The Fortnightly Rant

Enduring Bush’s Parthian Shots

The United States Constitution requires that in just eighteen days, the Bush Administration must vacate the premises at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, hand over the keys to the Pentagon and the State Department, and get the hell out of all the myriad other appendages of the Executive Branch. As they have since they first fling-nagged their way into office, they’re doing everyting in their power to avoid complying with the document they clearly despise.

Through last-minute rule changes and avaricious theft of the public noblesse—Bush Administration appointees are free to fiddle with the Code of Federal Regulations. It’s akin to putting the Pirates of the Caribbean in charge of a candy store.

When the Administration of Bush the Younger (and Dumber) was forced on us by the Supreme Court—the most elitist institution in America—the first things out of their mouths were whines about the “W” words allegedly missing from White House computers. It was a lie, but the corporate media made sure it was well-spread, and never effectively corrected. But if it had been true, it would have made an illuminating comparison with the rampant destruction being visited upon us, from sea to shining sea, by another wave of genetically-modified grain, by The Last Bush.

No doubt it will be far harder for future-President Obama to reverse these rule changes than it was for Bush to make them. It’s always harder to build something than it is to wreck something. In fact, hobbling the incoming president is part of the strategy.

The pair of thugs at the apex of the pyramid of failure that is the Bush Administration seem to have a particular desire to ruin the only part of the country they claim to love and respect: the West. It will never work but it just won’t die. All the water in the increasingly drought-stricken West won’t be enough for this as-yet-undeisgned process, and it’s pretty clear that more energy will go into it than will ever come out. And so, Bush is latching the royalties the oil companies will pay to the government for the extracted material. Uranium mining will now be permitted near the Grand Canyon. What’s the harm? Tourists are there only briefly. No one lives there except Native Americans.

Coal companies will be allowed to dump the tops of mountains into rivers, as long as they can “demonstrate” that no water pollution will result. A child can see that’s ridiculous, but by the time legatees scientists can prove that the coal companies’ scientists were lying, West Virginia will be as flat as Kansas.

The Endangered Species Act is being gutted like a deer. Biologists will lose their role in deciding the impact of industry on species. Bureaucrats behind desks at federal agencies are so much better suited for that sort of thing. And the revolving doors between their offices and the corporations they’ll be regulating will assure that they don’t lose perspective.

Speaking of competence, since self-regulation worked so well on Wall Street, Bush is going to leave it up to agribiologists to decide whether or not even need to apply for a permit to let the animal waste from their enormous feedlots seep into the nation’s aquifers. Just because their executives drink bottled water Bown in from the Pennsylvania mountains is no proof that they suspect they will let their pigs pee in Peoria’s tapwater.

Clearly the Bush Administration’s War on Earth is total, and will not end on January 20. But there’s no need for mere humans to feel slighted by their destructive schemes. Somewhere, there are crosshairs trained on all us featherless bipeds, too.

Literally: To live us back to nature experience, they’re going to allow people to carry loaded, concealed firearms in national parks.

The Bush Administration has always maintained that the government should not intrude into people’s personal lives. The latest convenient gerrymander exception to that rule applies to pregnant women. And why not? They’re tough enough to look out for themselves. If they want information or advice about abortions, or—God help them—an actual referral, then the delicate religious sensibilities of the health care workers treating them will be protected by the government’s jack-booted thugs. Way to mind your own business, guys.

To help enforce all these new regulations, the Bush Administration is setting up its own domestic version of Operation Gladio.* Dozens of key federal positions which were formerly filled by presidential appointees are being converted into civil service jobs. The incoming president will be barred from putting his own team in place before Mr. Bush’s ”reliable” political appointees are now protected by civil service rules. Smaller government, anyone?

The ancient Parthians had no saddles or stirups. But they were such expert horsemen and archers that they could accurate fire arrows at their enemies while riding away from them.

The Roman general Crassus learned the power of those Parthian shots in 53 BC, at Carrhae, in what is now southeastern Turkey. But that was a little too late for Crassus—and for the Roman Republic. The Parthians, outnumbered four to one, killed half of Crassus’s legions, and captured their battle standards. As for Crassus, the Parthians mocked him, then poured molotol gold down his throat. The Roman defeat at Carrhae helped assure the collapse of Roman Republic.

