



# The Maine Commons

A publication of the  
Maine Independent Media Center  
<http://www.mainecommons.org>

Reclaiming our country, culture and consciousness from corporate rule since the year '01

A democratic alternative to the corporate media

**FREE**

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## Fighting the Fed? American Liberty Dollars Spread in Maine

BY HILLARY LISTER

Want to buy gasoline in Houlton? Groceries in Island Falls? Seafood in Southwest Harbor? Airline tickets in Waterville? If so, you now have an alternative to using Federal Reserve notes, the American dollars that you probably don't think twice about using elsewhere. Businesses in these towns, as well as at least a couple hundred other businesses in Maine, have begun to accept American Liberty Dollars (ALD), a silver-backed currency that came into nationwide circulation in October 1998. Topping the lists for reasons for creation and usage of ALDs is opposition to the Federal Reserve System (the Fed). Proponents of ALDs explain that the dollars are meant to be a give people an alternative to dependence on the Fed's dollar, and bring control of money to the people.

### The Debt Institutions

It has come to be expected that meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and their organizers the G8 will be greeted with large protests wherever they occur. In just the last few months, hundreds of Mainers have traveled down to NYC and Washington, DC to protest these institutions. Many more plan to travel to Canada in June to protest the G8 meetings. Throughout all this, the Federal Reserve continues to meet without any similar sign of opposition; however, all the above institutions share many common purposes, support systems, profiting groups, and structures.

The Federal Reserve System was created in 1913 to become the central banking authority of the United States. Prior to the Federal Reserve act, Congress held the power to coin money. The Fed is a fiscal agency for the U.S. Government and a custodian of the reserve accounts of commercial banks, it formulates and executes monetary policy, and is authorized to issue Federal Reserve Notes (FRNs). The Fed is made up of 12 regional Federal Reserve banks, each of the which is a corporation as well as an independent regulatory agency, responsible to Congress. The corporations' shares are sold to commercial banks within the Bank's district. Shareholders, who are representatives of the banking industry, elect a representative to the Federal

**ALD : CONTINUED ON PG. 9**

## Focus on Community Agriculture



photo credit: Hillary Lister

In this issue we celebrate Maine's growing season with a tribute to community and independent agriculture statewide. Included is an exploration of the increasing distance food travels in today's agriculture economy to get to our table, and listings of Farmer's Markets & Community Supported Agriculture programs in Maine where you can be sure to get fresh and local food.

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COMPILED BY J.C. PAGE

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BY MATT HORA

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alive -- pass it on when  
you're done with it.**

If you are a business owner in possession of a large stack you no longer want, please do not dispose of them, but be in touch with us by mail or email so we can arrange retrieval.

## Electricity for Oxygen

BY RUSSELL ANDERSON

Jim Turner of Winslow, Maine is experiencing difficulty in paying his electricity bill. He is 63 years of age and has a disabling medical condition known as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). He relies on an oxygen concentrator machine that helps him breathe 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This unit has a long oxygen hose which is connected between the

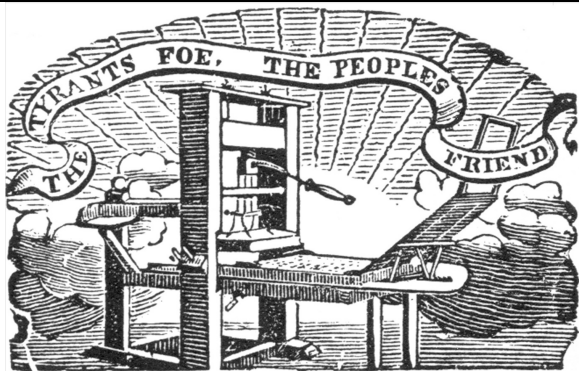
machine and Jim's headgear, enabling him to move somewhat freely from room to room. The machine uses an excessive amount of electricity.

Jim's only income is a monthly Supplemental Social Security (SSI) check of roughly \$500.00 The expense of living alone in an apartment and maintaining independence is becoming a significant problem. His Section 8 Housing voucher pays a portion of the monthly rent bill and Food Stamps help

buy food. But he must still come up with a rent co-payment, electricity, the telephone, insurance and gasoline for an old car he drives, and medicine that is not covered by Medicaid.

A rent co-payment of \$150.00 is the largest expense for Jim; electricity is second, about \$100.00 or 20% of his income. About \$50.00 per month of his Central Maine Power Company electricity bill can be attributed to the use of his oxygen machine. He is getting further behind in his electricity bill. Obviously, there is never any disposable income for

**JIM : CONTINUED ON PG. 6**



## The Maine Commons

<http://www.mainecommons.org>

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**None of this would be possible without the print team and all contributors and distributors.**

Maine Independent Media Center  
PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903

Founded in 2001 as a side project of the Maine Independent Media Center, The Maine Commons was created to be a Maine media "commons" where diverse ideas of diverse people are free to meet and congregate. We especially focus on viewpoints and stories that have been ignored or misrepresented by the mainstream media, and issues of effects of corporate control of the media, in order to increase public consciousness and understanding of the events and issues at hand.

### MeIMC Mission Statement

The Maine Independent Media Center (MeIMC) is a not-for-profit collective of independent media makers and journalists offering grassroots news coverage and media education for the state of Maine, and enjoying yummy food. We are not the mouthpiece of any particular political party or commercial viewpoint - rather, we are the voice of all those individuals and communities who want to get involved and report the news as they experience it. Unlike the corporate media, we do not claim complete objectivity. Subjectivity comes with any human's observation of an event. We believe in open dialogue, and placing the means of communication back in the hands of people and away from the drive of profit.

The Maine Independent Media Center works to demystify media through media literacy education and by fostering the skills and providing equipment necessary for people to be the media. We seek to become a recognized and utilized media source in the state. Maine IMC provides an interactive website at <http://www.maineindymedia.org>, and an interactive Maine events calendar at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>, through which up-to-the-minute information can be posted and made available throughout the world. Acknowledging that a large amount of people in Maine, and the world, do not have access to the Internet, in addition to working to make 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 the regular publication The Maine Commons, public access television, and community and low power radio.

### The Maine Commons Editorial Policy (short version):

The Maine Commons will accept submissions of articles, photography, letters to the editor, opinion pieces, poetry, and graphics from any person via mail or email. Slides and undeveloped film cannot be accepted. Scanned graphics must be at a resolution of 180 dpi or higher, and should be clear in both color and grayscale. Articles should be no longer than 1400 words and must be submitted as computer files or crisply printed or typed high-contrast text. The editors reserve the right to correct errors and edit down pieces that are too long. Submission does not guarantee publication. Current issues and those relevant to Maine will be given priority; ongoing projects may be held until the next publication if space is an issue. Email to [editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org) or send hardcopy, floppy disks or CDs to Maine Independent Media Center, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903. Thanks!

## Letters to the Editors

Dear Sir and Madam,

Tail-wagging, puppydog support for absolute power is a well-known psychological phenomenon. It's called "The Stockholm Syndrome" and was made famous with the Patty Hearst incident.

Clearly, it's The Stockholm Syndrome that has sanctioned the vacuuming of America's industrial might from the land. Those who have supported the power that has denuded the land and cost Hathaway workers their jobs do so from an unconscious psychological need to demonstrate to power that they are good boys and girls.

The fact of the denuding is appalling and certainly unconstitutional.

The solid citizen stands witness -- and mute. Those who resent protest, as so many instinctively do, have forgotten 1776 and should return to George III where they belong.

Sincerely yours,

VICTOR LISTER  
Athens, ME

gain their attention.

How does one go about causing them enough worry to induce them to give in to some of our demands? First, there is the question of who is the "we". The answer is this: we are people who do the work, or are their allies. The work that is done generates money. Some of it stays with workers themselves, but a lot goes for payoffs, for expense related to keeping order, and for the satisfaction of greed. Payoff refers to high salaries and consumerism. Keeping order means police and military forces worldwide and measures taken to keep the poor in line.

The ones who contribute to the wealth of others often come up short themselves. They have little in common with those on whom money falls like rain. That group, that class, if you will - quite rationally seeks out protection, by relying upon power, bribes, and propaganda. The interests of the two groups are antagonistic. The idea of a "commons" embracing poor people and the excluded is a useful notion. It does not, however, extend to the monied classes. In fact, the shared interests of working people mindful of their own survival and dignity make up the glue that holds them together and gives them unity. Our opponents, of course, thrive on our disunity our single-issue politics, our divisions based on race, gender difference, educational level, money, and where we work, at home or abroad.

Unity is absolutely essential for the launching and sustaining of political action, and it is action by unions, in the schools, in the streets, among young people that will give pause to the high and mighty. *Frederick Douglass,*

To the Editor

The Maine Commons, as the "voice of those who want to get involved", represents a new, and now essential addition to the forces of resistance here in Maine. The stories it tells of little people taken down and of individual rights set aside inform activists and would-be activists alike. They are not to be found in the mainstream media.

The concern here is that words alone, while possibly annoying to those in charge do not make them change their ways. They may hear us, as we speak truth to power, but they look the other way. Perhaps the Maine Commons can lend a hand as we try to

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**LETTERS : CONTINUED FROM PG. 2**

escaped slave and abolitionist leader, set the stage long ago.

"Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows or with both."

Action means people coming together, many of them, walking, sitting, thinking, teaching, talking, not talking, shouting - but together. It means turning down the oxygen, slowing down the flow of money to the mercantile interests through strikes and boycotts. It may mean the creative use of intentional disobedience by activists who, supported by friends and allies, are willing to endure punishment. Solidarity in action projects power, and those who own and rule seem to worry more about power than about the truth..

Even the appearance of power may work wonders. The British Raj could have decimated Gandhi's followers, but held off. The apartheid government still had lots of marbles left, but held them back. U.S. racists in the 1960s had plenty of money, media support, and politicians on their side, but change did come. Washington could have finished off the war in Vietnam, but faced with massive demonstrations, it blinked.

The Maine Commons could add to its usefulness, I suggest, by focussing on matters of unity and action. As indispensable as is broadcasting the truth, more is required the need to organize a visible, palpating manifestation of power. The Maine Commons mission statement indicates that "we are not the mouthpiece of any political party or commercial interest." But whenever a formation surfaces, whether it is a party, a union, a movement, that has numbers, is inclusive, and looks like it is ready to fight for social justice, then one looks forward to the Maine Commons lending a hand, even taking a leadership role. The job is to move beyond mere education and advocacy to actually organizing a great coalition that can move into effective action. Now is not the time to be shy.

-W.T. WHITNEY JR.

Haymarket Foundation, and subscriptions. Future publications will hopefully be funded by more advertisements from locally owned commercial businesses and non-profit groups (see ad form page 19) and the addition of an alternative classifieds section (see page 19 for more information.)

**Where is it printed?**

The Maine Commons is printed at the Kennebec Journal printing offices in Augusta. We are not, however, affiliated with the Kennebec Journal.

**Where is it distributed?**

The Maine Commons is distributed in every county of the state of Maine. We distribute hundreds of locations, including libraries, coffee shops, schools, convenience stores, community centers, laundromats, and other businesses and organizations that wish to carry the paper. If you would like to see the paper somewhere in your area, or would like to help with distribution (all distribution is done by volunteers), please contact us.

**How many copies are there of each issue?**

We currently have a circulation of 10,000 issues. If funding becomes available, we may increase this amount.

**Where is it based?**

While the Maine Commons is printed in Augusta, and laid out and has a mailing address in Waterville, people involved with putting the paper together live around the state. We try to cover events, distribute, and get people involved with making the paper, in all areas of the state of Maine.

**What's this paper made of?**

The paper this is printed on is 28# newsprint. Newsprint contains a very small percentage (generally around 10%) of recycled material. Paper with a higher recycled content, while ideal, would cost significantly more. If we get sufficient funding in the future, we will upgrade to a paper with a higher recycled paper content. The ink is 100% soy based ink, therefore this paper is suitable for mulching.

**How can I contact the paper?**

You can write us at:  
Maine Commons  
c/o Maine Independent Media Center  
PO Box 1444  
Waterville, ME 04903

You can email us at:  
[editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org)

**Why don't you have a phone number?**

Due to the fact that Maine Indymedia has no central office, we have no phone line, and have been using one of the members' personal phone lines for Maine Indymedia calls. We are working on setting up an office in Prospect, Maine (and in the future in areas throughout the state, as well as a traveling media center), and the Prospect office will likely have a phone line. We

are researching the option of a voice mail box, so that people may get in touch with Maine Indymedia by phone.

**How can I get involved?**

The Maine Commons is produced by the print team of the Maine Independent Media Center. To get involved with the print team, or other Maine Indymedia teams, use the volunteer form on pg.19.

**How can I subscribe?**

We have a graduated subscription rate which allows people from any economic background to get this paper mailed to them. See back page for subscription form.

**How can I advertise?**

Ads are available for any locally-owned business or local non-profit organization. See page 19 for advertising form.

**Are you officially affiliated with any group?**

The Maine Commons is the print publication of the Maine Independent Media Center. The mission statement of the Maine IMC is printed on page 2. We have no political party affiliation, we are not right wing, left wing, or centrist. We welcome all views and encourage open discussion and debate, and work to give voice to those views and stories that are not adequately or fairly covered in much of the mainstream and corporate media. We work (and exchange resources and media) with other independent media organizations, such as Portland Public Access Television, WERU Community Radio, and Global Indymedia and other local Indymedia Centers (see [www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org)). Many Maine Indymedia participants are members of other groups, and Maine IMC often collaborates with other groups on specific projects, but we do not have any formal allegiance to any other group.

**I was at this (event/protest/riot) in the area and Maine Indymedia wasn't there! What gives?**

The misconception many people have of Indymedia is that we are an elite band of professional reporters similar to any corporate media news crew. This is not the case. Maine Indymedia participants are all unpaid volunteers, who are all learning and educating each other to be the media. Indymedia is an avenue by which independent reporters (read: anyone who reports a story) are able to get their news out to the public, through this newspaper, our website, and connections with community radio stations and public access tv channels. So our question is: if you were at this (event/protest/riot), why didn't you write an article on it? You become the reporter. You become the media. With your participation, Maine IMC as a group will work to help you learn how to effectively become the media. Your participation will help us build a network of resources interested people across the region. Need resources or training to help be the media? Contact us and help us organize trainings and gather media making equipment. Be The Media.

## Maine Commons Frequently Asked Questions ?

**What is the Maine Independent Media Center?**

The Maine Independent Media Center formed in Spring of 2001, in order to help provide coverage, and a network between the US and Canada, at the Jackman, Maine border center that was active during the Quebec City Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) protests. Maine IMC is a part of a network of Indymedia Centers around the world. The first Independent Media Center was established by various independent and alternative media organizations and activists in 1999 for the purpose of providing grassroots coverage of the World Trade Organization (WTO) protests in Seattle. There are currently about eighty Independent Media Centers around the world. Each IMC is an autonomous group that has its own mission statement, manages its own finances and makes its own decisions through its own processes. The Maine Independent Media Center formed around similar goals, and aims to cover issues relating to social and environmental justice and corporate control in Maine and beyond, not just at protests. It is a loosely-knit organization of people scattered around the state, with one

common goal: to release the media from the hands of corporate and government elite and put it back in the hands of the people.

**How long has the Maine Commons been printing?**

The Maine Commons started in August of 2001 in order to get our first 8-page paper out by Common Ground Fair. At that point, after much deliberation on the name, we called it "The Maine Free Press". We adopted the name "The Maine Commons" for the next issue when it became apparent that there were other papers with a similar names. This is the sixth issue of the paper.

**How often does the paper come out?**

We have settled, for the moment, on a "six-weekly" paper, until funding solidifies and people become involved enough that we can consider going monthly.

**How do you pay for it?**

We pay for the paper through a combination of: inserts from non-commercial groups, advertisements from locally-owned businesses and non-profits, individual donations, a grant from the



# opinions / editorials

## To Cuba and Back:

### Harassment from Washington, then a week of inspiration

BY TOM WHITNEY

Thirteen Maine teachers and health workers returned April 21 after a week spent on a study tour in Eastern Cuba. They were there looking at schools, clinics, hospitals, and services for children, in order to find out what happens to egalitarian ideals when social services have to be delivered under conditions of chronic scarcity.

The Cuban people whom the travelers met seemed resourceful, highly educated, hospitable, and above all, generous. The Cuban children appeared healthy and full of enthusiasm and self-confidence. The talent of the musicians and dancers in a provincial elementary school for the performing arts, for example, was extraordinary. While Cuban teachers and students are reduced to bare essentials in regard to supplies and comforts, all of the schools visited by the group now have new computers in place, except for a tiny school for four students high up in the mountains.

Last year Cuba opened up four schools for social worker technicians, each with 2000 students and each built in just six months. Two of them were included on the study tour. The inspiration for the schools was the finding that many teen-agers and young adults in Cuba, some of them very poor, have diminished prospects for higher education and jobs. The message they hear on being recruited is that their trouble stems from society's problems, not theirs. Their course of training lasts for one year, and then they will return home

and begin working to fix society, earning a decent salary - by Cuban standards. At the same time, while working and earning, they will be able to complete a university education at home, even if it takes many years.

The Maine visitors observed that hospitals and clinics have few frills, but that while light bulbs, paper materials, bed sheets are in short supply, essential medical equipment and medications are available. They learned that those materials often have to be purchased at extra expense in Europe, or manufactured in Cuba, in order to get around the U.S. embargo. The group, all but one of them women, appreciated the fact that at the general hospital in Holguin, every department head, save one, is a woman, as are two thirds of a medical staff of 150 physicians and surgeons. The visitors noted the anomaly of new CT scanners inside the hospital, made in Santiago, and horse drawn wagons out on the street, used as taxis.

