



# 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

Be The Media

**FREE**

Issue 7 • July-Aug 2002

## Televisions to Replace In-Person Visits at Maine Prisons?

BY TRACY SERDJENIAN

Video visitation is being considered as a substitute for direct contact visitation in the York County Jail, which is expected to open in August of next year, or sooner, and will be able to hold over 250 prisoners. Those in favor of implementing video visitation in the new jail propose that it would reduce the amount of contraband entering the jail, and would decrease the need for security staff to monitor visits. The proposal has not yet been presented to York County Commissioners, as this meeting has been postponed.

Video visitation would eliminate all physical contact between prisoners and their visitors; visitors would never be permitted to come inside the secure area. Dorcas Gilpatrick, acting director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, contends that replacing direct contact with video visitation will be an ineffective means of eliminating cigarettes and other drugs or contraband from entering the jail. She points out that although most guards are completely honest, there are likely to be a few dishonest people in any large workforce. For this reason, the jail would still need regular surveillance to watch for unusual behavior and transactions. When asked about the problem of drugs and contraband, Captain Boynton, Director of Operations at the York County Jail, acknowledged that very recently an officer in Cumberland County resigned under allegations of smuggling in contraband, but did not make it clear how video visitation would eliminate this problem. Furthermore, visitors and prisoners are much more likely to be searched than guards, who are employees of the jail.

Captain Boynton suggested that replac-

**VIDEO : CONTINUED ON PG. 13**

## The Widening Gap: Maine vs the DOT

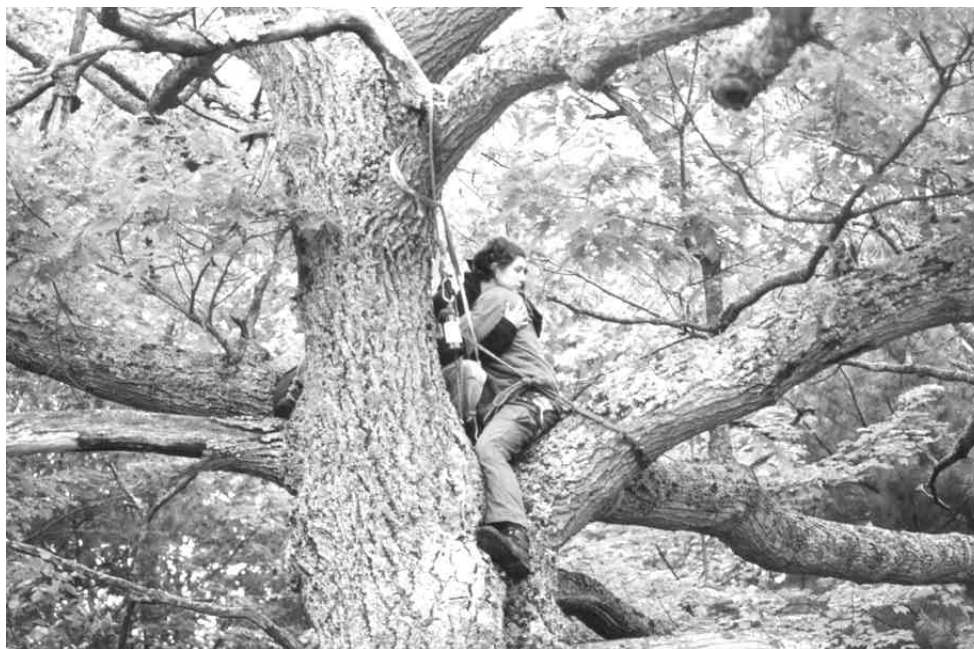


photo credit: Keith Pearson

### FIGHTING THE WIDENING

Kate Brennan and Ethan Miller, both of Greene, ME, attempt to stop a tree from being cut down on Route 1 in Warren. Both are good friends of several people in Warren whose land will be impacted by the widening.

Tensions between many Mainers and the Maine Department of Transportation are growing. While some groups and individuals have found success in working with the DOT, many others have found only frustration. People have raised concerns that the public votes for or against bond issues, but only plays a non-binding advisory role in specific projects. In some situations, such as the Route 1 widening in project in Warren, there has been concern about conflicts of interest in local selectmen. Others bring up concerns that the projects mean major money for contractors, many of whom have governmental influence. They take issue with the DOT's use of eminent domain, and the fact that contractors get to profit from sales of lumber they cut on what was previously a person's private property. All of these concerns culminate to a general fear that the DOT lacks accountability and is driven by contractors' push for profits, without regard for the interests of local communities or the environment. In this issue we explore different Maine communities' experiences, struggles, and successes with the DOT.

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### [www.maineindymedia.org](http://www.maineindymedia.org)

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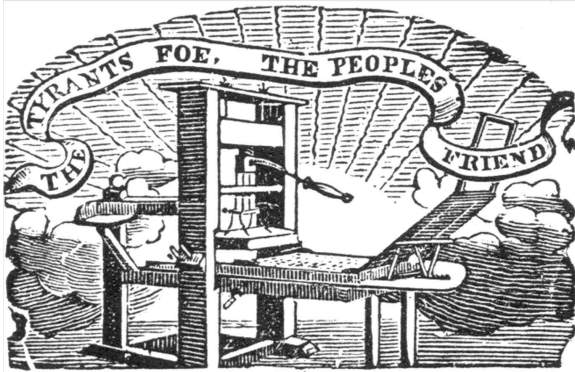
*More articles focusing on the DOT listed below.*

**Please help keep this paper 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.

**New live CDs by Ethan Miller and Dave Rovics - Order on page 19**





## 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 Editors:

In the short amount of time since I first "discovered" your paper (at Bangor's Peace & Justice Center), I have become thoroughly enamored with it! Thank You for giving me back a bit of my waning faith in Mainer's less-than-common sense. Major kudos go out to everyone who's been involved in this spirited, hope-full project!

Last month, I had the tremendous good-fortune to be part of a coalition of Mainers present at the multi-faceted "March on Washington," which occurred on April 20th. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 100,000 folks gathered in the interest of Peace, and filled the streets of D.C., as part of this memorable event. I was stunned by how "successfully" the major media chose to underplay this harmonic convergence. (Our local "big paper," the Bangor Daily News, gave the A20 mobilization all of one photo, which was unfairly misrepresentative of the whole! The image which they chose to portray A20 featured an angry, skin-headed "freak," struggling to torch "Old Gory"! What a disappointment. When my girlfriend's adoptive mother, a white-haired Canadian citizen, learned that my dog & I had enthusiastically participated in the A20 march & rallies, she had but one terse sentence for me... She shook her head, disapprovingly, and told me: "I do not agree with that." (!!!)

Of course, this was a response born of an arrogant ignorance ... frustrating, yes, but can we really blame her?? I think I'd rather cast blame on the grossly misrepresentative media. (No, she doesn't read The Maine Commons!)

I'm still mourning the recent passing of the Bangor-based Maine Times newsweekly, but your rag has helped to lessen the sense-of-loss, and the Maine Commons has now taken its place as my new favorite state-wide publication.

Most fondly,  
**Scott Yoos, Blanchard**

*(Editors' Note: Scott, thanks much for your words of praise. While we are not consciously trying to fill the gap left by the Maine Times, we are glad that some of its former readers are now turning to us. In our opinion, that paper was getting soft in its old age anyway.)*

Dear Editors:

Thank you for writing such a wonderful story on the American Liberty Dollars. I have been working very hard in my area to teach business owners and consumers about the dangers of continuing to use our current debt-based fiat currency; and why we must return to a sound commodity-based money supply as outlined in our constitution and developed/perfected in gold and silver coin for the past 6,000 years.

The sooner we stop using their fake "money" (Federal Reserve Notes) and start trading with real money, based on real property, the sooner we can send the international bankers home (to Europe) and run our own lives with the freedom and independence we were intended to always enjoy.

Regards,

**David Deschesne, Presque Isle**

*(Editors' Note: David, watch for the next issue, which will include the NORFED Liberty Dollar News as an insert!)*

## Errata June-July 2002

Hi, folks --

I greatly admire the work you are all doing in creating MaineIndyMedia! I did notice, however, a significant factual error that I'd like to bring to your attention. In your June-July Issue of Maine Commons, you state in "News Blurbs" that the Bangor Super Wal-Mart has been approved. This is definitely NOT the case. The BEP hearings at the end of this month are part of the permit approval process for the state of Maine, and we are of course hoping that the site application will NOT be approved.

It has also NOT been approved at the city level -- in fact, just the opposite has happened. At this point in time, Widewaters does NOT have permission from the city of Bangor to build. The Bangor Planning Board's denial from last year is currently in effect (since the Superior Court's decision last May to overturn the denial was "vacated" by the State Supreme Court in February.) The Planning Board just approved a strongly worded "findings of fact" which details the reasons for their denial, in addition.

You may have seen a BDN article or editorial referring to an "agreement" on Widewaters' proposed mitigation plan. Our understanding is, from talking to the DEP and BEP, that there IS no such agreement. We're not sure how the city of Bangor came to the conclusion that such a mitigation agreement existed.

-VALERIE CARTER

*(Turn to page 3 for BACORD's update on this situation)*

The [Biddeford Public Access] article is excellent, but one error - Philip Castora was the [former councilman I talked to] - not Bill Gage.

-DOROTHY LAFORTUNE

*(Turn to page 4 for an update on the situation at Biddeford Public Access.)*

*(Editors' Note: Thank you to those who care enough to correct us when we are wrong. If you see a factual error in an article, please do not hesitate to tell us!)*



# 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 seventh 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 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 paid 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 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.](#)

## BACORD UPDATE: Bangor Wal-Mart Expansion Not Definite

BANGOR - In a momentous decision in late June, the Bangor Planning Board has once again turned down the Widewaters site application to build a Wal-Mart superstore next to the Penjajawoc Marsh in Bangor. BACORD (Bangor Area Citizens Organized for Responsible Development) is here today to announce that we have won again - this is another decision preserving the marsh. We won before the Bangor Planning Board last year, we won before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in February, and we won again before the Planning Board this week.

In a 4-0 vote on June 21st, with two abstentions, the Planning Board strongly reaffirmed its denial of the Widewaters / Wal-Mart site application. They approved a strongly worded "findings of fact" which was ordered by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in its ruling last February. The Planning Board's findings of fact and conclusions carefully listed each of the specific criteria in the Bangor city ordinances which had been the basis for their original denial last year. These criteria would apply to any such proposed development.

Because the Supreme Court decision in February also vacated the Superior Court decision by Judge Hjelm, which had overturned the Planning Board's original denial of the application (on April 3, 2001), Widewaters now does NOT have the city's permission to go ahead with the development. This decision shows that the Planning Board has supported more clearly what we have been saying all along -- that the Penjajawoc Marsh is an "irreplaceable natural area," that it is critical to preserve this important wildlife habitat, and that this proposed superstore is inappropriate. The Board's findings of fact and conclusions has made it even more clear why Widewaters was not able to obtain a permit for this proposal. This plan was in clear violation of Bangor city ordinances that protect the city and its resources from inappropriate, destructive and irresponsible development.

BACORD members and supporters are very pleased and gratified with this victory. We commend the Planning Board members for all of the hard work that went into their revisiting of all the evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing last year. The Planning Board has shown that it is able and willing to make the hard decisions that are sometimes necessary to protect an invaluable natural resource - the Penjajawoc Marsh ecosystem, with all of its beauty and wildlife -- that adds immeasurably to Bangor's quality of life. We are also grateful to the Conservation Law Foundation for their help in supporting our appeal to the Maine Supreme Court last summer.



## opinions / editorials

### It's All Up-Hill With Maine DOT

BY RUSSELL ANDERSON

Over the last year I have been communicating with the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) about applying for an access entrance permit. Basically, I want to be able to access my property via an access road from the Manktown Road in Waldoboro, ME. DOT advised me that the entrance permit could not be granted due to the lack of the required 450-foot sight distance of any oncoming traffic -- based on a law that says entrances must have 10 feet of unobstructed sight distance for every mile per hour of posted speed limit. Unfortunately, there is a small hill that has a steep elevation of about 40 feet, creating a crown in the road, some 250 feet away from where I want an entrance.

A short time later I noticed survey marks painted on the road. A call to the regional DOT engineer revealed that the hill was going to be "cut down," eliminating the crown. I again asked about applying for a permit; this time thinking that if the crown of the hill was lowered, there may be more sight distance and subsequently an opportu-

nity to be granted a permit. The DOT engineer was reluctant to commit to any probability.

Upon inquiring with an elderly neighbor, I discovered that some 50 years ago, the hill had been built up at the crown; earth had been taken out of the bottom of the hill. That made the hill steeper.

Back to DOT; this time with an unselfish rationale. I inquired to the DOT engineer if both residences on either side of my 150 feet of road frontage would eventually see an improvement in their sight distances, when driving their vehicles out of their driveways. That information was not available. The blueprints did not show the elevation that could determine if the end-result of the project would indicate sight distances from the apex of the hill, I was told. "Are there any regulations that mandate that both residences on either side of my road frontage be afforded a 450 foot sight distance because of the major work being done to the crown in the hill? After all, isn't the goal to make the road safer for motorists and pedestrians?" I asked. The

engineer's response was that both residences access driveways are "grandfathered," meaning that the driveways were installed prior to the project at hand, by many years, therefore sight distance for those homeowners is not a compliance issue by law. "Well, how about the fact that there are two thousand cars, according to DOT statistics, that travel over this road each day? After all, this is a major artery that is directly connected to U.S. Route 1, that serves the local high-school, plus being a road for many local commuters. The whole idea of cutting down the crown of the hill is to increase safety. Why not do the job right?" I lobbied. His appeasing response was for me to be patient and wait for the end results of the project. "You may have the required sight distance when we have completed the road work," he said.

For the last three weeks the DOT crew and subcontractors have been working on the road going over the hill. The initial price tag of contracted workers, materials and equipment was at \$80,000, so it is said.

The work looked promising to me at the start. But towards the end of the job, more ledge than expected was discovered. The costs began to go over budget. What had been a projected 10-day job turned into

a 3-week job. Word has it that the job was stopped and that the crown in the hill of the road is still higher than it was actually intended to be. All because of poor planning?