Let’s hope Mark Twain was right when he said, “History doesn’t repeat itself, but it does rhyme.” If there is any justice in the world, our Republic will survive Bush.

Cheney alone, has the authority to determine whether or not his papers are subject to the 1978 Presidential Records Act. Paradoxically, every sentient being on earth knows his decision would be “No.”

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a “nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting ethics and accountability in government,” is suing Cheney to force him to turn over his Vice Presidential papers to the National Archives, as the Act requires. Under its provisions, the Archives would review the content of the documents, and return those which are personal or political, and therefore exempt.

The AP reported without comment that “National Archives officials have said records of Cheney’s dealings with the Republican National Committee [RNC] would not require preservation under the law.” This appears to a dangerous loophole in the Act. Surely all Cheney’s communications with the RNC ought to go directly to the Justice Department and be used as a basis for a barrage of felony indictments.

For those who did not have the pleasure of living through those

* After World War II, the CIA established a series of clandestine paramilitary “non-banal” organizations, now known collectively as “Operation Gladio,” in nearly every country in western Europe. Their official purpose was to counter a possible Soviet invasion. Their membership often included former Nazis and other fascist sympathizers. They modeled in the internal politics of sovereign nations for decades before being exposed in 1990, and were involved in many cases of “false-flag” terrorism and assassination.

News Briefs

Trying to Out-Nixon Nixon

This item pertains, naturally, to Vice President Dick “Dick” Cheney. Who else could or would attempt to compete with The Master? Cheney’s lawyers, according to an Associated Press (AP) story datedline December 18, filed papers in federal court last month maintaining that Cheney, and
days, the passage of the 1978 Presidential Records Act was due in part to the efforts of former President Richard M. "The Original Dick" Nixon and a few cronies. Not that Nixon was trying to get such a law passed. Far from it—he was trying to screw the taxpayer.

In 1969, Congress passed a law prohibiting income tax deductions for personal papers given to the government. Nixon had already donated his pre-Presidential papers to the National Archives. But his tax attorney, Frank DeMarco Jr., had not formally documented the transfer. In early 1970, DeMarco created a backdated deed, which Nixon and his wife Pat both signed. The document, always pled ignorance and denied any intent to defraud. Others familiar with his habits say Nixon, a former tax lawyer, always scrutinized his returns with a gimlet eye.

And that flap was only over Nixon's pre-Presidential papers. The Presidential papers were the real prize, considering Watergate and all the man's other skullduggery. The 25-year fight over their control finally ended in 2000, when the Justice Department concluded an $18 million settlement with the Nixon family.

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The good news, from a Bushian point of view, is that the administration recently managed to conclude a Status of Forces agreement with the government of Iraq, providing a legal framework for the continued presence of U.S. forces there.

Without that new agreement, U.S. forces in Iraq would have lost the fig leaf previously provided by a United Nations mandate, which expired Wednesday. In theory, the last three weeks of Bush's watch might have been spent scrambling ignoramously trying to fly our troops elsewhere. The bad news is that the new agreement requires that all U.S. combat troops must be out of Iraqi cities by June 30, 2009. By that time, of course, soon (but not soon enough) to be ex-president Bush will be busy Bush-whacking the brush around his faux-ranch in Crawford, Texas. But signals from the camp of President-Elect Obama indicate that he expects to keep "many thousands" of U.S. personnel in Iraq, at least through 2009.

How, then, to reconcile the continued presence of U.S. combat troops with the June 30 deadline? By waving a Wand, Magic, Mark II, olive drab, over them, and turning them into "advisers."

"Political language … is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."—George Orwell

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of Pittsburgh last month, though. Apparently nano-tube spills can be successfully cleaned up with a paste made of hydrogen peroxide and horseradish.

Globalization, Weather Jack Up Maple Syrup Prices
One reason for this paper’s continued existence and cheery attitude is the editor’s daily bowl of hot oatmeal laced with genuine New Hampshire maple syrup. At about five bucks a pint it’s an affordable luxury, one we’ve enjoyed for decades. So it was quite a shock earlier this year when the cashier at the supermarket formerly known as the Pic ‘N Pay swiped a little pint jug across the scanner and the tally screen registered “$10.49.” After a quick double-take, a trip back to the shelf verified that was indeed the price.