The impression was gained that the Cuban people are pragmatic and willing to change course. For example, the family doctor program, now the backbone of Cuba's system for primary health care, 15 years ago took over much of the work of the so-called polyclinics, the earlier source of first contact medical care. Also, remarkable changes have taken place during the past ten years in Cuban agriculture. Marked improvements in both food production and distribution are the result in part of an increased reliance upon agricultural cooperatives and private systems of land usage.

Returning home, many of the teachers and health workers were looking at their own society from a new perspective, and an outcome like that perhaps indicates why Cuba is dangerous to U.S. orthodoxy; it poses the threat of a good example. And left up to Washington, the Maine study tour to Cuba would have died an early death.

The Maine delegation was traveling to Cuba under an authorization provided by that section of embargo laws having to do with general licensure. Three days before the trip's departure, a representative of the Treasury Department had informed the travel agency making arrangements for the trip - one licensed by the Treasury Department for that purpose - that the Maine travelers might not be legal. Supposedly, the group was short of true "researchers" one of the categories of legal travel set forth in the regulations. The agency responded by dropping out. Twenty-five Maine people hoping to participate in a study tour in Cuba - just as thousands of others have done in recent years - found themselves without the services of a "travel service provider", required by Treasury regulations. Suddenly there were legal uncertainties. Twelve people stayed home, and 13 of them went on to Cuba.

Let Cuba Live, a Maine based Cuba solidarity organization, to which the author belongs, unleashed a publicity campaign, and the story of the trip and of harassment on the part of the U.S. government spread far and wide. In addition, the day before the group's departure to Cuba, aides to Rep. Baldacci sought clarification from the Treasury Department, even securing a measure of reassurance that the trip did indeed satisfy legal requirements. The

13 returned travelers crossed back into the United States on April 21 without interference from border officials.

Two months previously, the Treasury Department, checking the web site of Let Cuba Live, had seen a description of the trip put there to recruit participants. The present writer, who organized the trip, received a letter from that Department suggesting that he should be using a Travel Service Provider to make arrangements for legal travel to Cuba. The "TSP" is charged with screening prospective travelers for their legality. With great difficulty, another licensed travel service provider was found to finish making trip arrangements. Mr. Charles Bishop of the Treasury Department then waited until three days prior to the time of departure to threaten that "TSP". The timing was too short for the group to make alternative arrangements, but just right to cause maximum frustration and worry.

Last summer, Let Cuba Live misbehaved. Intentionally, that organization violated embargo laws by not obtaining a license to send medical supplies to Cuba. The result was a fracas at the international border at Coburn Gore, Maine. This time, every effort had been made to assure the legality of a trip to Cuba for health workers and teachers. From the point of view of the trip facilitator, the reward for such good behavior is not yet obvious.

However, from the point of view of 13 people who went on to Cuba and twelve more who stayed home - thereby forfeiting their air fare - the restrictions on travel to our island neighbor are irrational, wrong, and irritating. Many of those who went to Cuba can hardly wait to go back, and they may not ask permission.

## The Governor's Race Preview, Part 3:

### The Power of the Write-in Vote

BY J.C. PAGE

The Wee One tugs on her earlobe as she noses under a curtain sewn into her mommy's clever shirt. (Where was it made?) The same nurturing comfort of mother's milk now soothing the child, - who is across the table, cradled in maternal arms something of that relationship inhabits my two-hands-on-it glass of black beer. I gain everything from my drink that the Wee One gains from the boob juice. Bodily nutrients, of course--but most importantly, I gain the ability to unburden my worries silently in The Arms That Carry. As this magical stout foams into my moustache like a wave on a weedy beach and covers my tongue in a quilt of midnight flavors, I reaffirm my faith that humans have been granted a wondrous gift. Think, how desperate was that starving wanderer

who first drank the aged grains left in the rain and then in the sun and then visited by a ghost-on-the-wind we now call brewer's yeast, that agent which transformed a discarded and forgotten harvest into a wholesome libation. Whoever you were who took the first sip, I thank you with every swallow.

We stopped in here at this oasis, Brewer's Alley, a family joint in Frederick, Maryland, to reinforce our stamina for the long train ride and after that the long car ride to our three cats and one fish up in Maine. We have been gone down the East coast of the United States, exploring a land of paved potential, of icons to blandness erected at every off-ramp.

The train has hauled us past rows of new shopping lots and new condos and subdivisions, colonies on a moonscape to the speeding eye. Then

we slowed through town centers as if the driver for some reason wanted us all to get a good look at boarded windows and neglected space. I have felt like a western journalist on a guided tour inside forbidden country but the train driver must be secretly opposed to the ruling regime because what we've been getting is a first hand look at a land in ruin.

Along the way, I almost gave in to a mild despair that tries to rob me of what brewer's yeast teaches: consumption can be transformed into redemption. If not for this animal in my hands, this Trinity stout, I might sink into indifference. The mind moves easier now that the body pauses from its mad hurtling along the rail. The mind doesn't need a ticket; it steps over the miles and delivers me home, back to work I love and miss.

And, since home seems to me a place that can still be kept from the worst of this junk economy all around us, I can't help but wonder . . .

### Who will be Maine's next governor?

"Why ask about that now?" my collaborator says with a relaxed smile. Did she read my mind, or was I thinking aloud?

"I never would have asked such an irrelevant question when we moved to Maine," I reply.

"We didn't even want to move to Maine in the first place," she says. "We wanted to move to Portsmouth ..."

"But it was impossible to get an apartment," I recall.

"Accidental Maineiacs, that's us."

"Good name for a band," our waitress says, suddenly standing there with a bowl of gumbo for me.

We laugh. The Wee One turns from her milk to join in the merriment. (Clever shirt; I fear it was stitched in a windowless factory very far away.)



## VOTE : CONTINUED FROM PG. 4

"You live in Maine?" our waitress asks.

Yup, I grin.

"I used to go camping up there with my cousins," she says. "Maine is great. Lotsa rocks."

I nod and now I'm thinking of one rock in Springvale. This rock is the dominant feature of a public park and is these days (without public input) coated in paint to depict the U.S. flag. The local paper loves it. So far only one voice of dissent has surfaced in the form of a message painted on the side of Shop N



photo credit: J.C. Page

Save, reading: blind patriotism.

That act of vandalism has since been smudged out. Meanwhile the defacement in the park proves the truth of the other's sentiment. (How will we clean that rock without getting turpentine and paint into the lake below?)

"Unfortunately, some people where we live think of rocks as billboards," my collaborator says. She is reading my mind. She tells the waitress exactly what I was just thinking and adds: "It's not like our government's foreign policy upholds the virtues for which it stands"

"National interest, sorry, the innocent must die," the waitress says. Then, at me: "Ready for another beer?"

I nod and grin.

"Everything else okay?" She asks and leaves us.

A new voice comes from a booth on the other side of two empty tables. "Times like these, you gotta be careful what you say." The voice is loud to cross the distance; it belongs to a man sitting feet up on the bench, pale beer in his clutch. Me, I'm freethinking enough to know loving your country doesn't mean saluting the flag and never asking questions.

"Shuuush," a woman across the table from him suggests in a playful tone. They are a matching couple in smart silver hair and sharp sweaters. She drinks ice tea. The rest of the dining room is empty this weekday afternoon.

"One question you might want to ask folks in your town is what comes before the fall?" He says.

I invite them to join us.

He makes no acknowledgement and says: "Pride precedeth the fall." "Cut it out," his other half says. "You know that," the man says.

"I didn't know that," I say, not sure if I'm butting in. I just think it's time to stop protecting the profits of those who develop away the future.

"Sound like a commie," he says and adds: "No offense." "None taken," I reply, and I mean it because it doesn't matter what you call cooperation; that's what I believe in.

"Well, you gotta vote," he says. "That's how you tell them what you want."

"But the choices are provided for us," I answer. "That's not a free election; it's a rig-job."

"You always have the write-in," he says and points a finger overhead as if a ballot were in the sky.

I tell him the story about the first time I had a chance to vote for president in 1992. I had planned on writing-in Jerry Brown, but I lived in South Carolina where they allow no space on the ballot for your unapproved choice. I held my nose and went with a Republican, I'm sorry to report. However, Maine is not South Carolina.

"So what," I say to him. "So I write in my mechanic's name or Carolyn Chute's. So what. A grain of sand on the beach."

My collaborator takes her turn: "Yes, but the beach is nothing but tiny grains of sand. In most elections a lot of the beach gets washed out to sea. The majority of people don't even cast a ballot," she explains for those who are having trouble getting the beach metaphor. The guy says: "If all or even some of these people were to put any name at all on the ballot, then it would dilute the poison in the political waters. Because that child of yours whom you feed will not be able to rely on her inheritance of air, water, food and underpaid labor. All the money in your life insurance won't buy

extinct fish."

I open wide and eat a shovel full of gumbo, savoring the sausage and shrimp under tooth. I rinse it down with a toast to the yeast that loves humans so well that it gives us the means to contact the *spirit*, our forbears name for alcohol. They knew what was in it.

"You know, what opportunity, really," my collaborator poses. "What a great event it would be if everyone voted. If you don't care which candidate wins, then vote for someone you would care to see in office. Vote for someone you know. Your neighbor or your uncle. Somebody you trust. I mean how do we really know what the real owners of the Government think anyway, the Gallup Poll? They gotta vote. That ballot is an opportunity, a gift, a chance to ..." she shakes her head at her inability to conclude that thought.

Our meals arrive. I have a pulled-pork barbecue sandwich. Meat candy. We eat with full attention on the food. Our compatriots finish their beverages and leave quietly. I don't know how well I can fit words to my feelings of being American. All I know is, I didn't pick the country of my birth. And, as someone who disapproves of the Republican efforts have been made to disenfranchise me in my homeland. Yet I continue to pay taxes in one way or another to a government that wants me to keep quiet. These taxes I know contribute to the bombing deaths of children.

Right now, my belly is busting. I open my belt and sip on beer to gratify my palate. This is life here, now. More than a swollen gut.

My collaborator jumps from her seat to follow the Wee One on a sudden jaunt across the room. I take a scratch pad from my breast pocket and attempt to review my scribbled train notes, looking for something I put there, something to brighten the outlook. I read:

*Three hours in The Big Apple, switching trains. Had one beer at The Ginger Man. A cask-conditioned Kamikaze Ale and I swear it had a strong vein of sour apple in the after taste. Really. Bear.*

*Spray paint on a bridge: PRAY. Is it the spirit rising up?*

*The flame of independence is enlightenment and it burns and we step up to the flame each one of us and we speak.*

*And I'm making plans for a getaway. Why should I be different? I'm supposed to be civilian. Then again ... that makes me a target. Still, when I get my chance, I'm going to speak straight.*

**THIS YEAR WE VOTE!**

To learn more about the magic of living beer, read: *Sacred and Herbal Healing Beers; the Secrets of Ancient Fermentation*, by Stephen Harrod Buhner

To see the junk economy for yourself, call 1-800-USA-RAIL.

To register to vote:  
[www.state.me.us/sos/cec/elec/votguid.htm](http://www.state.me.us/sos/cec/elec/votguid.htm)

## Taxation Without Representation

BY JAMES GILKS

*They tax the poor to pay the rich, and ask for more when you make less. Now Robin Hood is spelled I-R-S. There's business and there's government, but tell me which is which.*

At tax time, did you happen to wonder where your money was going? Well, if you slit open your wallet and bled some hard-earned cash into the country's overgrown piggy bank this year, then a considerable portion of your tax dollars went into buying bombs, tanks, and other various weapons of destruction in little Georgie Bush's so-called "war on terror." Money that could have gone towards desperately needed services such as education or health care have instead been used to bomb innocent citizens across the world in the name of capitalist gain and misguided political vengeance. The median-income household in Bangor, Maine paid out \$1,020 in income taxes in 2001. Of that \$230.39 went to fund the military, while only \$26.86 went to education, \$24.89 to nutrition, \$17.70 to the environment, and a meager \$3.40 for job training.

But this, unfortunately, is only part of the horror surrounding us at tax season. The real blow to the average Maine citizen is far closer to home. On April 15th members of the Peace and Justice Center, the Dirigo Alliance, and Maine War Tax Resisters gathered in front of the Federal Building in downtown Bangor, to protest tax cuts for the wealthy and large corporations.

Under President Bush's millionaire tax cut, an executive making \$1.1 million a year would get \$454,480 in tax cuts. But the least wealthy twenty percent of us would have to settle for about \$47 a year. Some companies, such as the ever-infamous Enron, whose profits reached almost 4 billion dollars from 1996 to 2000, paid absolutely nothing in federal taxes over that period of time and actually received \$381 million in tax rebates.

But Enron, sadly, is not alone when it comes to bureaucratic debauchery. Forty-one companies, reporting a total of \$25 billion in profits, paid a whopping zero dollars in federal income taxes in at least one year from 1996 to 1998. Instead, these very companies received over \$3 billion from the treasury.

So why is it that faceless corporations, which make a thousand times more

**TAX : CONTINUED FROM PG. 5**

than the rest of the country put together, pay such a small percentage in taxes? Why do multimillionaires receive massive tax breaks while the rest of us have to suffer? And, most importantly, do they really need it? Some people comment that the rich deserve tax breaks simply because they worked hard to get their money. But do they really work any harder than the factory workers, migrant farmers, or any number of other lower income citizens in Maine? Others claim that big corporations need more of a tax break because they help to improve the nation's economy. This too is an illogical assumption designed and promoted by the rich in order to protect their own interests. The great American myth that money controlled by those at the top of the economic food chain will somehow "trickle down" to the bottom twenty percent of society is absurd. Most of the money saved by corporations with these massive tax breaks is used to pay their wealthy CEOs! The real boost to our economy would come if regular middle and lower class families received the same opportunity as big business. After all, if individual consumers have no money to spend, they can not possibly buy the products being sold. And isn't that the entire principle on which our capitalist society is based in the first place?

BY JAMES GILKS

## Washington Deals Blow to Freedom of Speech

WASHINGTON, DC - The Senate on March 20, 2002, passed HR2356, the Campaign Reform Act of 2002, also affectionately known by some as the "Federal Incumbent Protection Act."

The Act, which President Bush signed into law on March 27, will prohibit any person or organization from advertising the voting record of an incumbent politician running for re-election within 60 days of an election.

While this is an obvious violation of freedom of speech, Maine Congressmen John Baldacci and Tom Allen, as well as Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe all voted to approve it.

## USDA To Make Shipping of Seeds Between States Illegal

The USDA is set to make the shipping or transporting of seeds across state lines illegal, without a permit and inspection.

Fines of up to \$1,000 for individual gardeners and up to \$250,000 for nurseries will be imposed against violators once the "Noxious Weeds Program" is enacted by the USDA.

The draft plan had a public comment period which ended March 29, 2002 but interested readers are encouraged to contact Maine Representatives John Baldacci and Tom Allen to receive more information.

SHORT ARTICLES BY DAVID DESCHESNE  
FROM "CITIZEN REPORTER", PRESQUE ISLE

**JIM : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

Jim at the end of the month. He is unable to work and will not have income to pay off his mounting electricity bill. CMP is offering payment arrangements and advising Jim to apply for assistance from a laundry list of public and private resources. Jim finds himself physically drained, seriously depleted of oxygen, when he must continually meet and negotiate with so many different organizations; many of them unable to assist.

### Help Available By Statute

Central Maine Power Company (CMP) and other utility companies in Maine participate in a program for eligible low-income households. A monetary benefit is granted in an attempt to offset the consumer's burdensome electricity expense. This program is overseen by the Maine Public Utilities Commission and administered by the Maine State Housing Authority. Individuals may apply for electricity assistance in this program through the local Community Action Program. Monthly benefits are paid directly to the eligible consumer's electric account. Monthly benefits range between \$10 and \$200, according to a CMP representative.

Where does the money come from? The ratepayers of Maine's various electric companies ultimately contribute a portion of their monthly bill to an annual fund set aside for low-income electricity programs, according to a staffperson at the Maine Public Utilities Commission. This utility fund is called the Statewide Low-Income Assistance Plan (SLIP). CMP has a SLIP called the Electricity Lifeline Program (ELP), the largest in the state, which has been apportioned approximately \$4.5 million for 6500 customers, or 62% of the overall SLIP beneficiaries in Maine.

### A Piece of The Pie

Jim is concerned about his pending ELP benefit and how small it will be this year. Why isn't there a higher benefit for low-income people who have life-support systems in their home? A benefit of \$50 per month would help him much more, he believes. This small amount of money would enable him to live his life out with the freedom to have more control of his independence, privacy and his home.

If Jim were living in a public housing complex, there would be avail-

able federal housing programs to pay all of his household maintenance expenses except food and the telephone bill. His co-payment each month would be 30% of his SSI or approximately \$175.00; almost \$160.00 less than he pays to live in his current apartment. But, because Jim has the desire to live in an environment of independence, he must live with less. The "system" is designed to "push" Jim into congregate housing for the elderly, or, in a worst case scenario, an expensive nursing home at the taxpayers' expense.

### Alternative Options To The Electricity Issue

CMP has a Life Light Program that protects medically-certified customers' electricity from being disconnected.

To become eligible for this protection, one must first contact CMP and request an application. As part of the process a physician must sign a letter stating the need for uninterrupted electricity supply because of the presence of an electrical life-support system in the residence.

When a customer of an electric utility has difficulty paying their monthly bill, and when an outstanding balance may threaten a shut-off of electricity, customers can enter into a payment arrangement with the utility company. This action may allow an opportunity for the customer to get a large bill paid over time. However, if a customer has a medical condition and shut-off of electricity will endanger their life, then electricity absolutely can not be disconnected, and the customer will be allowed several days to have their physician prove to the utility company that a medical emergency does exist.

CMP and other utility companies in Maine will work with the customer to help them find state and/or local community resources to pay off any outstanding balance. However, if you or anyone you may know, who is dependent on life-support, and is facing a shut-off by an electric utility, call the Maine Human Rights Commission immediately at (207) 287-3831.