Without adequately surveying the road ahead of time, we, as taxpayers, are in the "hole" again. For that mistake by DOT, I feel we paid for inefficiency that possibly is an opportunity for someone to get killed on a hill that was supposed to be rehabbed to the point that it won't have to be done again in the future.

The home at the bottom of the hill now has approximately a 450-foot sight distance. The home at the top of the hill has approximately 150 feet, compared to 75 feet prior to the project. The posted speed limit is 45 MPH. Perhaps it should be 15 MPH by law?

As a side note: I might point out, both of my neighbors received personal visits by DOT management at the time of the roadwork being initiated. I never was approached.

I hope I live long enough to see them work on the hill again, for a third time.

### Governor's Race Preview Part 4 of 3: Addendum

BY J.C. PAGE

There I was at the back of the room scribbling in my little notebook, trying not to tangle my jittery feet in the long cord that ran under my chair to the computer on the lap of the Portland Press Herald reporter. I thought the point of laptops is that they are svelte, unobtrusive machines that can run on batteries. The city's only daily misses the point, again.

I kept alternating between wishing I had some more of the cheap-tasting coffee they served at that five-star, certifiable dump-with-a-chandelier and wishing I'd stayed in bed instead of hauling my grumpy ass to the lifeless 7:30 AM pandering session at the Eastland Park Ballroom they advertised as a debate. It was a joke. A bad joke at the expense of our democracy.

Two important candidates weren't even there. That's all the mention they deserve if they think anything is more important than showing up for what is, essentially, a job interview. I mean, do they want to be governor or not? Then again, the way the attending candidates posed in front of a giant sign with the name of an obscenely large bank (whose headquarters are not in Maine) and vaguely explained how they'll "put money in our pockets," "improve the

business climate," and "relieve our tax burden," I'll give the absentees the benefit of the doubt and assume they didn't want to trumpet for the main sponsor of this poodle show, the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce.

We began late. The people around me made small talk and nibbled muffins while we waited. I kept my thoughts to myself. What can I say? I'm a bear in the morning. I could see six candidates on the dais, all wearing the business uniform -- suit and tie -- except for one.

At the end of the chorus line, a man in a black beret with a beard to his chest peered out at us from a head like a backyard bomb shelter. When he turned to scan the room, a horsehair of hair could be seen brushing his shoulders. When I stood to get a good look, I saw a leather holster of some sort strapped to his hip. It wasn't a six-shooter, was it?

At my table, one suited man asked another: "That guy at the end there, is he in a party?"

"He might have been at one all last night," answered his wardrobe buddy. They chuckled in a way that transported me back to junior high school.

The emcee stepped to the mic and proclaimed that we were there to talk about Maine's future. Then he introduced the candidates. From left to right: Jonathan Carter, Green; Peter Cianchette, Republican; David Flanagan, Independent; John Jenkins, Independent; Steven Kenney, Independent. The woodsy militia-man turned out to be Philip NaPier, Independent. Four of six calling themselves independent. Promising.

However, what ensued was nothing more than a bended-knee wooing of the business leaders most remarkable for what was not mentioned: local agriculture, renewable energy, and affordable housing. I know those tailored piles of stock certificates in attendance wanted to hear how their computerized bank accounts will extend forever to the left of the decimal point, but even Dow Jones worshippers need a dependable food supply. It's worth a word here and there. And wouldn't they sleep better at night knowing the security alarm in their compounds won't ever fail because the power comes from a hydrogen fuel cell in the basement? Even as their necks ooze from clamp-tight collars, they should be informed that the folks who do the real work of the world (like starching those collars) deserve and demand decent, lead-free housing at a rate that will give them enough time off from work to watch their kids grow everyday and walk in the park once in a while.

We got none of that. Instead, we got David Flanagan mumbling quotables like this one: "I think we need to set some overall goals of what we're willing to spend and control priorities to allocate money available in accordance with what we have available." Oh yeah, he's got my vote. For dog catcher.

The first sentence out of the Green Party candidate's mouth was: "I want to put money in the pockets of Mainers." What is the point of a third party if its perspective and agenda is identical to the establishment? He went on to tell how we can eliminate redundant bureaucracies to save money. Ooh, ooh, ooh, Mr. Carter, why don't we eliminate redundant political parties while we're at it?

Carter wants to relieve "our tax burden" by raising average incomes, but what he's leaving out is that when we focus on money the money men get to run our lives. Think about it this way: you can raise the average income by raising anyone's income, including CEO's. Even if low-wage workers begin to make more, does that solve as many problems as it creates? It's an open question, but I suggest that the focus should be on quality of life, not quantity of money. The two are not the same and often are at odds.

Take Massachusetts, for example, the state these candidates wish we could be. People there make more money, but they commute



**WALMART : CONTINUED FROM PG. 3**

We will continue our work to protect the Penjajawoc Marsh area from inappropriate big box development, as we prepare for the BEP hearings that are still scheduled for this June, along with the Maine Audubon Society. Our growing number of members and supporters shows the extent of deep community support for our efforts, and we are very grateful for everyone's help.

**Background:**

As part of their efforts to construct a Wal-Mart superstore with 24-hour lighting and 18 acres of impervious surface next to the ecologically top-rated Penjajawoc Marsh in Bangor, the Widewaters Corporation has been required to submit a site application both to the city of Bangor and to the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

At the city level, the Bangor Planning Board denied the Widewaters site application in April, 2001, but Widewaters appealed the decision to the Maine Superior Court. On May 30, 2001, the Superior Court overturned the denial, and ordered the Planning Board to approve the application, on the grounds that the city ordinance used as a basis for the decision was unconstitutionally vague. BACORD appealed the Superior Court's decision to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. In February, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the Planning Board must submit "findings of

fact" to explain their denial, and vacated the ruling of the Superior Court which had overturned the denial, thus withdrawing approval of the Widewaters application at the city level.

At the state level, the DEP recommended this past fall that the BEP (Board of Environmental Protection) assume jurisdiction over the Widewaters application. At its February meeting, the BEP agreed to take jurisdiction. The Widewaters site application is still slated for review by the BEP. The BEP hearings are currently scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, and Thursday, June 27, at the Bangor Spectacular Event Center (395 Griffin Road, Bangor). There will be time for public commentary on Wednesday evening. BACORD and Maine Audubon Society are both intervenors in the decision process with the BEP.

**For More Information, Contact:**

Valerie Carter Home: 947-0607 Cell: 852-8353 or Joyce Schelling 942-7647

*BACORD (Bangor Area Citizens Organized for Responsible Development) is a local citizen's organization advocating sustainable development, responsible stewardship of Bangor's natural resources, and protection of the economic and social viability of our community. Our current priority is to protect the Penjajawoc Marsh ecosystem and the City of Bangor from inappropriate development near the marsh.*

farther to work, spend more time in traffic, less time with family, and more money on stress-relief. Then they come to Maine for a slice of the way life should be.

Carter went on to say that he lost a lot of money in the stock market, further aligning himself with this crowd of bankers, brokers, and insurance jockeys. It was all I could do to keep from standing on the table and demanding he forfeit his tax-payer funding that he promised would make him "beholden only to the people of Maine."

Peter Cianchette (pronounced "Chin-chet," close to the sound a cash register makes) wants it to be known he is pro-business. How original.

Steven Kenney's platform is: ditto.

Even this middle-aged ninja turtle, Philip NaPier, self-proclaimed "hero to the people," is so out of touch he can only talk about firing all the "esquire judges" and building big casinos like a string of plastic pearls along I-95. What was in the coffee?

At one point they had what was called "the lightning round." I was torn between wanting to run for cover and the raw desire to see lightning strike the candy-dates. All that happened was the emcee read a laundry list of non-issues and gave time enough only for a yes or no answer. How illuminating. Still,

Flanagan found a way to be quotable by slipping the word "duplicatively" into one of his answers.

Yet, the morning hasn't been completely Orwellian. Jonathan Carter did mention the concept of a "living wage," but took no opportunity to elaborate. Where is the sense of urgency? Where is the strength of conviction?

Of the six, only Jenkins, mayor of Lewiston and professional motivational speaker, claimed to have any passion at all. "Three P's," he said: "Passion, plan and political experience." But he seemed completely limp that morning. Er, from way back where I sat, anyhow. And he made no effort to reveal his second P, the plan. My guess is he takes his cues from the White House where secret plans are the fashion. As for political experience, in my book, that's a disqualifier.

The only thing making my time there worthwhile was the audio recording I made in hopes someone would say something to breathe life into our political process in this modern day of citizen indifference. Not that anyone said anything like that. No, but I'll listen to the tape anyway. The monotonous sound of ring-kissing should help me catch up on my sleep.

## Biddeford Public Access Updates

*In the last issue of the Maine Commons we explored the reasons leading to the eventual lock-up and shut-down of the Biddeford Public Access TV Channel 2 by the Biddeford City Council ("Producers locked out of Biddeford Public Access Television Station," by Hillary Lister, MC Issue 6, June-July 2002, p. 15.)*

As of this writing, Biddeford Public Access remains shut down. Currently Biddeford Mayor Dion and Jim Gratello (the cable committee chair) have been working in private on rewriting the town's cable ordinance. Biddeford Public Access producer, Richard Rhames, was able to view a draft of that ordinance.

According to Rhames, there are several points of concern. One of the changes would distribute shows based on a lottery system. This lottery would occur every three months, and the first person chosen out of the pool would have first choice to select a time slot for their show, as well as an additional 5 slots for reruns. After three months, each person's name would go back in the pool. This change would make it essentially impossible for producers to build an audience, or effectively build and maintain a show, since every three months they would be unsure if they would even receive a slot for the next cycle.

Another possible change would be modeled on the live show structure at Lewiston Public Access. This change would allow only one night a week for filming of live shows in the studio. Of that, each live-show producer would receive only one day per month for their live show. Previously at Biddeford Public Access, there were several producers filming weekly live shows. This would keep the amount of hours the building would be staffed to a minimum, and would greatly limit the amount of live shows that could occur each on the channel.

Rhames feels that this, in addition to other changes, is creating an artificial scarcity of air time, and will limit the amount of voices that will be heard on Biddeford Public Access.

*You can view the previous article online at [http://maine.indymedia.org/front.php3?article\\_id=1790&group=webcast](http://maine.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=1790&group=webcast). You can send comments to the Biddeford City Council online at <http://www.biddeford-maine.org/> by clicking on the "Feed Back Form" Button, or you can write: Biddeford City Council, 205 Main Street Biddeford, Maine 04005.*

This issue is dedicated to the fond memory of



### Fritz Weidner

who donated so much of his time, money and energy to the Maine IMC. One would think, with the amount of energy he put into the number of groups around Maine he was involved with, he would have spread himself too thin -- but he was a valued member of every single group he took part in, including ours. He died on June 1, 2002, loved and appreciated by many.

Thank you, Fritz, for your help in getting our organization off the ground. We will always remember you.

**In Memoriam  
Fritz Weidner  
1952-2002**



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## Pork for multinational 'marine hog farms'

**Feds bail out three foreign fishpen companies that caused Cobscook Bay eco-disaster. Taxpayers must pay for any "crop" failures. Ecos fight back.**

BY RON HUBER, PENOBSCOT BAY WATCH

EASTPORT - The Bush Administration is providing at least ten million dollars per year in American tax dollars to three foreign-based multinationals that caused a disastrous fish disease epidemic in Maine's Cobscook Bay late last year. At the same time, a successful court battle by two conservation law groups has put the kibosh on plans by at least one multinational firm to impose fishpenury upon Penobscot Bay and bring genetically engineered 'psalmon' into the Gulf of Maine.

### Pork for Pens

The decision by the US Department of Agriculture to subsidize giant fishpen corporations Stolt Seafarms and Fjord Seafoods of Norway, and Canada-based Heritage Salmon, came after intensive lobbying of the agency by Maine Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins. While Snowe & Collins asserted that those three companies are the "Maine aquaculture industry," they are not even American businesses, let alone Maine businesses. As foreign companies, they shouldn't qualify for "disaster relief" funding from the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

The CCC was established to reimburse American farmers for losses due to natural disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes and floods. Poor business practices such as the overstocking of fishpens by the three companies, is not considered a "natural disaster." But given enough political pressure on both the USDA and the White House office of Management and Budget, (which had to approve the USDA's rechanneling of disaster aid to the fishpen companies) the agency's opposition crumbled. The USDA tamely began handing over the tax-dollars to the three companies earlier this year. By indemnifying the companies' leaseholdings in Maine, a public waters against losses from disease epidemics caused by shoddy operations, critics say the USDA's action sets a precedent for similar corporate takeovers of the coastal waters of other US northcoasts, both elsewhere in New England and in Alaska, Oregon and Washington. This guaranteed subsidy could cause a gold rush of big agribusiness into more of America's marine public lands.

Critics of the bailout plan for the three companies say that the companies should not be rewarded for shoddy business practices. They explain that the companies knew, and Maine DMR knew, they were raising at least double the number of fish per fishpen that they are legally allowed to in their home countries. But knowing that the US government would bail them out if their overstocking caused an epidemic, they went ahead and did it anyway. Like hogfarmers, marine feedlot operators pay allegiance to their investors' bottom line, not to the ecol-

ogy of the waters they foul.

### Downeast Maine coast in a state of "Fishpenury"

Little if any of the money made by Stolt, Fjord and Heritage Salmon trickles down into the Maine economy. Despite more than 60 million dollars in revenues that the three companies reported last year from their marine hogfarm operations in eastern Maine, the region remains impoverished.

The town of Lubec, for example, has several million farmed salmon swimming in pens in its waters, yet most of the town's storefronts remain boarded up. Employment is nearly non-existent, outside of government-subsidized medical centers and other federally funded initiatives. In actuality, nearly all the wealth generated by salmon farming goes to its overseas investors (surprise, surprise). In addition,



**CANADIAN HERITAGE**

A view of Heritage Salmon's Eastport plant and pens, from a neighboring State Park. The photographer noticed a strong unpleasant odor, even at this distance.

photo credit: Bill Lamb

most of the skilled labor and management-level jobs in the fishpen operations in Maine are reserved for Norwegian and Canadian workers. Mainers may get hired to shovel feed into the pens and to haul out the dozens of sick and dead salmon that perish each day in the tightly packed fish cages. Even those low-wage dead-end jobs average a mere two to four workers per fishpen operation. Despite claims to the contrary by Maine Governor Angus King, nearly all salmon raised in fishpens in Maine are trucked across the border into Canada to be processed, thanks to the lower labor costs there. The fish processing industry of Maine is experiencing the same thing as Maine's sawmill industry – raw materials shipped across the border, finished goods shipped back into the US.

