



Maine Free Press

A Publication of the Maine Independent Media Center
<http://maine.indymedia.org>

An Open Letter To President Bush : A Response That Makes Sense

Dear Mr. President:

In this day of mourning, our sorrow converges as an ocean of tears for the lives lost and the bereaved remaining. Ever present in our minds is the horror of bloodshed, of terrorism, and of war.

We seek a ready national answer that will satisfy our sense of justice and help us feel safe. But we have not yet asked the right questions.

How easily we forget that peaceful freedom is our foremost goal. History teaches us clearly that "justice" without peace is no more than an endless circle of mutual destruction. "Security" without peace is a lie. Freedom becomes an illusion.

Eighteen people chose to lay down their lives for their belief that the United States should be brought to its knees. Until we answer the question of "why?" our response cannot and will not achieve our goals.

Some believe it is not "right" to ask this question now, at a time when so many hurt so much. But the untold numbers of those who may hurt in the future as a result of our actions, or our silence, is overwhelming. We must be brave enough to ask the right questions, that we might discern the best solutions.

I was raised to believe our country stands for the good, the moral, the ethical. Later I learned of the stealing of lands, the breaking of treaties, our targeting of hundreds of thousands of civilians since World War I, our government's pattern of lies to the public, our clandestine wars, ongoing misrepresentations as to our true purposes (financial) in our military involvements in other countries, the international impact of concentrated corporate power in this age, varied losses of civil liberties in the US, the financial corruption built into our political process...

I experienced each of these revelations as a blow beyond description, and joined the growing class of American cynics.

Yes, there is so much good and generosity of spirit in this country. So much so that it gives me a faint hope that we can step outside ourselves and our national connections, and begin to perceive ourselves with new eyes. Until we perceive ourselves collectively as we really are, we will never find the path to lasting peace and freedom.

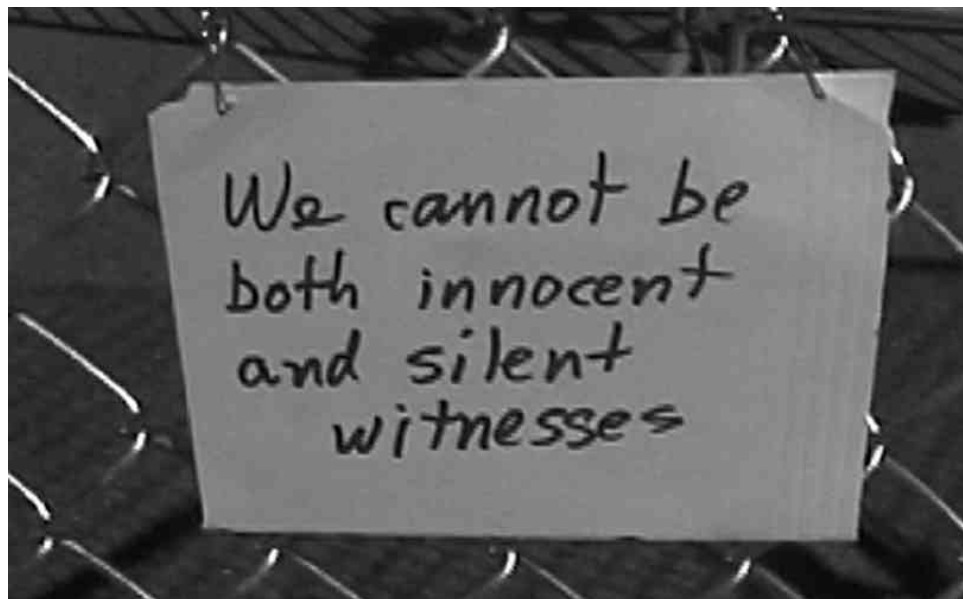
If we wish to discern a wise response, we must first nationally address our history of military involvements and bombing in the Middle East. We have been waging an ongoing, unpublicized war there, without even calling it a war. If the events of September 11 are any kind of retaliation, it ought be no surprise. Not that any such act can ever be justified. But can it be in some small way understood?

We must nationally address our history of on-going military involvements in the Balkans and South America. We must nationally address the impact of US con-

centrated corporate power on our own country, and on the poorest nations of the world. We must be strong enough to be self-reflective, and bold enough to speak the truth, however painful.

If our destination is peace, "payback" will not get us there. We need to be willing to put ourselves in the shoes of those we have bombed in recent decades. We need to consider with humility the impact of our military actions and international military support on peoples around the world. We need to educate ourselves: the same corporations that control the world economy for their own benefit own most of the newspapers, magazines, television stations and networks upon which we depend for our news. We need to search out and support independent sources of media, such as publications like *Mother Jones*, *Yes! A Journal of Positive Futures*, *Z*, and *The Nation*, writings by Maine author Carolyn Chute, and numerous small independent publications, books such as Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States" and David Korten's "When Corporations Rule the World" (revised 2001 edition), web-based news sources such as www.indymedia.org, public access television, and community radio stations such as WERU out of Blue Hill.

If we want peace, we must see clearly with whole eyes. We must make peace with our past, peace with our present, and peace with our allies. More urgently, we must make peace with those who have been ignored by our national leaders, and who are now sending us messages the public will not and cannot ignore or forget.



Our tendency to apologize (without reparations) centuries after our atrocities will not save this planet in time for our children to enjoy living on it. Our immature posturing that insists on being the "winner" at any cost is lethal to the world, and self-destructive in the end.

We must do right, and do it *now*. Peace requires that we face wrongful acts to dominate the world. Peace requires that we face the evil of greed which has caused economic destruction in poor societies worldwide. Peace requires that we radically change our international policies, that we make peace a top priority, above economic gain and exploitation. Peace requires that we

treat other countries with the respect and concern we believe is our due. Peace requires making peace, most importantly, with our enemies.

