



# The Maine Commons

A publication of the  
Maine Independent Media Center  
[www.mainecommons.org](http://www.mainecommons.org)

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

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**FREE**

Issue 8 • Sept-Oct 2002

## Cold War Residue in Glenburn

BY CATHERINE SCHMITT

A red August sun disappears into the haze behind a row of giant white satellite dishes that face the City of Bangor five miles down the hill. American flags flap in the weak breeze, and the sound of crickets rises from the weeds around the Glenburn Town Office. The place looks unfinished, or else hastily abandoned. Yet the Town Office has occupied this spot for more than thirty years.

In the early 1960s, the Town Office was the site of an Air Force radar facility connected to the Bomarc missile launch site in Bangor. And it's possible that the Air Force left more than their satellite dishes behind: a legacy of groundwater contamination that has seeped into the drinking water of surrounding residents, poison that has coursed their veins for over a decade.

Trichloroethylene (TCE) has been detected in drinking water wells surrounding the Town Office intermittently since the 1980s. The Town Office well itself as remained clean, and in most wells the levels of chemical are below the federal health standard for drinking water. Yet the source, extent, and movement of the contamination is still largely unknown. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) suspects that the TCE came from activities at the site when it was owned and operated by the U.S. military.

The U.S. government acquired ownership of George Cressy's farm in Glenburn through a Declaration of Taking in 1958. Buildings were constructed to house a computer and radar system that would communicate with the Bomarc missiles stored in Bangor near Dow Air Force Base. After closure of the Bomarc operation in 1967, the property was sold to the Town of Glenburn, and the site has since been occupied by the Town Office and a storage and maintenance shed.

It is not known how exactly TCE got into the groundwater in Glenburn. TCE, a commonly used solvent and degreaser, could have been used to clean electronic equipment in the radar facility. TCE is a sinker: it can migrate through bedrock fractures and seep into groundwater. Building plans show a line of trenches in the concrete floor that ran to a cesspool behind the Town Office. If the chemical was disposed of or dumped in or near the building, it could have infiltrated the ground and reached drinking water supplies. According

**TCE : CONTINUED ON PG. 13**

## So Whatever Happened To Freedom Of Assembly?



photo credit: Roger Leisner

SO MUCH FOR YOUR CIVIL LIBERTIES  
*Local, county and state cops, some brandishing assault rifles, raid FUDafest gathering.*

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In this issue we focus on threats to our Freedom of Assembly. With the passage of the Patriot Act in the last year, and the possibility of the RAVE Act passing this year, such freedoms are increasingly threatened. Recent raids and legal actions against non-sanctioned gatherings in Maine have brought out many questions about civil liberties, unreasonable search & seizure, property rights, victimless crimes, entrapment, surveillance, and free speech.

## FUDAFest: The Bust and the Busts

BY ROGER LEISNER

*Fifty armed local, county and state cops, some dressed as soldiers and brandishing assault rifles, terrorized families and children during a Saturday afternoon raid on FUDAFest in Norway, Maine on July 13, 2002.*

The email said:

“FUDAFEST (Fully Unclothed Dancing Activism Festival) will be held on July 11, 12, 13 2002 in North Norway Maine. There will be lots of local music, drum circles, puppet shows, a children's

parade, free used tires and TV smashing, and petition signing. CJ Bunn of MassCann will be master of ceremonies. This is a peaceful protest against all unjust laws. Not everyone is naked but clothing is optional ... come as you are. There is no charge to participate but late comers could be subject to parking fees. FUDA”

I forwarded that email to all my friends stating “This looks like a fun time. Take your clothes off and come to Maine.”

As both the CEO and chief bottlewasher of Radio Free Maine, plus a shady character known as the Maine Paparazzi, I travel throughout Maine during the summer

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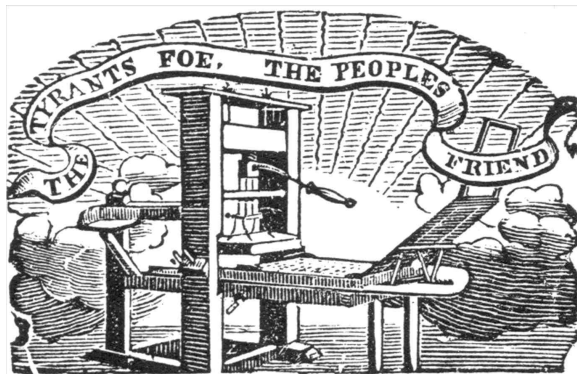
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If you are a business owner in possession of a large stack you no longer want, please do not dispose of them, but be in touch with us by mail or email so we can arrange retrieval.

attending anarchist, alternative, lefty, pro-marijuana events. I usually report on the Maine Vocals sponsored Hempstock during the summer, but with Hempstock in disarray I decided to go to FUDAFest on Saturday morning.

With Fully Unclothed Dancing Activism (FUDA) as his motto, Aaron Fuda has staged a three day event known as FUDAFest for over a decade in the western mountains of Maine to protest unjust and victimless crime laws. Being the only clothing optional festival in Maine, FUDAFest is a backwoods libertarian-socialist based combination of Nevada's Burning Man Art Festival, Vermont's Bread and Puppet Theatre, the continental

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## The Maine Commons

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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 and government control of the media, in order to increase public consciousness and understanding of the events and issues at hand.

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## Maine IMC Mission Statement

The Maine Independent Media Center (Maine IMC) is a not-for-profit collective of independent media makers 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

Thank you, everyone, for your letters responding to the DOT issue (#7). Keep 'em coming, whatever the topic or response, positive or negative, we'll print as many as we can fit.

It is with much pleasure that I write to you regarding your Maine Commons Newspaper. Thank you for your vision and voice in promoting common sense and the common good for Maine people.

I live on a Main Street in a small rural town of 8000. This is my choice over all places in the country. I own a small storefront which I rent out and live above in a neat old apartment with hardwood floors and other great features from a past century. The doors all work. Well, the plumbing is reliable and it is cozy and tight in the winter. All this thanks to past absentee landlords who didn't want calls in the middle of the night to fix things.