### Heritage gets busted, bailed out.

Only weeks after Heritage Salmon (a subsidiary of Ottawa-based George Weston Company) signed an agreement with the federal USDA and the Maine Department of Marine Resources committing it to immediately reporting disease outbreaks, it was charged with ten counts of

willfully violating that agreement by concealing fresh disease outbreaks in its downeast Maine marine feedlots. The agreement enabled Heritage Salmon to qualify for millions of US tax dollars to compensate them for the infected livestock the company was forced last year to destroy and sell as fishmeal after an outbreak of Infectious Salmon Anemia overwhelmed Cobscook Bay. Many believe that the Maine government was aware of the Canadian company's criminal concealment of its ongoing disease epidemics in Cobscook Bay, but chose to conceal that knowledge to ensure the company's investors remained eligible to feed at the public trough. And remain eligible Heritage did, cashing its first checks from Uncle Sam in late spring of this year.

### No Pens in Pen Bay

Conservation legal activist groups US PIRG and National Environmental Law Center scored a victory against the three fishpen companies in June when the US District court found the companies guilty of violating the federal Clean Water Act by dis-

used by government hatcheries to raise fish to replenish other New England rivers. The inevitable disease outbreaks that would wipe out this school, abruptly driving the fish into extinction in US waters. In mid June, violations of the Clean Water Act were also found against Atlantic Salmon of Maine, (a subsidiary of Fjord Seafoods), and Stolt Seafood. Penalties have yet to be set. Both companies, however, have rejected the penalties that Heritage Salmon agreed to, claiming that agreeing to them would "put them out of business". A representative of Penobscot Bay Watch said "With such a terrible track record downeast, we don't want fishpens anywhere near Penobscot Bay. This is the home of the last big wild salmon school in Maine. ISA from fishpen operations here would wipe out this school when it passes through the bay on the way to spawning sites in Penobscot River and Ducktrap River. There are no fishfarms here. We aim to keep it that way." There are also concerns that the chemicals used to control fishlice infestations in the caged salmon will percolate into Penobscot Bay, the USA's most productive lobstering area. Pesticides used to kill the parasites can also kill juvenile and larval lobsters, and drive adult lobsters from the area.

### Fighting Fishpenury

Can Maine's coast be saved from collapsing into fishpenury? (Fishpenury is defined as a state of poverty brought about by the takeover of coastal waters by absentee fishfarming corporations that drive out wild fisheries and degrade coastal tourism opportunities with slimed beaches, diseased and pesticide filled waters, industrial noise and light, and cage-filled sailing coves, while channeling nearly all of their business' profits out of the country.) The short answer: YES. To keep marine hog farms from expanding into ever more of the Maine coast, local residents can employ a variety of tactics, from enacting strong town laws restricting fishpens from obtaining moorings in town waters, to preempting the fish-penners by having local civic groups or organizations themselves obtaining low impact aquaculture leases to raise sponges, soft corals, eelgrass seed, and other native species in the areas that would otherwise be grabbed by marine hog farmers in the future. Another simple but very effective tactic: Never ever buy farmed salmon. Don't support an industry that is laying waste to the Maine coast's ecology and economy. In addition, farmed salmon is highly fatty, with enough pesticide residues in the 'well marbled' flesh to warrant consumption warnings for children and pregnant women. The fish-penners are fighting such a listing in the US but with farmed salmon in other countries already under such warning, it is only a matter of time here.

For more info:

Eastern Penobscot Bay Environmental Alliance: <http://eastern.penbay.org>  
Penobscot Bay Watch: [www.penbay.org](http://www.penbay.org)

Penobscot Bay and Penobscot River host the largest remaining school of wild Atlantic Salmon in the United States. The Penobscot run of wild salmon is robust enough that it serves as the source of eggs



# The Battle of Sears Island -

## A Story of Maine and the DOT in the 90s

BY HILLARY LISTER

Sears Island, at 940 acres, is the largest uninhabited island off the east coast of the US. In 1982 the MDOT constructed a causeway and highway to the island for the purpose of eventually connecting the mainland to a proposed "Sears Island Cargo Port," which would be used primarily to export wood chips. Up until the early-nineties, the island was owned by (Massachusetts-based) Bangor Investment Corporation. It then passed hands to Fieldcrest Cannon, then to Ironside Railroad, until finally it was sold, for the price of \$1.00, to the Maine Department of Transportation. According to Jim Freeman, of Verona Island, who was active in blocking the creation of this cargo port, "The MDOT is the state agency responsible for promoting and shepherding the process along in the public eye." Even early on in the process, with the building of the causeway, the DOT's actions upset locals when it blasted a rock that had been used for generations for telling the level of the tides. As the project progressed, concerns built.

The causeway, while cheaper to build than a bridge, served as a barrier that restricted water flow in adjoining shallow salt bays. The lack of water flow killed large areas of eelgrass in the bays, which served as a nursery area for groundfish and a habitat for other small sea life and shedding lobster. Clam flats in the bays have been destroyed, since clams need to have the water circulation in order to take in microorganisms - if the water stagnates, the clams

essentially suffocate. Critics also worried that the stagnation would concentrate polluting runoff from General Alum, an ammonium sulfate manufacturer located across from Sears Island in Searsport. Since the causeway construction, there have been proposals to build culverts that would help restore water circulation. However, according to MDOT's Brian Nutter, since the federal government paid for the construction of the causeway, they require that the causeway still have the strength to hold a railroad track, a two lane truck route, pipelines for water, and power lines for electricity, which might be difficult if it were culverted.

In preparation for the cargo port, the DOT also filled in about 12 acres of wetlands to be used as a storage area for the cargo port. When confronted by concerns over this, the DOT denied the filled-in area had ever been wetlands, even going so far as to state that there were no wetlands on the island, which was easily proved false. The Sierra Club had previously flown over the filled in area prior to its development and taken photos, helping prove the area to be wetlands. The DOT eventually acknowledged this and removed the filled-in storage area, and the wetlands were reclaimed.

Critics of the cargo port itself worried that it would have a negative impact on the Maine forests, as well as taking jobs away in the process. The state of Maine has estimated that the sustainable harvest from Maine's woods is about 5 million cords of wood per year. It was estimated that the wood chip exporting cargo port was going to

house would have required an additional 250,000 cords of wood to open, then up to 750,000 cords per year after several years of operation. Jim Freeman explained, "The port would have been used by the Maine Forest Products industry to ship up to 1,600,000 tons [per year] of high quality hardwood chips for papermaking and lower grade chips for cardboard to the Far East. Our trees would have come back to us in the form of boxes containing TVs and VCRs." While the DOT argued that the project would create jobs, critics pointed out that most of the jobs would be temporary (in construction of the port) and that the focus on chip exportation would be detrimental to long term Maine forest jobs. They explained that much more income could come to Maine forest workers if wood were sold for lumber than for chips. The cargo port would have been exporting "dirty" chips, which were to sell for about 50 cents a ton. Critics of the project felt that it would hurt jobs by causing the Maine forests to be harvested too rapidly, and decreasing the supply of large hardwoods that could be sold for lumber at many times the 50 cents a ton price for chips. They were also concerned that changes to the island would harm fishing operations and clamming.

In response to the DOT's actions, various groups, ranging from Earth First! and the Maine Greens, to the Carpenters & Joiners Union and the Papermakers Union, took action to oppose the cargo port. After repeated failed attempts by critics of the project to meet with Janet Meyers, the project coordinator, people decided to take more visible action. In autumn of 1994, a group of 35 people group raided the Maine DOT office, went through the department's files, and demanded a meeting with a DOT lawyer. The protesters were able to get a

three hour meeting with a DOT lawyer, no arrests were made, and the action brought the protestors' concerns into the media spotlight.

Opponents to the project also made themselves visible when the DOT held a public hearing on the cargo port. Three to four hundred people showed up for the meeting, and were frustrated when they discovered that the facilitator of the meeting was a lobbyist for the Forest Products Council, which had a major investment in the cargo port being built. People became more frustrated when they found that the structure of the meeting allowed the public to speak only AFTER all elected officials had been given a chance to speak. The elected officials, who were largely in favor of the cargo port, spoke for the first several hours of the meeting. The press left before the general public got chance to talk, so the initial coverage of the meeting depicted the majority of the participants being in favor of the port. Once the public was allowed to speak, it was discovered that the majority of the speakers were against the port. In this realization, participants began taking over the meeting, drumming, and even stealing DOT studies that were laid out on a table with a "Do Not Take" sign, staying at the meeting until the early hours of the next morning.

As a result of these actions and litigation against the construction of the port, the state decided in 1998 that it was no longer "economically feasible" to continue with construction of the port. However, in 2002, there is talk of the cargo port plan returning - only this time, across the bay in Searsport. The DOT still owns the island and the causeway is still in place - though its major use now is for locals taking a walk to have a picnic on the island.

### Announcement: Maine's New Autonomous Spaces Come Together for a Night of Information, Music and Empowerment

July 16th, 7pm, St. Lawrence Church, 76 Congress St. Portland

with the **Beehive Design Collective, Machias**; the **JED Collective/Center, Greene**; the **People's Free Space, Portland**;

& **acoustic performances by Dan C. (rebel folk music), Sydney and others**

the **Beehive Design Collective** will talk about their **Plan Colombia poster, their stone murals and the Beehive, a grange hall they recently bought in Machias**

**JED** will be talking about their collective and the **JED Center in Greene.**

there will be a presentation on the **People's Free Space, a new autonomous community space for Portland (that is currently space-less).** there will be information on how you can get involved with this space

this is an all ages event, \$5-10 donation goes to benefit **JED, People's Free Space, Beehive and the St. Lawrence** For directions to the St. Lawrence Church email [arthousecoalition@riseup.net](mailto:arthousecoalition@riseup.net)

### The Pledge of Allegiance

a Friday Fable by Herschel Sternlieb

When President Eisenhower signed the law adding "under God," to the Pledge of Allegiance, I was appalled. Here I was, a confirmed worshipper of the gods of Wall Street, Fiscal Responsibility, Sexual License and Atomic Weaponry, forced into a monotheism that confounded me.

I immediately petitioned Congress to change it to "under Gods," but my Senators did not even deem my petition worthy of a response. Since then, I have been heartbroken and confused every time I Pledge Allegiance, for I do not know whose God we are under.

Is it the God of Jefferson or Jerry Falwell, the God of Martin Luther King or David Duke, the God of the Pope or of the Ayatollahs, the God of Sharon or of Arafat? Is it the Lord God of Hosts or the god of the Sermon on the Mount? The god of Constantine or the god of Socrates? Certainly one God could not be responsive to so many disparate petitioners.

The dictionary defines two gods; a god and God. A god is defined as a being of supernatural powers or attributes believed in and worshipped by people. God is defined as a being conceived as the perfect, omnipotent, omniscient originator and ruler of the universe, the principal object of faith and worship in monotheistic religions.

In looking at America, it would appear that it is a land of Pagans, my professed creed. We go to churches, temples and mosques to get our prayers answered, yet we put our faith in markets. A few years ago it was the stock market and today there has been a schism that has caused many to abandon that faith and become apostates to the real estate market. It is said that in America more people love money than love God. But in paganism, money is a god; that is why I feel so comfortable being an American.



## Wayne & the DOT - An Open Letter

June 21, 2002

Hon. John Melrose  
Maine Commissioner of Transportation Augusta, Maine

Dear Commissioner Melrose:

Please consider this a request, under Maine's Freedom of Access Law, for the general layout of the DOT preferred plan, along with alternatives, for reconstruction of the Wayne Village Bridge on Route 133. Today's Kennebec Journal carries an article announcing the DOT meeting on this matter, to take place four days from now on June 25 in Wayne.

I called today and was told by people in your Department that, although the money is in place, there is no DOT proposal for this work, and that no DOT proposal, as such, will be presented to people who show up at your Tuesday meeting. I certainly hope you change your policy on this. Your staff told me that DOT hopes people in attendance will make suggestions for reconstruction of the bridge, on such details as "traffic control involved while the project is underway".

This pretense at "consultation with the public" short-changes taxpayers who pay the salaries at DOT. When, at the outset, DOT fails to inform people of what a given project can involve, it is reasonable to expect an eventual adverse public reaction -- as happened in the '90s at Sears Island where DOT deliberately downplayed projected economic and environmental consequences of the project; and as is currently happening in Warren where DOT disparages citizen opinion, and, through the Maine State Police and plain-clothes officials, physically assaults, arrests, and threatens other violence against citizens who impede the ongoing wholesale savaging by DOT of rural Warren's environment.

As a native Maine taxpayer, and on the basis of my own experience with highway projects in Maryland (1965 - 1993), and in Maine since 1993, I ask that the Maine DOT:

1. not widen any part of Route 133 in Wayne, including the subject bridge.
2. design a bridge physically separated from the one for motor vehicles (perhaps similar to the existing foot bridge nearby on the Village Dam) to protect pedestrians and bicyclists from the Route 133 traffic stream which supports extraordinarily heavy conveyances -- oil tankers, loaded logging trucks, and all manner of tractor trailers.
3. reduce promptly the posted speed limit for Wayne Village to a level no higher than 25 miles per hour.

Sincerely, Julian C. Holmes, Wayne, ME

## Ability Maine Speaks

### Elderly Disabled Man Asks For Community Help

BY RUSSELL ANDERSON

Fernald Carter has spent his whole life working and trying to help his family and neighbors in their times of need. Now, at 70 years of age and ill, he is in his time of need.

His small home on Gross Neck Road in Waldoboro, Maine needs quite a bit of work on its deteriorated roof. "When it rains I can pump my house out," he said.

Lacking the money to pay for repairs by himself, and since Fern is unable to read and write, an effort was started to help him apply for assistance from several community assistance programs.

Coastal Community Action Program (CCAP) in Rockland has a pilot Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) project called the Home Rehabilitation Program.