We are not at a crossroads of evil vs. good. We are at a crossroads of evil vs. peace. We have before us an opportunity the likes of which we will never have again. We have a power unmatched in the history of the known world: the power to choose nonmilitary solutions...and initiate an unparalleled global transformation toward peace.

The price of national self-reflection may be agony. The price of self-righteous military action will be planetary life, our happiness, freedom, and our children's future.

-Rev. Rebecca St. Claire, Orono, ME



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Mission Statement

The Maine Independent Media Center is a collective of independent media makers and journalists offering grassroots, non-corporate news coverage and media education for the state of Maine.

The Maine Independent Media Center seeks to demystify media through media literacy education and by fostering the skills and providing the equipment necessary for individuals, communities, and organizations across Maine, without regard to race, gender, class, sexual orientation, location, physical or mental disability, or politics, to create and publish their own video, audio and print stories in formats including the an web-based news site, community radio, public access television, and a monthly print publication.

The Maine Independent Media Center provides an interactive website at maine.indymedia.org, through which up-to-the-minute information can be posted and made available throughout the world. Acknowledging that most people in Maine, and the world, do not have access to the internet, in addition to focusing on making this technology more accessible and available to all interested, we focus on providing and educating people in other mediums of media, including print (in the form of our monthly publication, the Maine Free Press), public access television and low power radio.

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Media and Democracy: The Maine Independent Media Center

ROB FISH dependent on advertising revenues.

The media has enormous power. The media has the power to set an agenda as well as to destroy one. The power it has to influence and change the political process. The power to enable, and inform. The media has the power to create and sustain meanings; persuade, endorse, and reinforce. It has the power to undermine and reassure. It contains the ability to present, reveal, explain; and also the ability to grant access to participation. The media has the power to prompt and guide reflection and reflexivity. It has the power to listen and the power to be heard. There is no greater force in shaping the public mind. The role of the media is very significant, for they filter and frame everyday realities, through their singular and multiple representations, providing touchstones, references, for the conduct of everyday life, for the production and maintenance of common sense. There is no escape from the corporate media. Media is at the heart of our ability or inability to make sense of the world in which we live. While we become more and more dependent on the mass media, the conventional corporate media continues to consolidate and put forth the message of the economic and political powerhouses and of the status quo.

Media Consolidation

In recent years there has been unprecedented merger among media corporations which has gone unrecognized and unchecked by society and has halted the flow of ideas upon which our democratic society is founded. The global media market has come to be dominated by a handful of multinational corporations such as: Disney, AOL-Time Warner, Westinghouse, General Electric, Sony, News Corporation, Viacom, Vivendi, and Bertelsmann. None of these companies existed in their present form as media companies as recently as fifteen years ago; today nearly all of them will rank among the largest 300 non-financial firms in the world for 2001. Most of these companies also have non media holdings. Many are involved in the nuclear and/or defense industries, and all have much to gain from reducing barriers to trade. Globalization could not exist in its current form without the global corporate media. Every media outlet shares the same principal aim: to expand its share of the market. In addition to being owned and operated by multinational, profit-driven corporations, all are also increasingly

Here in Maine and nationally, dailies, weeklies and monthlies are closing, being purchased by national chains and/or reducing the amount and quality of serious reporting. Daily newspapers in Maine are relying increasingly on the wire services (which sell stories for as little as five dollars a story - a major savings over paying a local reporter to cover an event) for much of their coverage. Maine largest radio stations are controlled by two national media companies: Cumulus Media Inc and Citadel Communications. Cumulus Media owns 232 stations in 47 media markets making it the nation's 2nd largest radio company in terms of number of stations and 8th largest in revenue, including 5 stations in the Bangor Area. Citadel Communications owns and operates 139 FM and 65 AM stations in 42 markets including 13 radio stations in the Maine.

Private entities have developed a virtual strangle hold on the discourse essential for democratic discourse. As a result, the press, once thought of as a counterbalancing force to established power, is nowadays more likely to reinforce it. Corporate interests and limited access to the press are putting the very foundations of our democracy at risk. As George Orwell noted in his unpublished introduction to *Animal Farm*, censorship in free societies is infinitely more sophisticated and thorough than in dictatorships, because "unpopular ideas can be silenced, and inconvenient facts kept dark, without any need for an official ban."

Instead of reporting the actuality, the editors of the major media decide on the content of the press, and reproduce. The major media therefore have the power to impress on the public their own world view, attitudes, and stereotypes by speaking with an authoritative voice of objectivity. Objectivity is bunk. The best any media outlet can accomplish is to strive for accuracy. Choices in what to stories to cover and how to cover are in themselves position statements.

An Alternative: The Maine Independent Media Center

Corporations should not have a near monopoly on the flow of ideas in a democratic society. So, what are we to do. Creating a system in which there is no limit on the discourse nec-

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Opinions & Editorials

MFP Editor talks back to Corporate Media

They that give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. -Benjamin Franklin

In the upcoming months, we will be inundated with a storm of information, some of it will be accurate, some will not. Most of it will be incomplete.

Many voices speak words different from those you hear from the corporate press. Voices of dissent, voices who question how we came to this point, question the policies they view as economic violence that precipitated the violence in NYC and DC. Voices that believe blindly following leaders is wrong. Voices that whisper words so disturbing to think about that they never make it into the corporate media at all. Voices that question the underlying assumptions about how we got here and why. The voice of the activist with the raised fist. The voice of the parent who fears for the lives of their children as they ask "Why War?"

Maine Independent Media Center stands by to act as a carrier wave for those voices. The voices that nobody hears from in the current media environment. Through electronic, publication, and education means we are here to assist all comers in learning about how to *be* the media. How to add their voice to the quiet murmur that now exists, speaking words that may not find a place where privilege and power reside.