I am especially grateful for your comments regarding the DOT and for your publishing of the struggles that other towns people have with them. We have recently lost a pleasant two lane road to a widening project at the major gateway to our town (Route 26).

Old trees came down, beautiful pines, and front yards have been reduced to asphalt. Houses are splattered with winter road salt and all with the praise and approval of town officials and a hopelessly blind Regional Growth Council.

What will be the reason to visit Maine if we continue on this path? DOTs drone of "saftey" in these projects is a lie. I can't begin to tell you how many more accidents we have now with that stupid ugly three lane. Not just the little accidents but three car crashes requiring equipment to remove passengers.

This widening project gave us increased speed limits, elongated and disproportionate store fronts, huge plastic signage, light pollution and two new used car lots. The former neighborhood is reduced to whizzing traffic. This is now Norway's front porch, our entry, our welcome mat. Like a yard with no grass and an angry old dog in the dust barking at you to go away!

Someday when all the summer tourists stop coming because we look exactly like where they are trying to escape from, we will dig up that center lane and plant some beautiful pines there, reduce the speed limit back down and turn that highway back into a street. People will slow down and enjoy this beautiful place. If you are getting a DOT saftey speech in your town and want a little incentive to challenge them, come and see what has happened here. Take a few pictures if you can find a safe place to stand (be sure to wear your safety belt).

It was good to see photos of other people "clinging" to trees. Thought I was alone there for awhile.

Sincerely,  
**G. Rob Noll**  
Norway, Maine

It was with some sadness that I read in Maine Commons the demise of the Elephant Tree, a gorgeous superannuated plant too near the right of way along Route One in Warren. A fine tree that significantly antedated the births of all attending - sawyers, protesters and cops - killed, destroyed, annihilated in only a number of minutes by rapacious machines driven by an equally rapacious urge to purge.

No surprize though. Storm long awaited hits with redoubled fury. But if it was so long awaited why did it have to happen? Were the good folk of Warren and their supporters born yesterday? Where were they when the rest of Maine's coastal highway was widened into people's gardens, orchards and dooryards? Where were they when State cast its transportation priorities in alignment with the corporate imperative to extend automotive right of way to every corner of the landscape at the expense of pedestrian, bicycle, boat and rail travel?

The spread of asphalt is inevitable, technically, politically. Maine Commons is correct in assessing that the widening is a subsidy for contractors - it is also a subsidy for petrochemical companies, auto manufacturers, insurance firms, quick stop chainstores, the speeding ticket industry. No one ever got a speeding ticket riding a train! That subsidy is NEEDED! It is strictly no use attempting to stop a chainsaw by chaining oneself to the tree. The cops are always stronger.

But the cops can't stop us from realigning our priorities, from realigning our payments, from realigning our representatives away from greed and environmental destruction and toward life giving and joy affirming methodology and ecology. It may be true that a tree by the side of the road is a stationary hazard to motorists barely in control of their vehicles to say nothing of their lives. But truly, the highway itself is the deadly fixed object, and in this case the deadly broken object is the DOT, State, and global corporatization.

Let's fix it!!

Love,  
**Yosarian**  
Belfast, Maine

Thank you for your extraordinary newspaper, The Maine Commons, a publication dealing with matters of public, rather than special, interest.

May I comment on an article in Issue #7 titled Tips for Democratizing Organizations, wherein a suggestion was made to "use a consensus for discussion and decision making".

After a lifetime of meetings and discussions, I must advance what I feel is a more effective and friendly means to promote group democracy and at the same time to discourage the inevitable feelings of frustration or guilt by someone who may have been made to feel like a potential obstructionist to an ever beckoning unanimous consensus. My remedy is to use conventional-majority or augmented-



majority voting to reach the decision -- with the vote division preserved on record for future reference or revisiting.

By its very nature, consensus motivates conformity. Peer pressure tailors promptly one's individual feelings to what promises to become a triumph over picayune dissent or wasteful diversity; or just a celebration of the power of democratic, unanimous "group" will. Thus democracy creates a non-threatening herd mentality. But is not open division of opinion, preferable to a coerced united front that has squeezed out and disposed of minority viewpoints?

In crafting a group decision, majority voting puts less pressure on those holding the minority viewpoint than does the delaying of a consensus victory by a tiny minority, where the looming consensus may intimidate individuals into abandoning a swiftly vanishing, unpopular position.

In the consensus routine, misery of the tiny minority gets little company.

Sincerely,  
**Julian Holmes**  
Wayne, Maine

Shaw's, owned by a British corporation, is attempting to push the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, UFCW, out the door at their Worcester, MA area supermarkets. The local police, in cahoots with the mega-corporation (no surprises here) even went so far as to arrest the president of the AFL-CIO, John Sweeney, when he attempted to inform workers at a Shaw's about their right to union representation! The AFL-CIO union federation represents 13 million work-

ers. Read all about it in the June- July 2002 issue of "Maine Labor News". The UFCW is the legal representative for workers at eleven Shaw's markets in the Worcester-area, but Shaw's is refusing to recognize the union at those stores.

There are some working people who are opposed to unions. Given the track record of some unions past and present, this is understandable. Regrettably, sometimes the union officialdom becomes nothing more than a layer, in addition to that of the corporate owners, of bureaucrats also feeding off of the wealth created by the union members. However, even those workers generally opposed to the existing unions, including non-union workers at Shaw's, can recognize that an injury is being done when workers are denied collective representation of their choice. Collective withholding of their labor power is a principle weapon of working people in defending their right to fair compensation for making the wheels turn at the workplace.

When you go grocery shopping, do you want to hand over your hard-earned cash to a company that is busy undermining fair compensation for its employees? Over the long run, all employees are in the same boat. Shaw's needs to be told that they won't have us as customers as long as they won't respect the collective bargaining rights of any of their employees.

**Peter Lehmann**  
Rockport, Maine

*Send your letters to: Letters To The Editors, Maine IMC, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903. 300 words or less is appreciated; past that we reserve the right to edit for space.*

## 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 peo-

ple 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 eighth 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, indi-

vidual 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 inserts from non-profit groups (see page 19 for more information.)

