such a scenario would be that white-haired gentleman from Vermont with the Brooklyn accent.

Did Not See That Coming

Even its harshest critics have to admit. The Electoral College has been a veritable fount of head-scratching weirdness since, oh, say, 2000. With this latest stunt you'd think it had about worn out its welcome.

A brand-new poll, though, claims to have found that it now has a higher approval rating than

it did before it handed the Presidency over to a Cheeto-colored crackpot.

A Supreme Challenge

One of the most nausea-inducing realizations to pop up during this uneasy interregnum is that the incoming Twitterer-in-Chief will probably get to choose a few Supreme Court justices. This leads us to another radical possibility making the rounds as The Unthinkable Moment approaches.

Several weeks ago the writer David Dayen argued that President Obama could disregard Congressional Republicans' bogus "pro forma" sessions and put Merrick Garland on the Supreme Court in a recess appointment. It's a move that would certainly reduce the number of slow news days for a while. The downside would be that such appointments are only good for one year.

Now blogger David Waldman, who, to the best of our knowledge has never been found mentally in-

competent by a judicial proceeding, has gone Dayen one better. He argues that Joe Biden, as President of the Senate, could, during an evanescent moment between swearings-in when Democrats will have a 36-30 majority, by using a procedural legerdemain far too complex to summarize here, simply jam Garland onto the Big Bench and tell the Republicans to go pound sand.

We'd like to have the popcorn concession if Uncle Joe tries that.

One Last Grasp

Donald Trump recently made the unsupported claim that millions of fraudulent votes were cast in the election. That would seem to call the results into question. One has to wonder — is it possible that it's finally dawned on him what a burden the Presidency is? Is he looking for a way to weasel out of the job he went to such trouble to lie his way into?

The second hour of a recent Diane Rehm Show was about

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the involuntary hospitalization of the insane. It delved into the definition of psychosis — a state in which the sufferer can't put thoughts together in a way that makes coherent sentences, and holds beliefs so unrealistic that they cannot possibly be true.

The first hour of the show had been all about Donald Trump and the recent election. Does anyone believe that was just a coincidence?

If worst comes to worst and Trump is inaugurated, Democrats should at least insist on the appointment of a Presidential shrink.

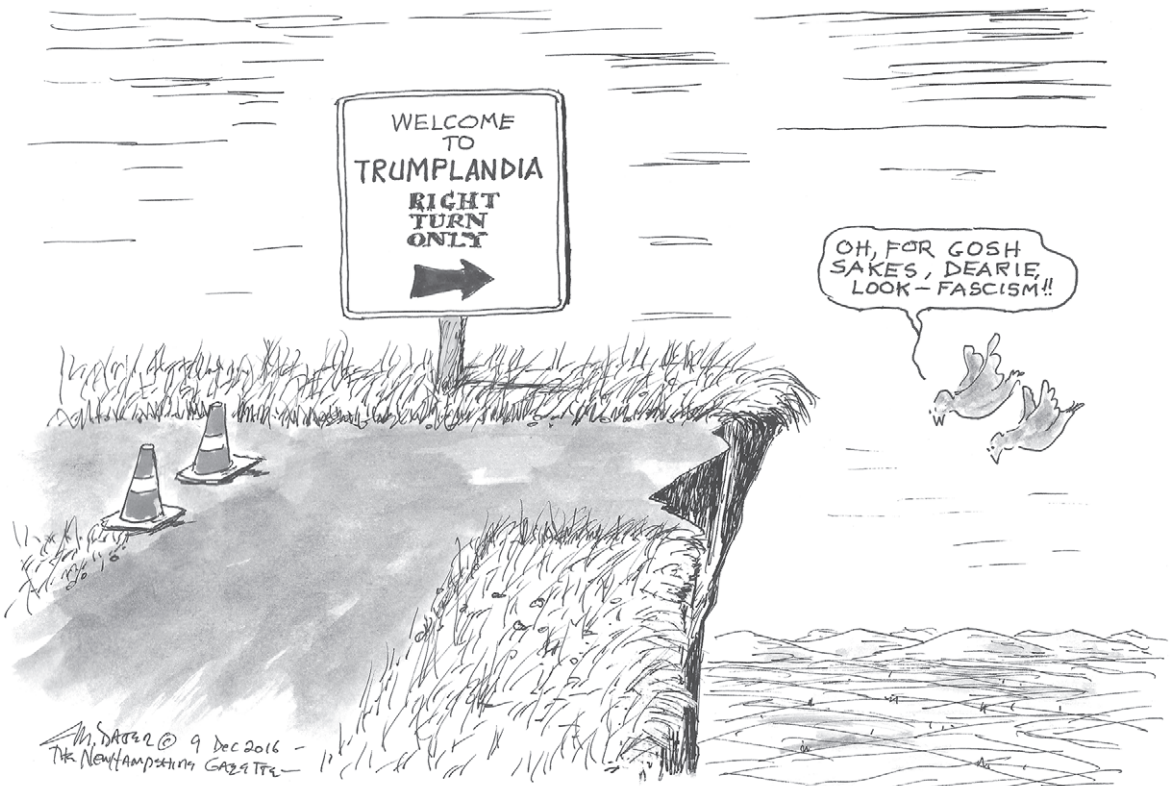
It's Oklahoma That's Not OK

"Maggots (maggots!) found in wounds of a veteran at @DeptVetAffairs hospital," former U.S. Army Major Pete Hegseth tweeted on Monday, his glee and ambition plainly visible between the lying lines. True, there were maggots in the wounds of Vietnam vet Owen Reese Peterson when he died of sepsis in October — but "@DeptVetAffairs" had nothing

to do with it.

"[O]riginally constructed as the Eastern Oklahoma Tuberculosis Sanatorium in 1921," according to its official web page, the Talihina Veterans Center where Peterson died was "transferred to the control of the [Oklahoma] War Veterans Commission" in 1975. The Talihina Veterans Center is solely the responsibility of the State of Oklahoma. Governed since 2011 by Mary Fallin, a Republican, the Sooner State's House seats 71 Republicans, outnumbering 30 Democrats by better than two to one. But that's nothing — in the Senate, Republicans have a five-to-one advantage: 40 seats to eight.