Maine Independent Media Center rejects *all* forms of violence against the person - economic, social, and direct physical attack. We perceive that the major media outlets in this country are themselves engaged in a form of violence. By focusing on death, destruction and retribution, by working in direct association with intelligence agencies, by actively engaging in the manufacture of consent, these corporations (they are not organizations, but corporate entities) are actively engaged in violence and the advocacy of violence, with no balancing coverage of alternatives.

It is clear already that we are locked into an escalating cycle of violence. On CNN it has been declared by William Bennet (and repeated endlessly by every nearly every reporter) that "We Are At War" (we just don't know with whom). Repeated images of the "The War Zone" and an un-ending litany of how we have to strike back - hard, fast, and *soon*. Congressman tell us that we will need to "Not get

caught up in these "Rights" issues in wartime" and even Daniel Shore (NPR) seems to believe that this is the way to go. We are told it is only a matter of time before Congress, no doubt in a unanimous vote, declares war on someone.

Only one thing is said about that one question heard so many times during this time - "Why do they Hate Us?" - and that is "Because we stand for everything that is Right and Good about the world."

But nobody asks "Then how come we train and supply some of the most bloodthirsty lunatics and autocratic rulers on the face of the planet, then are surprised when they turn that knowledge on the nation that they see as responsible for the seemingly unending slaughter of Palestinians, indigenous farmers, and poor working people around the world?" Nobody asks "How many more will have to die?"

These actions in themselves should stand as evidence that the corporate charters of NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox, and AOL/Time Warner/CNN should be revoked. News organizations are supposed to provide balanced, un-biased coverage of events (or so we learn in school). If this was the case, there would be no need for Independent Media Centers.

But that need exists. We stand by to help fulfill that need. Please take advantage of the opportunity to fight this violence. Educate yourself, think over events, seek out and listen to all the voices with a critical ear.

Be the media.

-Rob Waite, Maine Free Press



Trashing Trailer Trash Trashers

TOM PATTON other purpose.

As a rule, I don't expect to find out about alarming goings-on in rural Maine in the Sunday New York Times. Corroboration of a story published the week before in the Bangor Daily News or Portland Press Herald, maybe, or amplification, a wider perspective, some inside senatorial info short-stopped by the Times Washington bureau reporter before it hits the streets outside the beltway. That's why I spend \$520 a year on the Times. But a couple of weeks ago an article in the Times Sunday Magazine about a few of Maine's rural poor ("trailer trash" was a term that conveniently identified the subjects) ruined my breakfast.

Actually, the story focused on the residents of small town in West Virginia, the strip-mined, culturally marginalized uplands of Appalachia, one of the most impoverished sectors in the U.S. But frequent allusions to rustic Maine made it unmistakable that the writer intended we should be prominently included in the harsh, black and white image he was developing.

The article was a scare piece, typical of its genre, and shamefully published by the Times. Readers found themselves suddenly apprised of the fact that a new narcotic many times more potent than heroin, a pain killer prescribed for the elderly and terminally ill, is sweeping like brush fire across rural America - most typically northern Maine, Arkansas, and West Virginia - instantly addicting thousands of ignorant, pick-up driving, unemployed "holler" and trailer dwellers who support their habits by robbing pharmacies and 'offing' old people. These backwoods predators crush the medication, a pill called OxyContin, and snort it, thereby inducing a rush that would bring a rhinoceros to its knees.

What angered me most was the obvious advertisement implicit in the article. It was the first that I had heard of OxyContin. I'm reasonably certain it was the first that all but a handful of Times readers outside the medical profession learned of it. The Times was quite simply broadcasting to the English-speaking world that there was a new intoxicant out there that would send even the most inert, hick-town halfwit into ecstatic orbit. Moreover, the drug was easy to find. You simply waylay the next gaunt seventy-year-old you spot shuffling out of the local Rite-Aid clutching his meds, and cut a deal - or his throat. The article served no

Of course, the piece had been fattened on the usual cheesy psychobabble about treatment, rehab, and why the pharmaceutical company that manufactures the drug was negligent for not including a narcotic antagonist such as Naloxone in the compound to reverse the high and precipitate opiate withdrawal. After all, we certainly don't want any senior citizens with ruptured discs, or suffering AIDS patients, particularly if they are in intense pain, getting high. Can't the police or FBI do something?

Yes, unfortunately, they can.

The inevitable result of all this publicity will be that persons who must endure excruciating chronic pain will find their doctors apprehensive about prescribing OxyContin, and, if the historical record serves as a predictor, the DEA will find some way of intimidating medical care-givers and proscribing its legitimate use. Legislative committees will be formed to investigate. More money will be appropriated for faith-based "therapeutic communities" and bogus treatment programs (there are 350 such installations within a one hundred mile radius of Portland, Maine). Twelve-steppers will gather at the old Grange Hall to tearfully welcome new members. Surly delinquents will be remanded to juvie halls.

Meanwhile, 'dope fiends', people who insist upon getting high, will remain undeterred. If they can't score OxyContin, then they will score something else from the modern, virtually limitless pharmacopoeia of illicit, mind-bending, euphoria-inducing drugs available just about anywhere human community gathers.

The same week the article in question was published, the New York Times reviewed a new book by a Cambridge University anthropologist who argues that from the dawn of civilization and descent of the apes - whichever comes first--homo sapiens, have been getting stoned. That every culture known to social science is and always has been into drugs, if not sacramentally, then recreationally. That part of the very definition of human is to want, either occasionally or all of the time, to be high, and that it is futile to undertake to prevent people from ingesting drugs (which include, incidentally, your evening highball or six pack -- if you're

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Trashing Continued from pg. 3

in doubt, your physician will confirm that alcohol is the most deleterious drug of all, killing more people in a month than all the other drugs combined accomplish in a year).

Members of the human species choose when they want to be sober and when they want to be, as I used to tell myself, "transcendent", and there is absolutely nothing authority can do about it except incarcerate and torture them. Trying to talk them out of addiction is fool's work. People go to prison for decades, come out on parole and score before they have had their first home-cooked meal. Only Puritanical sadism on the part of government, religious leaders, and law enforcement, all of whom profit massively from our drug laws, perpetuates this grim charade. We now have over two million souls locked up in our prisons. Most of them are dope fiends. It is madness.