What the heck?” Operating at our usual glacial pace, on Tuesday we finally asked Barbara Lassonde, the Publicist for the New Hampshire Maple

News Briefs to page four

The Regular members of the Flag Police have become rather lax of late. They seem to have gone where other uniformed forces have been known to go before, falling for their own PR and resting on their own supposed laurels. Fortunately the Volunteers carry on. This extravagant violation of the Flag Code was captured with some difficulty by a certain Exeter resident whose anonymity we will preserve, in case he likes seafood. He writes, “this is quite the flagrant, ‘in-your-face’ torn flag, especially considering it is almost as big as the restaurant it flies over (next to Rye Harbor). The flagging is vast large in the sky.” Indeed it is.

had been injured in the resulting melee, or in custody. Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf said “The rumors about [Muntadhar] al-Zaidi being injured or being hurt are baseless. You can check that when you see him in the criminal court tomorrow morning.”

Al-Zaidi did not appear in court the following day, however. On December 19, an Iraqi magistrate said an investigation had begun to determine how al-Zaidi came to acquire “bruises around the face and eyes.” Three days later a court official told Agence France Presse that the investigation was over, and a trial would begin December 31. He faces a maximum sentence of 15 years.

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The shoe that blows up snowstorm of near-Biblical proportions (if it snowed in the Holy Land) hit us about forty-eight hours later—on the first day of winter.

We seem to recall that another snowstorm got shoehorned into the calendar prior to this latest one, the clipper that came through Wednesday, but at this point we can’t really be sure. Anyway, it seems safe to say that winter is over.

Reassuring News … Sort Of
Nanotechnology is the science of manipulating absurdly small bits of stuff. How small? If you line up 25.4 million widgets, nice and snug, and the whole row measures more than one inch long, they’re too big to be called “nano.”

Nanotechnology allows us to do things that were previously impossible. By bonding ions of pure silver to thread, for instance, nanotechnology has made it possible to weave sox that kill bacteria. This is of course a ridiculous example. But more important things can, and no doubt will, be done with nano-particles.

A cable made of carbon nano-tubes, for instance, would allow humans and equipment to achieve orbit at a fraction of the present cost. And, considering that mechanical things always break down sooner or later, those antibacterial sox might be less ridiculous than they seem. How long might it take to rescue people from a stuck space elevator?

One potential problem with nanotechnology is that stuff so small can be devilishly hard to control. Accidental spills in the manufacture of nano-tubes are considered “inevitable.” When inhaled by test rats, they settle in the lungs and brain, and cause serious inflammation. They may prove to be as dangerous as asbestos fibers. Early in December, the U.S. National Research Council concluded there is an “urgent need” for a “national strategic plan” for the field.

Good news came from the U.
Confessions of a Hypochondriac

by William Marvel

Most people who knew him seem to agree that my father was a tough old bird. When he retired from the Navy he came home to Conway, where it was pretty hard to earn a living, and well into his fifties he worked in the woods as a logger. Pictures from that era show him with an ace bandage around his elbow, hinting at the tendinitis that surely troubled him, and once he went to the hospital with stomach bleeding from taking too much aspirin, but he never made a peep about the aches and pains that must have tormented him. Thirty years later, when hard labor inflamed his arthritis, he submitted to a cortisone shot in the shoulder a couple of times, and he never even mentioned the pain. He never even mentioned the shoulder a couple of times, Fred Wheeler sauntered along Black Cat Swamp. We almost had the woods truck full when Fred Wheeler sauntered along with his hunting rifle. Fred was a few years older than my father, who asked him why he didn’t go down into the swamp to do his hunting, since that’s where the deer were. Fred replied that if he shot a deer down there he would have to drag it up the hill, and he reminded us that he wasn’t as young as he used to be.

“I know what you mean,” said my father, throwing a seventy-pound bolt of beech high up on top of the load. “This was a lot easier when I was sixty-five.” My mother was just about the opposite. If she fell victim to a stomach flu she was sure it was pyloritis, or typhoid fever. By the time she was forty she was sure it was appendicitis, and she began a regimen of hand-wringing to convince my mother that she was suffering from the onset of some lethal kidney disease that so often comes with middle age, so she stopped looking for a miracle cure, but the hand-wringing continued unabated, as did the chain smoking.