### **Where is it printed?**

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

### **Where is it distributed?**

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

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

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

### **Where is it based?**

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

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

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

### **How can I contact the paper?**

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

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

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

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

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

### **How can I get involved?**

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

### **How can I subscribe?**

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

### **How can I advertise?**

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

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

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

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

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



# opinions / editorials

## A Modern Tragedy

BY PAUL MADORE

*The Following article is from "Screw the Norm", a webzine out of Milo. If you like this piece and want to find out more info on the zine, see page 12.*

I just had an argument with my mother. I'm fourteen and it seems like that paralyzes my ability to know anything worth knowing or to get through to her at all. At age thirty-seven, she's got it all figured out. Our government is always doing "what they feel is right". She's so much of a patriot that she can actually tell me or anyone else for that matter to "go to another country if ( I ) don't like it here". I get very depressed when she expresses ignorance about Anarchism, Atheism, and basically anything else that matters in any way to me. Because "at 14 ( I ) don't know anything about our country or what is going on in our government" which is why "when ( I ) turn 18 ( I ) will be able to make my own 'ignorant' decisions".

If you are reading this, then you should definitely know that by doing so you are being infected with "communist propaganda" as another adult once said of it. Also, that anyone who supports anything radical is "a Satan worshipper just like (me)!!" (I'm actually an atheist, but parents are ALWAYS correct, right? Golly labels sure are fun!). These two statements are hard proof that the majority or our adults and senior citizens, when thinking of their 'God', also think of Uncle Sam and when these same people are thinking of 'Satan', they are also thinking of Communism. The after-effects of cold war Yankee propaganda.

My mother, like other parents I have seen, is very very bent on being exalted as the 'Adult' of the house. I don't think this is her power lust, because in reality the amount of power there is very small. I believe that this need to have power over those younger than her comes from her teenage frustrations similar to mine. I'll bet my dollar to your donut that her parents used the same 'Adult' argument whenever she did something wrong/hypocritical/stupid! She was raised a victim of the omnipresent ageist and authoritarian ideals that plague this planet. To her, when somebody turns eighteen, somehow, a switch goes on in her head to auto-validate everything that that person says.

She waited eighteen long years to be free. Then like many others, placed herself in other situations that seemingly called for a dictating authority. Eventually, she forgot what it was like to be in my shoes. She

accepts things in our world, for the most part, as they are and often does things to spite my beliefs and/or life. It makes her feel empowered when she gives me a self-justified slap here and there. Not to say that anyone ever really deserves to be hurt physically or emotionally, but if it makes her feel satisfied enough to leave me alone, then so be it. No, she doesn't beat me, I'm grateful to lady luck that I didn't end up with parents that beat children. Because then upon writing an article similar to this, the state would remove me from this comfortable life-style where we fight once in awhile and put me (probably) with a family where there are high chances of getting molested and for an encore, get beaten. No Thanks.

I'm sure the readers of this are thinking that I experience everyday teenage frustrations. Well, you're right. But the real tragedy is that these are common things. That hope for a better world is often quashed by oppressive bastards that call themselves parents.

The real job here is enlightening stubborn adults. Or at least enlightening young adults. Someday, we can hope that a generation will be born with loving, nurturing and understanding parents. Not to the same cold, uncaring and ignorant breed many of us have been cursed with.

In closing, I have a few words for parents, kids and would-be parents alike:

**DO NOT** abuse (mentally or physically) your child/parent. This never, in any case, solves anything.

**LISTEN**, and I mean truly listen to your parent or child. If someone feels like they are not getting through, they will naturally yell, which is even less effective than speaking in a normal tone.

**PARENTS SHOULD NEVER** give orders, instead they should give good suggestions to their teen and in the end respect their child's decision.

**PARENTS SHOULD NOT** be mean or cruel to their child; internally the child will remember these instances in their adult life and they will not be pleasant memories.

**FINALLY, CHILDREN** and **PARENTS** need to **LOVE** each other in a way that neither expects something in return for something that was done out of love. That's not love, it's business.

## King's Laptop Program A Bad Apple?

BY NICK NASSAR

Angus King has made an attempt to bridge the "digital divide" that is worthy of praise. He plans to give a laptop computer to every 7th and 8th grader in the state. However, the actual implementation of the plan falls far short of the goal, wasting money and ignoring important aspects of the problem.

Giving students access to computers is a positive step. Lack of access to computers is part of the cause of the "digital divide" in Maine. Only forty-three percent of Maine households own a computer with internet access. There are 6.2 students per computer with internet access in our schools. These numbers are slightly ahead of the national average, but well short of universal access.

The state is spending \$37.2 million on 36,000 Apple Macintosh laptops for 7th and 8th graders. That comes out to \$1,033 per laptop. This seems a bit outrageous when you consider that desktop computers capable of running all of the software commonly used in computer education can be obtained for \$300. Not only that, but the State of Maine actually has a surplus of computers and auctions off hundreds of used computers each month for a fraction of their original cost, all under \$300.

Computer hardware is lower in cost than ever before in the past decade. The cost of computers halves every 18 to 24 months. The basic software used on a day to day basis has not changed much. It is not the job of the state to provide the latest and greatest systems with bells and whistles. It's the job of the state to provide an education. Web browsers, word processors, and spreadsheets work just as well on low end computers as on more expensive ones.

King's plan does not address students who do not have internet access at home. Dial up internet access is about \$240 per year, an amount that a significant percentage of students will not be able to afford.

Giving free computers alone will not bridge the "digital divide" in Maine. The cause of the "digital divide" in Maine is also closely related to the lack of qualified computer teachers. Unfortunately, a large percentage of computer teachers in the state are math or typing teachers who were thrust into the position when the need arose. The computer curriculum reflects this. Our children are being trained to use particular computer applications, rather than learning how to use computers as problem solving tools. "Computer applications" classes teach students to use common software, such as word processors, spreadsheets, and web browsers. Maine children are essentially being prepared for entry level office jobs, rather than advanced technical jobs.

The late computer scientist Edsger Dijkstra once said that "Computer Science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes." Computer science is

the study of computing, the study of how problems are solved. Computer education that focused on computer science, rather than particular applications would give students problem solving skills that they will be able to use their entire life, no matter what they decide to do, rather than knowledge of a particular program that applies of certain fields. The Teach Scheme project, <http://www.teach-scheme.org/>, is an organization dedicated to making computer science part of a liberal arts education.