There is some slight possibility that Hegseth was unaware of that distinction, which would merely make his tweet irresponsible. On the other hand, there's a very good chance that he knew but didn't care, which would make him a mendacious liar on a par with Rep. Frank Guinta [R-N.H.]. That seems increasingly likely,



Any day now, another bold step will be taken to reduce Portsmouth's pernicious surplus of affordable housing. Like pools of standing water which breed bloodthirsty mosquitos, each remaining unit of affordable housing is capable of sheltering multiple scruffy, low-income residents who contribute but little to the city's economy. The pending demolition of these two unassuming Hill Street structures, and their replacement with something no doubt larger and more grand, will unleash the profit- and tax revenue-producing powers of the valuable land underneath them. Who says there's no such thing as progress?

since the Fox News contributor's Twitter feed includes several replies informing him of his as-yet-uncorrected error.

Plutocrats v. Veterans

The average person must find it distressing and infuriating to hear tales of brave veterans being horribly mistreated. We'll give Hegseth the benefit of the doubt and presume that he does, too. But for him they also represent job security and opportunity.

Hegseth has long toiled on the Koch Brothers' propaganda plantation, his specialty being the muddying of waters surrounding veterans issues. Any sordid-sounding story that can be exploited so that it puts VA hospitals in a bad light plays right into the Koch Brothers anti-union, pro-privatization agenda.

Both these points were proven at a meeting of Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation donors at Dana Point, Calif. in the summer of 2014.

Hegseth, who was then the CEO of Concerned Veterans for America, was introduced to

the donors by Kevin Gentry, vice president of the foundation. Gentry told the donors, "you all helped build a group called Concerned Veterans for America."

Hegseth's remarks were taped, and reported in the September 29th, 2014 *Nation* by George Zornick. "Concerned Veterans for America is an organization **this network literally created** to empower veterans and military families to fight for the freedom and prosperity here at home that we fought for in uniform on the battlefield," Hegseth told his audience [emphasis added].

"Perhaps most importantly to this effort," Hegseth said, "we have created **a new line of defense against the march towards socialized medicine** Throughout this effort, Concerned Veterans for America, along with our network partners, have intentionally broadened the debate to include big government dysfunction generally, **further fortifying a new skepticism** that [Americans for Prosperity, another Koch front group] and others have brought

to **what government-run health-care does**."

They used to say in the Army, "If it moves, salute it; if it doesn't, paint it." The Koch Brothers just say "privatize it" — no matter if it flips, flops, or flies. Zeal, flexibility, and his ability to always follow that directive were what won Hegseth his position with Conservative Concerned Veterans for America. That ambition now stands to be further gratified: Donald Trump is said to be considering Hegseth for Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

He will certainly fit right in if he's called to join the new administration. While a few conservative websites like the *Daily Caller* and the *Washington Standard* took the trouble to correctly assign blame in the maggot case to the State of Oklahoma, *Breitbart News* — chief strategist Steve Bannon's old outfit, falsely pinned the blame on the Obama administration — as did virtually all of the thousands of Fox viewers who re-tweeted Hegseth's original misleading tweet.

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You Just Keep On Keeping On
To the Editor:

I may be crazy, but I can't get all that exorcised about the outcome of the recent presidential election. The Power Brokers in the Democratic party have no one but themselves to blame for the disaster that is the election of Donald Trump.

Back in the 1990s, under a president named Clinton, the party turned its back on ordinary people and became Republican Lite, and even Republican-not-so-Lite, answering to Big Business and Wall Street instead of ordinary Americans. When the first Clinton proved himself to be an amoral philandering disgrace, the party rewarded the other Clinton for her party loyalty with a Senate seat and appointment to Secretary of State.

In 2008, the party powerful promised Hillary Clinton that if she just remained loyal one more time, she would get her turn in 2016. She was anointed eight years ago, and no one in the upper reaches of the party bothered to listen to the millions of ordinary Americans (like me) who begged for a candidate and a party that would represent us. Instead, they used super-delegates and a compliant media to make sure that Bernie Sanders did not get the nomination.

Now I hear the Clintonites whining that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. So did Bernie Sanders. Screw the Clintonites. I'm sorry The Donald won, but

I'm not sorry Hillary lost. I can only hope that the Democratic Party returns to what it once was: the party of immigrants, minorities, and the working classes, and that the nation survives long enough for that to happen. I'm not holding my breath. Meanwhile, I did what I could to prevent the election of Trump, even going so far as voting for Clinton on November 8th — the most distasteful thing I've ever had to do since I stopped killing people, and I am not speaking metaphorically — but Trump's going to be the next president of the United States, and that is that. For better and worse and all points in-between, that is that. Gnashing my teeth and tearing out my hair is not going to change that or make it any easier to bear.

I plan to continue doing what I've been doing with increasing success as I've aged: make the best choice I can whenever I have a choice, tell the people I love that I love them, be as nice as I can to everyone, apologize when I get it wrong, and hope that I've lived a life I can be proud of when it's over.

Bill Ehrhart
formerly Sergeant, U.S.M.C.
Bryn Mawr, Pa.
Bill:

We would only add, anyone who bugs out under these circumstances probably didn't deserve to be here in the first place.
The Editor

~~~~~  
**Mmmmm ... Delicious Irony**  
To the Editor,  
Ah, the irony of it all.

Donald Trump spent years alleging that Barack Obama was not born in the United States. Thus, in Trump's view, Obama didn't satisfy the citizenship requirement and was not qualified to be the president. In the end, faced with overwhelming evidence that Obama was born in the United States, Trump backed down and admitted that Obama

fulfilled the citizenship requirement for President.

Now, we find that Donald Trump lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton by more than two million votes. We might argue that Trump doesn't deserve to be president because he was not supported by a majority of voters. Trump's legitimacy as president is in doubt. He is, at best, a minority President.

And that is how I will refer to him in speech and in writing — minority president Donald J. Trump. As they say, Mr. Trump, what goes around, comes around.

Gary Patton  
Hampton, N.H.