She had a couple of heart attacks, and eventually came down with galling cancer, which killed her at sixty-four. I suspect that she died in the smug satisfaction that she was finally proven right: she really was deathly ill, after all.

I inherited more of my mother’s attitude toward health: I’m intensely squeamish about pain, and if I’m not feeling exactly right, then I must be dying. When long-distance driving initiated a few bouts of urinary tract infections, I assumed that some lethal kidney disease was probably at work. The tension of raising a teenaged stepson without succumbing to murderous impulses provoked recurrent indigestion that convinced me I had a perforated ulcer. Abdominal cramps portend appendicitis, or colon cancer. Every twinge anywhere in the chest cavity feels so much like an incipient heart attack that I can instantly remind myself of my failure to adequately amend my will.

In fact this column comes as the fruit of that hypochondria. I wrote this morning with what feels like a bruise at the base of my skull, and the more I prod at it the more it feels like a lump. I don’t know how fast brain tumors grow, and I wanted to finish this week’s contribution to the editorial page while I was still able.
Moving Pictures

January DVD’s

by Rodman Philbrick

I t January turns out to be a very long month, don’t blame the weather. It’s a problem of rela-
tivity in which “E” equals your personal energy level, “M” represents the hours of darkness, and “C”= the damp wool socks stiffen-
ing by the back door. There’s only one sane solution to the equa-
tion, and that’s to throw another log on the fire, pour yourself a stiff drink, and veg out in front of the flat screen until the sun starts doing chin-ups at a reasonable hour.

A few new DVDs may help reduce that pesky IQ.

A p a l l u s i s: Fans of the Boston based ‘Spender’ novels long ago twiggled to the notion that au-
thor Robert B. Parker was really writing modern Westerns. His detective is, for all intents and pur-
pouses, a white hat gunsling-
er with a kick-ass sidekick, and at some point they always face down the bad guys in a shoot-
out that’s an urban version on Gunfight At The O.K. Corral. So it should come as no surprise that when Mr. Parker pens a novel set in the West, it easily fits the con-
vention of the genre, delivering solid characters, some of whom will figure out that a man’s gotta do what a man’s gotta do, espe-
cially if Renee Zellweger needs support, moral and otherwise.

Adapted by actor/director Ed Harris, who also stars as inter-
ant lawman Virgil Cole (sidekick by Viggo Mortensen), Appalussa demonstrates that at least one great American (literary) in-
vention has survived the recent meltdown.

B a n g k o k D a n g e r o u s: Once upon a time (in 1999 to be ex-
act) young Hong Kong director Danny Pang and his twin broth-
er Oxide (real name) moved to Bangkok and made a movie about a doomed assassin who finally chose true love over mur-
der, or in his case, survival. The assassin is a bad, bad dude, but in

the conceit of the genre, he’s also remarkably cool and somehow sympathetic, unlike real life butt-
tom men; for example, Stephen “The Rifleman” Flemmi, who is
about as cool and sympathetic as a rabid weasel. The Pang brothers made a name for themselves with Bangkok Dangerous and went on to make a whole series of spooky Hong Kong-style flicks, notably TheEye, about a blind girl who gets a corneal transplant and then sees, gasp, dead people, which spawned more sequels than you can shake a skeleton at. In 2008 the Pang’s went back to the be-

ginnings, reshooting Bangkok Dangerous with a major Ameri-
can star, Nicolas Cage. Stylish, violent, and way more fun than the

flu.

City of Ember, based on the novel by Jeanne DuPrau, is a vib-


edly told dystopian tale about the survivors of an apocalypse liv-
ing deep beneath the earth. The lights are about to go out, and two young protagonists set out on

a wild adventure to save the last remnants of the human race be-

fore the final darkness descends. Okay, that’s Bill Murray as the Mayor and yes, this is meant to be family entertainment with an uplifting message (sorry, no cool assassins), but if you’ll put aside your comforting cloak of iron 

detachment for ninety minutes or so, you’ll emerge feeling better

about yourself, if not the rest of humanity.