Setting new standards for computer education and providing incentives for computer teachers to teach in Maine, and aid local schools in hiring these new teachers could easily have much more impact on overall education than simply providing computers without proper instruction.

The choice of Apple Macintosh computers for King's computer giveaway, indicates that this trend will continue. Apple proudly advertises that Macintosh computers hide the details of technology from the user, making their computing experience as easy as possible. It is impossible for Mac users to look at the details of their computers and know what it going on. Teachers will receive only a day or two training with the Macs. That is hardly enough time to learn to use a particular application, forget about general purpose problem solving.

Macintosh computers have another disadvantage; they have poor accessibility for blind people. Blind computer users depend on programs called screen readers, which read the contents of the screen out loud, to use computers. According to Steve Hoad, President of the National Federation of The Blind of Maine, the only screen reader currently available for the Macintosh, outSpoken, "is a poor performer, at best." All this "will leave about 24 blind seventh graders with an Apple that is half rotten."

Windows, although more accessible and arguably harder to use, also prevents users from understanding the details of their computers.

There are free software (free meaning freedom, not cost) solutions that provide all of the software needed in an educational setting. Free software is software whose license guarantees the user access to the source code (the text the programmer typed in to create the software) and more importantly, the right to freely modify and distribute the software. Advanced students can explore more fully how their computers work, make changes to the software, and give it to their friends. All of the major software applications currently used in computer education have free software equivalents available at no cost. The GNU/Linux operating system provides a free alternative to Mac OS or Windows. Sun's OpenOffice office software provides word processing and spreadsheet software. Several screen readers are available. Also, there are free software programming tools available at no cost, that compete with commercial pack-



ages priced in the thousands. "K-12 Linux" (<http://www.riverdale.k12.or.us/linux/>) is an organization working to create a distribution of educational free software. Unfortunately, until more free software becomes mainstream or the computer curriculum shifts its focus away from specific applications, a lack of teacher training prevents use of this software.

Lack of computers is not the only cause of the "digital divide" in Maine. The state could easily provide an equal number of computers for one third the cost of the cur-

rent laptop giveaway. Lack of experienced computer teachers and an applications based curriculum instead of a computer science based one are far greater problems. Giving away Macintosh laptops does nothing to solve these problems. So, the laptop giveaway will cost Maine taxpayers millions while not properly addressing the problem.

Is Angus just that inept? Maybe. But I know I'm going to be watching the size of Apple's donation to his campaign fund in the coming election very closely.

## RAVE Act to Affect More Than Just Ravers

BY HILLARY LISTER

*"Congress shall make no law... abridging... the right of the people peaceably to assemble" - The 1st Amendment*

To organizers of raves\*, parties, punk shows, and pro-marijuana festivals, getting shut down or harassed by the police is nothing new. In many cases, any arrests or fines for drug use at these events are placed on individual users or sellers. In some cases, the organizers of the events, or property owners hosting the events, have been punished under the guise of violating mass gathering ordinances (in the case of Hempstock - see page 7), furnishing a place for minors to consume alcohol (in the cases of Hempstock and Corkstock), violating city gathering ordinances, dealing or using drugs themselves, or violating noise ordinances. Many of these punishments have been protested, but arguably none of the punishments have had such a stifling effect on free speech, civil liberties, and property rights that the new RAVE Act will have if passed.

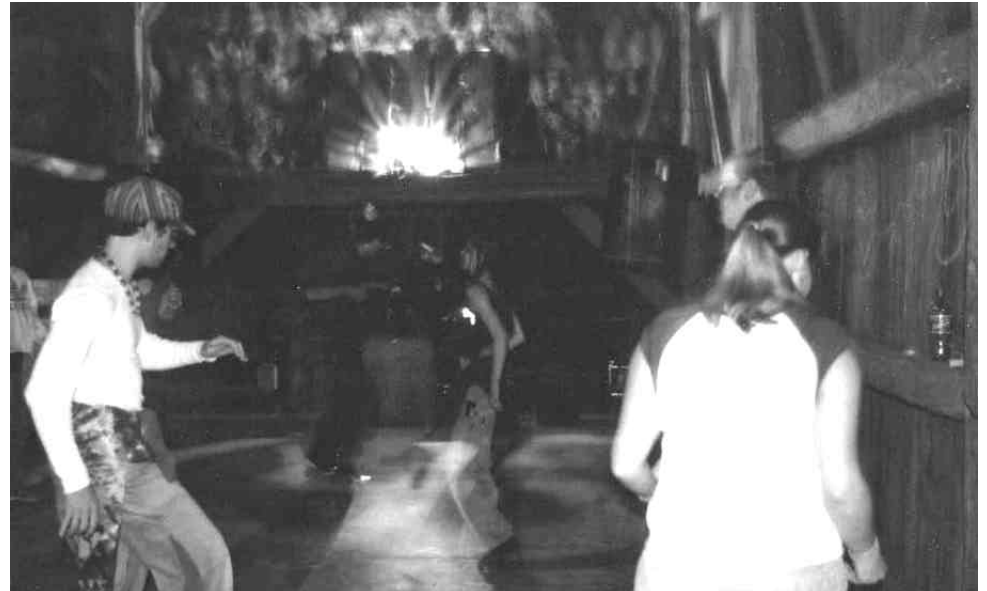
The RAVE Act, which stands for "Reducing Americans' Vulnerability to Ecstasy (aka MDMA, a drug associated with raves) Act," bill S2533, was introduced on June 18th of this year, and could be passed in the Senate any time after September 3rd. The bill was introduced by Senator Joseph Biden (D-Del.), Chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, and sponsored by Senators Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) The bill prohibits "knowingly opening, maintaining, managing, controlling, renting, leasing, making available for use, or profiting from any place for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, or using any controlled substance, and for other purposes." A similar bill is pending in the House. The act allows the federal government to fine property owners for \$250,000 or more, and imprison them for up to 20 years, if they fail to stop people from using or selling drugs on their premises or at their events.