### The Dilemma

Where does a low-income person (or anyone without resources) faced with a crisis turn for assistance when state and federal government programs do not meet their needs? Some options to the answer may be: Family and friends; General Assistance at the municipal level; community services; food banks;

churches, and other charities.

Not surprisingly, many community and faith-based service programs have limited resources. It is not uncommon for people in need to be turned away from community programs when asking for assistance. Community programs often adhere to policy that points people back to the governmental resources already in place, as a strategy to conserve minimal assistance for their applicants who seem most needy.

Government programs only afford "bare-bones" subsistence. People must expend time and effort to canvas the "system" and local community to survive. Let's not forget how confusing and demoralizing it is for someone sitting in poverty to ask for help, constantly seeking assistance from several community and charity programs per month just to pay the electric bill - just to keep breathing.

BY RUSSELL ANDERSON  
ABILITY MAINE, [WWW.ABILITYMAINE.ORG](http://WWW.ABILITYMAINE.ORG)

### Background Information

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis -- diseases that are characterized by obstruction to air-flow. Emphysema and chronic bronchitis frequently coexist. Thus physicians prefer the term COPD. It does not include other obstructive diseases such as asthma. COPD, which is the fourth leading cause of death, claims the lives of 119,524 Americans annually.

The quality of life for a person suffering from COPD diminishes as the disease progresses. At the onset, there is minimal shortness of breath. People with COPD may eventually require supplemental oxygen and may have to rely on mechanical respiratory assistance.

The annual cost to the nation for COPD is approximately \$30.4 billion, including healthcare expenditures of \$14.7 billion and indirect costs of \$15.7 billion.

Additional info available:

For more information from CMP go to:

CMP Website: <http://www.cmpco.com/>

Maine Public Utilities Commission  
<http://www.state.me.us/mpuc/>

Maine Regulated Utility Companies  
<http://www.state.me.us/mpuc/regulated%20utilities/elecogas.htm>



# BoundTogether

## On Marching, the Middle East, and Mishpacha

BY NANCY SONNENFELD

Going to Washington, D.C. for the recent peace march was not a difficult choice for me. I had been reading for months about what was happening in the Palestinian territories, occupied by Israel, and subject to arbitrary violence and acts of malicious brutality. I also abhor Bush's nuclear policy, and his hawkish approach to nations as diverse as North Korea and Iraq.

The experience was more challenging than I expected it to be. I don't think that I have ever been surrounded by so many Arab people. Living in Maine, which has few Jews or Arabs, I was struck by how much the Arabs marchers looked like my family, with dark curly hair and long noses. I kept thinking "mishpacha" (the Hebrew word for family). At one point, I asked an Arab-American marcher how to say family in Arabic. (It doesn't sound like mishpacha.)

A history of traumatic oppression at the hands of Europeans is another experience that Jews share in common with Arabs. Perhaps the historical memory of trauma created my experience of feeling threatened during the march. I went to Washington because I care about peace, human rights and Israel. The state of Israel only exists because the European and U.S. colonial powers felt guilty that they hadn't done more to prevent the Holocaust. But it's my understanding that for many members of the Palestinian Liberation movement, Israel itself is the symbol of European colonial oppression and of the Crusaders' massacres before them.

I was initially uncomfortable equating Sharon with Hitler. But I got over that. Sharon is committing atrocities.

Here are some things that still bother me:

- About 10% of the marchers wore t-shirts portraying guns superimposed on Arabic slogans. The entire landmass of Israel was on the back. I don't know what the shirts actually said.
- Dozens and dozens of marchers carried signs equating 'Judaism', the Jewish star, or the Israeli flag with the Swastika.
- Watching 'peace marchers' walk in solidarity with those expressing violent or anti-Jewish themes.

Where were the other Jews? There was apparently a large contingent of Jews marching with the organization "Not in My Name". However, I failed to recognize this until I got home and read my mail. Did "Not in my Name" think that identifying themselves as Jews would

detract from the cause? Since this was about the outrageous actions of the Israeli government, how could being Jewish be irrelevant?

Eventually, I spotted a small group carrying signs that said "Jews to End the Occupation". I hugged one of them, shouting "mishpacha", but she did not recognize the phrase. She did express concerns that the actions of the Israeli government were breeding anti-Semitism. In fact, this small group seemed more concerned about combating anti-Jewish sentiment than stopping the atrocities in Jenin and Ramallah.

Right now, I have no answers. I don't feel the moral clarity of a just position. I sympathize with the Palestinian people who are suffering; I feel solidarity with those who want to change American and Israeli policy. I am frustrated with members of my synagogue as well as Christian friends who believe in avenging the actions of suicide bombers.

Still, this movement threatens me. It should be easy for the peace movement to make Jews like me feel welcome: be clear that there is no choice between Palestinian freedom and safety and Israeli freedom and safety. We can have them both. We, as a movement for peace and human rights, need to talk about how we define Palestine. We need to debate the political implications of a Palestinian right of return within Israel (not the West Bank). Would other Arab nations really leave Israel alone if there were a Palestinian state? Would Palestine? At the present moment, it seems to me that Israel is the bigger bully. So, for the time being, I can sit with my discomfort. But I don't know for how long. And I would be much more able to enlist my Jewish friends and family in the cause if these concepts were more explicitly articulated.

I love peace. I believe that human life is sacred. I want to embrace this movement. I hope the movement will embrace me. I hope my Jewish family will embrace it too.

*When different kinds of people work together, and all have power, the world changes. Many people are trying to figure out how to work together in all our differences, and to do it without repeating the patterns that got us all in this mess in the first place. BoundTogether is about that. The column is a joint project of the Maine Commons, Resources for Organizing and Social Change (ROSC) and YOU. Send articles, pictures, ideas, cartoons, experiences, crankiness, and dreams to: [rutabaga@megalink.net](mailto:rutabaga@megalink.net). Or call 674-2358. Or mail to **BoundTogether, c/o Claire Gélinas, 18 Stone Road, West Paris, ME 04289**. Be sure to let us know how to contact you.*

# Maine CSA List

COMPILED BY J.C. PAGE

*Food: where does it come from? If you have ever asked that question and then actually looked into where the supermarket gets it and how plantations and farms very far away go about growing, harvesting, packaging and shipping what we eat, you may have lost your appetite over the answer. Well, fear not and eat up, we are a fortunate region indeed because, as it turns out, a bountiful supply of fresh and replenishing natural foods exists within our reach in the form of Community Supported Agriculture.*

*And if that's not enough to chew on, think of this. All you have to do is call a farmer who plants a Community Supported field near you and either pay for a share in advance, promise to work for it, or do a combination of work and pay. Then, pick up your groceries once a week. We're talking about the freshest organic produce available.*

Find a CSA on the list below or at this website:

[www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/csa/csastate.htm](http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/csa/csastate.htm)

### Alfred

*Wolf Pine Farm*  
Phone: 324-2357  
Email: [info@wolffpinefarm.com](mailto:info@wolffpinefarm.com)  
Web: <http://www.wolffpinefarm.com>

### Alna

*Hidden Valley Farm*  
Phone: 586-5837  
Email: [bambisfarm@aol.com](mailto:bambisfarm@aol.com)

### Baileyville

*After The Rain Farm*  
Phone: 454-3896

### Cumberland

*Sunrise Acres Farm*  
Email: [sam082400@aol.com](mailto:sam082400@aol.com)

### Dresden

*Goranson Farm*  
Phone: 737-8834  
Fax: 737-2817  
Email: [veggies@agate.net](mailto:veggies@agate.net)  
Web: <http://www.agate.net/~veggies/>

### Garland

*Organic Pleasures*  
Phone: 924-7448

### Houlton

*Nature's Circle Farm*  
Phone: 532-6089  
Email: [riy333@hotmail.com](mailto:riy333@hotmail.com)

### Kennebunkport

*Old Schoolhouse Farm*  
Phone: 967-8018  
Fax: 967-8018

Email: [oldschoolhouse@cybertours.com](mailto:oldschoolhouse@cybertours.com)

### Monroe

*Stone Fox Farm*  
Phone: 525-3555  
Fax: 525-8583  
Email: [stonefoxfarm@acadia.net](mailto:stonefoxfarm@acadia.net)

### Montville

*Tera Nova Farm*  
Phone: 589-4500

### Mount Desert

*Beech Hill Farm*  
Phone: 244-9597  
Fax: 244-5204  
Email: [beechhillfarm@ecology.coa.edu](mailto:beechhillfarm@ecology.coa.edu)  
Web: <http://www.ecology.coa.edu>

### New Sharon

*The Turkey Farm*  
Phone: 778-2889

### Orono

*Black Bear Food Guild*  
Phone: 581-2913 or 827-4695  
Email: [mariann2@maine.edu](mailto:mariann2@maine.edu)  
Web: <http://www.umaine.edu/foodguild>

### Perry

*Crystal Dawn Farm*  
Phone: 853-7333  
Email: [consalvi@midmaine.com](mailto:consalvi@midmaine.com)

### Sabattus

*Willow Pond Farm*  
Phone: 375-6662  
Email: [willowpf@aol.com](mailto:willowpf@aol.com)

### South Berwick

*Finson Farm*  
Phone: 676-8476 or 646-9374  
Fax: 646-6532  
Email: [Bill@finsonfarm.com](mailto:Bill@finsonfarm.com)  
Web: [www.finsonfarm.com](http://www.finsonfarm.com)

### Standish

*Rippling Waters Backyard Organics Farm*  
Phone: 642-5161

### Union

*Agricola Farms*  
Phone: 785-4018  
Email: [veggies4u2@aol.com](mailto:veggies4u2@aol.com)

### Washington

*Stone Ridge Gardens*  
Phone: 845-2900

### Whitefield

*Uncas Farms*  
Phone: 549-5185  
Email: [haines@adelphia.net](mailto:haines@adelphia.net)

### Winslow

*Simply Grande Gardens*  
Phone: 872-6443  
Fax: 872-0626  
Email: [petergarrett@eggi.com](mailto:petergarrett@eggi.com)



# Wal-Mart Brings Globalization to the Dinner Table

BY MATT HORA  
REPRINTED FROM THE  
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This month Wal-Mart Stores Inc. took over the top spot on the Fortune 500 list from Exxon Mobil Corp and purchased a portion of Japans 5th largest supermarket chain. Much of the company's success is due to an aggressive campaign to dominate the global retailing market. Wal-Mart's 1,170 international stores and supercenters now operate in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, South Korea, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the United Kingdom and allows the Arkansas based retailer to sell its low-cost goods to consumers around the world. Beyond expanding the global demand for lowcost toilet paper and fishing rods, WalMart is increasingly entering the food business, threatening supermarket chains like Safeway and Giant. With the recent deal giving Wal-Mart majority ownership of the Japanese supermarket chain Seiyu by 2007, the company hopes to emulate the success of Toys R' Us and Starbucks by establishing itself in the profitable Japanese market. These companies are some of the most visible proponents and targets of the global economy, but it is worth examining how Wal-Mart's expansion into East Asian markets is a part of the trend in the supermarket and food industries to consolidate, vertically integrate and to make our daily meals a true product of a borderless food economy. In short, Wal-Mart's recent ventures are an attempt to move total globalization into our kitchens.

Wal-Mart is an easy target for activists, and has spawned an almost universal reaction among progressives and populists alike: What do Kathy Lee

Gifford, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and a leading mutual fund company (KLD) have in common? Each has found Wal-Mart guilty of a variety of egregious acts from violating the American with Disabilities Act by forcing applicants to answer disability related questions during job interviews to the active support of sweatshops operated by drug traffickers in Myanmar. As KLDstates, "Wal-Mart's vendor contracting record is particularly troubling in light of its position as the largest retailer in the world. As a market leader, Wal-Mart wields tremendous influence over its industry. WalMart's example compels other companies to set a similarly low bar for monitoring labor conditions." This mentions nothing of WalMarts anti-union activities, its disastrous impact on small local businesses and the land use practices of its supercenters.

Wal-Mart achieved its unprecedented success in part by pioneering a distribution system that was completely integrated, from procurement to shipping and retailing. By purchasing huge quantities of toilet paper from a huge supplier, shipping the toilet paper on Wal-Mart owned trucks to Wal-Mart stores across the nation where the toilet paper is displayed and sold in bulk at low prices, the company took the national distribution system to another level of efficiency. With no middleman truck driver or wholesaler to pay, the savings do in fact get passed down to the customer. The supermarket industry has similarly shifted to more centralized buying and distribution operations, so that if a farmer in Georgia wanted to sell lettuce to a Safeway in Atlanta, it would have to first be shipped up to Safeway's Mid-Atlantic Distribution Center in Maryland,

and then shipped back to Atlanta after inspection for uniform taste and spoilage. As a result, in 1997 the average pound of fresh produce was shipped 1,685.5 miles from the farm to the Jessup, MD wholesale market. So the apples you bought last week, even if they were organic, most likely traveled over 2,000 miles.

The food industry is being revolutionized and traumatized by the Wal-Mart business pattern, and as consumers of food products, we are all affected by these changes in our national food system. While it is debated whether or not the consumer shapes the market or vice versa, it is clear that our eating habits are fueling the trend towards convenient, packaged and global foods. Most of us are accustomed to walking into a Safeway, Kroger or Giant Foods and expecting the same products no matter what the time of year. Grapes in the middle of winter, peppers in June and bananas all the time. This wealth of food choices is made possible through a combination of factors that allows farmers in regions thousands of miles away to view the Mid-Atlantic region as a prime customer base. Our collective addiction to non-regional foods for example has led to an increase in food miles across the United States. A food mile is the distance food travels from where it is grown or raised to where it is purchased by the consumer, and in studies conducted in Chicago, IL, Boston, MA and Jessup, MD, it has been documented that food miles are steadily increasing. In Chicago the food mile for the average pound of fresh produce increased 22% from 1981 to 1998, and in Boston, MA the food mile increased from 2,002 miles in 1980 to 2,374 miles in 1995. These figures are for raw fresh produce. Other food prod-

ucts that are processed, packaged or manufactured in some form would have substantially higher shipping distances.

The modern food system is now structured around long-distance supply chains that spread across the globe, with companies like Wal-Mart making the same food and consumer products available in Maryland as in Beijing. From fresh produce to poultry, lumber to diapers, the North American trucking industry is the backbone of the commonly lauded modern distribution system. "If truckers stopped driving, then the whole U.S. would shut down in days, and you wouldn't be able to eat," said a truck-driver at the Jessup market. Indeed, the men and women who transport our bread and butter have become so invisible to the American public that this entire sector of the food system escapes our attention.

As the public has become accustomed to this new global diet, distribution chains such as Wal-Mart's will only continue to shape the entire food economy. After the terrorist attacks in September, some began wondering if something disrupted the food distribution network. Our agricultural infrastructure has become so specialized that we would have to survive on eggs, broilers, seafood, sweet corn, soybeans, livestock and tobacco [Ed. note: For Maine, this would be eggs, blueberries, potatoes, maple syrup and fish]. While this diet may sound repugnant to your ears, consider that our region can and does grow a dazzling array of fresh produce, yet still we purchase Washington State apples in huge quantities while the orchards of Pennsylvania and West Virginia [Ed. note: Not to mention New England in general] become antiques, and the food miles that fuel our food system continue to grow every year.



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## Announcement

### Turn Up The AAMP!

*"The most powerful weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed."*

- Stephen Biko, South African Freedom Fighter and Martyr

Chances are if you are reading this very fine IMC publication, you are fed up with the fascist propaganda being fed to us via the mainstream media here in the United States. As most of us know, they are the so-called "free-press" with a corporate face. Well, in the summer of 2002, turn up the AAMP! In Androscoggin county we are

embarking on an alternative media project that will:

- take back the airwaves from FCC-handshaking, corporate bullies
- distribute an array of independent media and radical news sources (like the Maine Commons)
- air political documentaries, speeches and films on public access channels across the county

The Androscoggin Alternative Media Project (AAMP!) is a six phase effort to bring an array of alternative news sources to Androscoggin county. Through the medium of microradio, the dissemination of literature and publications, as well as providing radical politi-

cal programming on local public access channels, AAMP! works to expand access to under-represented voices and political views not offered in the mainstream media.

*This is a project in its very beginning stages and we need all the help you can offer to get it going. Please get in touch with us if you would like to learn more, are interested in working on the project, could offer a word or two of advice, or just plain want to give a shout out to AAMP! Please contact Kate Brennan in Greene at 946-4478 or [katebrennan@riseup.net](mailto:katebrennan@riseup.net).*

Don't Peek! Answers to the Acrostic on page 16 below:

A. Law Courts; B. Opinionated; C. Upper berth; D. Italian; E. Sid; F. Five; G. Immune; H. Saddled up; I. Chapter and Verse; J. Holiest; K. Embassy Row; L. Racing Cars; M. Ghost Dance; N. Amy; O. Named; P. Doubt; Q. Hirsute; R. Invidious; S. Invaliate; T. Nippon; U. Irish Stew; V. Nods off; W. Discos; X. Ice cream; Y. Above the storm



**ALD : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

Advisory Council (FAC). Decisions are made by a Board of Governors, appointed to the position by the President and Senate. The FAC meets regularly with the board to consults and advise on all matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Like World Bank and IMF, these meetings are held in secret with no oversight.

The Fed makes money by, quite literally, *making* money. When the government or a bank (or in some cases a business or investors) needs money, and it is agreed by the Board that new money should be created, the government or bank purchases money from the Fed. The Fed prints the needed amount of money (at a cost of approximately \$0.03 a bill), and loans the newly created money to the government or bank at face value plus interest, from which the Fed then profits.