Maine's "trailer trash" take drugs (probably indiscriminately - anything that shows up will serve) because they are poor, jobless, uneducated, without much hope for the future, and the only respite that is apt to come their way will be out of a bottle or a needle. In the movie *Traffic* an adolescent upper-middle-class preppy is given the best lines in the film when he explains to the country's drug czar and father of a teenaged addict, played by Michael Douglass, why drugs are rampant in our society, and why anti-drug enforcement is such colossal hypocrisy.

If a significant number of rural Mainers are strung-out on OxyContin, the way to preclude them from waylaying the

elderly and stealing or buying their pain medication is to provide addicts with the drugs they need, not round them up and throw them in prison for the next twenty years at staggering cost to the taxpayer.

When it comes to addictions, it is well to remind ourselves of our own horrifying dependencies: cheap gas and SUV's (over which we will go to war in a hot minute), beef and pork and artificial chickens, underpaid immigrant labor, advanced medical technology, dumb-ass television . . . the list extends from here to Pakistan, which has a drug problem of its own.

On my way out of Shaw's supermarket this afternoon I bought *The Brunswick Times Record*, whose headline blares "Two Nabbed In Heroin Bust, over a color photo of 14 packs of heroin, a needle and a set of works, "the latest evidence of a heroin-abuse epidemic in Maine, the director of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency said today." The miscreants were from, God help us, Waldoboro and Tenants Harbor. They were apprehended transacting the deal - dig this for a comic metaphor that says it all - in the parking lot of the Maine State Business Brokers.

The editors of the *Times Record* should be ashamed of themselves, deliberately advertising dangerous narcotics in a town with as many teenagers and young adults as Brunswick.

They can't be as stupid as the *New York Times*, can they?

-Tom Patton, *Maine Progressive*

IMCs are under attack

ROB WAITE

Ever since Seattle, when the Corporate News Networks only saw fit to broadcast images of a few violent protesters, and totally ignored the peaceful parades, teach-ins and message of tens of thousands, the Independent Media Centers have brought open publishing and real reporting to the Internet.

IndyMedia organizations provide open publishing, that is, the ability for people to post stories in their own words, with their own pictures, video and audio. No editors. No oversight. No censorship. Just people telling the story as they see it.

During every major protest since then, people have collected stories, uploaded them, and kept the rest of the world up-to-date on what was really happening on the ground during those events. They have been documenting everything from the democratic alternatives to the cynically mislabeled "Free Trade" deception to police brutality, the protesters' response, and their long rides home. When there are no protests, IndyMedia sites present insightful articles, commentary, and coverage on other less dramatic, but still crucial day to day events.

We can measure the effectiveness of this idea by the amount of attention it has *not* received by the corporations, and the amount of attention it *has* received

In Memoriam: Mabel Dennison

Mabel Dennison, of Temple, Maine, died while hiking in Cape Breton, Sept. 6, 2001.

She was born Mabel Chrystie in New York City, April 10, 1932, graduated from the Brearly School, New York City, earned her BA from Radcliffe College, Class of 1954, and took graduate courses in education at Columbia University Teachers College.

Mabel's lifelong passion for education began when, as a nine-year-old, she started a lending library in her home for local kids. She founded and ran the First Street School for kids rejected by the public school system on New York City's Lower East Side from 1964-1966. Growth and learning in a free environment constituted the core of her educational philosophy. George Dennison, her husband-to-be, came to work and wrote about this successful experiment in his celebrated book, "The Lives of Children" (1969). After moving to Maine in 1970 she founded the Sandy River School in West Farmington and helped to liberalize Maine's home-schooling laws.

She worked actively all her life for social justice, economic parity and a nuclear-free world and went to prison for demonstrating for disarmament. More recently she participated in protests against WTO globalization in Seattle and against FTAA in Quebec City. She opened her home in Temple to many activist groups and individuals, housing 40 members of Pastors for Peace on their way to deliver medical supplies to Cuba this summer. For 35 years, Mabel was an active member of the Bread and Puppet Theater.

She was committed to helping people in the community. For more than 25 years, Mabel worked on low-income housing and land reform in Maine, creating the Community Land Trust, with nine housing units for 22 people. While raising her own children, she ran many projects for local children, buying used skis and skates and taking large groups of local kids to nearby slopes and rinks. She helped neighbors and friends in trouble, lending money, babysitting and mucking out barns. With her unstinting generosity, she helped people to press their apples into cider, to get their cars repaired and to send their kids off to a college education. Mabel is survived by her children, Susie Dennison, Michael Dennison and Becky Johnson; her grandchildren, Jesse and Mikayla Johnson and her sons-in-law, Jeffrey Johnson and Michael Romanyshyn; her brother, Thomas Chrystie, and his wife, Lisa, of Jackson, Wyo.; three nieces and one nephew.

She was predeceased by her husband, George Dennison, who died in 1987, and by her nephew, Thomas Chrystie Jr., in 1992.

A funeral service and graveside ceremony were held at the Temple Town Hall at 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, followed by a reception at the Dennison home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Mabel's memory may be made to the Maine Chapter of Alliance for Democracy, P.O. Box 538 Temple, ME 04984.

from governments around the world.

IMCs have been raided, equipment confiscated and destroyed, and non-violent people beaten almost to death and imprisoned by federal agents in no less than 6 different countries. This begs the question "What is it about IMC's that require that they be destroyed?" Could it be that there is something to this open publishing stuff?

Did you know that it is now a crime to take a picture of someone being beaten to death by the cops? Did you? It is. Did you know that it's a crime to publish information about undercover federal agents? So if your organization has information about a person who *may* be a federal agent, that is involved in illegal activity, your only recourse is to, what? Why, go to your local authorities. How comforting.