It serves Knox, Lincoln and Waldo counties. Based on income, a low-income applicant can be eligible for a low interest loan or a grant, but the grants are limited in number. The reason they did not approve a grant for repairing Fern's home was because it would cost more than the \$15,000 grant allotment, and the house would not be brought up to federal building standards or "code," a mandate of the grant. A partial list of the repairs includes: a leaking and rotted roof (one section is covered with a tarp in an attempt to slow down the infiltration of rain); a cracked chimney; unsealed windows and doors; electrical and plumbing problems; the need for an entrance access ramp -- the list goes on. To top it off, the house was built on cedar posts and has now settled.

Thanks to the help of the Community Home Improvement Program (CHIP) in the Damariscotta area of Lincoln county, a new mobile home has been donated to Fern. However, the 60x20 foot trailer is in Walpole, 30 miles away from his Waldoboro home. It has to be moved in less than 33 days. If it is not moved within that time the new property owner will demolish the immaculate 10-year old trailer and haul it away in pieces.

As a friend of Fern Carter, and a community advocate, I have offered to help spearhead a fundraising effort to help Fern move the trailer. I estimate that moving the trailer and preparing the site may cost as much as

\$15,000. The trailer needs to be moved, a concrete pad put down, and a new septic and water system installed. We are in hopes to receive the services at a cut-rate cost, or as a tax write-off, by the company who volunteers.

Fern is a long time Waldoboro resident who has spent his life working at clamming, lobstering, and construction. He fondly remembers the many successful days he spent

clamming, especially the day he dug 21 bushels and three pecks, out-digging a friend of his. He had nine children and currently lives with his companion, Joyce.

Fern's family is quite large. Many of his brothers' and sisters' children and grandchildren still live on the "Neck," known as "Carter Town" to the locals. Their community may not be the most affluent in material terms, but is a true community of family

that works and lives together. A stunning literary portrait of their way of life was published in a book a few years ago. Olive Pierce, a local summer resident, and Maine author, Carolyn Chute co-authored the book, *Up River*, a black-and-white photo essay that pays tribute to the families and their freedom: a style of simple living in a coastal Maine fishing community.

Last winter Fernald Carter fell ill. He can no longer climb the stairs to his bedroom and instead has a hospital bed in his living room. "This is my kitchen, bedroom and living room," he said while sitting at his kitchen table. He has emphysema and requires oxygen. He also has chronic arthritis and other medical conditions that require a regimen of medications. Fern can only move around the house with the aid of a walker, in part due to the arthritis, and in part due to the fact that he was born with a "small" spine.

About 25 years ago, another one of his homes was destroyed by fire. Following that fire, Fern converted a storage shed into his current home. He cut windows in the walls, laid a new floor, dug his own well, and added a second floor for his bedroom. "I made it, but I had my health back then," he said.

The Salvation Army in Damariscotta and in Rockland have said they will donate some money to the cause, but not enough to make



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# BoundTogether

## Tips for Democratizing Organizations

BY LARRY DANSINGER

*Most of us believe in democracy as a way of sharing power and decisions, but it's easier to talk about than to do. Here are some ways to democratize your grassroots organization or any group you work with:*

1. In listing staff and/or board members, use alphabetical (or reverse alphabetical) order, rather than by position in the organization.

2. At press conferences, events, or programs, have several people as MC's, spokespersons, speakers, or who are authorized to "speak for" the organization.

3. Use a consensus process for discussion and decision-making (unanimous consent) which allows for each person in the room or each member to have an equal voice in determining policy. Encourage collective decision-making by staff on staff issues based on personal and group needs (for example, if the organization needs to cut staff hours, all staff should participate in that decision).

4. Rotate board officers, spokespeople, and even staff positions to maximize the number of people who have knowledge about different parts of the organization and can take responsibility for and leadership in its programs.

5. Keep track of feedback, comments, and other suggestions or ideas from staff, board, and members, and include as much as possible in statements, policies, long range plans, and other information which represents the organization and strategies for action. Make sure at least something is included, if at all possible, from each person who contributes.

6. Make sure information flows freely throughout the organization. Have a regularized, frequent, and convenient system of contact among staff and between staff, board, and membership so everyone knows how and when to contribute to the organization's progress.

7. Provide every member of the group with one or more ways in which they can be active in determining future directions for the organization.

8. Emphasize the democratic nature of your organization and that every member has ownership of the group and an important role in making the group successful. List some of the ways your organization makes sure each member has a role (some might be taken from this list.) In small groups, list each member and the role she/he plays (or could play) in the group.

9. Give lots of freedom to committees and subcommittees to do the business of the group in their own way.

10. Have a member recruitment plan that encourages a broad variety of people to join and a way for them to become actively involved in some aspect of the group as soon as possible. If the group is moving from NOT having a variety of people involved to HAVING a broad diversity of people involved, understand this may change the group as a whole.

11. Identify special interests or talents (for example, art or graphic design) of each group member and try to use them whenever possible (for example, in making flyers for events) for the group.

12. Establish policies that are inclusive, such as using wheelchair accessible meeting spaces, providing child care at events, and offering language translation, that give every member the feeling that they are welcomed and wanted. If your groups has a website, work to make it as accessible as possible to people with slow internet connections and people using screen readers. Let everyone know that differences are valued, not distrusted.

13. Use simple language and shorter syllable words in all written and verbal business of the group. Don't use acronyms or insider terms unless you are certain that all members of the group know their meanings.

14. Have a way of welcoming new members and/or staff to a group so they can feel at home and part of a team as soon as possible.

15. Pay every staff person the same salary or wages, regardless of age, formal education, formal experience, or length of time working for the group as a way to show that each person's contribution is uniquely valuable and necessary. Divide labor as equally as possible through a collective staff structure so that all staff responsibility for the groups successes and failures, all have some of the leadership, and all do some of the "mindless" work.

16. Create a "safe space" environment where people are encouraged to bring up problems between people or with the organization in order to solve them in the most direct way possible. Also use that safe space to allow people to be silly or to "be themselves" without fear of putdowns or negative feedback.

17. Distribute power and influence as evenly as possible throughout the group, so board and members know as much of what is going on as any staff. Make sure people who are respected are heard, but not heard much more or any more than others who may be new to the group or not as quick to speak out.

18. We all need more information and training to give our best ideas and effort to the group. Make sure people know that it's OK to ask for help and where help can be found.

19. Avoid tokenism. People need to know their involvement and leadership are valued as an individual, not just as a member of a specific race, age, sexual orientation, etc.

20. For events where a fee is charged, promote equal access by offering sliding scale costs or "pay what you can" so that no one is denied access because of cost. Ditto for memberships or dues; list all donors without categorizing them by amount contributed.

21. Recognize that not all people have access to the internet. Make sure that essential information gets sent out as regular mail or by phone in addition to email. Work to make sure that the decision making process is open to all people, not just those with access to technology.

*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.*

the move a reality. I've also approached the Town of Waldoboro and Rural Development (formerly Farmers Home Administration) for further assistance. But we have no idea either how long it will take government programs to accept the application or how long it will take to receive the money.

It is an emergency. I hope it will encourage others to see that coming together works and that we need to help one another. I plan to pull in as many people as I can to help Fern. And, to convey to the public and government entities, such as the Maine State Housing Authority, a reminder that Maine's disadvantaged citizens truly need an array of equitable and affordable housing programs. Additionally, that existing programs need to be consumer focused and not discourage people with incomprehensible paperwork.

It seems the community resources are there, it's just a matter of asking people. I am hoping that "Community" and its charitable organizations will help him just like it would a family whose home is destroyed by fire. Perhaps community will become the "office of advocacy" that will move compassionately and swiftly for Fern.

In my opinion, there should be a readily accessible network of options and advocacy presented to people like Fernald Carter, the very low-income in Maine living with disability and/or poverty issues. People who need resources afforded them through an expedited process. I truly believe that affordable housing for Fern is still an option, and the resources are out there. He has the right to remain in his home, to live independently for as long as he can. If he were a relative of the governor of Maine, I imagine that he would be eligible for an array of assistance programs through a swift "rubber stamping" process that would make one's head spin. Don't you think?

"I've done the best I could in these years, I brought up a good family and loved them all," Fern said.

*For more information or to make a donation to help with the move contact Russell Anderson at 832-4754, or via email at [advocate@midcoast.com](mailto:advocate@midcoast.com)*

## Democratizing "Democracy Rising"

*An excerpt of an interview with Ralph Nader conducted by Hillary Lister at the Democracy Rising event in Portland on June 29, 2002. Democracy Rising is a Nader-founded organization that hosts traveling rallies across the US.*

**Maine Indymedia:** "Some people have raised concerns about the structure of these events, that they're organized in a top-down, unaccountable, un-democratic fashion. Could you talk to that a little bit -- How the structure of the event reflects the sort of society we are working toward?"

**Ralph Nader:** "Well, you see, when you put these on, in city after city from our headquarters in Washington, what you want to do is make it very accessible - to free

tables, to all kinds of groups, but the time span is so short that you've got to have someone in charge. It's almost like having a Master Sergeant in charge, you know. So the logistics are very centralized. Imagine trying to get a committee to negotiate with whoever owns this arena. I mean, it's a nightmare just trying to have one person negotiate. There's so many curlicues to it. The key is - are a lot of voices expressed? There aren't many rallies in the country where you get 80 or 90 groups that can cir-

culate their materials and get people looking at their proposals for the first time and kids and families coming in free - I mean, kids coming in free. So it's pretty good. I mean, eventually, groups can put on their own rallies. You know, this is sort of a teaser. [I] say, 'Look, we did this from the outside. You [local groups] have got much more time to do it regularly.'

and so the dialogue begins... [www.democracywrithing.org](http://www.democracywrithing.org)



# Maine Solidarity Calendar

July 11 - , 2002 (updated and with more info at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>)

## Thursday July 11th

### "Concert for the Future"

Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Phone: 947-4203  
Email: [info@pica.ws](mailto:info@pica.ws)  
Web: <http://www.pica.ws>  
Location: Bangor City Waterfront, Bangor  
Info: PICA Fundraiser and Tribute to Pete Seeger with Arlo Guthrie, Linda Richards & Inca Son. Tickets \$15 adults, \$10 seniors & students, \$5 children.

## 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

### Maine International Film Festival

Phone: 861-8138  
Email: [info@miff.org](mailto:info@miff.org)  
Web: <http://www.miff.org>  
Location: Railroad Square Cinema, & Opera House, Waterville  
Info: Film from Maine and around the world. Highlights include Maine Filmmakers Forum, Student Film Fest, and Focus on Vietnam. For lineup, ticket prices, please call or visit website.

### MAIN Annual Picnic

Time: 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
Phone: 947-4371  
Email: [krjguay@infi.net](mailto:krjguay@infi.net)  
Web: [www.bairnet.org/organizations/main/](http://www.bairnet.org/organizations/main/)  
Location: Judy's House, Orono  
Info: Annual Picnic for Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods, a group working for low-income rights. Potluck; bring food if you can, family and friends.

## Tuesday July 16th

### Maine Autonomous Spaces Benefit

Time: 7:00 PM  
Email: [arthousecoalition@riseup.net](mailto:arthousecoalition@riseup.net)  
Location: St. Lawrence Community Ctr., 76 Congress St, Portland  
Info: See Page 7 for more info

## Thursday July 18th

### Community Media Center Meeting

Time: 11:00 AM  
Phone: 848-2433  
Email: [jonf@ptfolkschool.org](mailto:jonf@ptfolkschool.org)  
Location: Peace and Justice Center, 170 Park St, Bangor  
Info: Meeting to start planning a Community Media Center in Bangor area.

## Friday July 19th

### Northeast Machine Gun Shoot

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

## Saturday July 20th

### Funeral Ceremony for the Trees of Rt. 1

Time: 10:00 AM  
Contact: Steve Burke  
Email: [stevbee@midcoast.com](mailto:stevbee@midcoast.com)  
Location: Steve's house, Rt. 1, Warren  
Info: This will begin with a march from the home of Steve Burke on Rt 1 to the home of Lorna Smale where the "Elephant Tree"

once stood. Pageantry, drumming, costumes and lots of good food and drink.

## Friday July 26th

### A Celebration of the Life of Justin Dart

Time: 3:30 PM - Sunset  
Phone: 645-2162  
Web: [www.abilitymaine.org](http://www.abilitymaine.org)  
Location: Wolf's Neck State Park, Freeport  
Info: Justin Dart, a National figure in the fight for rights for people with disabilities, died on June 22, 2002. His wife has asked that people gather in celebration of his life and activism on July 26. Bring a light picnic supper. We will have speakers, take walks on the accessible trails, eat, and celebrate together. \$2.50 park admission.

### Africville Tent-City & Conference

Phone: (902)455-2985  
Email: [tinkya@yahoo.com](mailto:tinkya@yahoo.com)  
Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Info: Tent-City & Conference. Join the Africville Genealogy Society's 19th Reunion and help to build an Atlantic-wide beyond borders United Front Against Environmental Racism. "Africville: Still looking for Justice". Ends Mon. July 29.

## Saturday July 27th

### WERU Full Circle Summer Fair

Contact: Denis Howard  
Phone: (207) 469-6600  
Email: [denis@weru.org](mailto:denis@weru.org)  
Web: <http://www.weru.org>  
Location: Blue Hill Fairgrounds, Blue Hill  
Info: Through July 28th.

## Friday August 2nd

### International Humane Education Symposium

Phone: 667-1025  
Email: [iihe@compassionateliving.org](mailto:iihe@compassionateliving.org)  
Web: <http://www.compassionateliving.org>  
Location: Surry  
Info: Training for humane educators.

### Community Celebration

Time: 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Phone: 775-0270  
Email: [fecund@maineindymedia.org](mailto:fecund@maineindymedia.org)  
Location: Deering Oaks Park, Portland  
Info: There will be speakers, puppets, juggling, food, & music, open mike, kids activities. Maine's gubernatorial candidates are invited to join us for a friendly debate on the meaning of "community".

## Tuesday August 6th

### Burdock! Festival

Phone: 649-5980 (after 7pm or weekends)  
Email: [resist207@riseup.net](mailto:resist207@riseup.net)  
Location: Jay's Farm, Starks  
Info: A gathering for a free and sustainable future. Burdock welcomes people to educate each other on practical skills, life issues, ecology & ways to make the world a better place, build regional connections, looking beyond state/country borders. Continues to Aug. 13. Limited space, please pre-register.