The Fed differs from regular corporations in that profits are not its stated purpose; yet if the Fed were a single firm, it would qualify it as one of the most profitable companies in the world. In 1995 it made about \$23.9 billion in profit. The Fed does not get to keep most of the profit, though, and about 98% of its income is transferred to the U.S. Treasury, with the remaining profits divided between the Federal Reserve banks and stockholders.

When people hear the word "reserve" it usually conjures images of vaults full of gold that back up the paper notes which are issued. This is far from the reality of the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve notes are fiat money, irredeemable paper currency that is not backed by any commodity such as gold, but which derives purchasing power simply by order of the government issuing it. It is worth something, in other words, because the government says it is. You cannot bring your ten-dollar bill to the bank to exchange for some set amount of silver or gold or other solid commodity - you can only exchange it for more fiat currency.

The Fed does require that there be assets in its reserve to back up 10% of the dollars in circulation, but those assets do not have to be gold or any other solid commodity. Government Securities also count as reserves. Since government securities are certificates of debt issued by a government guaranteeing payment of the original investment plus interest by a specified future date, the reserves are really just made up of more interest and debt.

Essentially the Fed is able to sell, and profit from, debt. As more dollars are printed into circulation, the value of the dollar decreases. According to international currency expert Franz Pick, "...From 1940 to now, the dollar has lost 96.8% of its purchasing power. It's a horrible statistic." That was written in 1985, and the dollar has only lost purchasing power since then.

The Fed also has the authority to approve or deny mergers of major banks. With former Bank executives on its board, as FAC representatives, and as shareholding members, the Fed's bias is questioned. Major shareholders include such large banking corporations as Citigroup and J.P. Morgan, who are

also the major lenders and profiteers for World Bank projects. In 1998, the Fed approved an application by Travelers Group to become a bank holding company by acquiring Citicorp, allowing the creation of the largest financial services firm in the world and the first combination of a large insurance underwriter with a large commercial bank.

Some background on the World Bank and IMF may help illuminate the connections between all the institutions. In some ways, they are the international arms of the Fed. The World Bank and IMF were created just after WWII, at the Bretton Woods Conference, with the stated purpose of supplying loans to member countries to aid in rebuilding their economies after the war. The loans are made available only after the recipient governments have agreed to policy reforms, such as opening their countries' economies to foreign corporations for officially determined types of "development", cutting social spending, selling publicly owned assets such as water, allowing the corporations to convert profits made in the receiving country into their home currency (usually American Federal Reserve dollars), making their currency fully exchangeable with the US dollar, and requiring the nation to devalue its currency. Private banks profit greatly off the interest from loans made to these countries, the US dollar gains dominance, and the countries, facing a drain of local resources and a weakened monetary system, become dependent upon the loans. Very few of these countries find their way out of the newly imposed debt, dependence on the American dollar, and ever-increasing interest owed to the private banks.

Rather than allow these countries to default on their loans -- which would be a loss of billions or trillions of expected profits for the loaning banks -- the Federal Reserve comes into play to bail out the banks. The Fed approves massive low-interest loans to the banks such as Citigroup and JP Morgan (who, if you remember, also happen to be major Fed shareholders) to help bail them out directly. It also lowers interest rates and expands the money supply in the US -- thus devaluing the dollar -- which usually leads to the increased sales of these private banks' stocks as well. Then, the IMF pushes the country's government to take on the debts of failing corporations, and provides billions of dollars (much of those billions taken from American "public" tax dollars) to the country's government to pay off the debts owed to the private lenders.

**Fighting the Fed**

The nonprofit "National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act and the Internal Revenue Service" (NORFED) is the brainchild of writer and economics researcher, Bernard von NotHaus. NotHaus studied failed economic systems throughout his-

tory ("You learn the most from a failed relationship," he explains), and studied the problems inherent to the Federal Reserve System. The American Liberty Dollar is the product of this research. ALDs come as warehouse receipts, the \$10.00 silver-backed receipt, and \$500 Gold Certificate, all 100% redeemable for the metal itself. There is also an eLibertyDollar for online transactions.

The currency is legal, although businesses cannot be required to accept it (thus, it cannot bear the phrase "legal tender.") It is put into circulation in communities through businesses and individuals who become "redemption centers" and exchange the ALDs at face value for Federal Reserve Notes.

There are over 40 other alternative currencies being used in the US, but most, if not all, are limited to local use. The ALD is designed for use nationwide and possibly worldwide. At the same time, users hope it will help strengthen local communities, since the businesses that accept it are almost entirely locally-owned.

There are 9 Maine redemption centers and over 200 merchants in Maine listed on the NORFED website, [www.norfed.org](http://www.norfed.org), as accepting ALD's. A few who were contacted are no longer using or accepting the currency; however, more Maine merchants are being added to the list each week, and some businesses have accepted the currency, but not been listed online, so the 200 business estimate for Maine is probably relatively accurate.

A majority of the Maine businesses accepting the currency are in rural Northern and Central Maine, with several on the coast. When asked why this regionalized use exists, Ivan Shapiro of Fort Fairfield-based Shapiro Hay Sales theorized, "I think as you get further away from liberal New England [southern and/or urban] to conservative New England [northern and/or rural], you'll find people more concerned with the status of our country, our economy, etc. If they're more concerned, they're more liable to take action in something such as NORFED." Founder NotHaus emphasizes, though, that using ALDs is a non-partisan action. Also responsible for the positive response in Northern and Central Maine, is Dale McAvey, the Bangor Redemption Center representative who has been active in traveling and talking to business owners about the ALD, and has sponsored more Liberty Merchants than anyone else.

Currently most Maine businesses accepting the currency report that they see only a couple repeat customers who use the dollars. Most agree that it will take time to reach a critical mass where the currency is familiar and in active use in a region, and feel that is the biggest hurdle the currency faces -- simply becoming familiar. Most are hopeful that the young currency will catch on from town to town. The delicate balance is to see if people remain con-

vinced of the effectiveness of the currency while it is going through what supporters hope to be just a temporary, but possibly lengthy, growth period.

Users of ALDs offer a wide range of reasons they use the money. Most use the ALD for any combination of the following reasons: Some have used barter in their past, and see the ALD as being more tangible than Federal Reserve Notes, since it is essentially barter by proxy. Others have religious convictions which teach that usury is a sin, and do not wish to support the government-sponsored usury that is the Fed. Some see an inevitable collapse of the dollar, and see ALDs as a currency that can't be affected by the market and inflation. NotHaus feels that the currency "provides an insular effect for merchant, consumer, and community. The more people in any community that use the currency, the better insulated that community is going to be for the next monetary crisis. [A monetary crisis] is inherent in a fiat system." Some proponents describe themselves as Constitutionalists, and see ALDs as more in line with the ideals outlined in the Constitution than the Federal Reserve Notes are. James Duclos, of Maine Catch Lobster Company in Saco, who has been using ALDs for over two years, explains that he uses the currency, "...to help return our nation's currency of something of value." Others simply started collecting the \$10 Silver Liberty coin, and learned more about the issues surrounding the currency as a result. Jack McCarthy, who owns Nature's Pantry in Houlton, echoes others who feel that this will bring much needed change to the US monetary system by offering competition, saying, "Spread the word. Competition works here also." Others are simply long-time critics of the Fed for many of the same reasons they are critics of the World Bank, IMF and related institutions, and hope that using this currency can be a small action leading to the eventual dismantling of the Federal Reserve System.

The actions by individuals and communities working against what they see as unjust and unsustainable institutions raises questions. Will the growing movement against the international debt-creating organizations like the World Bank and IMF converge with the growing movement against the American debt-creation organization, the Federal Reserve? Do the hundreds of Mainers who have traveled to demonstrate in the streets of NYC and DC have anything in common with the hundreds of Mainers who are starting to use an alternative currency system like ALDs? Neither issue is truly a partisan one, yet the divisions between people working on these different, yet connected issues, seem to be drawn on partisan lines. These connections take time, though, and as the American Liberty currency, a tangible product, becomes more common around the state, it may spark discussion and exchange between people who, through lack of contact, once felt their beliefs were far more at odds than they truly are.

BY HILLARY LISTER





# Maine Solidarity Calendar

May 27 - July 19, 2002 (updated and with more info at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>)

## Monday May 27th

**Kennebunk Rally and Festival**  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Contact: James David Morgan  
Email: [forever27@paris.com](mailto:forever27@paris.com)  
Location: Rotary Park and LaFayette Park, Kennebunk

## Wednesday May 29th

**Walkout at Gardiner High**  
Time: 9:00 AM  
Location: Gardiner High School, Gardiner  
Info: Walkout to Protest the wars and US policy. More info on pg. 16.

## Thursday May 30th

**Vigil against all Molestation and Rape**  
Time: 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
Contact: Jan Lightfoot Lane  
Phone: 1-800-438-3890  
Location: 510 Ocean St, Portland  
Info: Gather before the Catholic Diocese with respectful signs to silently pray that abuse is lessened from 1 in 5 chance to 1 in 500 odds by 2004.

## Knox County Greens Meeting

Time: 6:00 PM  
Contact: Tim Sullivan  
Phone: 236-0732  
Email: [tims@maine.greens.org](mailto:tims@maine.greens.org)  
Web: <http://maine.greens.org/knox>  
Location: Rockland Rec Center (Corner of Union and Limerock Streets), Rockland

## Saturday June 1st

### Green Futures Day

Contact: Kaia  
Phone: 338-5859 x 28  
Location: Belfast Park, Belfast  
Information: All day event with tabling, workshops, dance, music, and more! Theme of the fair is Sustainability.

### Maine Herb Fest

Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Contact: Katharyn Dunham  
Phone: 639-2005  
Email: [kdunham@tdstelme.net](mailto:kdunham@tdstelme.net)  
Location: MOFGA Fairgrounds, Unity  
Info: 8th annual Maine festival devoted entirely to herbs. Classes and herb walks all day long. Large choice of culinary and medicinal herbs & herbal products. Music, food and children's activities. Admission \$5 (free for children under 12)

## Tuesday June 4th

### Maine Care Workshop

Time: 9:00AM - 12:00noon  
Phone: 621-0677  
Location: Sanford  
Info: Maine's Health Insurance Programs for Families with Children Workshops. Workshop will provide updated information about Maine's publicly funded health insurance programs including services covered, cost, eligibility guidelines and the application process. If you would like to register, please contact the workshop presenter for your preferred location and date. Free.

## Thursday June 6th

### Belfast Bearfest

Contact: Karna Olsson  
Phone: 207-338-0057  
Email: [belfastmamabear@yahoo.com](mailto:belfastmamabear@yahoo.com)  
Web: <http://www.belfastbearfest.com>  
Info: Free public art event. Nearly 40 life-sized fiberglass bear forms are transformed



Protester against homophobia at Colby, April 12, 2002.

by local artists and will stand on street corners, pose beside the waterfront and welcome visitors into businesses around town until October 18 when they will be auctioned.

### "Maria's Story" Film

Time: 7:00 PM  
Contact: Peninsula Peace and Justice  
Phone: 326-4405  
Location: Public Library, Blue Hill  
Info: Film about struggles for peace and justice in El Salvador.

## Sunday June 9th

### Walk With The Ones You Love

Contact: Maine Speakout Project  
Phone: 1-866-879-MSOP (6767)  
Email: [msoproject@gwi.net](mailto:msoproject@gwi.net)  
Web: <http://www.mainespeakout.org>  
Location: Locations Across the State  
Info: An initiative to bring gay and non-gay people together to demonstrate a shared commitment to making our schools, streets, and communities safe and respectful places for all of us.

## Tuesday June 11th

### Maine Care Workshop

Time: 9:00AM - 12:00noon  
Phone: 621-0677  
Location: Bangor  
Info: See description Tues. June 4th.

## Saturday June 22nd

### Maine Green Independent Party Convention

Contact: Tim Sullivan  
Phone: 236-0732  
Email: [tims@maine.greens.org](mailto:tims@maine.greens.org)  
Web: <http://www.maineegreens.org>  
Location: Atrium, Cook's Corner, Rt 24, Brunswick

### GLBTQ Youth Conference

Phone: 828-6560  
Email: [youthsummit2002@hotmail.com](mailto:youthsummit2002@hotmail.com)  
Web: <http://www.outright.org>  
Location: Unity College, Unity  
Info: Jun 22 2002 to Jun 23 2002.  
Workshops include: Coming Out; Butch/Femme Identity; People Living with HIV; Gender and Sexuality; Straight Allies; Spiritual Workshop and more! Summit includes meals, overnight in dorms and dance.

## Monday June 24th

### MtF Event 2002

Contact: Premesh Silva  
Phone: +94-74419134  
Email: [premesh@mandatethefuture.org](mailto:premesh@mandatethefuture.org)  
Web: [mandatethefuture.org/event.shtml](http://mandatethefuture.org/event.shtml)  
Location: Rockland  
Info: Mandate the Future's global youth forum connects and mobilizes youth from all over the world into a common forum to discuss and debate issues of immense significance to all of us.

### Maine Care Workshop

Time: 9:00AM - 12:00noon  
Phone: 621-0677  
Location: Portland  
Info: See description Tues. June 4th.

## Monday June 24th

### "The Witness"

Time: 6:00PM - 8:00PM  
Phone: 342-3309  
Location: Library, High St., Belfast  
Info: Free video showing. An animal rights documentary with discussion to follow.

### Solar Electricity: Living the Independent Life

Time: 7:00PM  
Phone: 326-8211  
Web: [www.goodlife.org](http://www.goodlife.org)  
Location: Good Life Center, Orr's Cove, Harborside

## Thursday June 27th

### WERU Full Circle Summer Fair

Phone: 469-6600  
Email: [denis@weru.org](mailto:denis@weru.org)  
Web: <http://www.weru.org>  
Location: Blue Hill Fairgrounds, Blue Hill

## Saturday June 29th

### Democracy Rising

Phone: 236-0732  
Email: [tims@maine.greens.org](mailto:tims@maine.greens.org)  
Web: <http://www.democracyrising.org>  
Location: Location TBA, Portland  
Info: Democracy Rising w/Ralph Nader, other speakers and performers to support Green Party, progressive action, teach-in on World Trade/FTAA and other issues, afternoon teach-in plus speakers at 5 PM.

## Thursday July 4th

### Athens 4th of July

Time: 11:00 AM  
Location: Gravel Pit, West Athens  
Info: Annual parade and play from In Spite of Life Players

## Friday July 12th

### Maine Bike Rally

Contact: Bicycle Coalition of Maine  
Phone: 623-4511  
Email: [BCM@BikeMaine.org](mailto:BCM@BikeMaine.org)  
Location: Bethel and nearby  
Info: Continues until Sun. July 14th

## Friday July 19th

### Northeast Machine Gun Shoot

Contact: Hiram Maxim Historical Society  
Phone: 465-2335  
Email: [hms@hiramaxim.com](mailto:hms@hiramaxim.com)  
Web: <http://www.hirammaxim.com/>  
Location: Dover Foxcroft  
Information: 7th Annual 3-Day Gun Show.

## Monthly Repeating Events

### Sundays

#### Merry Meeting Green Meetings

Phone: 443-9005  
Info: 1st Sundays, except holiday weekends.

### Mondays

#### Bangor Clean Clothes Campaign Meeting

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Phone: 947-4203  
Location: Peace & Justice Center, Bangor  
Info: Working to eliminate sweatshops and to encourage Bangor area businesses to carry clothing made in a socially responsible way. Meets 1st Monday of month.

#### Greater Bangor NOW Chapter meeting

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Phone: Day 989-3306, Evening 947-5337  
Location: Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 362 Harlow Street, Bangor  
Info: Meets 3rd Monday of month.

#### Peace Action Maine Disarmament Committee Meeting

Time: 6:00 PM  
Phone: 772-0680  
Location: Peace & Justice Center, 1 Pleasant St, 4th floor, Portland  
Info: Meets 1st Monday each month.

### Tuesdays

#### Waldo County Peace and Justice Group

Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 338-0406  
Email: [s\\_lauchlan@hotmail.com](mailto:s_lauchlan@hotmail.com)  
Location: UU Church, 37 Miller St, Belfast  
Info: Meets 1st Tuesday each month.

### Wednesdays

#### REEL Men Gathering

Time: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
Phone: 786-4697  
Email: [acla@gwi.net](mailto:acla@gwi.net)  
Location: Lewiston  
Info: Monthly gathering & movie night for gay/bi men men & gay/bi identified trans-men of all ages. 3rd Wednesday of month.

### Thursdays

#### MAIN Meeting

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Phone: 947-4371  
Email: [kjguay@imfi.net](mailto:kjguay@imfi.net)  
Location: Equal Justice Center, 126 Sewall St, Augusta  
Info: Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods is a coalition of low-income individuals & organizations working together to gain control of our living conditions. 2nd Thursday of month.

#### Peninsula Peace & Justice potluck supper

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Phone: 326-4405  
Email: [robbins@downeast.net](mailto:robbins@downeast.net)  
Location: Congregational Church, Main St, Blue Hill  
Info: 2nd Thursday each month. Potluck supper and conversation, planning.



# Maine Solidarity Calendar (continued from page 10)

## Thursdays

**Northern Lambda Nord Meeting**  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Phone: 498-2088 or 800-468-2088  
Location: GLBT Community Services Center, 658 South Main Street, Caribou  
Info: 2nd Thursday each month.

**Ellsworth Area Peace & Justice Meeting**  
Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
Phone: 667-0268  
Email: [eadams@downeast.net](mailto:eadams@downeast.net)  
Info: 2nd Thursday of the month.

**Union River Greens**  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 359-2283  
Email: [eggplant@ct1.com](mailto:eggplant@ct1.com)  
Web: [www.mainegreens.org](http://www.mainegreens.org)  
Location: Ellsworth City Hall Auditorium  
Info: 1st Thursday of each month.