~~~~~  
Save Us, Electoral College!
To the Editor:

The candidate who claimed he would "drain the swamp" is filling it with plutocrat alligators like himself. Our democracy is in danger of dissolving under Trump's appointees. He cares only about amassing power and wealth for himself. His allies would serve those goals as they use our governmental agencies for their own purposes — cutting taxes for themselves, scrapping oversight of Wall Street, and reducing environmental regulations on big polluters. His quick-trigger, authoritarian temper would harm us within and beyond our borders.

The Electoral College is poised to elect the most unprepared, corrupt, untruthful, intemperate candidate in our entire history, one who appears to be a misogynistic, racist, mentally unstable narcissist. The purpose of the EC system is to prevent an unqualified demagogue from assuming Presidential power. In Hamilton's words (Federalist 68): "The process of election [EC] affords a moral certainty, that the office of President will never fall to the lot of any man who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications."

Now is the time to use this

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL**

built-in safety mechanism to prevent a very dangerous man from becoming President. Twenty-one states do *not* restrict which candidate their electors vote for. In these states, it is perfectly legal for electors to vote for the candidate that received over two million more votes, and preserve our democracy.

We pledge allegiance to our nation, the United States of America, not to states. States shouldn't determine the result of our vote. It is not fair nor democratic that the votes of people living in California count one third as much as votes of people living in low-populated states. Democracy's demise under a self-serving swindler triumphing over the majority of Americans can still be avoided.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

~~~~~  
**Unpopular Presidents**  
To the Editor:

According to *americanhistory.about.com*, "Four presidents took office without winning the popular vote. In other words, they did not receive a plurality in terms of the popular vote. They were elected, instead, by the electoral college or in the case of John Quincy Adams by the House of Representatives after a tie in the electoral votes. They were: John Quincy Adams who lost by 44,804 votes to Andrew Jackson in 1824, Rutherford B. Hayes who lost by 264,292 votes to Samuel J. Tilden in 1876, Benjamin Harrison who lost by 95,713 votes to Grover Cleveland in 1888, and George W. Bush who lost by 543,816 votes to Al Gore in the 2000 election."

Donald J. Trump was losing by 1,223,095 to Hillary Clinton several days ago, but now he trails by more than that.

In the November 21, 2016 issue of the *Union Leader*, David

Harsanyi argued that the Electoral vote is more valid than the popular vote. "There are tons of conservatives in blue states, for instance, who do not vote because they understand that the majority around them have a different political outlook," he wrote.

There are also many liberals in red states who stay home because they know that their votes won't count.

Only a little more than half of eligible voters voted in this election.

All votes would count if the popular vote determined who won.

The Electoral College was written into the Constitution by our Founding Fathers in the days before women were allowed into politics, so that won't change. But apparently some states are trying to allocate their electoral votes in proportion to the popular vote in each state, and this might make things fairer.

I don't like the likelihood that Trump will become our president in 2017 any more than I liked it when George W. Bush became our president in 2001.

Dick Devens  
Center Sandwich N.H.

~~~~~  
Praying for Truth
To the Editor:

Recently Donald Trump met with a number of TV media executives and news anchors. The meeting was private and, so called, off the record. Those attending the meeting refused to tell reporters what was discussed, citing their agreement with Trump. So now we have the media making news by meeting with Donald Trump, and then refusing to let the American people know what happened. This raises a number of serious questions regarding how Trump will deal with the press, but more importantly, will the

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

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— Christiane Amanpour (1958-), Journalist

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And Other Correspondence

press maintain its responsibility as the Fourth Estate to objectively and honestly report on the actions of the Trump Administration. Was this a move to intimidate the press to follow the Trump line? The role of a free and skeptical press is critical to the survival of a democracy. Unfortunately, this role has been severely compromised due to the corporate influence over the news bureaus of large media conglomerates, with an emphasis more on the bottom line than on hard hitting in-depth factual investigative reporting.

With regard to an open and transparent administration, I also fear that Mr. Trump, beside manipulating the media, will also snub the American people by holding few if any real news conferences. Considering Mr. Trump's lack of comprehensive knowledge and understanding of most of the issues facing the nation, and even the most basic aspects of how the government functions, a freewheeling news conference format does not fit well with his knowledge deficiencies. I suspect that, if Mr. Trump does hold any news conferences, he will require the questions in advance, like he did during the campaign. He might also restrict questions to only compliant "reporters" who have agreed to his standards given at the meeting mentioned above. A third possibility would be for Mr. Trump to delegate the responsibility of holding news conferences to Mr. Pence, which would be consistent with the delegation of most of his duties to him and others.

These possible actions by Mr. Trump and his Administration to limit and restrict a free and aggressive press should be a serious concern for all Americans. In the absence of a free press being able to hold our elected officials accountable, and keeping the

public informed, we risk becoming a democracy in name only. It is also imperative that the public maintain its vigilance and speak out often and loudly against any attempt to restrict our right to know what our government is doing to us and to others in our name. I fear we do not have men and women of courage holding the reins of the fourth estate. At a time like this, we need people like the great Edward R. Murrow, who took down the demagogue McCarthy, more than ever before. For the sake of our nation, I pray that another Murrow will emerge from the darkness that is about to engulf us.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.
Rich:
We share your deep concern about the utter failure of the news media during this election cycle. We seem to enjoy — revel in, actually — having a degree of editorial freedom that exempts us from the sort of egregious errors committed by our more profitable colleagues.

Though it's more than a little ludicrous, given our resources, we're trying to conjure up a way that our own model might be applied on a larger scale. Nothing to report yet, but it's on our alleged editorial mind.