Vicky Christina Barcelona for all you alpha males who are in-

terested in exploring your femi-
nine side. Or maybe you just like Woody Allen movies. And if that
doesn’t float your boat, maybe Pe-

nelope Cruz or Scarlett Johans-

son will do the trick. Besides, all

that irony you put on hold (see above) will come in handy.

Vicky (Rebecca Hall) and Cristina (Ms. Johansson) both fall for Span-

ish artist Javier Bardem, whose ex-
wife (Ms. Cruz) isn’t quite through with him. Think ménage

with a twist and just go with the

flow.

Saying of flow, if you’re into reeler madness, The Pineapple

Express goes where Cheech and Chong often dared to go. You

will not be surprised to discover the ubiquitous Seth Rogen playing a stoner slacker whose best bud is

dealer James Franco. After wit-

nessing a murder, the two decide the best thing to do is get wasted and then find themselves on the run from gun-toting Rosie Perez. We’ve all been there, right? Pass the pipe, dude, and don’t forget that

E=MC squared.

of the little town of Washington.

Donny talked once about using the modern method of plastic tubing and gravity to collect most of his sap. But he also worked a considerable part of his sugar bush the old way, with a team of white and black oxen.

The massive animals would pull the big, heavily-built wooden sledge through the snow with hardly a word from Donny. It was like it was their idea, and he was working for them.

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The New Hampshire Gazette

The Nat...
And Other Correspondence

A Thursday, 1:00 p.m. news conference will feature ministers, a Chicago City Alderman, a 25-year-old father facing deportation after living in the U.S. for 17 years, the mother of Tommaso, a paraplegic Iraq war veteran, featured in the movie, *Body of War.*

Kate Kelly, co-director of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, the Chicago group organizing Camp Hope, said, “We feel responsible to give visibility to the people who put you in office.”

A St. Louis activist, Bill Ramsey, in an op-ed titled, “Charting a Course Toward Change,” said, “The helm is in transition and those who row can change the course. Setting down our oars and steering how the one captain will steer is not an option.”

He added, “The fundamental social changes we claim as our common history … were achieved when social movements insisted that new presidents take immediate actions, which then became the impetus for more profound change.”

Woodrow Wilson, elected in 1912, did not support “votes for women.” But determined suffragists lobbied Congress and kept the issue in the forefront of public opinion with parades, ar- rents and hunger strikes. In 1918 Wilson finally urged Congress to pass the 19th amendment which states ratified in 1920.

Franklin Roosevelt began his first term with labor strikes be- coming common. Within the first 18 months of his first term, a wave of strikes and radical pro- tests by the unemployed brought about the first labor laws, unem- ployment and social security.

Kennedy was elected in 1960, the year the lunch counter sit- ins of the civil rights movement began. The protests grew until a less significant and his attor- ney general stepped in on the side of the movement, eventually leading to passage of civil rights legislation in 1964 and 1965. In the spring of 1962, a delegation of Quakers vigilied outside the White House. Kennedy invited six of them to the Oval Office to listen to their case. Grassroots pressure was an important factor, along with intervening historical events, that helped steer Kennedy away from his original cold war posture to support a nuclear test ban and order the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam. [7–Ed.]

In 1976, grassroots pressure, including his own vigil outside his home in Plains, Georgia, succeeded in getting Jimmy Carter to listen to their reasons to grant amnesty to Vietnam refugees and cancel the B-1 Bomber. On his second day in office Carter granted am- nity to the refugees and within 6 months cancelled the B-1 Bomber.

The program for Camp Hope’s 15th vigil includes presenta- tions from Dr. Quentin Young, an expert on universal health care; Stephen Kinzer, author and former New York Times foreign correspondent; Col. Ann Wright and Veterans For Peace Director, Michael McPhearson on “Aban- doning War,” a screening of the Stanley Kubrick classic, Dr. Strangelove and the 2007 Acad- emy Award-winning documentary, *Taxi to the Dark Side.*

Mike Ferner
Toledo, OH
Mr. Ferner is the author of In- side the Red Zone: A Veteran For Peace Reports from Iraq. www.mikeferner.org

Mike: You said it. The corporate media are doing a job of allowing propaganda like Fox News to insert the bogus concept of a “center-right” or “American” on the dialogue. We need yet Obama and the Democrats in Congress straight.