## Saturday August 17th

### HOME Coop's Annual Summer Fair

Phone: 469-7961  
Location: HOME Coop, Route 1, Orland  
Info: Continues to Sun. Aug. 18.

## Saturday August 17th

### Submission Deadline for Sept-Oct Issue

Contact: Maine Commons  
Phone: 649-5980 (after 7pm or weekends)  
Email: [editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org)  
Web: <http://www.mainecommons.org>  
Info: Articles for next issue of the Maine Commons must be in by this date. Thanks!

## Saturday September 14th

### MaineShare's "Meet at the Mountain Hike & Bike" fundraiser

Phone: 622-0105  
Email: [giving@maineshare.org](mailto:giving@maineshare.org)  
Location: Bradbury State Park, Pownal

## Friday September 20th

### Common Ground Country Fair

Contact: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
Phone: 568-4142  
Email: [info@mofga.org](mailto:info@mofga.org)  
Web: <http://www.mofga.org>  
Location: MOFGA Fairgrounds, Unity  
Info: Call or visit website for schedule and ticket locations. Continues to Sun. Sept. 22.

## 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

### 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, Blue Hill  
Info: 2nd Thursday each month. Potluck supper and conversation, planning.

### 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.

## Weekly Repeating Events

### Sundays

#### Belfast Weekly Peace Vigil

Time: 12:00 PM  
Location: 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.



# Maine Solidarity Calendar (continued from page 10)

**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 to 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  
Email: [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.

**Rt. 1 Advocacy Group**  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Contact: Steve Burke  
Email: [stevbee@midcoast.com](mailto:stevbee@midcoast.com)  
Location: Warren Historical Society, 225 Main St., Warren  
Info: See spread, page 14-15

**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.

**Daily:**  
Houlton ..... 794-8306  
Fort Fairfield ..... 473-7786  
(closed Sat. and Sun.)  
Portland (Public Market) ..... 228-2006

**Sundays:**  
Bar Harbor ..... 288-4930

**Mondays:**  
Damariscotta Area ..... 549-5112  
Ellsworth ..... 667-1220  
Fort Kent ..... 834-6933  
Pittsfield ..... 487-5056

**Tuesdays:**  
Belfast ..... 342-2095  
Brewer ..... 948-5724  
Brunswick ..... 666-3116  
Calais, Eastport, & Perry ..... 454-7496  
Jonesport Area ..... 497-3431  
Orono ..... 285-3581  
Winthrop ..... 395-4244

**Wednesdays:**  
Augusta ..... 549-5112  
Brewer ..... 948-5724  
Camden ..... 549-7070  
Fairfield ..... 487-5056  
Falmouth ..... 846-4405  
Fort Kent ..... 834-6933  
Kennebunk ..... 967-8018  
Machias ..... 638-2664  
Portland (Monument Sq.) ..... 883-5750  
Saco ..... 929-5318  
Springvale/Sanford ..... 324-0331

**Thursdays:**  
Auburn ..... 336-2411  
Bath ..... 586-5067  
Boothbay ..... 737-8834  
Brewer ..... 948-5724  
Ellsworth ..... 667-1220  
Hampden ..... 862-4075  
Islesboro ..... 722-3303  
Naples ..... 642-5161  
Northeast Harbor ..... 288-4930  
Pittsfield ..... 487-5056  
Rockland ..... 785-3810  
Eastport ..... 454-7496



**Fridays:**  
Belfast ..... 342-2095  
Bowdoinham ..... 737-7557  
Brewer ..... 948-5724  
Brunswick ..... 666-3116  
Damariscotta Area ..... 549-5112  
Deer Isle/Stonington ..... 326-4741  
Dexter ..... 924-7900  
Farmington ..... 778-3115  
Jonesport Area ..... 497-3431  
Norway ..... 539-4848  
Portland (Maine Mall) ..... 549-7070  
Springvale/Sanford ..... 324-0331  
Westbrook ..... 854-9105

**Saturdays:**  
Auburn ..... 336-2411  
Augusta ..... 549-5112  
Bangor ..... 326-4741  
Bath ..... 586-5067  
Belfast ..... 342-2095  
Bethel ..... 836-3606  
Blue Hill ..... 359-4487  
Brewer ..... 948-5724  
Bridgton ..... 642-5161  
Brunswick ..... 666-3116  
Calais, Eastport, & Perry ..... 454-7496  
Camden ..... 549-7070  
Cumberland ..... 829-5588  
Ellsworth ..... 667-1220  
Fairfield ..... 487-5056  
Fort Kent ..... 834-6933  
Hampden ..... 862-4075  
Kennebunk ..... 967-8018  
Machias ..... 638-2664  
Madawaska ..... 895-5234  
Orono ..... 285-3581  
Portland (Monument Sq.) ..... 883-5750  
Portsmouth, NH ..... 603-659-3902  
Presque Isle ..... 896-5860  
Saco ..... 929-5318  
Skowhegan ..... 938-3906  
Springvale/Sanford ..... 324-0331  
Unity ..... 948-9005  
Winthrop ..... 395-4244

THIS INFO REPRINTED FROM THE WEBSITE:  
[WWW.GETREALMAINE.COM](http://WWW.GETREALMAINE.COM)

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.**

Don't Peek! Answers to the Acrostic on page 16 below:  
A. Idiosyncratic; B. Graphic Artist; C. Nonsense; D. Antithetical;  
E. Thousands Cheer; F. I Won't Work; G. Eddie Cantor; H. Firmament;  
I. Face Of; J. Tonsillitis; K. Hottentot; L. Emerson; M. New Britain;  
N. Evidently; O. Eau De Cologne; P. Diligence; Q. Ship Shore; R. On Hold;  
S. Forethought; T. Seasoning; U. Tempins; V. Roosevelt; W. Ampersand;  
X. Neisse; Y. Get The; Z. Enzyme; Z1. Requisite; Z2. Sod



# Maine Independent Media Resource Guide

## DIY MEDIA GUIDE

**AAMP : The Androscoggin Alternative Media Project**  
[katebrennan@riseup.net](mailto:katebrennan@riseup.net)

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 political 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 if you would like to learn sted in working on the project, could offer a word or two of advice, or just plain want to give a shout out to AAMP! Contact Kate Brennan at 946-4478.

### Community Media Center

A Community Media Center is being planned for the greater Bangor area. The second planning meeting is Thursday, July 18th at 11a.m. at the Peace & Justice Center in Bangor.

To get involved with creating this project, contact:

Jonathan Falk  
 Pine Tree Folk School  
 RR 2, Box 7162  
 Carmel, ME 04419  
 (207)848-2433

### The Community Television Association of Maine

<http://www.ctn4maine.org>  
[ctam@usa.net](mailto:ctam@usa.net)

The mission of CTAM is to advance democratic ideals by ensuring that people in Maine have access to electronic media. In order for democracy to flourish, people must be active participants in their government, educated to think critically, and free to express themselves.

Community Television Association of Maine, PO Box 2124 South Portland, Maine 04106

### The Community Television Network

CHANNEL 4 - Greater Portland  
<http://www.ctn4maine.org>  
[ctn1@maine.rr.com](mailto:ctn1@maine.rr.com)

Periodically we offer classes for the novice in television production. This is a great opportunity to get your first exposure to a satisfying and rewarding industry. Learn how to produce a program for The Community Television network. You must be a resident of Portland or be a volunteer of a nonprofit Portland organization.

*Want to get involved with making media? Want to learn how to record events, do interviews, edit video, and more? The following are some resources to help you get involved in Being the Media.*

100 Oak Street  
 Portland, ME. 04101  
 207-775-2900

### Maine Alliance of Media Arts - MAMA

<http://www.agate.net/~ile/mama>  
[hueyfilm@nlis.net](mailto:hueyfilm@nlis.net)

MAMA coordinates the Student Film and Video Festival, open to all students up to age 19, in Maine. The 25th Maine Student Film and Video Festival, is part of Maine International Film Festival, Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville, July 13, 1:00 PM.

### MAINE ALLIANCE OF MEDIA ARTS

Box 4320 Portland, ME 04101-0520  
 (207) 773-1130

### Maine Independent Media Center

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

See page 3 of this paper for the Maine Indymedia FAQ and info on how to get involved. Be The Media!

### Maine Media Camp

Husson College  
[www.nescom.edu/mainemediacamp.html](http://www.nescom.edu/mainemediacamp.html)

The New England School of Communications and Husson College sponsor MAINE MEDIA CAMP for one week in July. The camp is for people entering or in highschool to experience an introduction into the fields of radio, television, advertising, multimedia. There are tours of local radio and television stations as well as hands-on instruction.

### New England School Of Communications

One College Circle  
 Bangor, Maine 04401  
 207-971-7176  
 1-888-877-1876

### Maine State Education Portal

<http://www.maine.gov/portal/education/>

Endless links to all educational entities in Maine. Many have media programs - adult/community education, high schools, technical colleges, universities, etc.

### Pine Tree Folk School

<http://www.ptfolkschool.org>  
[info@ptfolkschool.org](mailto:info@ptfolkschool.org)

Pine Tree Folk School is a non-profit organization founded by Maine activists who are committed to providing education for social change. As computer technology permeates nearly every aspect of our lives, organizations and individuals working for change in eastern Maine are learning how to put computers and information technology to work to further their goals. We have established "HelpNet" to make it easier for us to work together to answer our questions and master

## July-August 2002

our technology.

Jonathan Falk  
 Pine Tree Folk School  
 RR 2, Box 7162  
 Carmel, ME 04419  
 (207)848-2433  
 Next meeting: Thursday July 18th at 11a.m.

### Portland Public Access Center

<http://www.ctn4maine.org/ch2.htm>  
[ch2ppac@hotmail.com](mailto:ch2ppac@hotmail.com)

PPAC's mission is to provide Portland area residents and non-profits with opportunities to share their ideas, interest and views through electronic media by making available training, equipment and a public forum. PPAC offers 2 comprehensive courses to learn how to produce your own show. The courses available are Studio Production and Field Production/ Editing. Also included is an Orientation to the Portland Public Access facilities and equipment.

Anyone living in the Portland city area with a current Portland address, or anyone working with a non-profit organization in the city of Portland can register. Each course costs \$80.00, and work payment can usually be arranged.

Contact PPAC: 775-2900 ext. 3, ask for Liz

### The Spring Point Media Center at Southern Maine Technical College

<http://video.smtc.net/>

Home to SMTC's Video and Multimedia Department, the Media Center was first established in 1985 as a Public Access Cable Center for the City of South Portland. In 1995 a new Public Access channel was established in South Portland's City Hall and SMTC focused it's efforts on developing a two year associate's degree program in Video Technology. Since then the Media Center has steadily expanded adding a new program of study, "New Media" as well as additional equipment such as a digital fiber intranet, new computer graphics and digital editing workstations and a complement of location equipment including digital cameras and lighting gear. Today the Spring Point Media Center continues it's role in the regional as a creative, accessible production facility for students, teachers, independent producers and community media activists.

### WERU - Community Radio

FM 89.9 Blue Hill & 102.9 Bangor  
<http://www.weru.org>  
[info@weru.org](mailto:info@weru.org)

As a grassroots community radio station, WERU invites and depends on people from the communities served by our broadcast signal to get involved as volunteers with virtually all aspects of station operations.

Over sixty volunteers serve on WERU's on-air staff as music programmers and as producers of commentary, information and public affairs programs. They offer a free volun-

## Compiled by Ed Democracy

teer training course in the fall, winter and spring seasons covering the basics of community radio programming and production, plus ongoing individualized training opportunities throughout the year (including internships for college and high school students).

PO Box 170, 1186 Acadia Highway, East Orland, Maine 04431  
 phone (207)469-6600 fax (207)469-8961

### WMHB Waterville 89.7 FM

Colby College Community Radio  
<http://www.colby.edu/wmhb/>  
[wmhb@colby.edu](mailto:wmhb@colby.edu)

WMHB is a college and community radio station based out of Colby College in Waterville, Maine. There are slots open for people wanting to start a radio show. Some training is provided.

### WMHB Radio

Colby College  
 4000 Mayflower Hill  
 Waterville, ME 04901  
 (207) 872-3686

### WMPG 90.9 / 104.1 FM

Portland Community Radio  
<http://www.wmpg.org>

Training courses are offered to become a DJ and run your own show or work on an existing show. This award-winning station is volunteer-based and needs a steady flow of new people and perspectives.

92 Bedford Street  
 University of Southern Maine  
 Portland Campus  
 (207) 780-4943

### WRFR-LP Rockland FM 93.3

<http://www.wrfr.org>  
[live@wrfr.org](mailto:live@wrfr.org)

WRFR-LP Rockland FM 93.3MHz is a community radio station that serves Rockland and surrounding communities. The station is non-commercial and is supported and operated entirely by volunteers. The station offers free volunteer training workshops.

### WRFR-LP Rockland FM 93.3

20 Gay Street  
 Rockland, Maine 04841  
 (207) 594-0721

### The Workshops' Unique Experience

<http://www.theworkshops.com/>  
[info@theworkshops.com](mailto:info@theworkshops.com)

The Rockport School offers five-and-a-half day, intensive, total-immersion Workshops in film and television, photography, and digital media.

P.O. Box 200, 2 Central Street, Rockport, ME 04856  
 Toll Free: 1.877.577.7700 voice: 236.8581  
 fax: 236.2558





## On the Road with the Nomadic Art and Healing Brigade

part 1 of 2

BY THE BEEHIVE DESIGN COLLECTIVE  
[HTTP://WWW.BEEHIVECOLLECTIVE.ORG](http://www.beehivecollective.org)

The Nomadic Art and Healing Brigade formed this winter to make a tour to promote the work being done by two groups: the Beehive Design Collective and Deviant Information By Yentas. The Beehive first met up with Rath and Yareak, the Yentas\* of Deviant Information By Yentas in Texas.

“Our home for the winter would be a little R.V. named Tantrum! and we would cover almost three quarters of the country before coming home,” began one Bee on a sunny afternoon in Machias. “We brought banners and posters of the Beehive’s political graphics and a slide show about hand-cut stone mosaics and the grange hall we are fixing up in the town of Machias. Our plan was to tell people about our style of using art as a tool for organizing political campaigns and in our community and to find people to come to Machias this summer to learn the craft of mosaic-making.”