The Editor

~~~~~  
**Standing Rock vs. Thirty Rock**  
To the Editor:

As a concerned citizen, I'm shipping care packages of long-johns and fuzzy waterproof socks to the folks at CBS, NBC, and ABC News. I'm doing it because their award-winning producers and video crews appear to be suffering from cold feet over making the journey to Standing Rock, North Dakota. Perhaps if we dress them warmly enough, they'll screw up the courage to go there and shoot some video so America can witness what's going on.

As a country, it would be wrong to write off Standing Rock as just another wacko liberal cause when, in reality, it is truly an illegitimate corporate land-grab. Here in New Hampshire, I'm sure there are many from both sides of the political spectrum who passionately opposed and protested Kinder Morgan's attempt to bull their way through Litchfield and other Southern border towns with a gas pipeline. Not to mention the outrage posted by private land-owners and recreational business owners over Northern Pass! Is Standing Rock somehow different because it is "Injun territory"? Does that fact legitimize stealing their sacred land?

And, what about pitting today's National Guardsmen against the unarmed citizens of North Dakota. Is it any different than turning the U.S. Marine Corp loose on you or me for protesting Kinder Morgan? The Constitution may ban military "regulars" from domestic action against citizens, but today's Guard units are battle hardened by Middle East warfare and not distinguishable from active duty troops.

There are currently upward of 10,000 protesters out there on the North Dakota prairie freezing their tails off, and some have sustained severe injury for their cause. So let's get busy, pick up a package or two of those nice warm socks, and send Lester Holt an early Christmas present. Better yet, how about getting on Facebook, Twitter, and email to call out America's Fourth Estate for hanging around the woodstove while ignoring the most significant U.S. civil confrontation since those we experienced during the Viet Nam war!

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.  
*Rick:*  
*We thank you and Larry Brown for trying to ameliorate our own deficiencies on this important topic.*  
*The Editor*

## Dakota Winter

To the Editor:

Back when Lyndon Johnson was in office, the Civil Rights "Ear" of the 60's had trouble with President Johnson's accent. The word was "Negro," which, as I remember, he pronounced "Nigra." It did Mr. Johnson no good to explain that he was, within the limits of his time and culture, being respectful in his use of Negro as opposed to "colored" or other phrases then in use, and still. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is his legacy. The turmoil of that time is a poignant reminder of how the sounds and images of popular culture shape our expectations and world view.

Recently in *Parade Magazine* there was just the cutest little figurine for sale. It was, of course genuine porcelain, and limited to just 95 casting days. It was Chief Running Paws, just the cutest little kitten you can imagine, with a full Indian headdress and genuine faux buckskin leggings on its little paws — a special tribute to our Native American Peoples, a tribute the Standing Rock Sioux know all too well — a plastic caricature casually dismissive of a people who once buried their dead on lands they owned.

So — what does the Civil Rights "Ear" do with the sounds of water cannon and police dogs in a Dakota Winter in 2016? How are they different from the sounds of Alabama in the Summer heat of 1963? It is true that James Baldwin never talked about our "Feather Negro" problem, but his searing indictment of the corrosive nature of prejudice, and its advantages, has no less power today.

On the other hand Otto von Bismarck, that 19th century master of realpolitik, never found it necessary to actually tell people that the "problem" of a treaty exists only for the losers. If you can hear the sound of the drums over the sound of the water cannons



and the dogs, donations and supplies may be sent to: Sacred Stone Camp/ PO Box 1011/ Fort Yates, ND 58538. Include clear contact information on the package. If you can't hear the drums, listen instead for John Donne's tolling bell. What burial ground is not sacred for the lives remembered there: where do the graves of your family lie: will they rest undisturbed?

Larry Brown  
Milton, N.H.

~~~~~

PEOTUS is AWOL!

To the Editor:

It just came to my attention that the incoming Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Services of the United States has been shirking the responsibilities of his position by skipping his daily National Security Briefs. The reason cited for his absence is that he is already putting in arduous 12-hour days to fill his Cabinet. Of course, it probably hasn't crossed his mind that the information gleaned from the intelligence community and State Department during those briefs may not only fill the major gaps in his understanding of the complex and dangerous world he'll be operating in, but may also be of assistance in choosing the correct people for his team. Sun Tzu, the ancient Chinese general and philosopher once said in his *Art of War*, "If ignorant both of your enemy and yourself, you are certain to be in peril."

Now, from the perspective of

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Healthcare by Kafka

by William Marvel

My wife is an extremely busy woman. In order to earn enough money at her chosen vocation — let alone a “living wage” — she usually has to juggle multiple jobs, and I have to assume most household duties so she can cope with her workload. To make matters worse, she also finds it difficult to refuse new chores, or favors, and sometimes I have to intervene and do the refusing for her. She can find little time even for her own basic healthcare appointments, or for the subsequent insurance wrangles that are still common.

Her last annual physical began one of those legendary insurance ordeals that the “miracle” of Obamacare has not eliminated. Since the advent of the ill-named Affordable Care Act she has had to devote a couple of days each year to finding her own health-insurance plan — a process that requires as much information and time as filing our tax return. Even with the subsidy our income warrants, her premiums are too high to afford much more than catastrophic coverage, but she has always consoled herself with the

reflection that Obamacare at least requires full coverage for preventive care.

That requirement would be a lot more comforting if the institutions that provide health care recognized it, but the fatal flaw in Obamacare was its failure to address the two basic underlying causes of the crisis in healthcare costs. The hospital and pharmaceutical industries held sufficient political power to prevent the ACA from including any legislation to ease their stranglehold on the American medical consumer. Meanwhile, the illusion that Obamacare solved the problem only assures that this fundamental engine for skyrocketing costs will never be addressed again. That is what fuels the continued escalation in medical costs and the gradual rise of insurance premiums, which are inevitably returning to their formerly burdensome levels. Now that the government essentially forces American citizens to buy health insurance, the incentives for competition are fewer than they ever were before.

But let us return to my wife’s annual physical. Because she had achieved a certain age, her PCP

advised her to submit to the-procedure-that-shall-not-be-named. That will eat up an entire day for her, but she can only afford to waste a whole day during the breaks at the end of her summer semester, in August, or after the fall semester, in January. She was able to schedule the consultation for the procedure in August, but she had to put the procedure at Memorial Hospital off until the January break. She worried that the lapse of time between the consultation and the procedure might confuse the issue of payment, but the consulting doctor assured her that the procedure was preventive, and was supposed to be covered.