During the latest actions in Genoa, police "raided" both the IMC center and the convergence center at 3 o'clock in the morning. They claimed they were looking for "Black Bloc" weapons, bomb materials, gas masks, and drugs. After beating 50 people so badly that most were hospitalized and one almost died, they confiscated the following dreadful items:

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**Under Attack
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Kitchen knives, pipes and crowbars from the construction area, staffers' luggage, computers, cdroms, minidisks, cameras, and any other recording devices they could find.

From the IMC site:

"Also the GSF lawyers office was ransacked and the computers destroyed, hard drives taken and the phones smashed -- so much for the law. The computers contained all of the info relating to legal aid etc over the last few days. The carabinieri obviously had their purpose here -- one mission being to search the IMC floor to find something to discredit the IMC media movement."

This is just the latest attack on the IMC network. In Gothenburg, Swedish people involved with IMC there are *still* in jail more than a month after the protest. Here in the Home of the Free, IMC-Seattle and IMC-Ohio have both been harassed by the US "Justice" Department because someone posted a leaked draft of the FTAA treaty -- you know, that wonderful democratic agreement that was negotiated behind locked doors, razor wire and SWAT team cordons by corporate suits and their political flacks. They claimed they were only looking for (non-existent) copies of GWB's security plans.

So, here we have all these media people trying to report the truth of what's happening and all these raids -- each following the same pattern of seizures, beatings and cynical lies -- and how much do *you* know about it? How often have you heard it mentioned on the Corporate News? Did you see the body-sized bloodstain on the wall in Genoa? Did you see the pools of blood in the street that were quickly flushed away? Did you hear any reports from the crowd outside or see the beaten and bloody being continuously loaded into ambulances? Or did you watch their arrival at the hospital where they were all *immediately arrested*? Not on CNN you didn't. But you can still see it on Indymedia.org. At least, for now.

I want to close with this thought, and I want you to think long and hard about it in the upcoming months, as these investor rights agreements, fully supported by the major media players, are being sold to you.

Open Publishing is the concept of stories by the people, about the people, and for the people.

The actions of the Corporate News Networks and Federal Governments *around the world* have been uniformly allied against open publishing.

Who are they afraid of? And *why*?

-Rob Waite, Maine Free Press



**Media and Democracy
Continued from pg. 2**

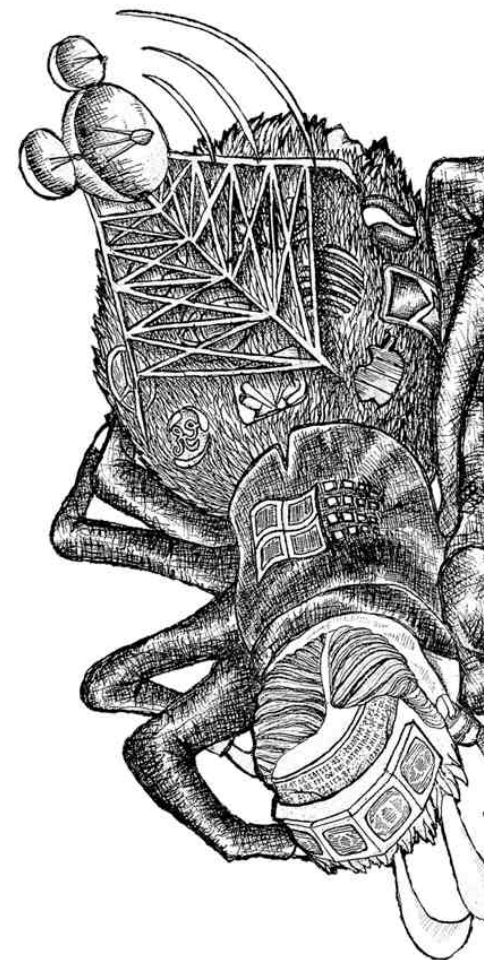
essary for a democratic society. The Maine Independent Media Center was created out of this vision. Initially founded to provide alternative coverage of the protests last April in Jackman and Quebec City against the Free Trade Area of the America's, the Maine-IMC has since spent the past six months developing and fine tuning our vision and transforming itself in a permanent, Maine-focused media collective.

The Maine Independent Media Center is a non profit, democratic collective of independent media makers and journalists offering grassroots, non-corporate news coverage and media education for the state of Maine. We hope to demystify media through media literacy education and by fostering the skills and providing the equipment necessary for individuals, communities, and organizations across Maine without regard to race, gender, class, sexual orientation, location, physical or mental disability, or politics, to create and publish their own video, audio and print stories in formats including the an web-based news site, community radio, public access television, and a monthly print publication. The Maine Independent Media Center provides an interactive website at maine.indymedia.org, through which up-to-the-minute information can be posted by anyone and made available throughout the world. Acknowledging that most people in Maine, and the world, do not have access to the internet, in addition to focusing on making this technology more accessible and available to all interested, we focus on providing and educating people in other mediums of media, including print (in the form of our monthly publication, the Maine Free Press), public access television and low power radio.

Currently, the Maine Independent Center is focused on four projects: 1) Providing Alternative/ Grassroots coverage of events relevant to the people of Maine; 2) Holding Media Literacy/Do-it-Yourself Media Workshops; 3) Acquiring and stationing media creation equipment around the state for organizations and individuals to use to tell their own stories. 4) Developing a print publication

Reporters Wanted!

The Maine Independent Media Center is seeking volunteers to go out into their communities and find stories that are important to Mainers and post the video, audio, photos, or text to maine.indymedia.org or submit it to the Maine Free Press for publication.



Ask yourself, what events are happening in my area that are not being covered in the mainstream press or are covered in a biased manner and then become the media. Sign up on our volunteer list to become involved in this effort. This project also involves acquiring and distributing other grassroots news sources including community radio and other publications. the Maine-IMC hopes to soon provide all community affairs programming from WERU streaming and archived on it's website.