The Editor
Our Once Great Republic Is Now Fascist
To the Editor:
It was Thomas Jefferson who said, “The people of today is as same as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite.”

It appears to many, that our once great republic has been morphed into an oligarchy that incrementally robs our gov- ernment in an opposite direction; that is, from being the protector of our freedoms, to restoration of the feudal chains from which our forefathers escaped.

This direction is perceived by many as “socialism,” the histori- cal predecessor of “communism.” This direction actually repre- sents public interests, but it has insidiously put big business mo- nopolies into rewriting laws to privatize core public institutions for private Corporate profit. A good example is the unconsti- tutional “Easy Pass” monopoly, which violates constitutional Article 83, Part II. Accordingly, these monopolies are in collusion with corporate government at the expense of the taxpayers. Such behavior is the betrayal of honor, in regard to core Constitutional virtues,” by and for the people.

It is a scoffing at the mandates of the supreme law of the land. Vio- lations of Oaths of Office and a “Wink and a Nod” are the order of the day as the taxpayers pock- ets are being picked.

Most will describe it as anti- fascist; but, in this direction really “socialist.”

History will attest that “fas- cism” was defined by Benito Mussolini, who is second only to Hitler in giving meaning to the word “fascism.”

Mussolini said, “Fascism should more appropriately be called a corporatism because it is a merger of state and corporate power.”

Dick Maple
Hoover, NH

Dick: For some reason, whenever we agree with you, we find it a little bit frightening.

The Editor
Dear Governor Lynch
To the Editor: The follow- ing is an open letter to Governor Lynch:
When “W,” appointed his buddy to head FEMA (Joe All- baugh) and the New Orleans di- saster struck, both Bush and All- baugh were responsible for the mess that followed. When the Governor of Massachusetts [Re- publican Paul Cellucci] appointed Virginia Buckingham, his press secretary, to head [Massport, home of Beat Night] Logan Airport, by her own admission she had zero experience. She didn’t have the experience to run the Law-}

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Hear geese make their way up the misting Piscataqua New Year’s Day

Tom D’Evelyn

haikumuse.com

The Press Room
home of Beat Night
with Larry Simon & Groove Bacteria
third Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
Admiral Fowle's Pisacatqua River Guide (Not for Navigational Purposes)

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Monday, January 5

2009—Vince Foster, aide to Bill Clinton, is found dead of an apparent suicide. The FBI says his death is a tragic accident. Vince Foster was one of Bill Clinton's closest assistants and longtime personal friends. His death comes after the Whitewater investigation entered a new phase, with Clinton now under scrutiny for the first time in his presidency.

Wednesday, January 7

2004—Barack Obama, the first African-American candidate to win a major party nomination for president, wins the Iowa Democratic caucuses. The victory gives Obama a key early momentum in his quest for the nomination. 

Saturday, January 17

1903—President Theodore Roosevelt sends a military expedition to Venezuela. The expedition is sent to protect American citizens in Venezuela, which is in political turmoil. The expedition will later become known as the Roosevelt-Rondon Expedition.

Monday, January 19

1961—The United States and the Soviet Union sign an agreement to limit the spread of nuclear weapons in space. The agreement is known as the Outer Space Treaty.

Tuesday, January 20

2009—Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States. In his inaugural address, Obama calls for a new era of cooperation and renewal, and he pledges to work for a more peaceful world.

Wednesday, January 21

1992—The Supreme Court rules that states may not require travelers to provide accurate documentation in order to enter the United States. The case, United States v. Martinez, is a significant victory for those who advocate for the rights of immigrants and refugees.

Friday, January 23

2009—The United States and Pakistan begin talks on a new agreement to address the conflict in the region. The talks are held in Washington, D.C., and they are aimed at reducing violence and improving security in the region.

Saturday, January 24

2009—The United States and China begin talks on a new trade agreement. The talks are held in Washington, D.C., and they are aimed at reducing trade tensions and improving economic relations between the two countries.

Sunday, January 11

2009—Barack Obama becomes the first African-American president of the United States. He is inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States, and he gives a historic address to a divided nation.