Nevertheless, in September she received a bill from Memorial Hospital for \$114.68 for the consultation itself. She called her insurance company, spending more time on the phone than the consultation took, and came away with more promises that the consultation and the procedure were both supposed to be covered. “Ben,” at Minuteman Insurance, said he would take care of it, and allegedly called the billing department at Memorial, leaving a message on their machine. That call

reportedly elicited no response from Memorial, but neither did “Ben” follow up.

On October 11, another \$114.68 bill arrived from Memorial. A second call to Minuteman fetched another representative who said that “Ben” was not available, and could not call back without first requesting permission from his own supervisor. Perhaps that was why he made no second attempt to call Memorial’s billing department.

Then, in November, came another bill for \$114.68 from Memorial, accompanied by the customary nasty letter threatening to remand the matter to a collection agency. This time, another call to Minuteman did eventually produce a call from “Ben,” who recounted his failure to reach or hear from Memorial. As he explained it, the billing department at Memorial cannot change the coding of a bill to identify it as the result of a covered, preventive service. Such a change has to go to the hospital’s “coding department.” Once again he assured that it would be taken care of, but we’ll see.

We’re still seven weeks away

from the procedure itself. The consultation alone, which took about 15 minutes, has already cost my wife another hour in phone calls, and the excuses for the runaround sound perfectly Kafkaesque. The insurance company’s representative cannot make a return call to a customer without first obtaining permission to do so; the hospital’s coding department doesn’t know how to label a preventive procedure; the billing department has no authority to change a bill when the coding department errs.

Such complexities suggest that we still labor under a system in which hospitals and insurance companies seem to work together to wear their victims down until they pay all or most of their medical bills themselves. The idea that the hospital would even have a coding department has the stench of deliberate obfuscation about it, and it seems equally suspicious that the coding department cannot talk to its own billing department. However, that administrative maze does help explain why costs keep rising, despite the ultimately ineffective legislation our outgoing president regards as his legacy.

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

someone who had the honor and privilege of serving for 24 years with so many fine men and women in our President-Elect’s Armed Services (USAF/ANG), I was very uninspired by his insulting and bombastic rhetoric regarding all things military during his campaign, which to me strongly called into question this man’s qualifications to preside over the most powerful military force in history and control the precious lives of our sons and daughters of which

it is comprised.

I will not forget that President-Elect Trump (a chickenhawk who managed to avoid service) ridiculed Senator John McCain for having been taken prisoner during the Vietnam Conflict; condoned torture as a means to extract intelligence from enemy combatants; berated veterans with PTSD, labeling them weaker than those without; called for the indiscriminate bombing of the Middle East and arrogant-

ly and absurdly claimed to know more than his generals.

Frankly speaking, I am no more inspired by the new Commander-in Chief, nor find him any more qualified for the position now than I found him during his campaign. He will, though, assume that role on January 20, 2017, which is rapidly approaching. He best start learning by getting his ignorant AWOL backside off his “Thank You Tour” and into the briefing room.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.
Wayne:
Tell it.
The Editor

Who’s Clueless?

To the Editor:
During the June 2016 Democrat [sic] town hall meeting in Elkhart, Indiana, President Barack Obama received a question from a steel worker about pending job losses as a result of

Carrier Corporation’s planned move to Mexico. Obama, in typical fashion, responded by criticizing Donald Trump. He said: “When somebody [Trump] says that he’s going to bring all these jobs back, well how exactly [is he] going to do that? What [is he] going to do? There’s no answer to it.” Obama then exclaims: “[Trump] just says: ‘I’m going to negotiate a better deal.’.. “[How’s he] gonna do that? What magic wand do you [Mr. Trump] have?”

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How the conquering Trump makes fakery real

by Jim Hightower

All hail Augustus Trumpus! All hail the American Putin, whom none can criticize! All hail the All Knowing One, who reveals “realities” that aren’t there and finds “facts” that mere mortals cannot detect.

Once again, The Amazing Donald has demonstrated his phantasmagoric power of perception, having found a new outcome

in November’s election that others haven’t seen. Trump has been greatly perturbed by the official results, which showed that while he won the electoral college majority, he was not the people’s choice. Instead, Hillary Clinton won the popular balloting by a margin of more than two million votes. Growing increasingly furious at this affront to his supernatural sense of self, the master of factual flexibility went on Twitter

with an amazing revelation: “I won the popular vote,” decreed our incoming Tweeter-in-chief!

Wow, how did he turn a two-million vote loss into a glorious victory? “I won,” he tweeted, “if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally.”

Wow again! Millions? You’d think such a massive conspiracy, with millions of illegal voters in line at thousands of precincts, would’ve been noticed by election

officials, GOP poll watchers, and the media. How did Trump find this truly-incredible “fact”?

It seems he channeled it from the mysterious Tweetasphere, specifically from a Texas conspiracy hound who had earlier posted a tweet declaring: “We have verified more than three million votes cast by non-citizens.” But this guy turns out to be part of a right-wing fringe group chasing non-existent voter frauds — ex-

actly none of those three million “illegal” votes have been verified. Stunned that Trump would cite his tweet as proof, he asked sheepishly: “Isn’t everything on Twitter fake?”

Get used to it — fakery is reality for America’s next president, Augustus Trumpus.

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What better way to reveal the incredible mistake America made twice no less by electing an inexperienced, wet behind the ears, clueless academic as president. This is a teaching moment: the Presidency is no place for on the job training!

Any businessman with even limited experience knows it doesn’t take a magic wand to negotiate, it takes hard work, experience and honest talk. Playing hard ball if necessary. Hillary never discussed nor revealed her plan for keeping jobs here. My guess? She never had a plan. In Elkhart Indiana Obama exhibited his ignorance in business by essentially claiming that to keep these jobs here he would require a magic wand. Trump? He nailed it: “I will negotiate a better deal!” At what cost? A tax break. No welfare, no gifts, a tax break that allows Carrier to keep more of its hard earned money. Money that will be better spent in Carrier’s hands than had it remained in government’s hands. Carrier will likely use their money to create more wealth...for America. In this election America got it right this time.