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

The Maine Independent Media Center is hoping with the help of a plethora of other Maine-based organizations to continue publication of a monthly free paper (you are reading the first edition!).

Media Literacy / Do-It-Yourself Media Production

Our society is defined by the media covers events and how we analyze the coverage. While in many countries, media literacy education is an important part of the school curriculum, in the US lessons on media literacy are the exception rather than the rule. These workshops seek to change this dire situation. The workshops will involve two parts:

1) Media Literacy. This includes discussions on media bias, media consolidation/ corporate control of what we see and what we hear, the privatization of public space, media and



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democracy, and alternatives to the corporate media; and 2) Do-It-Yourself Media. This workshop focuses on demystifying media. Participants will learn interview techniques, and the use of technology to create their own media and to tell their own stories. Participants will learn for instances how to use a digital video camera and then how to edit the video and post it to the Internet.

Media Making Technology For All

We want to buy a full size bus and convert it into a traveling solar powered studio and workshop space. The bus will eventually contain a dark-room, digital video editing studio, interview space, small workshop area, micro-radio center, networked computers with an Ethernet and cell uplink to the Internet, and various other equipment. The workshops and IMC coverage of big events will be based out this traveling studio. The IMC also plans to acquire video cameras, still cameras, mini-disc recorders, and the computers to edit the footage and house them in various locations around the state.

Our goal is make these tools of media creation available to organizations and anyone who goes through a brief training. We want to make this technology available to Mainers regardless of their location or income level. Basically the idea is to let communities tell their stories whether the community be a town, residents of a nursing home, high school students, loggers, or an activist group. We hope to strong push the idea that anyone can and should produce media. I imagine high school students exposing how it really is to be a student these days. . . or loggers producing stories on life at the mill or conditions in Northern Maine. . . etc -- you get the idea. It would be empowering for the communities using the equipment and be a real alternative source for media/news in Maine.

So Get Involved!

Please sign up at our booth at the Common Ground Fair, mail in the form below, or sign up to volunteer at maine.indymedia.org. The Maine-IMC desperately needs funds to make these projects a reality. Tax Deductable donations can be made by mailing the form in below.

Thanks again and remember:
Be the Media!

-Rob Fish, Maine Independent Media Center

Record of Jackman border action center during FTAA protests, April 2000



HILLARY LISTER

It appeared to be unanimous - Jackman was a success. From journalists expressing their "true feelings", to people who worked at the hospitality center and communications center for the weekend, to locals from Jackman, to those who stopped by on their way up to Quebec, all left with a positive feeling of the Jackman convergence.

The week started out slow, with a couple groups of about 25 coming through the center and heading up Thursday. The center may have appeared rather disappointingly empty to journalists that first day, who had previously made outrageous predictions of thousands coming through Jackman, but the first day's emptiness was actually quite a positive factor, since it reflected the fact that almost everyone was successfully crossing the border. One man, Carl, was turned back due to an OUI conviction in 1969, and became a bit of a local celebrity, due to the comparison that, if the customs officials were consistent, then George W. wouldn't have been allowed up to the summit.

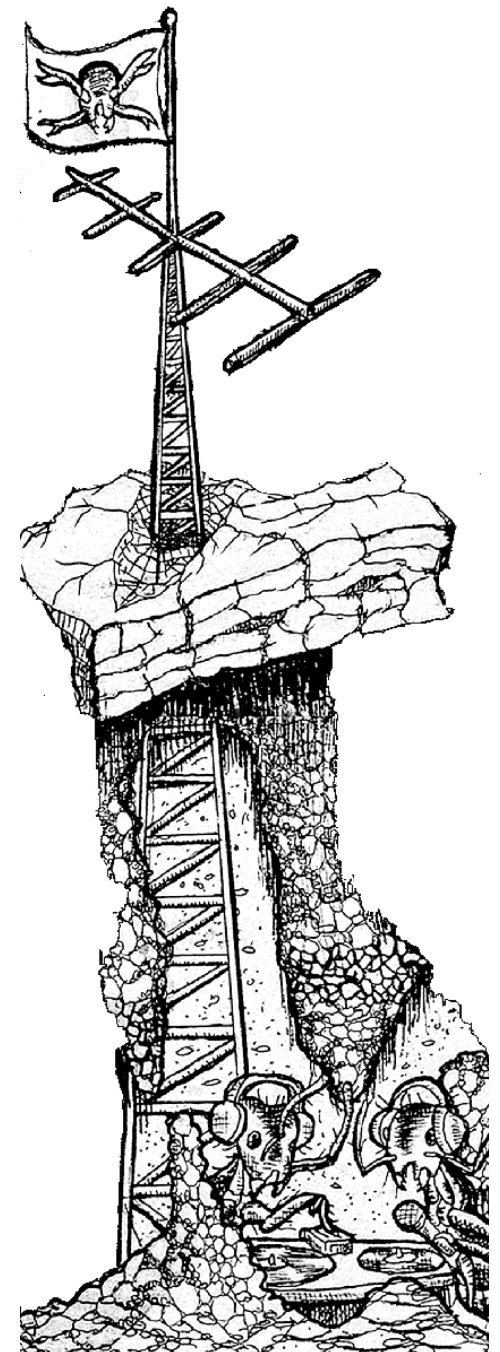
Friday was the day things really picked up. Several college groups, two soundsystems, the Coffeeman coffee trailer, several musicians, and many more supporters, locals, and border crossers showed up. There were probably 200-300 people between the hospitality center, the communications center, and the weigh station that day, plus numerous people passing through and crossing the border. Reporters from all Maine TV channels and newspapers, plus AP reporters and Boston reporters swarmed the area, searching for photo-ops and interviews. The weigh station had a wonderful festive atmosphere with people of all ages