The Yentas have an infoshop -- an array of pamphlets, books and zines with a focus on women, transgendered, jewish, radical, and queer writers. Before they moved permanently on the road, Yareak worked in a domestic violence shelter for a couple of years and Rath decided to join Yareak because he was so inspired. They decided to continue the work while on the road by going to communities to start dialogue about domestic violence and alternative ways to deal with abuse outside of the justice system that is the local, state and federal courts, jails and prisons.

“We didn’t know what our projects had to do with each other,” said the Bee, “but we were clearly excited to be on the road together, so we decided to combine our presentations into one traveling event ... and the Nomadic Art and Healing Brigade was born! The connections became a lot more obvious after we started doing the workshops together.”

One of the myths the Brigade continuously encountered is the idea that radical communities don’t have to deal with abuse. As if all people with progressive politics have somehow evolved beyond the rest of the world and no longer abuse anyone.

Yareak put it well in an interview for the Independent Media Center in Urbana-Champaign: “Just because we have found passion within politics and decided to start resisting the larger system and creating a subculture doesn’t mean we have forgotten and unlearned all of the things that the misogynist patriarchal capitalist homophobic society has taught us.” Domestic violence is an issue that is definitely in our radical communities and is not talked about very much.

“It’s so important, especially in these tumultuous times, that we support each other. Paranoia and fear are increasing, causing

many activists to drop out. There have been far too many attempted and successful suicides. We need to take each other’s needs seriously. But how? It’s almost as hard to learn how to really care for each other as it is to unlearn all of the oppression we’ve been taught,” said Rath.

“There is talk within the radical communities about forming a network for support for people during emotional crises,” a Bee said. “This would be an important step.”

Part of the outreach in the workshops was to get people to start talking about abuse in their communities, toward a vision of strong communities that are prepared to take responsibility when an abuser is called out while respecting the autonomy of the survivor.

A lot of the content of the workshop was about abuse and how to respect each other. Domestic violence is not just abuse between sexual partners, it is a system of power that creates ‘power over’ instead of ‘power with’ in a relationship. Many of the discussions throughout the tour illustrated how abuse can happen on many levels in all different kinds of relationships, between all kinds of people. It can be on an economic, sexual, emotional, verbal, and/or physical level. While most abuse happens by men toward women, it can also be found within queer communities, people of all genders, and people of all politics.

The workshops became spaces to share successful and unsuccessful ways that communities have found to respond to abuse. An example is the Domestic Violence Task Force, which radicals in Florida formed to educate each other about abuse and facilitate healing for survivors for the abusers within their community. Nearly all of the communities that hosted the Nomadic Art and Healing Brigade workshop decided to keep having meetings about abuse in their communities. Some places have groups of men who are meeting to look closely at the ways this culture teaches men to act, the privileges men have, and men’s responsibility to put an end to violence and oppression.

*\*Yenta is a Yiddish word, derogatory, typically an older woman who is a gossip. Our friends have chosen to reclaim the word.*

## PRISON ISSUES FROM MAINE AND BEYOND

VIDEO : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

ing direct contact visits with electronic video visits would actually benefit prisoners by allowing them to visit from 9 AM until 9 PM every day with no limitations, as the volume of prisoners would allow, since visits would no longer present a security risk. This would definitely be an improvement in the quantity of visitation time, as currently only two hours of visitation per week are required by Maine Jail standards. However, there is always the possibility that the jail will not permit prisoners the amount of visitation that could be granted. The dubious quality of an electronic visit compared to a direct contact visit must also be considered.

Dorcas Gilpatrick disputed the claim that video visitation would be advantageous to prisoners. She stated, “It is ridiculous to say that a longer video visitation will be more valuable than direct contact and I am sure that most inmates would prefer direct contact.” Unfortunately, it seems that inmates have not been asked about their opinions on the issue, or to contribute to the debate on video visitation. Denise Lord, speaking on behalf of the Department of Corrections, maintained, “Video visitation is fine in certain circumstances, but it is not a substitute for direct contact with support systems such as family and friends.”

It is bad public policy to isolate an inmate, as isolation makes it more likely that the person will re-offend upon release. Dorcas Gilpatrick explained, “The more you keep those ties to the outside world, primarily to family or partners, the better chance you have that the inmate will reintegrate successfully.” Denise Lord agreed that although the Department of Corrections would support video visitation in certain circumstances, not all visitation should be video visitation, as it would not be conducive to good offender management.

Unfortunately, the possibility of video visitation in addition to direct contact visitation is not being considered, which indicates that the interests of the prisoners are not really a primary concern. Instead, it seems that the expected reduction in contraband entering the facility, and the anticipated savings, despite the estimated \$100,000 cost of the undertaking, are greater motivations for this project.

All people who are arrested go to a county jail, where they are incarcerated regardless of the type of crime they have committed. After trial, the severity of a person’s crime and the length of his or her sentence will determine if that person returns to the county jail or goes to the Department of Corrections. For a misdemeanor, an offender could serve up to a year in the County Jail. Hypothetically, this means that it is possible that if video visitation replaced direct contact visitation, an inmate could serve a full year without being permitted a direct contact visit with family or friends. The dehumanization and isolation that this would entail is difficult to imagine.

Dorcas Gilpatrick of the Maine Civil Liberties Union pointed out that legally there are two very different populations in jail: those who have been convicted and are serving their sentences in jail, and pre-trial detainees. Pre-trial detainees, who have not yet been tried or sentenced, have more rights than people convicted of crimes, therefore they may be entitled to stronger rights of association under the First Amendment. These rights apply to anyone with whom the pre-trial detainee wishes to associate, including family and political allies. The possibility that video visitation may not provide an adequate degree of association needs to be further investigated.

It appears that video visitation would not benefit inmates, nor would it eliminate contraband from entering the jail; additionally, it would be an expensive program to implement. If video visitation were being considered in addition to the current modes of visitation, its advantages for the inmates and their families and friends would be obvious. But as a complete substitute for direct contact, video visitation seems inadequate, and that it would entail too many costs with too few benefits.

BY TRACY SERDJENIAN

*Step Outside...* *Shop Outdoors!*

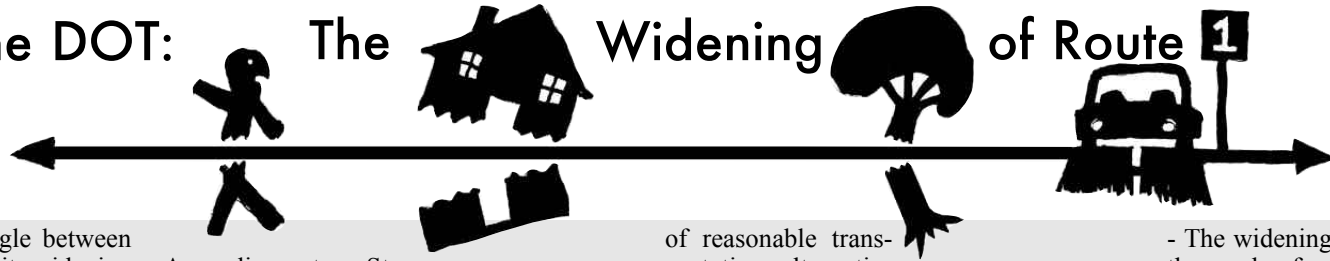
# Snakeroot Organic Farm

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](mailto:troberts@gwi.net)   
 487-5056



# Warren vs the DOT: The Widening of Route 1



[www.mdot.us](http://www.mdot.us) OR  
[www.state.me.us/mdot/](http://www.state.me.us/mdot/)  
for more info

graphic credit: Alasdair Post-Quinn

The most visible current struggle between Mainers and the DOT is around its widening of Route 1 in Warren. The DOT argues that the widening is necessary because the amount of traffic on that stretch of road has greatly increased in the past years (especially with the arrival of MBNA in Rockland, and increased tourist travel to that town), and that the widening is needed for safety purposes. Opponents of the plan are not all necessarily against any widening, but most are against the manner in which the DOT has implemented the plan. Among other points, they argue:

- The DOT is not accountable to the public. RTACs (Regional Transportation Advisory Committees) consist of citizen volunteers from across the spectrum of transportation interests, but their role is only one of advising the DOT, and none of the suggestions are in any way binding.

- In Warren, a couple conflicts of interest exist in Warren's Board of Selectmen.

According to Steve Burke, of Warren, one of the five selectmen, Richard Parent, is employed by the DOT. Another, Craig Stewart, owns Andy's Variety in Warren - he also rents out land by the store to the DOT for vehicle storage.

- Contractors and the MDOT have a major financial stake in the widening. In Warren, the widening is receiving \$4 in Federal funds for every \$1 the state puts in. In most cases, contractors also get to keep the profits of selling the wood from the trees they cut from other people's land.

- The section of Route 1 in Warren being widened has one of the lowest accident rates on all of Route 1.

- Some feel that the "Sensible Transportation Act" could have been invoked to stop the widening project -- if the widening in Warren had been considered a "significant" project. The Act requires "that the full range

of reasonable transportation alternatives be evaluated for all significant highway construction or reconstruction projects and give preference to transportation system management options, demand management strategies, improvements to the existing system, and other transportation modes before increasing highway capacity through road building activities." It was not required that the act be considered in the Warren widening since the widening of Route 1 is being done in two-mile segments, with each segment a project. A two-mile project is not considered "significant."

- Once the road is widened, people will increase their speed without increasing their safety consciousness, and the road will become more unsafe, especially for pedestrians.

Proponents of the plan argue some of the following points:

- The widening project is designed to make the road safer by adding breakdown lanes where none exist now.

- The widening will allow a wider space for bicyclists.

- The widening will reduce congestion.

There have been many forms of protest against the widening. As of June 25th, with the first phase of the Warren widening almost complete, the MDOT announced it will put the next two phases of that project on hold while it moves on to a new project in Camden. According to a DOT representative, the DOT will keep the next phases on hold while they see how the current "shoulder treatment", of six feet of paved shoulder plus two feet of grass, works. DOT assistant program manager, Allan Haggan stated, "If we see that it's a good, safe treatment then we'll know that six-feet is a viable one and frankly, we'll be happy about that."

**Subject: Open Letter to Governor Angus King -- Stop the Widening!**

**Date: Sun, 16 Jun 2002**

**Governor King --**

Please tell the Dept of Transportation to stop the insane widening of Rt 1 in Warren. This project is not right for the area, if not for all of Maine. We do not need super highways; we need a well thought-out transportation plan that includes rail, water and road travel. A wider road is more dangerous, more wasteful of precious oil and destroys the environment, communities and lives.

MDOT Commissioner John Melrose is akin to Robert Moses of New York City, who -- a few decades ago -- wanted to pave over Manhattan in the interest of the automobile. Melrose is constantly thinking backwards in his planning, and should not be allowed to continue his destruction of Maine. These essentially four-lane highways are unnecessary and a blight on this great state.

We who demonstrate are not against the widening of the road, but are against MDOT's archaic thinking. A 50-foot wide road is only going to bring sprawl and ruin to some of the finest areas of Maine. Our plan is for a wider road, but not for one that is designed only to get more out-of-staters up to their gated compounds as quickly and effortlessly as possible.

Mr King, I implore you to visit this area of Maine, and notice that just about every house along the stretch of doomed road has a sign that reads, "STOP THE WIDENING". These are not just environmentalists trying to save some trees. These are Maine residents trying to save their homes and way of life. They are typical Mainers who just want to have "life the way it should be."

Please tell MDOT to scale back its plan -- for all of Maine -- before it's too late.

Thank you,  
Timothy M Sullivan

Arrested June 14 for "criminal trespassing" to stop MDOT from butchering a 100+ year old Maple, which was destroyed a couple hours later.



## IN MEMORIAM

An oil painting by Susan Beebe depicts the Elephant Tree, the Chestnut tree in Lorna Smale's front yard, as it stood before the DOT cut it down on June 19th. Beebe was arrested for "criminal trespassing" (though she had Lorna's permission to be in her yard) in an attempt to save this tree.



## The Safety Argument

The following pieces are reprinted from the discussions on:

<http://www.villagesoup.com>. If you have internet access, this is a great site to check out written discussions between people on both sides of the Route 1 widening issue.

**06/22/02 - 01:04 PM** I'm finally glad to see the support letters on the Rt.1 widening! I drive that stretch every day to work and I also will be glad when it is wider. No...just in case all you people that live everywhere else tell me to take Rt.90. And also interesting to note that the ones who got arrested, (or at least 9 out of 10) DON'T drive that road in the winter as I have 6:30 in the morning, when tractor trailers take ALL the road. It's easy to see why poets and painters are doing the protesting, because they do not have to face the real issue .. SAFETY! They have the option to sit in the quiet of their home and work if they choose. I grew up in Rockland and this area has changed and will continue to do so. That change will not stop as this area has exploded with an influx of people from everywhere. There are traffic lights and stop signs in Rockland that were never there when I was a teenager. So .. it is inevitable that Rt.1 will and should change.  
**Submitted by: G. Edward Graves**

**06/22/02 - 11:56 PM** Safety is not the issue, poor drivers are a safety hazard on whatever

road they drive. Speed, inattentive drivers, poor drivers and drunk/drugged drivers are to blame for most traffic accidents. I am a retired commercial tractor trailer driver with over 30 years experience. I was brought up on this section of Route One in Warren and would challenge any living person to claim that they have driven this roadway more than I. I have traveled it in every vehicle imaginable from 18 wheels to 2 wheels. I have traveled it in every conceivable weather condition and at all conceivable speeds with no problem. The road is not the problem. The MDOT has let it deteriorate to a poor condition and there are areas that could use some improvement, but the fact remains that it is a safe road. The MDOT keeps a record of all the accidents on all of the roads in Maine. They use a complicated formula to produce what is called a "Crash Rate Percentile" for any given section of road. The average for the entire state is 33% (based on the formula that the MDOT used). The rate for Route 90 from Warren to the Rockport line is very high at 39.5% (an MDOT improved road



The crash rate for Route One through Warren is 22%..one of the lowest (safest) in the state! This information is readily available through the MDOT. If this road were such a safety hazard, why does the MDOT give double trailer trucks (double bottoms) special permission to use this road on a regular basis? These type of vehicles are the most difficult and by far the most dangerous commercial vehicle on the road. I contacted the MDOT and asked them why these behemoths were being allowed to use this section of road and their response was that the road was perfectly safe and that special testing had been done to insure it. Again, safety is not the issue here, it is \$\$\$\$\$\$. Thank You.  
**Submitted by: Sterling Robinson**

### Sterling's Story:

(In response to arguments that people arguing against the Widening: *a.* Knew that they were moving onto a busy road when they bought their house on Route 1, and *b.* By purchasing their home, they knew they were

granting right-of-way to the DOT if road expansion was needed.)