In November of 2016, weeks before Trump’s official swearing in as our next President, he and his VP Mike Pence met with Carrier Corporation and obtained

commitments that Carrier would retain 1000 jobs in Indiana. One thousand jobs! No magic wand, just hard ball negotiations based on mutual respect and experience. Hold on America, we are on the verge of being great again!

Dave Rivers
Thornton N.H.

Dave:

We sincerely hope that before you sign any contracts you find a friend or hire a lawyer to read the fine print for you. Those 1,000 jobs are more like 800, and they’re costing Indiana taxpayers \$8,700 each.

Meanwhile, your hero The Donald just made every state government hostage to the next CEO who feels like shaking down the state where his satanic mill is located. Speaking of CEOs, the Presidency is not one; furthermore, governments are not businesses and should not be run as such — not so long as citizens can’t be fired, anyway.

Thanks for the insight, though, into the alleged thought processes of a red-blooded Trump supporter.

The Editor

He May Surprise Us

To the Editor:

After reading the November 11th issue of the Gazette, I felt compelled to write.

I understand President Elect Trump is not the popular choice

for our country and yes, the discourse between him and his opponents was less than professional.

I suggest that we give him every opportunity to succeed. Let’s wait and see how it plays out because actions speak louder than words. Who knows, he may actually surprise the nation.

Eric Marks
Amador City, Calif.

Eric:
That’s exactly what we fear.
The Ed.

~~~~~

## Time for the Grown-ups to Act

To the Editor:

The spoiled brats have the run of the house. They’ve invited their over-privileged friends to join the party and take what they want while they can. Unsupervised, they are about to wreck our Home of Democracy. It’s time for grown-ups in the Electoral College to act, as they were mandated when it was written into our Constitution, and prevent this catastrophe. They must elect someone else to be President.

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, CA

~~~~~

Alligators in the Swamp?

To the Editor:

Senator Sherrod Brown recently said “not only is Trump not draining the swamp he is adding

alligators to it”.

Now that the election is over and the dust is settling Trump’s dirty deeds and falsehoods are rising to the surface and there is nothing muddy about who will win and who will lose under a Trump administration. The negative consequences of a few of his department secretary appointments will fall on the people he campaigned to protect. The connection between what Trump promised and what he is gearing up to do is very murky at best.

Let’s look at how his rogue’s gallery of appointments will not help to “bring us together” or “have the back of the working class”.

DeVos, at Education made her billions with Amway, the quasi Ponzi scheme, targeting the working class.

Mnuchin, at Treasury made millions by buying a distressed bank during the “great recession” and unfairly, if not illegally, foreclosing on thousands of working class homes. Can billionaires understand the struggles of the working class?

Price, at Health and Human Services opposes all elements of Obamacare and wants to privatize Medicare and provide seniors with vouchers to buy medical insurance. Goodbye protection

against lifetime coverage caps and higher premiums for women, hello vouchers that don’t keep pace with medical cost increases. How will these actions help the working class?

Then we have Sessions for Attorney General: anti-union, pro free trade and actively anti-gay and civil rights.

Let’s not forget Pence’s attempt to allow discrimination against Gays in Indiana. He wants to defund Planned Parenthood. He is also strongly anti-abortion and when in the U.S. House sponsored a bill to use the funds for Aids drug research for a program to convert Gays back to Straight! How can these attitudes bring us together?

Senator Brown is right Trump is not draining the swamp. He is wrong about the alligators, it is poisonous snakes that are being added.