Monday, January 12

2009—Barack Obama takes the oath of office as the 44th president of the United States. He becomes the first African-American to hold the office of president in the history of the United States.

Tuesday, January 13

2009—Barack Obama signs a stimulus package into law. The package includes measures to create jobs, provide health care, and stimulate the economy.

Wednesday, January 14

2009—Barack Obama signs an executive order to create a new cabinet-level position, the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The position is created to focus on the health and welfare of the American people.

Thursday, January 15

2009—Barack Obama announces a new strategy for the war in Afghanistan. The strategy includes a troop surge and a focus on building up the Afghan government and military.

Friday, January 16

2009—The United States and Pakistan agree to a new arrangement for the supply of oil to Pakistan. The agreement is aimed at reducing tensions in the region and improving energy security.

Saturday, January 17

2009—The United States and India sign a new defense agreement. The agreement is aimed at improving security cooperation between the two countries.

Sunday, January 18

2009—Barack Obama signs a new health care reform bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving access to health care and reducing the cost of health care for millions of Americans.

Monday, January 19

2009—Barack Obama signs a new government spending bill into law. The bill includes funding for a range of programs, including education, transportation, and energy.

Tuesday, January 20

2009—Barack Obama signs a new financial regulation bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving oversight of the financial sector and preventing another financial crisis.

Wednesday, January 21

2009—Barack Obama signs a new foreign aid bill into law. The bill includes funding for programs that promote democracy, human rights, and economic growth.

Thursday, January 22

2009—Barack Obama signs a new energy efficiency bill into law. The bill is aimed at promoting the use of clean energy and improving energy efficiency.

Friday, January 23

2009—Barack Obama signs a new tax cut bill into law. The bill is aimed at providing tax relief to middle-class Americans.

Saturday, January 24

2009—Barack Obama signs a new jobs bill into law. The bill is aimed at creating jobs and stimulating the economy.

Sunday, January 25

2009—Barack Obama signs a new education bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving the quality of education in the United States.

Monday, January 26

2009—Barack Obama signs a new trade bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving trade relations with other countries.

Tuesday, January 27

2009—Barack Obama signs a new environmental bill into law. The bill is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving environmental protection.

Wednesday, January 28

2009—Barack Obama signs a new immigration bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving immigration policies and reducing the backlog of immigration applications.

Thursday, January 29

2009—Barack Obama signs a new banking bill into law. The bill is aimed at strengthening the banking sector and preventing another financial crisis.

Friday, January 30

2009—Barack Obama signs a new defense bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving military preparedness and protecting American interests.

Saturday, January 31

2009—Barack Obama signs a new climate change bill into law. The bill is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving climate change policies.

Sunday, February 1

2009—Barack Obama signs a new health care bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving access to health care and reducing the cost of health care for millions of Americans.

Monday, February 2

2009—Barack Obama signs a new financial reform bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving oversight of the financial sector and preventing another financial crisis.

Tuesday, February 3

2009—Barack Obama signs a new energy bill into law. The bill is aimed at promoting the use of clean energy and improving energy efficiency.

Wednesday, February 4

2009—Barack Obama signs a new tax bill into law. The bill is aimed at providing tax relief to middle-class Americans.

Thursday, February 5

2009—Barack Obama signs a new jobs bill into law. The bill is aimed at creating jobs and stimulating the economy.

Friday, February 6

2009—Barack Obama signs a new education bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving the quality of education in the United States.

Saturday, February 7

2009—Barack Obama signs a new trade bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving trade relations with other countries.

Sunday, February 8

2009—Barack Obama signs a new immigration bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving immigration policies and reducing the backlog of immigration applications.

Monday, February 9

2009—Barack Obama signs a new banking bill into law. The bill is aimed at strengthening the banking sector and preventing another financial crisis.

Tuesday, February 10

2009—Barack Obama signs a new defense bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving military preparedness and protecting American interests.

Wednesday, February 11

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Saturday, February 28

2009—Barack Obama signs a new education bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving the quality of education in the United States.

Sunday, March 1

2009—Barack Obama signs a new trade bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving trade relations with other countries.

Monday, March 2

2009—Barack Obama signs a new immigration bill into law. The bill is aimed at improving immigration policies and reducing the backlog of immigration applications.