The bill is an expansion of the "Crack House Statute." This statute, passed in the 1980's, brings criminal charges against owners that are knowingly furnishing fixed indoor locations for the primary purpose of carrying out drug offenses. The RAVE Act expands on the statute by making property owners liable for isolated drug offenses that occur on their prop-

erty, including temporary and outdoor spaces. It also allows the government to charge the owners civilly, instead of criminally. Civil charges require a much lower burden of proof than criminal charges. The RAVE Act was prompted by prior (largely unsuccessful) attempts by Federal Prosecutors to use the unmodified version of the crack house law to punish property owners and rave promoters for drug use on their property.

While the name of the bill might have one believe that it is solely targeting Ecstasy-use and raves, the wording of this bill is so broad that it allows for many more targets. This act could be used to target the owners of a house if one of their guests smoked marijuana at a barbecue. Under the wording of the bill, individuals could potentially face 20-year sentences for using drugs in their own homes, as it would be a federal crime to temporarily use a place for the purpose of using *any* illegal drug. According to [www.stallman.org](http://www.stallman.org), the website of free software pioneer Richard Stallman, "The bill also effectively makes it a federal crime to rent property to medical marijuana patients and their caregivers, giving the federal government a new weapon in its war on AIDS and cancer patients who use marijuana to relieve their suffering."

RAVE Act sponsor Senator Biden claims that the law would not affect property owners who have no intent to promote drug use on their property, and it would not shut down raves as a whole. He explains, "Despite what opponents of the bill would have you believe, promoters who sponsor events where people can dance in a safe, drug-free environment have nothing to fear from my bill. My legislation is aimed at the promoters who seek to profit from knowingly putting their customers at risk." Unfortunately, the wording of the bill, and previous statements by Biden do little to support this claim. The Congressional findings attached to the bill spread misinformation that bottled water is sold and chill out rooms provided at raves solely to "facilitate" drug use, and glow sticks are sold to "enhance the effect of drugs that patrons have ingested." In truth, water and chill-out rooms are quite necessary when one has been dancing all night, and dancing with glow sticks is simply a part of rave culture, just as wearing patches is a part of punk culture. The bill implicates the presence of innocent items as possible proof of knowledge on the part of the property owner that drug use was occurring. It also may start a dangerous trend of discourag-



### 101 USES FOR A HAY BARN

Partygoers dance at a free rave held in 2000 at a barn in Athens, entitled "Conflux". The drug presence was minimal, but even relatively innocent events like this are threatened by the RAVE act.

ing party organizers from providing water and chill out rooms, both of which are necessary to the health of anyone planning to dance for hours on end.

Biden, in a June 27 report to Senate, stated, "It is common for rave organizers to go to great lengths to portray their events as safe so that parents will allow their kids to attend. They advertise them as alcohol-free parties and some even hire off-duty police officers to patrol outside the venue. But the truth is that many of these raves are drug dens where use of Ecstasy and other 'club drugs,' such as the date rape drugs Rohypnol, GHB and Ketamine, is widespread." One of the congressional findings attached to the bill additionally states, "The trafficking and use of 'club drugs' ... is deeply embedded in the rave culture." Biden's statements and the bill's wording clearly show that, despite the best efforts of organizers to work to make an event drug-free, they will still be suspect simply because they have chosen to host a rave, which is considered to be intrinsically connected to drug-use. The same logic could even more easily be applied to landowners who host pro-marijuana (and hence, intrinsically pro-illegal drug-use) festivals.

Government repression of raves and free gatherings in Europe has been met with a great deal of resistance, in the form of thousands of people taking over the streets, sit-ins, and outright clashes with the police. In the US, however, resistance in the past has usually been much more subdued, when it occurred at all. The new RAVE Act may now be awakening more dormant ravers, and the far-reaching effects of the act are getting the notice of more than just those involved with rave culture. The Act is being lobbied against by the ACLU, the Electronic Music Defense and Education Fund, DanceSafe, and various club owners, and expo/event center managers around the country. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors

issued a statement to Congress explaining that they will not stand for the removal or denial of civil rights as would be allowed in the RAVE Act. The Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) is working to get the hotel industry involved, since hotel operators could get into trouble if people use drugs in their rooms.

There have also been grassroots efforts to stop the RAVE Act. The organizers of Buzzlife Productions, a DC-based rave/club night, gathered almost 10,000 signatures on a petition against the act and delivered copies to Senators. On September 6th, ROAR, Ravers Organized Against the Rave Act, is holding a free gathering with DJs and speakers on the West Lawn of the Capitol Building in DC. Protest websites have sprung up across the Internet, and discussion about the act has been occurring on the Maine-based website [www.kuro5hin.org](http://www.kuro5hin.org) and on Indymedia newswires in the US. As a result of tens of thousands of phone calls, faxes, and letters against the Act, the Senate postponed the vote on the act to a date -- as yet unannounced -- after it reconvenes in September. As Bill McColl of the DPA explains, "The one good thing about this is that the rave community is starting to organize and see the value of doing some political work." If alliances can be built between the rave communities and other communities involved in organizing gatherings, parties, festivals, shows, and anyone interested in retaining their freedom to assemble, this bill could be defeated and freedoms retained.

*\*Rave - It's rare for anyone to agree on a definition, but generally, a rave is a gathering of people dancing and listening to electronic music. Beyond that, definitions will vary. According to the "RAVE Act", raves are defined as "all-night, alcohol-free dance parties typically featuring loud, pounding dance music."*

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

A. Finches; B. Remit; C. Abject poverty; D. Newel; E. Christian soldiers; F. Outcasts of; G. Nicotine; H. Occupational; I. Gobbled up; J. Upton Sinclair; K. Existential; L. It's the stupid; M. Root; N. Anti-social behavior; O. Tappan; P. Hub of the; Q. Echoes; R. Theorem; S. Howells; T. Intervention; U. Reuben; V. Defer; W. Wench; X. On the mend; Y. Robber; Z. Linene; Z1. Dennis



## FUDA : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Rainbow Family gatherings and Hempstock all rolled into one. Bodypainting is offered for free (I had a radio tower with ivy growing painted on the back of my leg), local alternative bands get a chance to perform outdoors, workshops teach FUDAfesters how to be sustainable and live in anarchist communities, hula hoops circle the hips of young hippies, the daring swing on a 100 foot rope hanging from an old growth tree and people just gather and share and talk. At night, a giant bonfire blazes against a 2:00 a.m. Milky Way overhead. And through all of this, Aaron Fuda presides in an almost Buddha like manner.