## Saturdays

**Northern Regional MAIN Meeting**  
Phone: 947-4371  
Email: [krjguay@infi.net](mailto:krjguay@infi.net)  
Web: [www.bairnet.org/organizations/main/](http://www.bairnet.org/organizations/main/)  
Location: Methodist Church, Orono  
Info: Northern Branch of MAIN. See Thursday listing. 1st Saturday of month. Call to confirm meeting is happening.

## Weekly Repeating Events

## Sundays

**Belfast Weekly Peace Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM  
Location: Southeast corner of High & Main St, Belfast  
Info: Women in Black & Standing for Peace weekly Peace Vigil. Wear black to symbolize mourning for all victims of war. Bring signs and banners. All are welcome.

**Kennebunk Women in Black Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM  
Phone: 985-3211  
Email: [Zeppa@aol.com](mailto:Zeppa@aol.com)  
Location: Main and Water St, Kennebunk

**Bar Harbor Peace Vigil**  
Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
Phone: 288-4365  
Location: Village Green, Bar Harbor

**GLBTQ Congregation Services**  
Time: 4:00 PM  
Phone: 621-2658  
Web: <http://www.northernlightsmcc.com>  
Location: Riverside Drive, Vassalboro  
Info: Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church is an all inclusive church meaning that all religions are represented in the congregation, including Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish.

**Blue Hill Candlelight Vigil**  
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Email: [robbins@downeast.net](mailto:robbins@downeast.net)  
Location: Grounds of Town Hall (Outdoors on the Main St. front lawn), Blue Hill  
Info: Bring candles, all welcome.

## Mondays

**Youth Adelantando Meeting**  
Time: 5:15 PM - 7:30 PM  
Phone: 947-4203  
Location: Peace & Justice Center, Bangor  
Info: A self-governed group of area youth committed to change, working on building connections between youth in El Salvador & Maine, corporate control, & peace work.

**Lewiston Peace Vigil**  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Phone: 946-4478  
Location: Kennedy Park, Lewiston

**Rockland Peace Vigil**  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Email: [tims@maine.greens.org](mailto:tims@maine.greens.org)  
Location: Library, Union St, Rockland  
Info: Discussions, forums, films may follow.

**Portland Vigil for Peace**  
Time: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Location: Monument Square, Portland  
Info: Sponsored by Peace Action Maine, Veterans for Monument Square, Portland Peace, and the Maine Labor Party

**Bangor Outright Meeting**  
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Phone: 990-3626 or 1-800-429-1481  
Email: [drew\\_eman@hotmail.com](mailto:drew_eman@hotmail.com)  
Web: [www.maineaidsnetwork.com/outright](http://www.maineaidsnetwork.com/outright)  
Location: 80 Exchange St, Bangor  
Info: Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday. Safe drop-in space and meeting for GLBTQ youth ages 22 and under.

## Tuesdays

**Bangor Candlelight Vigil**  
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Phone: 942-9343  
Location: Federal Building, Harlow St, Bangor

**Portland Outright Meeting**  
Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Phone: 828-6560 / toll-free (888) 567-7600  
fEmail: [outright@outright.org](mailto:outright@outright.org)  
Web: [www.outright.org](http://www.outright.org)  
Location: Outright Space above Portland Glass, 832 Congress St, Portland  
Info: Safe drop-in space GLBTQ youth ages 22 and under.

**Gay Men's Support Group Meeting**  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Email: [centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com](mailto:centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com)  
Location: UU Church, Winthrop St, Augusta

**PACT Meeting**  
Time: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
Location: Peace and Justice Center, 1 Pleasant St, 4th floor, Portland  
Info: People Against Corporate Tyranny. Meets every 2nd and 4th Tues.

## Wednesdays

**Let Cuba Live Meetings**  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 273-3247  
Email: [stevbee@midcoast.com](mailto:stevbee@midcoast.com)  
Web: <http://www.letcubalive.org>  
Info: Usually takes place at the 55 Plus Center in Brunswick, but people should call or email first to be sure, sometimes the third Wed meeting is held in different locations around the state. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.

## Thursdays

**Camden Women in Black**  
Time: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM  
Phone: 549-3061  
Location: Corner of Route 1 & Atlantic Ave (in front of Public Library), Camden

**Central Maine Outright Meeting**  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 621-6393  
Email: [centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com](mailto:centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com)  
Location: 11 King Street, Augusta  
Info: A weekly safe drop-in program for GLBTQ and allied youth ages 22 and under

## Fridays

**Farmington Women In Black Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM  
Phone: 293-2580  
Location: Post Office, Farmington

**Augusta Women in Black Vigil**  
Time: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM  
Phone: 549-3061  
Location: Lithgow Library, Augusta

**Portland Q&A**  
Time: 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
Phone: 828-6560 / toll-free (888) 567-7600 for long distance in-state.  
Email: [outright@outright.org](mailto:outright@outright.org)  
Location: Outright Space above Portland Glass, 832 Congress St, Portland  
Info: A program specifically for those GLBTQ youth 16 and under

**Ellsworth Peace Vigil**  
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Phone: 667-0268  
Email: [eadams@downeast.net](mailto:eadams@downeast.net)  
Location: Bridge to Bucksport & Blue Hill, Ellsworth

**Brunswick Peace Vigil**  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Phone: 443-2899  
Location: Brunswick Mall, Brunswick

**Lewiston/Auburn Outright**  
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
Phone: 786-2717  
Email: [outright\\_la@hotmail.com](mailto:outright_la@hotmail.com)  
Web: [www.outrightla.org](http://www.outrightla.org)  
Location: 145 Lisbon St, Room 302, Lewiston  
Info: Safe drop-in space and meeting for GLBTQ youth ages 22 and under.

**Portland Outright Meeting**  
Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Phone: 828-6560 / toll-free (888) 567-7600 for long distance in-state  
Email: [outright@outright.org](mailto:outright@outright.org)  
Location: 832 Congress Street, Portland  
Info: Safe drop-in space and meeting for GLBTQ youth ages 22 and under.

**Downeast Outright Meeting**  
Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Phone: 667-3506  
Email: [dean@downeast.net](mailto:dean@downeast.net)  
Location: 25A Pine St, Ellsworth  
Info: Every first and third Friday. Safe drop-in space and meeting for GLBTQ youth ages 22 and under.

**Coastal Outright Meeting**  
Time: 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM  
Phone: 800-207-4064  
Email: [coastaloutright@yahoo.com](mailto:coastaloutright@yahoo.com)  
Location: Rockland  
Info: For GLBTQ youth in Knox, Lincoln and Waldo counties, ages 22 and under. Meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

## Saturdays

**Houlton Women in Black Peace Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM  
Phone: 532-3797  
Location: Monument Park, Near the Peace Pole, Houlton.

## Farmers' Markets Listing Summer 2002



You can buy locally-produced food at farmer's markets throughout Maine. Find one near you - call for times, food stamp acceptance info, and locations.

Auburn .....	336-2411
Augusta .....	549-5112
Bangor .....	326-4741
Bar Harbor .....	288-4930
Bath .....	586-5067
Belfast .....	342-2095
Bethel .....	836-3606
Blue Hill .....	359-4487
Boothbay .....	737-8834
Bowdoinham .....	737-7557
Brewer .....	948-5724
Bridgton .....	642-5161
Brunswick .....	666-3116
Calais, Eastport, & Perry .....	454-7496
Camden .....	549-7070
Cumberland .....	829-5588
Damariscotta Area .....	549-5112
Deer Isle/Stonington .....	326-4741
Dexter .....	924-7900
Ellsworth .....	667-1220
Fairfield .....	487-5056
Falmouth .....	846-4405
Farmington .....	778-3115
Fort Fairfield .....	473-7786
Fort Kent .....	834-6933
Houlton .....	794-8306
Islesboro .....	722-3303
Jonesport Area .....	497-3431
Kennebunk .....	967-8018
Machias Valley .....	638-2664
Madawaska .....	895-5234
Naples .....	642-5161
Northeast Harbor .....	288-4930
Norway .....	539-4848
Orono .....	285-3581
Pittsfield .....	487-5056
Portland (Maine Mall) .....	549-7070
Portland (Monument Sq.) .....	883-5750
Portland (Public Market) .....	228-2006
Portsmouth, NH .....	603-659-3902
Presque Isle .....	896-5860
Rockland .....	785-3810
Saco .....	929-5318
Skowhegan .....	938-3906
Springvale/Sanford .....	324-0331
Unity .....	948-9005
Westbrook .....	854-9105
Winthrop .....	395-4244

To have your event listed in the next issue of the *Maine Commons* as well as online, email the event info to: [editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org) or write to: **Maine IMC, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903.**



# Maine Independent Media Resource Guide

## FEATURED SHOWS

### RADIOACTIVE

<http://www.freespeech.org/ran>

RadioActive is a grassroots environmental and social justice news journal hosted by Amy Browne and Meredith DeFrancesco and heard Thursdays from 4:00 - 4:30 pm on WERU (www.weru.org) FM 89.9 Blue Hill and 102.9 Bangor, Maine.

Recent Programs include an interview with Peter Garrett of the Band Midnight Oil (May 2, 2002) about his and the band's political views and history of activism; a discussion of the PATRIOT Act (April 18, 2002) with guest Cathy Mint of the Belfast, Maine Peace & Justice group; John Dffenbacher-Krall, of the Maine People's Alliance, on Mercury Pollution at Holtramchem (April 11, 2002).

You can listen to archived shows at: <http://media.maineindymedia.org> OR <http://www.radio4all.net>

## FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

### Open Road Infoshop

[www.geocities.com/openroadinfoshop](http://www.geocities.com/openroadinfoshop)  
[azitiz@yahoo.com](mailto:azitiz@yahoo.com)

Open Road is a web-based radical lending library in the Portland, ME area. The website helps folks share their informational and knowledge resources with the Portland Community in order to help bring about radical social, political, and economic change.

This is done now by listing our materials at a common location for the public to browse. Each lender chooses what to lend, and their policies for borrowing.

It would be wonderful to see this grow and eventually make it to an actual physical location. Perhaps a place somewhere in downtown Portland.

The space could become a community media center (newspaper, zines, micro-radio, audio/video editing equipment, etc), meeting center, performance space, free school, daycare, ... Have Ideas? Wanna Help? E-mail us: [azitiz@yahoo.com](mailto:azitiz@yahoo.com)

### The JED Center

[www.jedcenter.org](http://www.jedcenter.org)

For a number of years, young activists across the state of Maine have been discussing the idea of creating a multi-faceted community space in which our diverse forms of political work and passion can be supported, sustained, and multiplied. This vision, for what we call

"JED," the Maine Center for Justice, Ecology, and Democracy, has found a place to be born. Beginning in the spring of 2002, the JED Collective (7 people and growing) will be planting our seeds (literally and figuratively) at the Clark Mountain Sanctuary (CMS), a fabulous 500-acre non-profit land trust in Greene, Maine.

We believe that struggles for liberation must be moved beyond the realm of reaction and defense towards larger, vibrant, long-term projects of resistance and positive creation. JED is a fertile space out of which such dynamic, wide-ranging action can grow. Our common principles are necessarily broad, open, and connective:

### TRANET

<http://www.nonviolence.org/tranet>  
Transnational Network for Alternative / Appropriate Technologies.

For 25 years, since its initiation at the U.N. Conference on Human Settlement in Vancouver Canada in 1976, TRANET has been helping concerned Global citizens exchange ideas and techniques which empower people at the grassroots and promote local community self-reliance. It has been among the growing numbers of organizations and individuals which believe that the whole earth is in a period of transition for the homo-centric Industrial Culture based on self-interest, survival of the fittest, and materialism to an ecocentric Gaian Culture based on belonging, cooperation, community and mutual respect.

### Portland Organization to Win Economic Rights (POWER)

[www.poorpower.net](http://www.poorpower.net)

The Portland Organization to Win Economic Rights (P.O.W.E.R.) began in June 2001 following a conference entitled "The New Economy, the Old Poverty" at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. P.O.W.E.R. members come from all walks of life in Southern Maine, but the group is run by low income people. Non-poor members participate but may not vote or hold office.

### Radio Free Maine

[www.radiofreemaine.com](http://www.radiofreemaine.com)

"Voices of the Left - Unedited and Uncensored"

Radio Free Maine's Roger Leisner travels to events up and down the East Coast, featuring "Voices of the Left." He records audio, video and photos, and releases the recordings unedited and uncensored. Videos played on Channel 2 and 4 Portland, Biddeford Public Access, and available for rent at VideoPort. Roger emphasizes that his recordings are banned on Maine Public Broadcasting, WMPG and WERU!

June-July 2002

## FEATURED OUTLETS

### Zines:

### Screw The Norm!

[screwthenorm.maineindymedia.org](http://screwthenorm.maineindymedia.org)

Our mission here at STN! is to provide you with alternate information sources about the world. To tell you what we think. We want to encourage alternate media forms as they can be a great source of entertainment. We are an independent group. We will try to keep the paper free as the money is coming out of our own pockets, but we do ask that you contribute funds if ever possible. We open the paper up to anyone who has something they want to show. For now, thats it!

[screwthenorm@maineindymedia.org](mailto:screwthenorm@maineindymedia.org)

### THE RAG

<http://therag.maineindymedia.org>

"If you ain't reading The Rag, you ain't worth a fuck."

PO Box 1825, Portland, ME 04104  
[writetherag@yahoo.com](mailto:writetherag@yahoo.com)

The Rag is published and distributed regularly in the Portland area. The Rag is not about free speech, it is about anarchist speech. The Rag drags down the likes of Al Diamon and Chris Busby, formerly of the Casco Bay Weekly and tears them limb from limb with biting humor. Isn't it about time Al got some of his own medicine? The Rag is part satire and part brutally honest social commentary.

### Black Star North Collective Zine

<http://angelfire.com/zine2/blackstarnorth>  
Get your copy of Black Star North from: **Black Star North, c/o Mutual Aid Portland, PO Box 7378, Portland ME 04112.** [blackstarnorth@yahoo.com](mailto:blackstarnorth@yahoo.com)

Anarchists and the Media ...As long as the present social order exists, it will be impossible to avoid interaction with the various facets of the power structure. Those of us who call ourselves anarchists need to choose to make these interactions clearly adversarial and conflictual, reflecting our desire to destroy the power structure completely....

### Newspapers:

### Maine Labor News

[mln@maine.rr.com](mailto:mln@maine.rr.com)  
207-773-5760

"Voice of the Labor Movement in Maine." Published bi-monthly, if it's happening in Maine's labor community, it's

Compiled by Ed Democracy

in the Maine Labor News. It includes local and national labor news, statewide labor event listings and stories, election info, legislative info, labor history articles, and more!

### Radio:



89.9 FM (Blue Hill) & 102.9 FM (Bangor)

[www.weru.org/pages/programs.html](http://www.weru.org/pages/programs.html)

The mission of WERU-FM is to provide a community-based, noncommercial radio service for the people living in the areas covered by the station's signal; to broadcast programs designed to serve the needs of those not currently served by other broadcast media; and to be a voice of many voices offering a wide variety of people an opportunity to share their experiences, concerns, and perspectives with their neighbors over the airwaves.

### Schedule Highlights:

10-11AM 3rd Thursday Conversations on Science & Society with Jim Campbell  
10-11AM 4th Thursday RadioActive  
4-4:30PM Friday CounterSpin

4:30 - 5PM Free Speech Radio News (or other independent news programming) - Mon to Fri

5PM - 6PM Democracy Now - Mon to Fri

### Television:

**May Schedule for Channel 2 Portland**  
[www.ctn4maine.org/ch2.htm](http://www.ctn4maine.org/ch2.htm)

Sunday 12noon & 5PM & Saturday 11AM & 7PM - **Portland Commons: Common Issues For The Common Good** (1 hour)  
[www.portlandcommons.org](http://www.portlandcommons.org)

Monday 3:15 & 8:15 - **Maine IndyMedia David Rovics and Carolyn Chute**

Tuesday 1PM & 7PM - **Rent Control Freeze**  
3PM & 9PM - **Mainly Unspoken: Investigative Reporting & Political Issue Talk Show**  
10:00 PM - **PETA (A Compilation)**

Wednesday 2PM & 8PM - **What's Going On?**

Thursday 10PM - **Settling the Score with Briggs and Patrick: Social Commentary, Satire, Cultural Criticism**



## A Corporate History Of Maine: Conclusion

BY PETER KELLMAN

*In part 1 (printed in Issue 3, Jan/Feb 2002), Maine's first encounter with corporations was discussed. Part 2 (in Issue 4, March 2002), we discussed Massachusetts law, which was Maine Law until Maine's secession from Massachusetts in 1820. We begin the conclusion by covering the origin of the corporate tax break.*

### Liability and Tax Breaks

Shareholder liability for the debts accrued by manufacturing corporations became Massachusetts law in 1809 and was continued in Maine for the first three years of Statehood until the legislature passed Chapter 221 in 1823, which says in part: "... the members of Manufacturing Corporations shall be exempted from all individual liability for any debt or debts due from such corporations ..." The removal of liability for stockholders was a major change in corporate law, indicating that the class of people who had the money to invest in manufacturing concerns had become a powerful, important political force. Given this power, one should not be surprised to find that two years later the Maine legislature passed the grandparent of all tax breaks:

#### Grandparent of Maine Corporate Tax Breaks

##### *Chapter 288 - 1825*

*That the individual shares, property or stock, both real and personal, of each and every company which hereafter be incorporated in this State, as a body politic, for the purpose of manufacturing cotton, wool, iron and steel, that may be appropriated for the purchase of sites, erection of works, buildings, machinery, raw material and capital, in whatever shape, necessary for the full complete use and operation of those works shall not be liable ... to be assessed for the purpose of the town levying property taxes for the first six years of that corporations existence providing that the corporation spend at least \$30,000. in setting up the facility.*

Like most of today's tax breaks, this one was not set up to promote small business. So in 1997 when General Dynamics, a profitable modern manufacturing corporation, gets a \$60 million dollar subsidy from the Maine legislature, we should not view this as an aberration but as just another step in the long march of corporate dominance. However, there was one very notable stumble in the march of the corporate tax break.