Dave Potter
North Hampton, N.H.

~~~~~

## About That Swamp

To the Editor:

I think we need to remember that if you drain a swamp, you end up with snakes, walking catfish, alligators, and muck.

Ken Fowle  
Hillsborough, 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, DECEMBER 11	MONDAY, DECEMBER 12	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
2013—Glenn Beck calls House Speaker Boehner “one of the prime examples of worthless, worthless Republicans,” and Senate Minority Leader McConnell “the biggest two-faced liar I’ve ever seen.” 2006—On national TV, President George W.[MD] Bush denies that he was ever “a knee-walking drunk.” 2000—The Supreme Court hears <i>Bush v. Gore</i>. 1998—President Clinton begs forgiveness for his sins, but gets three Articles of Impeachment instead. 1981—Soldiers of the U.S.-backed Salvadoran government murder 900 villagers at El Mozote. 1960—Seeing at the last minute that JFK has his wife and kids with him, Belmont, N.H. resident Richard Pavlick defers his plan to crash into the President-elect’s car with his dynamite-laden Buick. 1951—Days after slipshod coal dust removal techniques are approved by state inspectors, the New Orient mine in West Frankfort, Ill., blows up, killing 119 miners. 1917—Found guilty at a court-martial after a race riot in Houston, 13 black are hanged simultaneously. 1836—The House of Representatives passes Rep. Charles Atherton’s (D-N.H.) “gag rule” prohibiting discussion of slavery. 1792—The French Convention tries King Louis XVI, aka “Louis le Dernier,” for treason.	2005—“I think we are welcomed [in Iraq],” says George W.[MD] Bush, “but it was not a peaceful welcome.” 2000—The Supreme Court selects George W.[MD] Bush as the 43rd President of these disunited states. 1998—For good measure, Congress whups a fourth article of impeachment on Pres. Clinton. 1985—Arrow Air Flight 1285 crashes at Gander, killing 248 U.S. paratroopers and eight crew. Islamic Jihad claims credit, which a sketchy U.S. investigation attempts to deny. 1984—Georgia prison officials electrocute Alpha Otis Stephens a second time, after their first effort fails. 1983—Nancy Reagan sits on Mr. T’s lap and kisses him on the scalp. 1983—At a Boston trade show, “New Trends in Missiles,” anarchists turn loose 1,000 cockroaches, symbolizing the winners of a nuclear war. 1950—Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-Bushmills) kicks columnist Drew Pearson in the groin. 1937—Japanese biplanes attack and sink the <i>U.S.S. Panay</i>, a 191-foot gunboat, on the Yangtze River; 3 sailors die, 43 are wounded. 1927—Threatened with impeachment by legislators, Oklahoma Governor Henry Johnston calls out state troopers to stop them. 1776—Fearing the British will take Philadelphia, the Continental Congress gives dictatorial powers to Washington and flees.	2003—U.S. troops drag Saddam Hussein out of a hole in the ground, so final victory in Iraq must be imminent. U.S. death toll so far: 547. 2000—Al Gore decides he’d rather be righteous than be president. 1988—In Texas, Ray Landry’s death is delayed 14 minutes when a tube falls from his arm and lethal chemicals spray across the room. 1978—The Susan B. Anthony dollar is released to an anxiously awaiting public. 1974—Defecting oceanographer Slava Kurilov leaps from a Soviet cruise ship, swims for three days, and reaches the Philippines safely. 1951—Harry S Truman lets J. Edgar “Mary” Hoover frighten him into agreeing to purge “disloyal” government workers. 1949—An American League proposal to legalize the spitball fails. 1937—The Nanjing Massacre begins. 1932—In the visitors gallery of the U.S. House, deranged sporting goods store clerk Martin Kemmerer brandishes a .38 revolver and demands twenty minutes to speak. Rep. Melvin Maas (R-Minn.) talks him into dropping the gun. 1864—Paraguay declares war on Brazil; by war’s end half its population is dead. 1774—Paul Revere rides to Portsmouth with news that the export of powder and arms to America have been prohibited.	2012—N.H.-born Adam Lanza shoots his gun-enthusiast mother, six other adults, and 20 kids at a Newtown, Conn. school. 2008—“This is a farewell kiss from the Iraqi people, you dog,” yells Muntadhar al-Zaidi, as he flings his shoe at George W.[MD] Bush. 2005—George W.[MD] Bush blames his Iraq War on “faulty intelligence.” 1987—Chrysler admits it sold thousands of used cars as new ones. 1986—Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager begin a nine-day, non-stop, around-the-world flight. 1973—Richard Nixon personally thanks the U.S. head of Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s Unification Church for his support. 1972—The last men leave the moon. 1970—Shipyards workers strike against the Commie government in Gdansk, Poland. 1942—The second of two giant Soviet propaganda planes crashes, again due to misadventure. 1911—Roald Amundson beats Robert Scott to the South Pole. 1907—The seven-masted schooner <i>Thomas W. Lawson</i> runs aground off Cornwall, resulting in the world’s first major oil spill. 1906—The <i>U1</i>, Germany’s first submarine, goes into service. 1774—Local militiamen seize powder and arms from Fort William and Mary, near Portsmouth.	2003—A Robinson R22 helicopter loses power over Redlands, Calif., and crashes onto a city street. Miraculously, only the pilot dies. 2000—Sen. Phil Gramm gives Enron the energy futures deregulation it wants, hidden in an appropriations bill. One year later Enron is bankrupt. 1997—Paula Jones’s lawyers maneuver Bill Clinton into signing a legal document claiming he’d not had sex with government workers. 1989—Sicilian-born sculptor Arturo Di Modica installs a 16-foot long, 3.5-ton bronze bull in the middle of Broad Street in New York, in front of the Stock Exchange — without a permit. 1986—Bill Casey, CIA director, suffers a handy seizure, preventing him from testifying about Iran/Contra. 1983—Ed Meese denies Ebenezer Scrooge exploited Bob Cratchit. 1969—The Mormon Church reaffirms its “no black priests” policy. 1967—A 2.5 mm-deep defect collapses the 39-year-old Silver Bridge over the Ohio River, killing 46. 1966—Walt Disney dies in Los Angeles. Contrary to rumor, his remains are burned, not frozen. 1960—Palm Beach police arrest N.H. resident Richard Pavlick before he can kill John F. Kennedy with his dynamite-laden Buick. 1922—The President of Harvard defends its policy of banning black students from dining rooms and residence halls.	2013—Scott Brown’s law partner announces that the former Senator has packed his carpetbag and is moving to New Hampshire. 2005—<i>The New York Times</i> reports that the NSA has been tapping U.S. telephones without a warrant. 2001—U.S. troops at Tora Bora ask for help catching Osama bin Laden. Donald Rumsfeld denies their request; Osama walks. 1988—Bush #41 nominates notoriously boozy womanizer Sen. John Tower [R-Texas] to run the Department of Defense. His confirmation hearings do not go well. 1988—Rochester, N.H.’s most famous native, perennial Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, is convicted of tax and mail fraud. 1965—Gen. Westmoreland, already commanding 200,000 men in Vietnam, asks for another 243,000. 