Permission was NEVER granted [by the landowner] to the MDOT to do anything pertaining to the road. It was TAKEN. We were given what was supposed to be "just compensation" for the land. About 6 cents per square foot for some of the most beautiful land along the highway. Secondly, we (our family) did not purchase our homestead ... we built it by hand. You see son, our home has been in Warren since 1736. You would notice if you traveled Route One through Warren, that the road goes around our house ... that is because the house was there long before the road was ... and the Railroad for that matter. We fought the British for the land and made peace with the Indians in order to keep it. We are Lot Number 22, drawn out of a hat in 1735 and this land is still in the family. It is frustrating to say the least to have the MDOT come along and steal (yes, steal) it with the stroke of a pen. The MDOT has illegally trespassed on my land (they have apologized), they have "accidentally" cut my trees (they have apologized) and they have taken my land and given me 5.5 cents per square foot for it. All this in the name of safety and progress. I have made it my business to study this "safety and progress" issue and my findings are that it is bogus reasoning on both counts. With all due respect, I would ask that you have your facts straight before shooting off at the lip on these issues.. Thank You.

## Maine Indymedia Newswire

Post 8:11pm Wed Jun 19 '02

BY CINDY MCINTYRE

Let me begin by saying protests aren't my "bag." I mean, I was a conservative Catholic girl whose big love was Glen Campbell back in the hippie era. I was socially unconscious until about a decade ago, when I was blindsided on the road to Damascus (a long story). So holding signs and chanting aren't comfortable activities for me. But sometimes it's the only way to be heard. And seeing all the regular folks, the grandmothers and the elders and the residents out on Route One in Warren last week with signs gave me courage.

"Whose trees?" the protesters chanted the day ten of them sat on a utility pole in Steve Burke's yard (former yard, taken by the DOT). "Our trees," was the response. "Our road ... Our land."

And on Monday June 16, others who believed the same chained themselves to the doomed trees and defied the needless alterations to the safety and character of this beautiful neighborhood. I found myself arriving late, and falling into the job of bringing bail money to the seven people already arrested, Steve Burke among them.

The Knox County jail is nothing like the old Maine State Prison. You walk in the lobby of the Knox County Jail and it looks like a little airport waiting room. There's no sign telling you how to actually talk to a person, and there's no desk or receptionist or any-



photo credit: Hillary Lister

thing. There's just a big black window and a metal door and a little buzzer box which you wouldn't notice unless somebody told you about it. Leslie had already been sprung for \$40 and personal recognizance, and was sitting in the lobby with Peter who almost got arrested for exercising his first amendment right to free speech. He said a very belligerent deputy had threatened him with arrest if he continued "inciting a riot." Steve Burke talked back to the man with the badge and that's why HE got arrested. Leslie said the people in her tree were threatened with Mace if they didn't come down. Yeah, right. Let's knock 'em out of the trees and see if they survive. What were they thinking?

... So I drove back with four people, and we passed a hand-lettered sign that said "Stop the Whining and Start the Widening." I thought about putting some bumperstickers over selected words so it would read "Stop the (bumpersticker) (bumpersticker) Widening," but then thought the retaliation wasn't worth it. We passed the maple that some of the protesters in my van had been chained to. It was on the ground in pieces. We parked at the Elephant Tree as the Asplundh tree cutters were delimiting it. People were crying. Not many cars passing by were honking like they had done last week. It seemed like a funeral procession. Down came limbs filled with spikes of flowers just past full bloom, with little green nuts

## Upcoming Route 1 widening meetings and actions:

The Rt 1 Advocacy Group meets each Tuesday night at 7 PM at the Warren Historical Society, 225 Main St., Warren.

On the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month the meeting is preceded by a vigil at the intersection of Rt 1 and RT 90 in Warren from 6 to 7 PM.

On Sat, July 20 there will be a **funeral/ceremony for the trees of Rt 1**. This will begin with a 10:00 AM march from the home of Steve Burke on Rt 1 to the home of Lorna Smale where the "Elephant Tree" once stood. Pageantry, drumming, costumes and lots of good food and drink ...this is going to be BIG.

Coming up, no date yet. There will be a **gallery opening sponsored by "Artists For Trees"**, that will include brush art that was generated by the trees and their destruction ... the show will also include the performing arts. Songs, music and poetry have been written. 25 contributing artists are working on this project.

just forming. Petals from the horse chestnut rained on the bystanders for the ninety or so minutes it took for the tree to be decapitated. It was like ash from a volcano, or fallout, or even dry snow.

The chainsaw was very efficient. And so was the chipper, which dispatched the limbs into sawdust in a few short minutes. People

**TREE : CONTINUED ON PG. 17**





# ACROSTIC #279

by Herschel Sternlieb

Quote's Author: Ignatieff

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 11.

- A. Eccentric  
25 12 53 90 211 69 35 136 234 100 164 150 216
- B. Animator or sign painter (2 wds)  
118 142 110 84 199 240 18 79 101 72 46 26 245
- C. Balderdash  
163 165 204 52 143 111 192 20
- D. The direct opposite.  
6 91 37 42 134 168 205 1 71 236 119 226
- E. 1943 Patriotic Musical. (2wds)  
221 125 65 99 108 68 223 45 244 3 194 210 77 137
- F. Bosses put down of International Workers of the World (3 wds)  
135 251 203 29 147 193 83 249 184
- G. Old Banjo eyes. (2 wds)  
190 102 109 14 212 27 243 160 22 130 4
- H. Sky  
152 141 19 129 34 56 44 166 224
- I—"heavensofine." Romeo & Juliet Act 3, Sc 2, line 21. (2 wds)  
149 133 196 121 115 96
- J. Throat infection  
214 250 218 63 122 92 67 195 33 222 13
- K. South African related to Bantus.  
106 186 87 177 128 40 61 172 30
- L. The Sage of Concord.  
31 120 126 132 78 2 252
- M. Connecticut city (2 wds)  
213 182 70 231 114 103 178 21 39 58
- N. Obviously  
10 76 107 81 145 239 198 49 233
- O. Type of Toilet water. (3 wds)  
89 183 51 157 167 131 159 74 237 229 188 247
- P. Persistence, attentive care  
127 230 50 60 98 242 219 158 11
- Q. \_\_\_to\_\_\_. Type of radio  
94 246 62 181 117 73 153 209 189
- R. Postponed. (2 wds)  
220 171 82 54 232 36
- S. Anticipation  
185 148 206 156 43 176 28 140 238 88 64
- T. Salt, sugar or sage  
123 235 169 47 200 151 228 146 112
- U. A game of bowls  
7 85 9 208 174 55 180
- V. Eleanor or Theodore  
187 38 17 15 97 41 138 227 59
- W. The sign for and  
95 144 66 225 154 201 217 104 191

1	D	2	L	3	E	4	G	5	Z	6	D	7	U	8	X	9	U	10	N	11	P	12	A	13	J						
14	G	15	V	16	Z	17	V	18	B	19	H	20	C	21	M	22	G	23	Y	24	Z	25	A	26	B						
27	G	28	S	29	F	30	K	31	L	32	X	33	J	34	H	35	A	36	R	37	D	38	V	39	M						
40	K	41	V	42	D	43	S	44	H	45	E	46	B	47	T	48	Z	49	N	50	P	51	O	52	C	53	A	54	R		
55	U	56	H	57	X	58	M	59	V	60	P	61	K	62	Q	63	J	64	S	65	E	66	W								
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80	Z	81	N	82	R	83	F	84	B	85	U	86	X	87	K	88	S	89	O	90	A	91	D	92	J						
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106	K	107	N	108	E	109	G	110	B	111	C	112	T	113	Z	114	M	115	I	116	Z	117	Q	118	B	119	D				
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133	I	134	D	135	F	136	A	137	E	138	V	139	Z	140	S	141	H	142	B	143	C	144	W	145	N	146	T	147	F		
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161	X	162	Y	163	C	164	A	165	C	166	H	167	O	168	D	169	T	170	Z	171	R	172	K								
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242	P	243	G	244	E	245	B	246	Q	247	O	248	Z	249	F	250	J	251	F	252	L										

- X. River on Polish-German border  
32 8 75 86 161 57
- Y. \_\_\_feel of it. (2 wds) driving instructors advice.  
175 23 105 124 197 162
- Z. Type of protein.  
202 80 241 93 155 207
- Z1. Absolutely necessary.  
173 5 139 116 48 170 248 16 113
- Z2 Earth  
215 179 24

## Belgrade Pines Avoid The Axe

BY LAURA CHILDS

In the winter of 2001-2002, a 2.1 million dollar Department of Transportation project was set to widen Route 11 through North Belgrade and into Oakland. Now a designated truck route, both sides of the road must be free of any obstruction in order to meet State Highway safety requirements. Along the route is an historic gateway, 1/10 of a mile of 90+ year old healthy white pine trees.

Known to area residents as "The

Wishing Pines," news of plans for their removal caused a serious uproar. "They would level Mt. Katahdin and Casco Bay if they thought it would make a better road," joked Deane Jones of Mt. Vernon. "My grandmother told me stories as a boy how when her family's buggy would approach the pines everyone would close their eyes, pick up their feet, and make a wish. You had to keep your feet up and your eyes closed until you were all the way through the pines or your wish wouldn't come true."

John Devin, the DOT project manager sees the trees as an obvious safety hazard, "As far as the trees go, the DOT maintenance division would actually like to cut them all down. They shade the road in the wintertime and when it doesn't melt off there's ice problems."

Bill Taylor of Waterville responded, "Trees shade roads everywhere. That's when sand comes in handy."

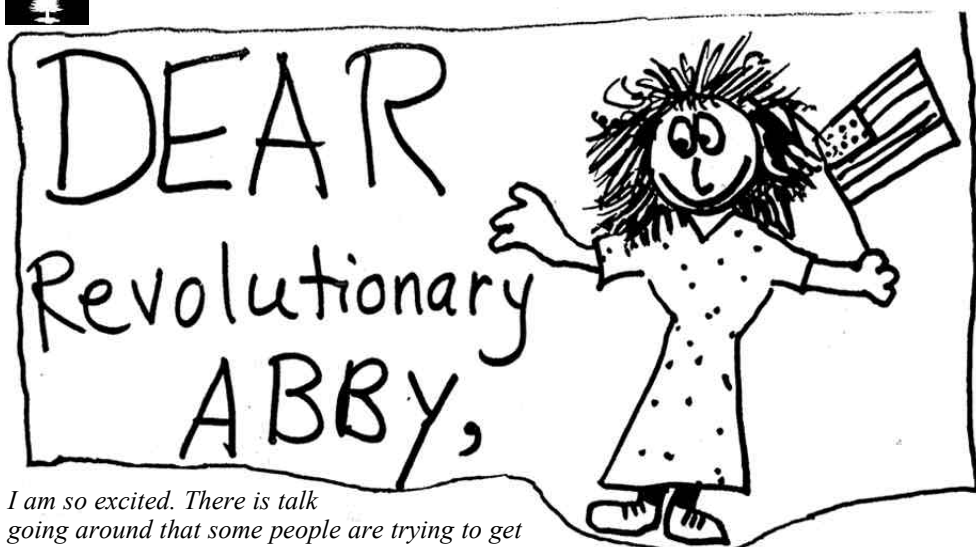
Thanks to Senator Ken Gagnon of Waterville, a law was passed in September that requires the DOT to notify and consult with a town's Tree Warden before it starts work on any project that would alter the

character of a community. That was all it took to cause a groundswell of support to let the "wishing pines" remain. People took matters into their own hands and hounded elected officials and the DOT to rework their plan to include the pines as a "gateway to the community."

It worked. In mid-February the DOT announced its plans to preserve the 1/10 of a mile stretch of road, with only one or two of the trees under scrutiny.

*This Article reprinted from The Maine Commons, Issue 4, March 2002.*





*I am so excited. There is talk going around that some people are trying to get passed in Washington an amendment to the Constitution which allows for REAL democracy by making it so we citizens can have a DIRECT vote. Isn't this wonderful!!!! Have you heard of this?*

**Yours, Democratic in Deer Isle**

**Dear DDI:**

Hooo boy. Well, if it were direct vote for voting for a prez, that's nice. Ho hum. I mean it really is a nice thought and everything.

But so what?

The candidates are handpicked by corporations even before the race. In fact, they are prepped for years by HUGE MEGA MAMMONEER corporate reps. In fact, honestly, they are prepped when they are five years old by the school system which is, designed to serve a small club of Power Hungry Industrialists ... And also the mainstream media are puppets of these weird crazed suicidal megamammoneer addicts.

If the direct vote you speak of is concerning "issues" and so forth, well, I don't call that a nice thought at all, but a SCARY thought.

How can the average American vote on anything knowledgeably? Only those who spend 24 hours a day DIGGING for hidden facts, hidden faces, hidden agendas which the megamammon-corporate-bankster-elite-few determine must stay hidden from us all ... only then do we have even a clue as to what's, up and how to vote.

Everyone else goes on opinions which are formed by the weird suicidal addicted-on-power corporation-wielding few who control the mainstream media ... the so-called "news".

So even if Americans have direct vote on presidents, senators or "issues", it is still really indirect. As you raise your voting pencil your hand is guided. As you chat with your neighbors about politics, your words are shaped. Letters to editors are shaped beforehand, before you ever thought to write them. Debate everywhere is shaped by the corporations' mega mind management programs, press, releases, videos, fake grass roots groups (Astroturfs), seminars and advertising.

A direct vote today would change nothing structural.

Meanwhile, I shiver at the idea of urban professionals voting away my rights as a rural culture person. You can be sure that the mega mammoner club behind the corporate shroud wouldn't interfere with all of us taking rights away from each other. In fact, they'd no doubt help it all along in order to keep us all fighting and distracted and exhausted and afraid.