singing, drumming, hula hooping, and dancing. Many honks of support were received from passersby, including many truckers. Down at the communications center, Maine Independent Media Center was up, connected, and active. The sites, maine.indymedia.org, as well as maine.corporateoverlord.com were being continually updated through the day, and the center provided some of the most up-to-the-minute news available, due to direct contact with people in the streets in Quebec (by cell phone) and other independent media centers. There were daily call-ins to WERU's "Democracy Now!" Over at the hospitality center, an antenna was erected, a 0.5 watt transmitter was set up, and Radio Free Jackman 107.0 was ready to go on air (it went on the next morning, due to the fact that the required mixer was being used by musicians that night.) That evening, after dinner, Doug Crates performed. Later that night, as a result of one of the participants at the hospitality center being friends with the owner of the space, an Augusta band, Perpetual Motion Machine, performed in town at the Northland Lounge. Those who were still awake ventured down to Northland to relax, dance, and mingle. This was where support of the anti-FTAA actions by the town became most obvious. In addition to Lee, one of the owners of the Border Riders Club, who had been supportive and amazingly helpful from the start, and the owners of the lounge, Marguerite and Megan, numerous other people who live in Jackman told us of how they really supported what we were doing, that they were very aware of how NAFTA had affected their lives and how the FTAA would be even more damaging, that they thought that the massive police presence in their town was just silly, that despite rumors and fear mon-

gering, they weren't stupid and they saw that we really were just regular people, and a benefit, not a threat, to the town. They went out of their way to be helpful, and talked with us about the FTAA and Maine and the Jackman convergence for quite awhile.

Saturday brought in more people traveling to cross the border, as well as some returning from Quebec City with many stories (and rubber bullets and tear gas cannisters.) Radio Free Jackman went on air, broadcasting interviews, readings of Maine author and activist Carolyn Chute, up-to-the-minute info, and music, ranging from country, to hiphop to punk. A parade to the border and border-block took place, with much drumming, bagpiping, puppets, banners, and support. About 75 people participated in the march and border block, including several members of the Jackman community. It occurred with no negative incidents other than several cases of sunburn. The day ended with a well-attended dinner and after, a bonfire and drumming.

Continued on pg. 7





Jackman
Continued from pg. 6

Sunday wrapped everything up. A couple participants had gone fishing the previous day at a creek in Jackman and wanted to do something about the amount of trash they saw, so on Sunday, a number of the remaining people hiked down to the creek with trashbags and cleaned the space up. Afterward, they were invited to a lady's house across the street for tea and snacks. An amazing amount of food had been donated to the hospitality center over the weekend, and much still remained, so that was donated to a local food bank. Throughout the weekend, a jar had been sitting out for donations to a local scholarship fund, and those monies were donated. The press and police had all left by this point, lending a more relaxed atmosphere to the area. And people made their goodbyes, promised to keep in touch, and headed home.

-Hillary Lister, Maine Free Press

Interview with Jim Hightower

TRANSCRIBED FROM WERU

HY: This is Helen York from WERU community radio and I'm right here with Rob Fish from the Maine Independent Media Center and Jim Hightower.

HY: Your planning to come and talk to us at the Maine Common Ground Fair and also this Chautauqua event and we're all excited about that, but it's kind of interesting because this is the second time in about a year that you've come up and talk to us here in Maine. Are we progressive, regressive, need more of you talking to us or what?

JH: Well, you're willing to have me to start with! Some places won't allow me into town! The reason, I think, is that you are very progressive that Maine has taken the lead on everything, from the Clean Elections Law to Clean Clothes Initiatives to Single Payer Health Care. You have terrific people like Chellie Pingree and other wonderful people here who are in politics, and you folks are active at the grassroots level doing the work of democracy.

RF: You are talking about building a new grassroots coalition across the country. What would their common mission and purpose be?

JH: I'm not really talking about building the coalition but maybe fostering it. No outsider or individual can come into a place and say hocus pocus here's a coalition. The people themselves have got to decide to do it and what we're offering with the Rolling Thunder Chautauqua tour is that we're going to be launching is an excuse for busy progressive, diverse, disperse groups to get together and to come to together around the central theme of our democracy. The central question that faces us today in our democracy is the same one that faced the founders. The same one that faced the abolitionists and the separatists, right on through the populists and the wobblers and into the movements of the 1900s and that is, "Who the hell is going to be in charge - we the people or a handful of global greedheads?" That question has become sharper in our society over the past decade as global corporate power as sought through the WTO, NAFTA, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the MAI all kind of these acronyms of globalism as well as through their monetary control of politics in Washington to usurp our people's democracy and

Maine Independent Media Center Volunteer Form

YES, Sign Me Up to Volunteer for the Maine Independent Media Center!

The Maine Independent Media Center is entirely volunteer powered. Please fill out the form below to volunteer your time and skills to this project.

Name _____
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I will help cover events within (circle one):
 10 miles 20 miles 50 miles 100 miles of my location.

- I can help with:
- Media work:** Audio, still photography, videography, writing/editing stories, researching/critiquing stories.
 - Administrative support:** Running errands, staffing the office, proofing, word processing, and desktop publishing -- all the miscellaneous work that keeps the organization 'alive'.
 - Technical:** Web page design and upkeep, fixing code and adding new web programs, server/workstation installation and repair, database repair, low power radio setup, video editing.
 - Development work:** Event planning, fund raising, grant writing, public relations.
 - Organizational:** Accounting, business management, facilitation.
 - Artistic work:** Graphic design and visual art both for the web site and the publication.
 - Languages:** Translation, interpretation.
 - Legal defense:** I am an attorney, paralegal, law student, trained legal observer.