Providing a beautiful piece of earth where people of all ages and races can come together as FUDAville. As the welcoming sign says, "This is a Peaceful Place".

After setting up my table in the front of Aaron Fuda's purple and neon green Schoolbus camper, I starting politicking. Most of the young people had been out of High School for about four to five years, had held about four to five jobs, all of which ended when the businesses went under, and had an incredible working class identification and solidarity. These are the poor, white trailer trash of Maine. The people Carolyn Chute writes about in "The Beans of Egypt, Maine" and "Snowman". When I go to academic, upper class events, most people look at my info and say, "Yeah, I know about that" or "That's simplistic, you can't redo the world". At FUDAfest, the kids and the older folks engaged in a dialogue and discussed their conditions as they related to the ongoing struggle.

Yes, these working class radicals believe in peace, but they also believe in justice. And justice is not only forgiveness, but also accountability and restitution. And they believe they have the right to be nude, no matter what the victorian pruders demand.

While chatting and photographing a beautiful, young blonde as she was being bodypainted, Jim Ellsworth, a wobbler (Industrial Workers of the World) from Manchester, Maine shouted "Hey Roger, we're being raided". I was in such a state of bliss from the good vibes at the festival that I thought that Carolyn Chute and the 2nd Maine Militia were staging a fake raid. However, after confronting a soldier carrying an automatic weapon, I knew I was in trouble. A week earlier, a friend from northern Maine had laid some fresh, green buds on me. Fearing that a search would cause all kinds of problems for me, I sat down on a rock and stealthily deposited my stash and pipe in the tall grass next to the rock. And yes, I did find my stash and pipe after the police left.

In a display of naked aggression designed to spoil FUDAfest, approximately fifty officers from various agencies, (MDEA agents; police from Norway, Paris, Livermore Falls, Jay and Bridgton; deputies from Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties; Maine State Police; the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement; State Probation and Parole; the Maine Warden Service; and the U.S. Border Patrol) served a search warrant on Aaron Fuda of North Norway, Maine at 3:30 pm on Saturday, July 13. The new post 911 State Police Tactical Team, dressed like "Rambo", complete with camouflage uni-

forms, painted faces, and automatic assault rifles (including M16s and a H&K MP5 SD3 with silencer), created a perimeter around the festival and emerged all at once from the woods just as a puppet show protesting unjust and victimless laws was about to begin.

The State Police Tactical Team rushed in without warning and immediately moved to secure the area surrounding an old school bus, which Aaron Fuda uses for a camp. Two officers, brandishing automatic weapons, climbed atop the bus and established a lookout on the highest point of the festival area.

David CJ Bunn, a/k/a Captain Joint, official host of FUDAfest, described the raid as follows: "I was throwing a burger on the grill, my wife Judy was putting soda in the cooler and my two kids were heading toward the FUDAfest stage for the Puppet show. I looked up to see a man poke his camo-helmet covered head around the corner of my tent. The head was followed by the rest of a camo-clad body and an assault rifle. My 13 year old son Cougar ran up saying 'There are men with guns here!' and I heard my wife say 'It's O.K., they're part of the puppet show.'

"I turned to see my other son Danny, who is 18, coming back to the campsite; he had heard the exchange between Judy and Cougar and said, 'Hey Ma, those ain't no paint-ball guns.' I looked past our camp site to the trees lining the stage area and saw soldiers with full weapons ready, herding the campers out of the woods."

The search warrant included a recent aerial photograph (taken a couple of days prior to the festival) of Mr. Fuda's property and specified that police were allowed to search the premises and all persons on the property for marijuana, other illegal drugs, any cash which might be connected to illegal drug activity and firearms located in the vicinity of any seized items. The search warrant only allowed a daylight raid. Even the Judge knew that trigger happy lawmen could cause mayhem during a night time raid.

An MDEA agent said that Norway police requested his agency's assistance because of complaints from parents about their children coming home from FUDAfest drunk, plus reports of drug overdoses. The State Police Tactical Team was called in because of reports of a major ecstasy and cocaine dealer hiding out behind a used tire pile armed with a .357-caliber magnum and a 9MM pistol.

FUDAfesters were told to leave the area for about two hours while the search was carried out. FUDAfesters were not allowed to remove their property or their vehicles, and at least one naked woman was not allowed to return to her tent to retrieve clothing. Agents searched tents, backpacks and purses, and with the use of a special tool inserted in a car window, opened and searched vehicles. Some "suspicious-looking" folks were searched on their way off the property, but most participants were not searched or questioned.

Josh, a ten year old boy, was trying to find his parents when the police asked to search him. He responded, "I'm 10, you have no right to search me." He showed his disgust for the sorry episode by turning his pockets inside out and demonstrating that he was not carrying any contraband.

Faryl Orlinsky, Aaron Fuda's companion, said that the police broke into her van, searched it and left everything in a mess. "We were having a peaceful protest and we got raided. It made me feel like I was raped."

A small amount of marijuana, 15 marijuana plants, psilocybin mushrooms, hand scales and over \$2000 in cash were seized in the raid. In an email, Aaron Fuda stated "The DEA would like the public to believe that the \$2,390 they confiscated was drug money, when in fact, we have proof that \$1,000 was from an insurance settlement for a car accident Aaron was recently in and the other \$1,390 was revenue generated from the sale of FUDAfest buttons, money which would have been used to pay for the bands and other expenses for FUDAfest."

There was a distinct air of unreality as the crowd realized they were surrounded by heavily armed men and women. Is this what President Bush means when he says that Osama bin Laden hates American "freedom?" Jim Ellsworth asked a Tactical Team member if he liked his job. He replied that he did, so Jim asked him if he really thought he was doing a public service by busting up a peaceful party on private property. He replied, "I'm just following orders." Jim pointed out that's what the Nazis said, too. The cop's embarrassed silence spoke louder than words.