1960—Two airliners collide over Manhattan killing a total of 134. 1944—Hitler overrules his generals and mounts a massive attack in the Ardennes Forest. He shoulda listened. 1835—A two-day fire destroys 674 buildings in New York, bankrupting insurance companies and kicking off the Depression of 1837. 1811—New Madrid, Missouri, is hit by the first of a series of powerful earthquakes. 1773—“Sons of Liberty” disguised as Mohawks dump 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor.	2010—Street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi sets himself afire, thereby igniting the Tunisian Revolution and the subsequent Arab Spring. 2006—Bill Kristol, on “Fox News Sunday,” says “Barack Obama is not going to beat Hillary Clinton in a single Democratic primary. I’ll predict that right now.” 1998—Pres. Clinton attempts to distract from his impeachment by using up half the Pentagon’s inventory of cruise missiles in Iraq. 1996—Peruvian guerrillas crash a party at the Japanese embassy in Lima, take hostages, and stay for four months. 1967—Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt goes for a swim in heavy surf and disappears. 1960—An Air Force C-131 crashes into a steepie in Munich, then falls onto a trolley car killing all 20 on the plane, 18 in the trolley, and 11 more on the street. 1944—Adm. “Bull” Halsey sails the 3rd Fleet into a typhoon. Three destroyers sink; nine other ships are damaged, 100 aircraft are lost, and 790 sailors die, mostly by drowning. 1927—Hit off Provincetown by the Coast Guard destroyer <i>Paulding</i>, the U.S. sub <i>S-4</i> sinks. Six of the 40 aboard survive the initial sinking but can’t be rescued in time. 1862—Gen. Grant issues an General Order No. 11, barring “Jews and other unprincipled traders” from his district.
1:48 8:11 8:46 2:30	2:44 9:05 9:42 3:26	3:37 9:58 10:36 4:19	4:30 10:49 11:29 5:12	5:22 11:41 6:03	6:14 12:20 12:32 6:54	7:06 1:12 1:24 7:45
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18	MONDAY, DECEMBER 19	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

2005—“Not only can we win the war in Iraq—we are winning the war in Iraq,” says George W.[MD] Bush, 962 days after “Mission accomplished.”

2004—“America’s Most Wanted’s” John Walsh says he most wants Jahbir and Alfonso Fowle caught.

2000—“If this were a dictatorship,” says George W.[MD] Bush on CNN, “it’d be a heck of a lot easier, just so long as I’m the dictator.”

1996—G-Man Earl Pitts is arrested for moonlighting for the KGB.

1972—Richard Nixon begins Operation Linebacker: 12 days of B-52 strikes against North Vietnam. SAMs shoot down three Stratofortresses on the first night.

1957—The first watts of nuclear-generated electricity begin lighting up used car lots and neon signs.

1946—Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker flies over Broadway scattering Damon Runyon’s ashes.

1941—Outnumbered 10 to one, U.S. forces lose Guam to the Japanese.

1917—Congress submits the 18th Amendment to the states for their approval. After it passes, Prohibition begins.

1867—Differing track widths cause a train to derail in Angola, N.Y. One wooden car drops 40 feet and catches fire; 49 passengers burn to death.

1865—The 13th Amendment goes into effect: slavery and involuntary servitude are abolished in the U.S.

2007—A fire breaks out near “Dick” Cheney’s office. Probable cause: spontaneous inhuman combustion.

1998—As Bill Clinton is being impeached for some hanky-panky, Speaker-elect Bob Livingston resigns to cover up a bit of his own.

1984—Due to a work speedup, 27 coal miners are killed in Utah.

1974—Norris Cotton finagles a bill giving New Hampshire’s senior Senator the right in perpetuity to commandeer Daniel Webster’s old desk.

1973—Johnny Carson makes a joke about a non-existent toilet paper shortage, inadvertently causing one.

1946—The Viet Minh take on the French in Indo-China.

1944—Primarily due to bad generalship, two-thirds of the 106th Infantry, comprising 8,000 men, must surrender during the Battle of the Bulge.

1941—Ex-corporal Hitler takes direct command of the German Army.

1910—Spurred on by the Baltimore *Sun*, that city mandates the racial segregation of residential areas.

1907—A coal mine explosion kills 239 in Jacobs Creek, Pa.

1865—South Carolina passes a law requiring all black “servants” to sign contracts with their “masters” and be “polite” while working dawn-to-dusk.

1776—Thomas Paine’s *American Crisis* is published; “These are the times that try men’s souls”

2002—The ten largest U.S. brokerage houses cough up \$1.44 billion in fines rather than risk a trial over charges that they fleeced their customers.

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

1989—The U.S. invades Panama to arrest ex-CIA asset Manuel Noriega.

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

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

1978—Richard Nixon’s former Chief of Staff H.R. “Bob” Haldeman is released from prison after 18 months.

1960—CIA chief Allen Dulles meets with bigwigs from Standard Oil, Texaco, ITT, Domino Sugar, and other big U.S. corporations, who instruct him to overthrow Fidel Castro.

1786—Hannah Ocuish, a cognitively-impaired 12-year-old Pequot Indian girl, thanks the executioner for his kindness before she’s hanged.

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

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

2006—Saparmurat Niyazov’s term as Turkmenistan’s President for Life ends. He leaves a legacy of many gold-en statues of himself.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1956—Montgomery, Ala. buses desegregate—the boycott worked.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2004—NASA reports that the asteroid Apophis has one chance in 233 of hitting Earth in 2029.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1972—B-52 tailgunner Albert E. Moore becomes the last man to down a MiG 21 with machine guns.

1971—Her airliner having fallen apart after being hit by lightning two miles above the Amazon, Juliane Koepecke, 17, falls into the jungle and survives with minor injuries.

1970—Nine G.I.’s are KIA and 9 WIA by “friendly fire” in Vietnam.

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

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

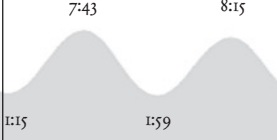
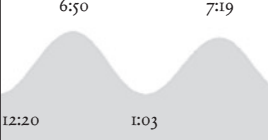
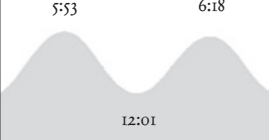
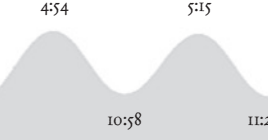
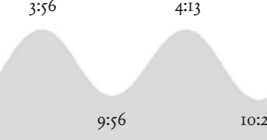
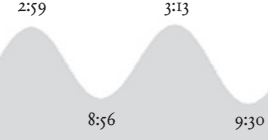
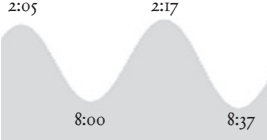
1913—Thugs hired by copper bosses yell “Fire” during a Christmas party in Calumet, Mich.’s Italian Hall. In the ensuing panic, 73 people die, including 59 children.

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

1883—Maj. Henry Rathbone, increasingly deranged since his stabbing by John Wilkes Booth during the Lincoln assassination, murders his wife.

1865—In Pulaski, Tenn., the Ku Klux Klan is founded.

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



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