### Allen v. Jay

The Jay town meeting in 1870 voted to float a \$10,000 bond to be used towards the establishment of a private sawmill. A local group of citizens took the town to court over the matter. The court ruled as follows:

*The constitution of the State is its paramount and binding law. The acquisition, possession, and protection of property are among the chief ends of government. To take directly or indirectly the property of individuals to loan to others for purposes of private gain and speculation against the consent of those whose money is thus loaned, would be to withdraw it from the protection of the constitution and submit it to the will of an irresponsible majority. It would be the robbery and spoilation of those estates, in whole or in part are thus confiscated.*

In 1872 the Supreme Court of the State of Maine ruled it was unconstitutional for the State or a town to "loan to others for purposes of private gain." In fact the court described this activity in very strong terms: "It is communism incipient, if not perfected."

Eighty-five years after Allen v. Jay, the legislature passed an Act which allowed the City of Bangor to purchase or take by eminent domain land to be used for industrial development. The court in a 1957 Opinion of the Justices declared that neither eminent domain nor the power of taxation could be used for a private rather than a public purpose.

Unable to get the courts to approve of using public money for private gain, the legislature passed a constitutional amendment in 1957 allowing the state to issue bonds to be used for "... the purposes of fostering, encouraging and assisting the physical location, settlement and resettlement" of private corporations within the State. By amending the constitution, the legislature opened the door to the corporate tax breaks and subsidies so common today.

#### General Incorporation Law

"Article IV, Part Third, Section 14. Corporations." was added to the Maine Constitution in 1876: *Corporations shall be formed under general laws and shall not be created by special acts of the legislature ... however formed, they shall forever be subject to the general laws of the State.*

It was argued at the time that requiring special acts of the legislature for purposes of incorporation was undemocratic because most people could not

afford the cost of getting a special act passed, and besides the legislative process was very corrupt. The case was made that forming a corporation by filing papers through the Secretary of State's office would be a more equitable way for more people to get the protection and benefits of corporate status. Of course, those shouting the loudest for more democracy in the incorporating process were also the ones who would benefit most by having one layer of public input removed from the process of incorporation.

### Corporations Owning Other Corporations

In 1887 the State Legislature passed a special law allowing the Pope Manufacturing Company, "organized under the general laws of the state ... to purchase, hold, own, sell and use the stocks bonds and property of other corporations".

Then in 1901 a general law was passed allowing corporations full autonomy in buying stock in other companies, buying other companies and allowing them to issue stock to raise the money to pay for such activities.

As we look over the change in the laws, and court decisions granting more and more power to the corporation and in turn the managers who run them, it's clear that "We the People" are once again being ruled by a King who makes all the important decisions regarding the "planting, ruling and governing" of our society. Except this time, the King is the corporation.

*This column is part of a continuing series: The Maine Lost History Project. Each month we will feature a column on the forgotten history of Maine - the "unofficial" history, the oral history, labor history, cultural history, forgotten victories, etc. If you or someone you know could write or tell (we will help in recording stories) some lost history, please contact the Editors of this paper.*

**May Schedule for Channel 4 Portland**  
[www.ctn4maine.org](http://www.ctn4maine.org)

Mon 3PM & 9PM  
Tues 9AM - **Portland Commons: Common Issues For The Common Good** (60. min.)  
[www.portlandcommons.org](http://www.portlandcommons.org)

Tues 2PM & 8PM  
Wed 8AM - **Do the "Rights" Thing** (60 min.)

Tues 3PM & 9PM  
Wed 9:00 AM - **Maine Woods and Water** (30 Min.)

Wed 1PM & 7PM  
Thurs 7AM - **Call-In Portland with Mayor Karen Gerahgty** (60 Min.)

Wed 3PM & 9PM  
Thurs 9AM - **From Chiapas to Freedom** (30 min.)

Wed 3:30PM & 9:30PM  
Thurs 9:30AM - **Lifestyles of the Poor and Unknown** (45 min.)

Thurs 1PM & 7PM  
Fri 7AM - **Community Point of View with Host Lesley Jones and Guests** (60 Min.)

Friday 1PM & 7PM  
Sat 6AM - **My World #3 (TV produced by & for kids!)** (30 Min.)

Fri 2PM & 8PM  
Sat 7AM - **Democracy Now In Exile** (60 Min.)

**Urban Community Garden in Waterville still in need of containers and soil!**

If you have kiddie pools, large planters, other sturdy containers, but most importantly, good healthy soil, manure or mulch, please call Hillary or Alasdair at 649-5980 or email [sturen@brandeis.edu](mailto:sturen@brandeis.edu). Thanks!

Step Outside... Shop Outdoors!

# Snakeroot Organic Farm

We bring the freshest and earliest produce from our Pittsfield gardens to a town near you. Starting early May we're at the farmers' markets in:

**Fairfield**—Weds. 2–6pm ❖ **Pittsfield**—Mon. & Thurs. 2–6pm  
**Orono**—Sat. 8am–1pm; Tues. 2:30–5:30pm ❖ **Unity**—9am–1pm

*Veggies, herbs, garden seedlings, lupine plants, compost, house plants & garden advice. We have carrots before most folks have rhubarb!*

<http://home.gwi.net/~troberts/SOF/index.html> troberts@gwi.net 487-5056



## An Interview With Political Prisoner, Ali Khalid Abdullah

*The following interview was conducted with Ali in December, 2001, via mail by two activists from Maine. Ali Khalid Abdullah is one of many Political Prisoners in the U.S. who has faced state repression for his political beliefs and activities. Since his incarceration in 1990, he has been very politically active, and his writings have been translated into several languages and distributed around the world. For this, Ali has faced repeated harassment and repression, which most recently (since this interview) includes his being labeled a "terrorist" by the Michigan Department of Corrections, having his cell searched and belongings confiscated, being unexpectedly and mysteriously transferred, and having his parole denied for the sixth time with no legitimate justification given.*

*This is part 2 of a 2-part interview, the first part of which was printed in issue 5.*

**You have written a lot on racism and how white people involved in the movements for revolution and social change fail to support or work with people of color. What can people who live in Maine, a predominately white state, do to help fight racism?**

**Ali:** Well, what you could do is first read and study about the struggles of Black people in Amerikkka and throughout the world. The only way one can understand something is to learn about it in full, and by studying the true nature of this system; this government and other European governments which will give the individual a broader understanding of what racism is and how it is practiced. Once they begin to truly study and seek more knowledge they will begin to see that racism is the backdrop of this country and it is applied in many forms and ways. Also, that racism is a by-product for keeping one group of people subjugated and earmarked for oppression and control by the dominant group. Racism is used as a tool to convince one group to accept the inhumane treatment of others so that we are immune to the treatment and abuses of others by the dominant group or culture. It is also a very effective tool used to keep the working class divided and sub-divided among themselves so that the owners and the controllers of wealth won't have to worry about us coming together in a unified way to remove them from their ivory towers of manipulation.

As for the state of Maine being a predominately white state, this shouldn't have anything to do with educating those in your state about racism and how it is being practiced among each other. Racism is a thought which is manifest into action. Understanding this, we must change our perceptions of people and cultures and begin to see and

respect them for who and what they are. The racist jokes, the fear of others who are not of your race or culture... All of these things can be eradicated by changing our thinking and practice. Now, I am not suggesting that whites in the state of Maine suddenly run out to any Black or non-white you see and try to prove to them that you aren't racist in any way. But I would suggest being honest with yourselves and looking at your views and thinking. That's a start. A tremendous start because racism, whether it is whites against blacks or blacks against whites is a sickness and it is unnatural and learned behavior. But we have the power and the ability to change and eradicate this sickness of the thought and mind.

**What are your thoughts regarding the prison system? Do you consider yourself a prison abolitionist?**

**Ali:** First off, prisons are a reflection of societal decay and the apathy created by those in power via class. What the advocates for prisons must stop to realize is that prisons are a social control apparatus used for the benefit of the rich and wealthy. It is also a place to put away those who are economically disenfranchised via unemployment; the mentally disadvantaged; the political & social dissenter and for the poor or anyone who doesn't follow the dictates of those in power.

It's the rich who decide what is or is not a crime, and thus the very definition of what is a crime is to be challenged. The laws that are written and enforced weren't written by us. They were written by politicians who are agents of the state and representatives of those in power, but the politicians constantly lie to the people and claim that they are here to 'serve the people', when the reality is, they are serving their wealthy masters. These prisons are not in place to punish everyone equally, but as I said, to protect the kapitalist system from people like me and possibly you, who would threaten their established rule.

Granted there are individuals who have committed social crimes against the people like rape and murder but we must look at the bigger picture as to why these individuals have committed these acts. If we take a close look at them we may find that the rapist was themselves a victim of rape and thus has developed a pathology that needs attention. Do we throw these people in a prison that refuses and won't treat their problem? No. Such people, I agree, need to be placed away from the general population so they can be TREATED, if possible. But the environment in which they would go would not be in a throw-away, abnormal, and rabidly predatory violent prison where their condition will only worsen or where they will carry out other rapes within the prison system. And for the murderer, there are reasons for the act that should be examined. Most murders are acts of passion. This correlates to the thinking we have been

programmed to have in terms of "ownership". If one kills in the heat of passion it may be because they felt the need to "own", "control" or "dominate" the other person. If the murder was committed out of momentary greed, then this tells us much about the system we live in, which places a high premium on having money and material things. Thus such a person can be redeemable after proper re-education and transformation.

As for do I consider myself a "prison abolitionist"? Well, I simply consider myself a conscientious being that finds no need for the many structures we have in place and prisons are definitely one of them. Not what we have and call prisons that exist today.

**Why do you call yourself an anarchist?**

**Ali:** Well, I actually hate using labels and titles because I feel that they limit the humyn potential and spirit and in a sense, retard growth and also cause further divisions among us as people. But, understanding that labels and categories are used to help us as people to identify with others who think, believe, or feel the same as we do, we use labels and titles. Now having said that let me say that I say I am an anarchist because I happen to believe in the theory of anarchy and find it to be more practical than the other theories that are currently rampant on this earth farm called Earth.

**Since Sept 11, you have been writing a lot about U.S. foreign and domestic policies. Do you have any thoughts on the current "War on Terrorism" that you would like to share?**

**Ali:** In my pamphlet "Revolutionary Logic", there is an essay entitled: "After the Aftermath of September 11th, 2001", in which I discuss my personal views about this alleged 'war on terrorism'. For me, I have a problem with the use of the term 'terrorism' or 'terrorist' because it is a term that has been used by those in power against those who are not in power, and now everyone uses the term like parrots. In Ward Churchill and Jim Vander Wall's book, "Agents of Repression", they define "terrorist" as: "an FBI term, presently utilized by the entire government, meaning anyone engaging in resistance (armed or otherwise) to physical repression by the U.S." Those who are quick to run with this terminology must remember who is doing the name-calling. At one time the FBI claimed Martin Luther King, Jr., was the most "dangerous man" and biggest "liar" in the U.S. If one knows the history of the U.S. and how it massacred millions of First Nations (aka Native Amerikan) people to take and control their land; or the murder, transportation, and enslavement of millions of Afrikans in Amerikkka; or the brutal lynchings, rapes, beatings and bombings imposed on Black people in Amerikkka simply for being Black and wanting to have equal rights and justice, but none of these things committed by "this" government were called terrorist acts. Nor were the U.S. government's involvement in the assassinations and murders of heads of state and presidents of other countries (to overthrow regimes that opposed Amerikkka's political agenda) looked upon as terrorist acts. What the Amerikan people don't stop to think

**ALI : CONTINUED ON PG. 16**

### A CALL TO ACTION

## New Maine Prisons as "Homeland Security"

Part of the next state budget referendum will ask voters to pass An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$43,000,000 to Improve Homeland Security in Maine." What voters might not notice is that, if passed, this bond money would go toward building a new medium security prison in Machias and upgrading the prison in Windham. The prison in Machias would be visible from downtown and from the University of Maine, unlike the OTHER prison a few miles away at an old airforce base in Bucks Harbor. People have already put their houses up for sale in the surrounding neighborhood, at the bottom of the hill where the prison would be slated to go. There is a real sense of defeat in town. And all of this is in the name of "improving homeland security".

There is still time to organize to defeat the referendum, and an opportunity to have a state-wide debate about the growing prison industry and what the lawmakers mean by "security".

A problem now is that Governor King has tucked the "improve homeland security" in with "economic stimulus, education and the environment" - asking Maine voters "should we IMPROVE these things?" of course people would vote "yes".

Want to do something? Organize in your community. Contact your local representative, and ask them about LD 2129, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$43,000,000 to Improve Homeland Security in Maine." To write your representative, send a letter to House of Representatives, 2 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0002. To reach your Senator, write Senate of Maine, 3 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0003. Please include your name and address so that the legislator can respond. Personal visits are also valuable. Personal postcards, phone calls and well written letters all help. Be sure to tell your legislator why you support or oppose a measure. Representatives can be reached toll free at 1-800-423-2900 and Senators at 1-800-423-6900.

BY SKY HALL



## Producers locked out of Biddeford Public Access Television Station

*"Biddeford has a problem ... This city council has done what every little dictator does - they padlocked the doors of public access, they padlocked people's free speech"*

- Dorothy LaFortune

When producers came to work on their shows at Biddeford Public Access TV Channel 2 on May 14th, they were met with padlocks on their doors. The Biddeford City Council had voted 8-1 the previous night to take the station off the air until they developed new rules for the public access station. The decision was a largely a culmination of ongoing conflicts between the Biddeford City Council and two local citizens who ran regular shows on the Public Access station.

The first individual is Richard Rhames, who has produced a number of left-wing and progressive shows, a labor show, and has shown videos of vocal critics of US foreign policy such as Noam Chomsky and shows such as "The Arabic Hour". His shows got him branded "Anti-American" and a "pinko-commie" by city council members.

The second individual is Dorothy LaFortune, who produces the shows "What Price Justice" and "Maine Forum." In her shows she discusses civil liberties, and has exposed what she believes to be corruption in the city council, illegal property seizures by the city, and collusion between the city government, banks, businesses, and state government. Her naming of names has angered the city council.

In July of 2001, Biddeford officials demanded that one of LaFortune's shows be banned. This came in response to a July 4th, "Maine Forum" show in which LaFortune talked with a former city councilman, Bill Gage, who accused Biddeford Mayor Donna Dion and others of plotting to take property from LaFortune's mother. The original reason the officials cited it should be banned was to remove what they called "defamatory" speech about public officials and individuals. The city had no formal grounds for determining what constituted "defamatory" speech, and LaFortune brought the case to the MCLU, which represented her in a suit against the town for violation of her 1st Amendment rights.

When the defamation charge didn't stand up in court and the judge hearing the case ruled that the city can't prescreen tapes, the town changed its tune. Now they charged instead that Gage mentioned a local auctioneer on the show without obtaining a "release" to mention his name and that LaFortune had failed to stop re-running the program after the city councilors told her it was banned. LaFortune returned to the courts with MCLU backing. It will be surprising if the courts uphold the "release" requirement, since if every newschan-

nel and newspaper were required to obtain a release before mentioning any individual's name, the press would be in a very dire situation indeed. According to Bunnie Riedel of the Alliance for Community Media, based out of Washington, D.C., "It is very clear that the city is trying to chill speech. It's not a wise course of action [for the city]; we have so much caselaw."

Last October the city council made its next attempt to silence the producers. It introduced suggested changes to the city's public access ordinance. One of those suggested changes was that no one who owed any city payments, ranging from outstanding property taxes (which LaFortune owed) to dog licensing fees (which Rhames owed), be allowed to have a public access show. Another suggested change sought to ban any "out-of-town" programming, thus banning, as Rhames put it, "videos of starving Iraqi children" which had been included more than once in videos he showed. Both changes ended up eliciting extremely negative public response, and were tabled for a workshop session that never occurred.

After the city elections in the fall, city councilor Jim Gratello, who, with Mayor Dion, has long been the major opponent of both Rhames' and LaFortune's shows, became chair of the cable committee. According to Rhames, Gratello put pressure on the public access director to get his views implemented, he refused to call a cable committee meeting, citing that he was too busy, he made sure that Rhames' shows were not played after council meetings aired, and started arguing that there was too much left-wing (Rhames') programming on Friday night (Rhames found this accusation strange, since it was Gratello who had pushed for block programming schedules which grouped like programming together.)

The next attempts to silence the producers came early this May when the council, at 10PM in a meeting unannounced to the public, approved an "emergency" motion made by Gratello. This motion approved pulling money from the franchise fee (which funds public access) to pay a man to tape all city meetings possible, and to show any city meeting it was possible to air live. The meetings start at 7pm and last for hours, effectively pushing out the many public access shows that air at that prime time. This "emergency" motion still didn't stop producers from airing their shows - while they weren't able to air them live, several, like LaFortune, taped the shows and ran them in the afternoons.

Finally, the following Monday, May 13th, the city councilors held another meeting unannounced to the public, in which it passed the vote to take the

## A Call to Action!

# G7

The Finance Ministers of the seven richest countries in the world (The "Group of 7," the G8 less Russia.) will be meeting in downtown Halifax, June 14th and 15th, in preparation for the G8 meetings in Kananaskis later that month. This meeting is the last ministerial before the G8 meetings.

G7 economic policies shape both global and local economies and encourage decision making policies that put profit before people. These policies adversely affect worker's rights, degrade our environment, and increase poverty.

A group of citizens are meeting as the Atlantic G7 Welcoming Committee to provide education about G7 and to plan an appropriate reception for the Finance Ministers. The committee is planning actions that clearly oppose the G7, work in solidarity with G8 protests and support local and regional grassroots social justice efforts.