At one point, a cop came to the crowd gathered at the edge of the property and asked if Aaron Fuda was there. I immediately shouted "I am Aaron Fuda," and when other people began to shout out that they were Aaron Fuda, the cop walked off in disgust.

When the police allowed the festival to continue, Captain Joint issued a plea to raise funds for Aaron Fuda, and in a true show of working-class solidarity, close to \$1,500 was raised by Sunday morning. One speaker thanked the police for not hurting anybody, and also thanked them for creating five hundred more radicals. "The police are our best recruiters," observed a FUDAfester.

In a statement issued a week later, Aaron Fuda said, "As taxpayers we are disgusted by the astronomical expense that must have been incurred by the state in order to execute this raid, with the 13 different law enforcement agencies, that in the end provided no evidence to support their claims of drug sales or weapons. Instead what this produced was 400 new activists who can't believe that our government would spend large sums of money on harassing peaceful protestors instead of fighting to keep terrorists out of our country."

A number of questions remain. Why weren't dogs used in this so-called drug

raid? Carrying out a drug raid without dogs is like conducting a high speed pursuit chase with a bicycle. Where were the crowd control tools? Raiding an event with over 400 people requires some tools for crowd control, but there were neither gas masks nor batons. Evidently, the cops were going to fall back on the old reliable tool, a shotgun!

Throughout the raid, I heard cops openly talking about how glad they were that the raid was conducted on Saturday, since that meant overtime pay. The raid was evidently a state-funded venture, and with Maine facing a huge budget deficit, one wonders why the raid was not conducted on Thursday or Friday, the first two days of FUDAfest. All of the local and county police had been recruited via a phone call on Friday, the day before the raid. Is it possible that the conducting of drug raids has become some sort of political patronage? That is, if you support the MDEA and their "War on Drugs", you will be rewarded with overtime work in a period of economic decline and instability.

Why was FUDAfest raided? According to the owner of Cosmic Charlie's, a head shop in Augusta, Aaron Fuda was present at the 2001 Hempstock when the State Police entered the grounds on Saturday afternoon (another overtime raid). Aaron took off his clothes and confronted the State Police affirming that he had nothing to hide. Was the raid at FUDAfest revenge for this affront?

As of this date, no charges have been brought against Aaron Fuda. He has filed paperwork for the return of the \$2,390 confiscated during the raid. He is unable to secure an attorney because of his financial plight. Neither the Maine Civil Liberties Union nor the National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws (NORML) will help him because charges against him were not filed. Aaron Fuda has found the meaning of freedom in America.

BY ROGER LEISNER

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## Hempstock Persists Despite Ordinances

BY HILLARY LISTER

Mellow. And small. Those were the two most common observations of this year's Hempstock, the annual celebration of hemp and marijuana held by Maine Vocals every August on Harry Brown's farm in Starks. Though mellow, there was also tenseness in the air, with many people on edge, fearing a police raid similar to what took place at Fudafest only weeks earlier. The police raid never did occur. The repression was more subtle for Hempstock.

In 1995, the town of Starks passed its first mass gathering ordinance, in response to complaints about Hempstock. The causes of complaints ranged from drunk driving and drug use, to noise complaints, littering, and, frequently reprinted in Morning Sentinel articles even two years after the incident, the complaint by a nearby resident that a festival participant urinated on her lawn. No one is saying that the festival has been perfect -- many of the concerns are valid. What the Starks town government, county district attorney, and local media (with the exception of the Lewiston Sun-Journal, which has been providing quite balanced coverage) don't say, however, is that the reaction to these issues may not fit or solve the real problems, and they may be trampling people's freedoms in the process. Much of the opposition has outright demonized this festival and its organizers, with a recent Morning Sentinel official editorial titled, "Hempstock Czar should listen to judge's order." The reactions to the event have also been called hypocritical, with other concerts, races, fairs, and Friday nights at local bars, occurring regularly in this state with just as much, if not more, drug and alcohol use, littering, fighting, and noise that is disturbing neighbors. The main difference with these events is that local law enforcement and governments are receiving revenue from the organizers, they are official and sanctioned events. Problems at these events are usually dealt with on an individual basis, not by going after the organizers or property owners.

In March 2001, the town of Starks passed a revised, stricter mass gathering ordinance, defining a mass gathering as a group of more than 750 people assembling for more than 6 hours at a time. It lowered the decibels of noise allowed, called for certified police officers be hired as security staff for the festival, and contained the provision that even people not on the event's property, but camping within town limits, would count toward the gathering limit.

Don Christen, one of the main organizers of the festival, challenged the ordinance in 2001 by holding Hempstock without a permit, and thus violating the town's new mass gathering ordinance. He has argued that the permit system is discriminatory toward groups the town doesn't approve of, and that Hempstock should be grandfathered and not require a permit, since the event has been held regularly since 1991, four years before the first Starks mass gathering law went into affect. He has also disagrees the requirement of hiring certified police officers for security at an event on private property.

## Hardcore and Metal Show Corkstock Faces Legal Challenges

While Hempstock was taking place in central Maine, a completely unrelated event called Corkstock was happening in northern Maine. Held one mile off the road in Monticello, Corkstock was a hardcore and metal show organized by 22-year-old Michael Schools. About 600 to 700 people, mostly in their twenties, turned out of the event. No one was hurt or injured, and there were no noise complaints about the show. The show itself went off without a hitch, with most attendees raving about the great bands that day. However, according to a person attending the event who asked to remain anonymous, the day after the event the local liquor commissioner visited the site of the festival and issued three citations to Schools for furnishing a place for minors to consume alcohol. Twenty minutes after the commissioner left, local police showed up. According to the source, police told Schools that at the time of the show they didn't know what they were going to charge him with, but that they were planning to process him through federal court, likely on charges of furnishing alcohol to minors (a federal ATF violation). The police ended up writing him up for having a gathering without a BYOB permit. The anonymous source was not even aware that there was such a thing as a BYOB permit, and it is likely that the event organizer was unaware as well. The event was not advertised as a BYOB event, it was advertised as an all-ages event, and by the conditions of BYOB permits, one is not allowed to have minors at a BYOB event. The source is quite sure that there were undercover officers at the event, and questions what role entrapment might play in this case. This case also runs into a similar grey area as the RAVE Act (see page 5), in that by being accused of "furnishing," it is inferred that the organizer had knowledge of underage drinking, and the proof of knowledge could lie in the fact that Schools organized an event that, accusers might say, by its nature as a hardcore/metal show would be likely to have underage drinking. While not downplaying the effects of alcohol, this seems to have been a victimless crime, with no one injured as a result of the event. Based on observations by the anonymous source, it also seems likely that this event could have been targeted because, like Fudafest and Hempstock, it was a non-sanctioned event, and no municipalities or law enforcement were being paid for its occurrence. There will be more updates

After Hempstock 2001, the town of Starks brought suit against Christen and Maine vocals for violating the ordinance by holding the gathering (that qualified in size as a mass gathering) without a permit. Christen unsuccessfully attempted to countersue.