Altho we must not forget that we don't have rights anyway, only priviledges. The Bill of Rights is only for those who can afford to defend each "right" for themselves in court, or in campaigns, in office etc, or getting out of the Military draft or any other slavery situation.

Meanwhile, citizenship is a full-time holistic activity. It does not happen only on voting day any more than the creation of a human life only happens on graduation day.

It involves a lot of work, passion, anger, curiosity, study, duty, compassion, community, mutuality, eyestrain, sleeplessness, sweat, blood and tears. Giving the people of our country two things first might be a good place to start.

One) Fearful distrust of all powerful institutions.

Two) Joyful curiosity to dig for secret history and current stuff.

Add to that, humor and humility and a vision for a truly human community.

Teach your child how to grow a bean plant. Understand that the road to true freedom is that we not lose life sustaining skills or ethical development (a high EQ). If we've already lost these, it's time to redesign "formal" education, huh?

**Yours forever in Truth, Revolutionary Abby**

**TREE : CONTINUED FROM PG. 15**

gathered branches and pulled them into Lorna's driveway. The women who had prolonged its life were spared witnessing its death, sitting as they were in the Knox County jail.

This is a tree that never took a life, yet DOT called it a "deadly fixed object." Now that DOT decided to widen the road beyond the proportions of necessity and decency, it would be four feet from the shoulder. So that magnificent buckeye had to go, and the house is so much closer to the already close road now. What will protect Lorna sitting in her living room from a 65 mph missile careening off the road? Will her house, and others, be designated as the next Deadly Fixed Objects to be removed?

... Lorna snipped leaves off some of the thinner branches and twisted the stems into rough circles. "They're hard to bend," she said, tying them with a strand of leather. She was going to make dream catchers from them. A cop dragged a big branch over to the driveway when someone wanted it. The cops were just standing around now that there were no more people to arrest. A friend said one of the cops had been "out of control" earlier, very abusive and seeming to want a fight. But other than that, she said, most of them felt badly that this was happening. They had to enforce the law. That was their job. And we had to enforce democracy. That was ours.

Before long, there was only one trunk stem remaining of the magnificent tree. The final indignity was inflicted. A rope was attached at the top. A man with a chainsaw made a notch on the north side, and sliced a circle all the way around. Three people tugged on the rope, and the tree was down. They took off their rope and left the logs and stump in sad repose.

Lorna went to the stump, brushed away the sawdust, and photographed the odd shaped design of its heart. The pungent sage odor of a smudge stick wafted in our nostrils now and then, its smoke the prayers sent heavenward for safety, and failing that, for healing. The red stain on butter colored wood, the heart, looked like a butterfly.

Across the street in a magnificent yard stood an elder gentleman and some friends, watching the whole thing with woeful expressions. He had lost his large maple on Friday, when two protesters were arrested trying to save it. He had witnessed a chainsaw do what a century of ice storms and snow and wind could not.

Now that the deed was done, the reporters were interviewing the tree cutter guys and the DOT guys and probably the cop guys, too. I heard the word "safety" come from a hard hat guy, as if their idea of safety was the only one that meant anything. I'm very big on safety. I hate tailgaters, and I have loads of bumperstickers saying so. I do the speed limit, which endears me to just about everyone. I drive slower at night. I stop for pedestrians in crosswalks when they are sane enough to make sure I see them first. I write letters about the unsafe driving habits

of people I share the road with. If the DOT was so damned concerned with safety, why did they leave this very stretch of road in a dangerous state of disrepair for two years with the edges sagging precipitously due to poor engineering? Were they trying to "prove" that Warren's Route One with all its old trees and curves and hills was unsafe by courting an accident?

The current Route One widening project in Warren is in accordance with federal highway standards, according to DOT commissioner John Melrose, who is fond of lumping averages in his assessment of safety and standards. Maine is not an average. It is a unique place, and this road is unique. Melrose interprets federal standards as "homogenization." That is the very antithesis of what it is to live in Maine. There are less stringent federal standards that allow for preservation of rural character, but according to Steve Burke, organizer of the protests, Melrose chose to ignore them. That stretch of road has a safer record than do the already widened stretches we are all familiar with. Yet Melrose, in his phallic need to thrust into virginal countryside, is ignoring the many roads in Maine in dire need of repair (Rt. 131 in St. George for one) and forcing an unwanted, unneeded widening on a community that doesn't want it.

And there's more to come. This is a test case of sorts, to see if these "compromises" DOT came up with will prove as safe as his averages predict before the DOT plows its way north through Thomaston, Rockland and beyond. In a Maine Public Radio call-in program this afternoon (June 19) with Commissioner Melrose, Steve Burke cited DOT statistics that showed that 1.6 miles of raped road is statistically safer than the already widened stretches of Route One. Melrose said he can't consider the statistics from such a tiny stretch of road in his assessment of the need to widen it, yet earlier in the program he said the DOT would evaluate the effectiveness of their "scaled down" widening ON THIS VERY STRETCH OF ROAD before proceeding on the rest of the widening. Why is one set of statistics irrelevant and another important? Just goes to show if you're sitting in the seat of power, you can skew the statistics as you please.

And by the way, Mr. Melrose, when you said on the radio today that one of the protesters erroneously claimed the speed limit on the widened road would be 65 mph, it is likely you were referring to me. What I said in maybe not too clear fashion was that the "de facto" speed limit would be 65 mph no matter what you post it at, because that's the speed people already travel over the widened (55 mph) sections of Route 1.

Mr. Melrose, you may have won this battle, but I doubt you'll win the war. When you start tampering with the soul of a place, and the passions of a neighborhood, you'd better start re-evaluating the wisdom of what you're doing. Because the roar of the people will remind you just what Maine is supposed to be about. Look at the faces in these pictures, and see what I mean.

BY CINDY MCINTYRE



# NEWS BLURBS

short attention span news compiled by sterren

**Seven towns in the US have passed resolutions** that call the USA Patriot Act a threat to the civil rights of the residents of their communities. The resolutions are largely symbolic, since the local governments have no authority to compel federal law enforcement to comply. However, they are a major statement for local sovereignty and expressions of a public that worries about the loss of civil liberties that result from the Patriot Act. Many consider these violations reminiscent of other violations of civil liberties that have been justified by "being at war," such as the Japanese internment camps in WWII and McCarthyism during the Cold War. If seven cities, ranging from Leverett, MA, to Carrboro, NC, to Denver, CO, can pass such measures, why not the independent towns and cities of Maine?

**It's not a good time to be young.** Rockland High school is following on the heels of Augusta's Cony High school, which recently installed surveillance cameras in the hallways and requires that students submit to being frisked and searched if they are suspected of possessing drugs or alcohol. Rockland High school is now considering spending almost \$40,000 to install surveillance cameras in the halls and parking lots. To the west, in Gardiner, the town recently passed a curfew that makes it a punishable offense (up to \$100 and 10 hours of community service for each offense) for anyone under 18 to be out in public between 11pm and 6am. On the national scale, the Supreme Court has just ruled it constitutional for schools to require drug tests of any students participating in extracurricular activities.

**Mass gathering laws are spreading fast.** Starks was the first town in Maine to gain publicity for passing such a law, which requires permits (with numerous restrictions) for events where over 750 people gather for six hours or more. One of the rules is that a graduate of the Maine criminal justice academy must be present for every 1000 people in attendance. The definition of "mass-gathering area" includes "any place, public or private, maintained, operated or used for a group gathering or assemblage" as well as camping areas used primarily or exclusively in connection with the mass-gathering. The 750 people do not all have to be on the same piece of property at once in order for the law to go into effect. The law in Starks went into effect as an attempt to stop the various Maine Vocals events such as Hempstock, which had garnered noise and disturbance complaints. With one of the organizers of Maine Vocals, Don Christen, looking to surrounding areas to hold the gatherings, similar mass gathering laws are in the works. Norridgewock is in the process of forming a committee to draft a similar ordinance, and Farmington has drafted a proposal that will be considered in a town meeting in late July. The Farmington ordinance will likely have an exemption for "traditionally scheduled events held under the auspices of public schools, colleges and universities, associations of merchants and agricultural societies."

**Portland's only 10 p.m. news show, "Our Maine News at Ten,"** on WPXT aired its last show in June 14. For nine years the show had been billed as "Fox 51 News," until the station switched affiliation from Fox to Warner Brothers last October, and in so doing, changed the name of the news show. It was determined that the news show was not economically viable for the station. The news show had averaged about 12,000 viewers a night.

**The Army Corps of Engineers is planning to dredge** Belfast, Camden, and Rockland harbors from mid-November through the end of May. The work will be done using a mechanical bucket dredge to remove the material from the bottoms of the harbors, which will then be placed in scows and towed by tug about 21 miles away to the Rockland disposal site. The dredged material will be deposited about 3.3 nautical miles off the Rockland Breakwater. The dredging could have a negative effect on the Atlantic salmon and returning spawners which are expected in the disposal site area and on the federally managed Essential Fish Habitat in the bay. The dredging is taking place because the channels are federally authorized navigational channels and the dredging will bring the bays to federally authorized depths for navigational use.

**State and national scientists have identified five different fungi** and viruses, in some of the most pristine parts of Acadia National Park, that are at least partially responsible for mass die-offs of a number of species of frogs in the park. Spring peepers have already been wiped out in two sections of the park as a result of the nation's first documented case of the irido virus. The first frog die-offs in Acadia were discovered by two UMaine grad students two summers ago. The students were taking samples of tadpoles for research on environmental conditions in wetland sites, and returning every third day to check on the progress. One day they returned to a site and the tadpoles were missing. They looked into this further and found that the tadpoles were dying and decomposing so quickly that there was

hardly any evidence to study. Scientists are unsure whether other wildlife is carrying the diseases to the water, whether the viruses are being spread from one body of water to the other, or whether pollution, such as acid rain or chemicals used in farming, are contributing factors. A three-year study is being launched next year to find out why the viruses and fungi are suddenly entering the wetlands.

**About 50 members of the Maine State Nurses Association's** Eastern Maine Medical Center unit rallied in Cascade Park, Bangor, protesting the new staffing rules. The new rules require each nurse to be responsible for more patients. The nurses argue that this will be an overload of patients on already overworked nurses, and will cause patients to have to wait longer for care and receive lower quality treatment. They also worry that the increased workload is unsafe, and that it is causing experienced staff to leave for other hospitals with what they see as better policies. EMMC vice president of human resources, Greg Howatt said that comment from direct-care nurses was not required in making the change in the staffing rules that would affect them directly, because the physicians and nurse supervisors who helped develop the rules "are more in tune with the issues of quality of care."

**The Morning Sentinel ran a rather strange story in June,** titled "People's Heritage Bank to add 150 new jobs in Lewiston area." While it did indeed state that the Bank is planning to add 150 new jobs in the Lewiston area, it went on to report some interesting comments that William Ryan, that the chief executive of Banknorth, which owns People's Heritage, made at a press conference in Lewiston. He explained that the new jobs were coming to Lewiston because Banknorth buys other banks around New England, closes their operations centers, and moves the jobs to Maine. He described how Maine workers are more desirable than workers in more prosperous areas. Ryan referred to the example of the early 1990s when the bank was losing tens of millions of dollars - the bank asked employees to work weekends and skip their summer vacations in preparation for a bank exam by federal authorities, and the Maine employees complied. Ryan explained, "Can you imagine telling employees in New York or Boston they had to work every day? You probably would have found me in the alley behind the bank the next day ... If we weren't headquartered in Maine, I know we wouldn't have made it through." Ryan then ended the talk by warning state lawmakers that, in deciding how to handle the state budget shortfall, they might initially think it is easier to increase taxes on business than on individuals. Reflecting similar threats by Domtar in Baileyville and Fraser Paper in Madawaska, he warned them against that decision, stating, "Our businesses do vote. They vote with their feet. They leave the state."

**Hathaway Shirt Company in Waterville is continuing** to get leases on life. Dillard's Department Stores and Wal-Mart are likely to sign new order agreements with Hathaway if the company gets an Air Force contract. Hathaway will find out in August if it receives that contract. There is also a chance that the nonprofit organization, the Made in the USA Foundation (MUSAF), chaired by Joel D. Joseph, will buy the company. In the mid-90's MUSAF joined with the United Steelworkers and the AFL-CIO in challenging the constitutionality of NAFTA. The foundation intends to purchase the company with help from other public and private investors, keeping the plant open indefinitely and keeping all of the current jobs in place. The foundation released a notice to major Maine news outlets on June 25 that a press conference announcing the sale was scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, June 27. The information contained a notice that the information should not be publicly released until that press conference. However, several news organizations did not abide by that notice, and released stories announcing the sale as almost definite. The confusion that followed, frustrated employees and caused the press conference and sale announcement to be postponed. In the meantime, Hathaway is able to stay open through the end of September as a result of an extension of a contract with Wal-Mart.

**The layoffs and shutdowns continue.** Mid-State Machine, in Winslow, laid off 16 workers in early June. The chief operator said that the layoffs resulted from a slowdown in the power-generating sector, caused largely by the collapse of Enron. Also in Winslow, Orion Ropeworks laid off 10 members of its workforce as part of what it hopes will be a temporary "rotating layoff" which would involve the entire work force on working on a limited, rotating basis. The town of Waterville is laying off up to 20 city workers. Verizon, which has 24,500 workers in the New England area and 1,700 in Maine, is planning to lay off 900 workers in New England. Finally, Great Northern Paper is continuing a months-long on and off shutdown of paper machines at the mill. The most current shut down, of two of the older paper machines, has lasted, with few interruptions, for about a month. It affects about 60 people. Employees are able to use vacation time during the shutdown, but vacation time does not last indefinitely.





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Please answer these questions as completely as you can. We are trying to get an idea of who is reading our paper and how we can do a better job. If you need another sheet of paper, perhaps copy this form to one side and use the back. Mail the completed questionnaire to the address at the bottom by August 26, 2002 for a chance to win various Maine IMC tapes, CDs, videos, free subscriptions, etc. 9 winners will be chosen.

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A little bit about yourself:

What do you do with your life?

Are you an active internet user?

If yes, are you a regular visitor to the Maine Indymedia website?

If yes, have you read the newswire? Posted to it? Commented to it?

What other publications do you read?

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