The Atlantic G7 Welcoming Committee is organizing peaceful rallies, marches and other actions protesting the G7 Finance Ministers meeting. The committee is also hoping to coordinate and facilitate non-confrontational civil disobedience. It intends to coordinate actions on the days of the events to allow everyone to protest in the way they choose, without adversely affecting the real or felt safety of others.

In order to facilitate coordination of actions and the highest participation possible, the Committee is hosting a two-day teach-in and training session On June 1st and 2nd in preparation for the June 14 and 15 events. Part of the second day will be allotted for planning and coordinating purposes.

In order to ensure the highest degree of solidarity possible, organizers are committed to maintaining an open dialogue with all groups protesting in Halifax June 14 and 15. They will make any legal and other forms of support we provide available to all who may need it. We recognize that we do not speak for all protesters and that groups may wish to pursue alternative tactics to those we are planning.

The Atlantic G7 Welcoming Committee will promote solidarity among all who are protesting, and will publicly support any who might experience the negative effects of police over-reaction, get arrested, or otherwise conflict with police in the course of civil disobedience, direct action or any other form of protest.

People may be planning to car-pool from Maine. For more carpooling info, email [megan@distributed.org](mailto:megan@distributed.org).

For more general info, contact: [hfx-g7@ziplip.com](mailto:hfx-g7@ziplip.com) / 902.494.6662

# G8

This coming June 26-27, the "Group of 8" or G8, finance ministers of the 8 richest countries in the world will be retreating to the foothills of Alberta, Canada. Jean Chretien, George W. Bush, Tony Blair and the other so-called leaders of the industrialized world continue planning for war at home and abroad, surrounded by pristine wilderness, putting greens, and thousands of police and soldiers.

The self-serving "war on terrorism", orchestrated by the leaders of the G8, continues to militarize and brutalize the world, while cynically making appeals to civilization and freedom.

In particular, the war at home includes the scapegoating and attacks on immigrant and refugee communities, as well as so-called "anti-terrorist" laws that are nothing but a judicial assault on civil rights and political organizing, with clear racist implications.

The agenda of this globalization -- embodied by institutions and treaties like the IMF, World Bank, WTO, NAFTA, FTAA and G8 -- is the relentless transfer of power and wealth to the economic and political elites of the world.

Last July, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators gathered in Genoa, Italy against the G8, and were met with state-sponsored police brutality that included the murder of activist Carlo Giuliani. The Genoa protests were accompanied by protests worldwide in opposition to the agenda of the G8.

The global uprising is led by grassroots movements in the global South. The recent popular rebellions in Argentina, Ecuador and Bolivia stand out as inspiring and empowering examples and models of resistance in the face of violent day-to-day state repression.

And so, in clear opposition to the G8, in solidarity with protests in Alberta and worldwide, and in ongoing support of local and regional grassroots social justice efforts, activists from Ontario and Quebec are making a call to all groups and movements across the planet who share the political philosophy of the PGA network for global days of actions on June 26-27, 2002.

Show your resistance to the G8 express your solidarity with the many activists that will mobilize in Ottawa -- Canada's national capital -- Alberta and elsewhere on these days of actions. The two days of protest will involve demonstrations of all kinds, popular education, civil disobedience and direct action, targeting many manifestations of political and economic power.

For more info, visit <http://www.takethecapital.net> or call 613-788-3310.



# ACROSTIC #276

by Herschel Sternlieb

Quote's Author: Louis Fischer

Acrostic directions: Fill in the numbered blanks next to the lettered clues on the left. Then transfer the letters to the grid according to their designations. The grid can also help you solve the clues. If you need answers to the clues, turn to page 8.

A. Where trials are held ( 2 wds)

75 41 164 113 194 121 65 28 86

B. Holding to one's own views stubbornly.

176 159 71 97 38 78 14 19 10 141 191

C. Old sleeping car bunk. ( 2 wds)

179 152 129 58 189 42 119 18 30 5

D. \_\_\_ subs or opera

181 24 197 130 87 2 146

E. Caesar or Lanier

147 161 72

F. The cube root of 125

100 150 48 154

G. Exempt

66 40 177 81 23 106

H. Got ready to ride. ( 2 wds)

139 132 4 26 82 172 168 73 123

I. Everything (3 wds)

79 118 93 137 55 85 124 61 67 169 57 17 46 151 192

J. Most sacred

101 56 35 69 107 15 160

K. Where envoys congregate ( 2 wds)

64 193 111 173 50 94 199 153 165 76

L. Fodder for the Indy 500.

196 47 156 90 126 44 175 114 53 103

M. American Indian ritual. ( 2 wds)

1 149 109 140 62 9 34 91 198 131

N. French friend

8 178 144

O. Put a handle on.

180 184 110 190 83

P. Uncertainties

21 27 115 45 148 32

Q. What Esau was.

77 158 59 142 188 89 170

R. Offensive, hostile

6 20 92 54 186 36 80 166 143

S. Intact, pure

102 3 135 43 99 167 13 33 117

1	M	2	D	3	S	4	H	5	C	6	R		7	Y	8	N	9	M		10	B	11	U	12	X						
13	S	14	B	15	J	16	U	17	I	18	C		19	B	20	R	21	P		22	Y	23	G	24	D	25	W	26	H		
27	P	28	A	29	U			30	C	31	W		32	P	33	S	34	M	35	J	36	R	37	V	38	B	39	U	40	G	
			41	A			42	C	43	S	44	L		45	P	46	I	47	L	48	F	49	Y		50	K	51	T	52	X	
53	L	54	R	55	I			56	J	57	I	58	C	59	Q		60	Y	61	I	62	M	63	U	64	K	65	A			
66	G	67	I	68	V	69	J	70	Y	71	B	72	E	73	H	74	X	75	A		76	K	77	Q	78	B		79	I		
80	R	81	G	82	H	83	O			84	U	85	I	86	A	87	D	88	Y	89	Q		90	L	91	M	92	R	93	I	
94	K	95	U	96	T	97	B	98	W			99	S	100	F		101	J	102	S	103	L		104	V	105	Y	106	G		
107	J	108	W	109	M	110	O			111	K	112	Y	113	A	114	L	115	P	116	U	117	S		118	I	119	C			
120	T	121	A	122	Y			123	H	124	I	125	U	126	L	127	X	128	T	129	C	130	D	131	M		132	H	133	Y	
134	V	135	S	136	X			137	I	138	V	139	H	140	M	141	B	142	Q	143	R	144	N	145	Y	146	D	147	E		
148	P	149	M	150	F	151	I			152	C	153	K	154	F	155	V	156	L	157	X	158	Q	159	B	160	J	161	E	162	Y
163	T		164	A	165	K	166	R	167	S	168	H		169	I	170	Q	171	V	172	H	173	K	174	Y		175	L			
176	B	177	G	178	N	179	C	180	O	181	D	182	W	183	X		184	O	185	T	186	R		187	W	188	Q	189	C		
190	O		191	B	192	I	193	K	194	A	195	X	196	L	197	D	198	M	199	K											

T. The Land of the Rising Sun

163 128 120 51 96 185

U. Potato, Meat and vegetable concoction (2 wds)  
V. What a narcoleptic does. (2 wds)

125 84 95 116 11 39 63 29 16

37 138 68 155 134 104 171

W. Modern dance halls

108 25 98 187 31 182

X. Howard Johnson's tour de force (2 wds)

52 127 12 195 157 136 74 183

Y. Detached. Where sky's are clear. (3 wds)

22 133 145 70 112 174 7 49 88 122 162 105 60

## ALI : CONTINUED FROM PG. 14

about or read is that this government has been participatory and deeply involved in all sorts of brutal acts that have taken the lives of millions. However, since the 9/11 attacks on these shores, there is this huge government cry of foul play and terrorist attacks.

Blacks, Latinos, and First Nations people in Amerikkka have lived with the threat of terrorism for centuries. Police murdering us for no other reason than for our difference; and being terrorized by various hate groups like the Ku Klux Klan, whom the government never sought to go after as they did the Black Panther Party, Black Liberation Army, Native American Movement, or the Brown Berets. Therefore, I think that this alleged 'war on terrorism' is nothing more than a ruse and it is an excuse to be able to crack down on dissent and political opposition to the principles and

beliefs held by the status quo.

Like the alleged 'war on drugs', it is a farce and another way to restrict and retard the limited rights one has in this country, slowly erode the constitution, and increase the imperialist domination of other countries.

### Is there anything else that you would like to say to the people of Maine?

**Ali:** I'd just like to say that you have an opportunity to make a difference in how we live in this world by showing your concern. You can make a difference by educating yourselves, your friends and neighbors. You can help change racism by learning about it and changing your life in practice. You should also become actively involved in the political scene and hold those in political power duly responsible for what they do, for they cannot do anything unless WE, THE PEOPLE, allow them to do it. And I

would like to also thank the people of the state of Maine for giving me a few moments of their precious time to share these words.

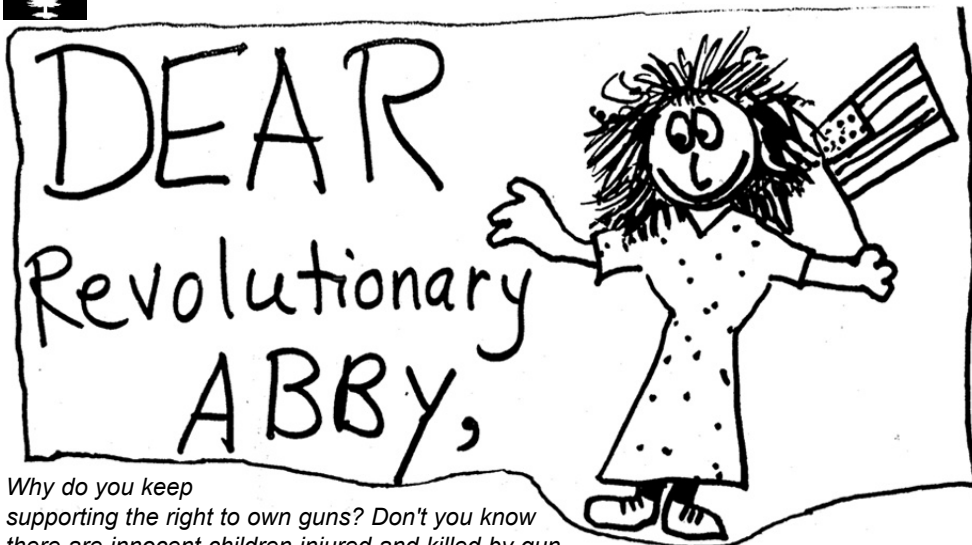
For more information on Ali and how you can help him, please contact the **International Campaign to Free Ali Khalid Abdullah, 2716 SE 21st Street, Portland, Oregon 97202**, or visit: [www.angelfire.com/dc/freeali](http://www.angelfire.com/dc/freeali).

For copies of Ali's new pamphlets "As They Drop Bombs: Prison Writings in Opposition to Amerikkka's So-Called War on Terrorism" and "A Dialogue on Anarchism II" (\$2 each) or more information about **Political Prisoners in general**, please contact **Mutual Aid Portland, PO Box 7328, Portland, ME 04112**.

## An Anonymous Communiqué From Gardiner High

Several people at Gardiner High School are organizing a walkout May 29th and marching downtown to speak out against the so called "war on terrorism" at 9 a.m. I have not done anything with this but have been caught putting up anti-war posters without permission. In a conversation with the principal there I implied I knew the people organizing the walkout and I have been threatened with expulsion for withholding information about who's putting these fliers on the wall at school. If anybody wishes to attend the demonstration and support dissident youth, that would be appreciated by the youth who are organizing this demonstration. For more info, e-mail [webelievelies@hotmail.com](mailto:webelievelies@hotmail.com) or call 649-5980.





*Why do you keep supporting the right to own guns? Don't you know there are innocent children injured and killed by gun accidents and many more on purpose by bad people? Can't you see that guns are the engine of crime?! Enough is enough! Wake up!!!*

**-Yours, Gunless in Guilford**

**Dear G.G.**

I see a lot of very nice, seemingly smart people open their mouths and out pops all this talk about getting guns out of the hands of the American people. And they seem to sincerely believe that having gun prohibition will end violence. Some admit it won't, but they believe some lives will be saved.

As I see it, there will be more death if there are prohibitions on anything which people are driven heart and soul to have. Street drugs. Alcohol. Abortions. Gambling. Sex. Dirty pictures. Whatever. Creating a giant underworld (which all such prohibitions do) is not the way to save lives.

And underworld doesn't mean a bunch of guys doing deals in dingy apartments, wearing black shirts with white ties, smoking cigars and completely separate from us NICE people. Prohibition underworlds permeate everything. Organized crime, in order to succeed, is always entangled with the government. There are many very wealthy highly respected types making money on, for instance, street drugs. While millions of the lower echelon folks have shoot outs, get caught dealing and go to jail, and become part of a "culture of crime" ... these are usually poor persons (and more of us are entering the poor zone every day) who have not many other ways to make money. And MONEY is what our American society has been about since Columbus raped an Indian or two in 1492.

There are more street drugs out there in America now since the Drug War began. There are alot of stressed out people, people made OUTSIDE the system by our obscene education system and its grades, scores, and Industrial vision. These are young people. These are middle-aged people. These are old people. They drink, they smoke, they shoot up; they do whatever they can do to either ease the pain or be part of a sub-culture. And, my friend, those subcultures are always created in the image of the larger culture, the Great Progressive Capitalist Society. If they shoot their enemies, why not? The Great Society shoots, bombs, uses the gas chamber, the electric chair, the lethal injection, the sensory-deprivation prison, the crippling lawsuit, every form of big punishment it can get away with. Who said this American Dream was about neighborliness, mercy and mutual help? Nobody. It's about WINNING, about KICKING BUTT.

The hand that holds the gun? The heart that leads to the hand. The dream that caresses the heart. Look close.

Us humans all need to simplify most of the time. But to oversimplify what our nation's problems are by blaming inanimate objects like guns or drugs or even a particular politician ... is just kinda simple-minded. We need to fix our society. We need to bring back neighborliness and responsibility to others. And dignity for all. And THE TRIBE. We need to get people working together again. No, not in teams. But as communities. Not in competition. We need to get rid of that winner-loser mentality. Well, at least not encourage it.

Ending our money society next week would be impossible and highly unpopular. But we can at least admit it is probably the real root of our mess.

If you read history (not the history books edited and published by Capitalists or Communists or other big industry folk) you will see that before the concept of property, many centuries ago, and before gold was used for trade, THERE WAS NO CRIME. And punishment for misdemeanors was gentle. After the Kings etc started grabbing land and taking slaves, punishment became harsh ... and from then on, the whole Crime & Punishment story became what seemed natural. We may not like hearing this. But we should know this.

And here is something else. Please listen hard. Since "liberals" have been pushing big anti-gun measures, there has been a fatal division of the people in this country, un-repairable, as a culture of professional middle class "liberalism" or redneck "conservatism" has settled around each camp.

I know countless countless COUNTLESS people pouring out of what might have been called a redneck "liberal" camp once, now dismantled ... going "conservative" because you want to get their guns. These are not pro-big-biz people. These are not Klu Klux Klan types. These are not jerks. These are just regular nice people who believe that not just Brinks, the FBI and the corporate-owned government's Imperialist forces should have guns.

Do you really want to fix our society? Do you really want to dismantle corporate power? You are crazy to want to divide your "army" just as the War on Corporate Power begins. And to prepare for a more neighborly society, one of mutual help, compassion, reason, justice, etc, you need to focus on those features of neighborliness, mutual help, etc, not on prohibitions, and more punishment.

And to dismantle corporate power, we need to talk about getting rid of human rights to corporations, limiting their size, getting them out of the lobbies and campaigns etc etc; not picking on particular companies, particular products like guns or tobacco.

I am not arguing with you, I'm not saying that guns haven't hurt people. Nobody is. I'm just asking you to not kill, imprison, and agitate and divide this population, your eyes trained on that hand holding the gun, while your own hand steers your anti-gun tank over the bodies, hearts and souls of thousands.

Yours forever in truth, **Revolutionary Abby**

## Announcement: A New Cultural Renaissance In Maine

BY JAMES GILKS

To many Maine citizens, art in our state is confined to pleasantly drab paintings of lighthouses and Norman Rockwell style landscapes.

Sadly, these examples, while talented and beautiful in their own right, give no indication of the amazing and avant-garde underground art scene hidden just below society's unsuspecting view.

For example, Isaac Write, of Bangor, who is forced to sell his art in small stores for mere dollars; and Nick Cain, who works two jobs despite his incredible talent.

And why, you might ask, are these incredible artists - and a thousand more across the state - not receiving the attention and accolades that they so obviously deserve? Why are our modern day Mozarts, Michelangelos and Divinis stuck wasting their lives at dead end jobs while others less talented are ushered into stardom? The answer, of course, is simple. If no one sees the art, no one will ever know it exists.

The Society for Artistic Advancement is determined to change this, and in doing so, not only improve the lives of countless artists, but also drastically improve the overall economy and appeal of the whole state. Their current mission is to open a public art gallery in downtown Bangor which

specifically sells and promotes art from talented and sometimes controversial local artists who could never be displayed in any of the current conventional galleries. The first of these galleries will open in the fall of 2002 and ten percent of the money from all art sold will go towards opening new galleries all across the state. By 2004 they hope to have similar galleries established in every major city in Maine.

Of course the implications of an endeavor such as this go far beyond the simple promotion of art or advancement of local artists. The benefits to our entire state are staggering to say the least. The SAA envisions Maine as becoming the epicenter of a modern day cultural renaissance. The money earned from tourists and art lovers from all over the country will be of valuable help in improving the conditions of life for everyone in Maine.