Other Skills/Comments _____

Please Mail to:
Maine Independent Media Center
PO Box 1444
Waterville, ME 04903


Turn over for Donation Form

that is the one common theme that just about every progressive group has to deal with. It's the question of who's going to be in charge, whether you're fighting for a living wage, fighting against a toxic waste dump, or battling against sweatshop labor. Just about all of these issues come down to the fact that we are all grappling with one tentacle or another of this corporate beast that is in front of us.


RF: Going back the Chautauqua next weekend, can you explain the format and why you chose it as the vehicle to promote democratic revolt?

JH: Well. . . this is our test case here in Maine. We [officially] begin them next January. [We think] there ought to be coalition building events and not just one weekend of events, such as we will have Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday in Unity Maine, but that the groups that get together to pro-

duce this Chautauqua agree to a longer term agreement to try working together. We will have leadership trainings, all kinds of workshops that will go on, but in addition to all the serious purposes let's put some fun into it! Let's put the party back into politics! We'll be having beer and wine and food served at all these events. In fact there is a group called Organic Valley from Wisconsin that will join us and they'll have a traveling organic kitchen that they will send to each of the Chautauqua beginning next year that will work with organic farmers in each location to bring the food in and serve it, so [we will] not just be having food, but also talking about where our food comes from and what's in it and what's not in it. We're looking at [getting] Ben and Jerry's involved with some of the fun parade festival stuff. They're developing a tank that's going to be painted like a school bus to



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*In order to take a tax deduction for a donation, you must have a significant portion (approx %10) of your year's income sent toward donations to nonprofit groups. If you want to make a tax deductible donation, please make checks out to our fiscal sponsor INVERT/ROSC (Resources for Organizing and Social Change). Please make all other checks out to Maine Independent Media Center.

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Turn over for Volunteer Form

WERU Remarks about recent terrorist attacks

TED KOFFMAN

The immediate focus is on rescue efforts and supporting those who are suffering the loss of family and friends. America must take appropriate steps to assure a reasonable level of security for the traveling public. And certainly those responsible for these recent terrorist acts must be brought to justice. No doubt they will experience retribution. Still, as we look to the longer term future, I believe we should fundamentally reconsider America's relationship with other nations. We are the world power. But it is time to re-calibrate America's role in the post-cold world war era. How we express our national interests and use our power can contribute to a more just and peaceful world or fuel violence and kindle more terrorist acts. We can change the world by changing ourselves. "There are no precedents to guide us, no wisdom that wasn't made for a simpler age." (Walter Lippmann, 1914)

Hightower Interview *Continued from pg. 7*

make the point of where our budget priorities are. The Alliance for Democracy has a great inflated statue of liberty that will be a part of it. Patch Adams will be joining with us at all of these Chatauquas with the clown entourage. We're going to have games and as much fun as we can. The Chautauqua ought to be something that people want to come to.

RF: How many of these events are you expecting to hold over the next year?

JH: I think we'll have a dozen of them. We've gotten more than that number of cities where groups have approached us ad been interested in developing them. Wisconsin is on the move. Here in Austin TX where I live we'll probably have the first one here. The Tucson, San Francisco Bay/Oakland area, Minneapolis, Atlanta is on the move. A lot of different places around the country have come forward so we're going to have no shortage of venues that are possible but we'll get it started and if it works we'll keep it going.

RF: Is there a specific action or campaign that you hope to come out of this?

JH: It depends on what the local groups do. Outsiders, in this case myself, can't come into a local area and say, "This is what you're going to do." It doesn't work.... nor should it work. [Local groups] have to decide how far along they are in dealing with this corporate sovereignty that has arisen in our midst. In some places, including Maine, we're going to the core of it --- talking about corporate personhood itself and the irrationality and absurdity of the notion that a corporation can be a person. We'll be talking about the very existence of corporations in terms of the charters they have to get from the state governments. [It is] not only me [organizing the Maine Chautauqua], but David

Kubiak who's done the chief organizing in this Chautauqua effort, and has brought in David Korten, Richard Grossman, Ronny Dugger, Granny D - Doris Haddock; terrific people, thinkers and movers on these issues. [At the Maine Chautauqua] it will have a very strong focus on the core of corporate power. In other places the issues might be public financing of public elections. It might be living wage campaigns. There are a range of different actions the people can take together.

HY: You are a political commentator, and you get to the point, but you always seem to be able to include a lot of good humor, a lot of good fellowship, and I think a lot of people can laugh along with you even if they don't agree with you. How do you manage to approach all of these issues with this kind of humor?

JH: Well, I believe that Mr. Humor is our friend and we progressives need to do more hugging of Mr. Humor and bring him as close as we can to us. Humor allows you to communicate with people who may not be fully in agreement with you, or at least don't think they are, but if you're not so full of yourself or so serious and somber and scolding then you have a lot better chance getting those folks to think about the ideas that you're putting forth.

HY: You mentioned before putting the party back into politics. There's a lot of great food and music. I hope you get a chance to relax and enjoy it.

JH: This is a unique event in the United States --- sort of a people's state fair. I'm thrilled to speak. I'm going to speak on Saturday morning at the Common Ground Fair and then, once I'm done with my duty we'll be doing a book signing there for my latest one: If the Gods That Meant us to Vote They Would Have Given Us Candidates, but then I'm going to take a good two hours and chow down on some of those wonderful Maine organic products and, of course, Maine Oysters.

Maine IMC would like to thank Maine Global Action Network (MeGAN) for their generous support in making this publication possible. MeGAN is a grassroots organization that works to fight and build alternatives to corporate globalization, as it relates to the people of Maine and throughout the world. For more info about MeGAN, and to get involved, email megan@distributed.org.

Rev. Rebecca St. Claire, of Orono, ME, would like to call for participants in a simple but important action. In response to September 11th's attacks and the responses following, she asks that people take a 3x4" card and write a short sentence expressing their feelings, and wear it as a pin. Hopefully many people will start doing this, and we may see that there are more opinions than those voiced by the mainstream media, and a greater person to person dialogue may begin, among people who might otherwise not meet and learn from each other.