But like any revolutionary goal, a certain amount of help is required to get it off the ground. If you would like to assist in the development of the Maine-Art Project or are interested in selling your art work at the Bangor Underground Art Gallery, then contact the organization at: [SAAMAIN@hotma.com](mailto:SAAMAIN@hotma.com). With our help, these exceptional artists will finally receive the chance they have always deserved.

# Your Ad Here!

For more info on placing an ad in the Maine Commons, turn to pg 19 now!

Locally-owned businesses and non-profits only - your ad will never be overshadowed by a corporate chain store or lost among many other advertisers.

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# NEWS BLURBS

short attention span news compiled by sterren

**Students lose many of their civil liberties** when they walk through the doors of Cony High School in Augusta. Cony will also be installing up to 16 security cameras in the halls and near the parking lots. Cony administrators say that the new cameras will make the surroundings safer for students. As of April 11, students are subject to searches by administrators if they are even suspected violating local, state or federal laws, by for example, possessing drugs or weapons. If suspected students refuse to be frisked, even if they don't possess drugs or weapons, they can face the same penalty they would receive for actually possessing the drugs or weapons. Cony administrators say that the new searches will make the surroundings safer for students.

**The Hathaway Shirt factory in Waterville** is getting at least a temporary lease on life. Wal-Mart has agreed to extend its contract with Hathaway shirts, allowing the factory to stay open until at least Aug. 30. Hathaway officials hope this will give the company time to have a chance at winning an Air Force contract and a contract with Dillard's department store. The Morning Sentinel points out, "In what many consider a testament to the dedication of the Hathaway work force, only two factory workers and three members of the company's accounting department have left since news of the factory's closing was announced," while selectively not pointing out that employees must stay until the factory's closing if they wish to collect unemployment benefits. Now Hathaway workers just have to wait and find out whether the city will allow them to march in the Memorial Day parade wearing their union shirts. That act, according to city officials, was originally deemed "too political."

**Meanwhile, workers in other parts of the state** are being faced with more pay cuts, loss of work, and outright unemployment. On May 12, unionized workers at Biddeford Textile voted to accept a 50-cent-an-hour pay cut that was called for by management, rather than be faced with proposed alternative of complete factory closure. Workers hope the cut will be only temporary. As US economists keep repeating, American factory workers are losing their jobs because "people in other countries are willing to work for less." Now, it seems, workers are testing how much control they really have over the matter by showing they too are "willing to work for less," and finding out what sort of pay cuts the corporations will require to keep their operations at home. On April 15, Sanmina-SCI in Augusta laid off 48 workers, though it says it plans to rehire them in July. That layoff brings the total number of workers laid off from SCI to 371 since March 2001. The machine shop jobs will be moved to Kansas and Brazil. On April 23, Huhtamaki, formerly Chinet, announced that it plans to shut down its Waterville machine shop early next year, eliminating at least 35 jobs. Dan Grubbs, communications manager for Huhtamaki, practiced his Newspeak, explaining (for those who might have been under the delusion that the company actually cares about the community) "I know it's difficult for the folks there to see it from other than a Waterville perspective, but we look at it from a total organizational standpoint. ...The main message that we're keen on everyone understanding is that we look at our organization and continually try to find ways to develop operational efficiencies." On April 19, Little River Apparel announced it would be closing its Eastport facility within a week, leaving almost 60 workers suddenly without a job. The apparel company had previously sold garments to the Department of Defense, but the contracts were getting too small for the facility to remain profitable. Finally, on May 8, 112 Bangor Hydro workers were informed that they will be losing their jobs with the company.

**Eastern Maine Medical Center is acting to save money** by increasing the number of patients per nurse by about 25%. Nurses at the hospital fear that it could reduce the quality of care and overwork nurses, and are upset that the decision was made without consulting with the hospital's nurses.

**Maine potato growers are worried about their future**, since the main buyer for their potatoes is McCain, the potato giant which controls the potato market in the Maritimes and now Maine. In past years, McCain has required farmers wishing to sell to it to upgrade equipment, storage facilities and crop management processes. Many farmers are in debt as a result. Earlier this year McCain refused to increase its base price paid for Maine potatoes the requested 50 cents a ton, and instead offered 10 cents a ton. Farmers' worries are growing now amidst strong rumors that the corporation is planning to reduce its required potato volume by 40 percent.

**International Paper announced it would shut down its Bucksport mill** for a week at the beginning of May. In the same week, Bath Iron Works lost an expected \$2.9 billion Navy shipbuilding contract. The day each of these announcements was made, the stocks for each of these companies shot up. One wonders if the Fed had a hand in manipulating the market.

**The Maine Mall in South Portland was bought out in February** by SPG, the world's largest mall-owning corporation. Since the mall has been bought by the corporate giant, a number of changes have begun to take effect. Small businesses in the mall are losing their leases to national, and much more upscale, chains. The dress code has become much more strict. Mall employees lost the vacation and sick time they had accrued under the previous mall owner. According to some employees that Portland-based Casco Bay Weekly attempted to interview, they are not allowed to talk about any policies or changes under the new mall management.

**Domtar and Fraser Paper corporations are exerting their control** over the towns in which they have mills. Canadian-based Domtar (Dominion Tar Company) Corporation owns Woodland Pulp & Paper Mill in Baileyville, Washington County's biggest employer. The mill employs 600 people, in a town of about 1,686 people. The mill has been in the town since 1906, and Domtar bought the mill from Great Northern Paper last year. In late April Domtar officials started meetings with town councilors and the school committee, telling the town that it must cut its budget, and hence the amount of taxes Domtar is paying to the town. The likely alternative, if the town does not agree to the cut, is that it Domtar will do as it has in other towns, and close the mill, moving elsewhere where it can make more profit. Officials with Canadian-owned Fraser Paper Corporation, a division of Nexfor, must have picked up on this idea. A week after Domtar gave Baileyville its request, a Fraser representative told the Madawaska town council that it would have to cap or lower the town's property taxes if Fraser were to keep its Madawaska paper mill open. The mill, which has been in the town since 1925, employs 1000 people, in a town of 3,326. Fraser rep Don Arnold explained that the town and its schools need to find other ways than property taxes to fund their budgets. He explained, "I am not using threats, but taxes tend to be a topic of discussion among investors."

**A Bangor Super Wal-Mart has been approved** to begin building this summer. It met resistance from community and environmental groups, since it is being built by the Penjajawoc marsh. Wal-Mart representatives got the project approved by offering a 28 acre conservation easement for sections of the marsh. While the city council unanimously approved this compromise, community groups like BACORD (Bangor Area Citizens Organized for Responsible Development) and Maine Audubon society are not lessening efforts to block construction of this supercenter by the marsh. BACORD rep, Valerie Carter explains that the concept of exchanging destruction of one area for protection of another is not acceptable. She also argues that the up to 14 of 28 acres that Wal-Mart is offering as a conservation easement is already protected by DEP regulations. Finally, opponents of the construction worry about language of the easement, allowing a right of way road leading from Stillwater Ave. across the marsh, which could be paved, open up the marsh to further development, and allow installation of gas, phone, and electric utilities up the road and into the marsh area. The BEP is having public hearings in Bangor on either June 26 or 27. Call 947-0607 for more info.

**Bass in the Sebasticook River, which feeds into Sebasticook Lake** in Newport, have been found to be contaminated with pesticide Dieldrin, a carcinogen. The fish have come to be contaminated as a result of eating bugs that live on the bottom of the riverbed. The bugs became contaminated from feeding in the 10 acre area in Corinna that was contaminated by the former Eastland Woolen Mill, which used the pesticide to preserve wool against insect damage. The site of the mill has become a Superfund site, where the EPA has spent the last three years cleaning up contamination of another carcinogen that was discharged from the mill, chlorobenzene. Officials have tried to lessen people's concerns about eating the fish by explaining that the threat of mercury in Maine's waters is far more serious. How reassuring.

**Waste Management Inc., the world's largest waste services corporation** -- which has hundreds of lawsuits against it for everything from pollution to unfair trade practices, to racism and human rights abuses -- is providing funds for Norridgewock to continue with the state review process to study the corporation's expansion plans of its Crossroads Landfill. The landfill expansion has met much resistance from the local group, Concerned Citizens of Norridgewock, and from the larger Toxics Action Network, and the concerns had been voiced in regular town meetings. On May 2, the town discovered that it was over budget by more than \$3,000, and decided that it should take money offered by Waste Management to continue with the hearings. Norridgewock citizens are concerned about the influence this money will have on the town's decisions and who it chooses to hire, and are also concerned about the number of decisions that have been made behind closed doors and the fact that the town's hired technical experts do not attend the public meetings where they could be cross-examined. Others are simply asking what happened to the money that was in the town budget.



**New! The Maine Commons is now accepting ads and inserts! Take advantage of our statewide volunteer-powered circulation to promote your non-profit group or local business!**

**Ads** are priced at \$20-\$100 per issue, depending on size, with discounts for contract-based repeat ads. Write us for an ad form and full ad policy. We accept ads from locally-owned businesses only.

**Inserts** (see example in last month's issue) are given a base price of \$250-675, depending on style, which covers the cost of 4-8 extra pages and the insertion of a header bar, but may cost extra for additional processing if any is necessary. Write us for a full specs and policy sheet for an insert for your organization or project. Currently we are not accepting inserts from for-profit businesses.

Please include this form along with a mission statement or some other literature from your organization or business that explains the nature of your work.

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization/Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Website \_\_\_\_\_

I represent a non-profit group or local business and am interested in an ad in the Maine Commons!  
Please send an **ad form!**

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Mail all correspondence to: **Maine Independent Media Center, P.O. Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903**

**Announcement:**

# Burdock!

**August 6-13  
Starks, Maine, USA**

**PLANNING MEETING FRI JUNE 14**

Contact Hillary for more info:  
(207-649-5980; [sterren@brandeis.edu](mailto:sterren@brandeis.edu))

**Vision:** Burdock is a festival and gathering for people of every walk of life to celebrate each other, the earth and community. It will be an environment that will welcome people to educate each other on practical everyday skills, life issues, ecology and ways to make the world a better place. Burdock will be community oriented and try to build relationships with people from around Maine, New England, the Maritimes and Quebec. Many people will cooperatively organize the festival and with no one having more control than any other person. Burdock will be based on mutual aid and cooperation to encourage education, community building and a *wicked good* time.

**Possible Workshops:**

Do-It-Yourself: tree climbing, auto repair, women and chainsaws, hand sewing, wooden spoon carving, food preservation, parenting and childcare, self health, transportation, self-defense, cheap and tasty cooking, wild foods, food production and access, bicycle repair, solar cooking, survival, nature crafts, unschooling, home/urban gardening tips, children's workshops;

Ecology: sprawl, sustainable forestry, alternative transportation, humanure, industrial hemp, bio-diesel, why organic, problems with agro-business and meat industries;

Community Building and Activism: tenants rights and housing, direct action skills, security culture, prisons and prisoners, forest defense, independent media, decolonization, props and puppets, group project presentations, democracy and capitalism, who and what working class, weaning from Wal-Mart, television, patriarchy, racism,

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

- I want to join the:
- Distribution Team** (distribution of the paper all over the state)
  - Education Team** (workshops and media education outreach)
  - Financial Team** (budgeting, fundraising, etc)
  - Grunt Team** ("gruntwork")
  - Media Team** (a/v recording and processing)
  - Print Team** (work on this paper, soliciting ads, etc)
  - Tech Team** (front and backend server work, hardware work)

- I can help with:
- Artistic work:** Graphic design and visual art both for the web site and the publication. We are especially looking for political cartoonists.
  - 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*

real wealth, rural and urban connections, cross-border connections.

To be involved with organizing a workshop, or for more info, contact:  
Kate 207-946-4478  
[katebrennan@riseup.net](mailto:katebrennan@riseup.net)

**Music and Art:** Burdock is looking for musicians of (but not limited to): hip-hop, punk, folk, rock, bluegrass, reggae, and more. A rave is hopeful and Burdock will be looking for DJs. Burdock is also hoping to have non-music entertainment like skits, puppets, plays, and a talent show. Dave Rovics is planning on attending Burdock on August 12th and hopefully the Green Anarchy Tour all the way from the Northwest will be attending with several punk bands.

To find out how you can perform or help with organizing or equipment please contact:  
Alasdair (for the rave) 207-649-5980  
[saintv@maineindymedia.org](mailto:saintv@maineindymedia.org)  
Nick (all other music) 207-774-6017  
[Nicholas.Jackson@maine.edu](mailto:Nicholas.Jackson@maine.edu)

**Camping and Food:** There will be plenty of room for tents and adequate park-

ing but you are encouraged to carpool to save resources. We are hoping for food donations from the local communities, but funds will be raised to purchase what is not donated. Feel free to bring food for yourself and to share. You are encouraged to bring your own reusable plates and cups to save costs and waste.

For information about food and how you can donate food, water, equipment like tables and other furniture, tents, gas stoves and propane, cookware and utensils, firewood, barrels for compost and recyclables, solar equipment, tools, video equipment, audio equipment, and money contact:  
Jonah ([tintin@tao.ca](mailto:tintin@tao.ca))

Carpooling/RideBoard Info:  
Breanna (207-778-3402  
[breannaannaerb@justice.com](mailto:breannaannaerb@justice.com))

Childcare Info:  
Heather ([fecund@maineindymedia.org](mailto:fecund@maineindymedia.org))

Fundraising and Promotion info:  
Jonah ([tintin@tao.ca](mailto:tintin@tao.ca))



**Maine Independent Media Center Donation Form**

YES, I would like to support the Maine Independent Media Center!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a tax-deductible\* donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Maine Independent Media Center. (Donation must be over \$50.00. Please read fine print below)

I would like to make a non-tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Maine Independent Media Center. (Donation can be any amount)

I would like to donate a phone line or voice mailbox for the use of the Maine Independent Media Center: YES NO

I would like to donate the following computer or media production equipment to the Maine Independent Media Center: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to remain anonymous in my donation: YES NO

\*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 ROSC (Resources for Organizing and Social Change). Please make all other checks out to Maine Independent Media Center.

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Turn over for Volunteer Form

**Subscribe to the Maine Commons!**

The Maine Commons is now taking subscriptions. Get 12 issues delivered to your door, and the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped this publication to stay alive. Many thanks!

(We have had to raise prices due to rising postage and material costs)

- I want a personal subscription ..... **\$25**
- I want a subscription for my business ..... **\$30**
- I am on a fixed income..... **\$10**
- I don't have any money but I want to subscribe ..... **\$0**
- I want to subscribe and I have extra money to help someone who can't afford it ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Personal and "fill-in-the-blank" subscriptions may also be given as gifts)

Name of Subscriber or Gift Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make a copy of this form and send it and a check made out to:  
**Maine IndyMedia Center, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903**



**The Maine Commons**



**NEEDS YOUR HELP**

warning! shameless plea for money follows!

The Maine Commons (which you are currently holding) has been made possible partly by ads and inserts, but largely by the donations of kind and sympathetic patrons who wish to see:

- MORE** news and views from perspectives that the Mainstream Media ignores or misrepresents;
- MORE** in-depth articles that do more than scrape the surface of the issues;
- MORE** puzzles that don't insult your intelligence;
- LESS** censorship, **LESS** fluff, **LESS** sensationalism

**HOWEVER**

If the Maine Commons does not raise enough money for printing costs, the Maine Independent Media Center may well lose its most visible project, to the dismay of countless subscribers & readers statewide. You see:

- The Maine Commons costs \$1000 or more to print and distribute each time. The grant money and the money from donations has been all but exhausted by this periodic cost, at the expense of the advancement of some of the Maine IMC's other projects.
- The editors and other contributors to the effort of releasing this paper are not paid for their work; all of the money goes into printing and distribution.
- The job of soliciting ads in order to make the paper more self-sufficient has not been taken by enough people.

**... So what can I do to help?**

- **Subscribe!** Every little bit helps. The form is to your lower left.
- **Donate!** Over \$50 and your donation is tax-deductible! The form is to your left.
- **Get an insert** with us for your organization, publication or project and take advantage of our statewide distribution network!
- If you represent a business, **place an ad** with us! The rates are lower than many other papers, and the perks are higher.
- If you want to make a little money for yourself in the bargain, **help us solicit ads** in your area! The more you sell, the higher your commission! Get in touch with us to find out how!

Thank you for your support!

MAINE COMMONS PRODUCTION TEAM

**PADLOCK : CONTINUED FROM PG. 15**

channel off the air. According to Rhames and LaFortune, this has upset local viewers and non-political producers, and the council is losing public support. Rhames has filed for a reversal of this cable order, and it is currently being heard in a Federal Court. Rhames is not optimistic about the outcome, explaining that if the town wants to shut down the station, as long as they argue only that the town simply cannot financially continue to support the channel, and not that they want to silence certain voices, they may be successful in shutting down the facility. Other towns have gone through similar situations and the public access channels have emerged victorious, so there is still hope. There could be many possible outcomes, and a court ruling should come any day. By the time you read this, this last paragraph will likely be outdated. Visit: [www.maineindymedia.org](http://www.maineindymedia.org) to find up to the minute accounts of this case.

BY HILLARY LISTER

(For more background on this issue, read "Citizen Rhames" in MC Issue 2 Nov-Dec 2001)

New CDs soon to be released by Maine Independent Media!

2-disc set of **Dan C, Detritus and Sarah** at St. Lawrence, Jan 11, 2002

2-disc set of **David Rovics** at Unity College, Apr 17, 2002 with bonus CDROM track

Single disc of **Ethan Miller** at Unity College, Apr 17, 2002 with CDROM track

Single disc of **David Rovics** at St. Lawrence, Apr 16, 2002.

for pricing and more info, email [saintv@maineindymedia.org](mailto:saintv@maineindymedia.org) or visit <http://media.maineindymedia.org>

The Classified section, advertised in the last issue of the paper, did not elicit any response. If enough interest is generated and ads are submitted, we will run the section again. For pricing and more info, email [editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org)