In April 2002, the town issued an injunction prohibiting Christen or the Maine Vocals from sponsoring, organizing or "in any way facilitating" a mass gathering in Starks. Additionally, Christen was charged with disorderly conduct for violating the noise ordinance, and as a result is barred from visiting the land he owns in Starks, between sunset and sunrise. As a result of the current structure of Maine Vocals that lays most responsibility and decision-making on Christen, resulting penalties for violating the injunction would fall both on Christen (in the form of fines and jail time) and Maine Vocals (in the form of fines.)

This year, after unsuccessfully attempting to apply for a mass gathering permit, Maine Vocals changed the schedule and ticket limits of the event in order to prevent it from possibly violating mass gathering laws. Charles Sherrer Jr., a Starks businessman who owns a campground in town, lost a weekend's worth of business during Hempstock 2002, in an attempt to keep Christen from being arrested. If he had kept his campground open, the campers there could have counted toward the Hempstock being considered a mass gathering, and thus violating the injunction, even though the campground is an entirely unconnected business on separate property from the festival. The festival occurred this year without violating any of the injunction and Christen avoided jail and fines.

In addition to mass gathering ordinance issues, police and surveillance were a constant presence around the festival. As in previous years, anyone traveling Rt. 43 through Starks during the festival was stopped at a police roadblock. Many people avoided the festival this year because of the notice in a Morning Sentinel article that anyone on probation leaving the festival

might be subject to urine or blood tests at the roadblocks. Undercover police are reported to have been present and filming the gathering. As occurred last year, police issued warrants to Hempstock property owner Harry Brown and his partner Cindi Ellen O'Connor, that gave them the freedom to come and search the property during the festival. Police also did fly-overs of the property using thermal imaging cameras. Though it has not been confirmed, according to a couple who was taken in to the local police station for questioning, there have also been satellite photos taken of the property.

While the festival did not violate the injunction this year, it has not been without after-affects for participants. As the festival was wrapping up, police entered the grounds and with a warrant for one vendor and summons for two others. The vendors, Lookinatcha from Farmington, Happy Trails from Waterville, and an unidentified individual who was making pipes, are under investigation for selling "drug paraphernalia" in the form of pipes. Happy Trails' owners, who have declined to comment on their situation on the advice of their lawyer, are no strangers to property seizures. In 1999 they were raided by the Waterville police, and thousands of dollars worth of pipes were seized on the charge of them being drug paraphernalia. In July 2001 the charges were dropped and the pipes finally returned. It seems that the charges will likely return, with their pipes being seized at Hempstock, again with the charge of drug paraphernalia. District Attorney David Crook explained "[If a person is arrested for] operating under the influence and they had a pot pipe on them, they would be summonsed for paraphernalia." He noted that "it's kinda ridiculous" to arrest one individual after another for possessing drug paraphernalia in the form of pipes, when there are vendors selling dozens of them. One anonymous festival attendee stated that he didn't think the pipes could be considered drug paraphernalia if there was no trace of drugs in the pipe. According to Lt. Lancaster pipes are con-

sidered drug paraphernalia if in the presence of illegal drugs. According to Crook, the context that the pipe is being sold might also figure into the paraphernalia charge. He felt that the argument that pipes are for tobacco-use only didn't ring true, commenting, "I didn't see a single RJ Reynolds tobacco product being advertised [at Hempstock]."

Just because none of the injunction was violated, doesn't mean charges won't be brought against Maine Vocals or the property owners. According to Cindi Ellen O'Connor, prosecutors have up to three years to bring charges against the group or individuals. This is similar to the issues of Fudafest, where no charges have been brought forth, so no defense can be prepared, leaving the possible accused in a state of limbo. According to the Sun-Journal, "Crook is considering charging Maine Vocals with furnishing a place for minors to drink, but is waiting for all the reports to come in." When asked about that charge by this reporter, Crook stated that he is not at liberty to comment on it at this time.

The future is uncertain for Maine Vocals and its festivals. Christian has looked into holding events in other locations, but has found new mass gathering ordinances popping up in response. Upon hearing that Christen was considering Farmington for a future gathering, a mass gathering ordinance (with exemptions for almost any group the town chooses) was passed in the course of a couple months. Similar ordinances are being worked on in surrounding towns such as Pownal and Norridgewock.

Many within Maine Vocals are hoping the current political actions against the group might politicize members and get more people actively involved in the long term with the group. As Christian explains, "As for the organizational process, it might even push us into a different mode where there's more people accepting responsibility for the bulk of this, instead of just myself. ...[I]t would be nice to see some people step up. There's a lot of good people that run the show out there and take care of things while the event's happening, but I'm talking through the year and doing a lot more than just the event itself." This change could also take the media and legal focus off Christen as an individual and place the focus on the group, where people might be able to more effectively respond.

If Maine Vocals is able to become more active and organized, they could start working on organizing and fundraising to challenging the mass gathering laws and other tools that have been used against Hempstock. Christen feels that the ordinance would not stand up to a legal challenge on its constitutional basis. He refers to a case of a hemp festival in Michigan that was facing a similar ordinance, "Where the judge all but said that [the mass gathering ordinance] was a constitutional violation of our rights to free speech and to gather." A petition that calls for a repeal of the mass gathering ordinance is currently making the rounds in Starks. The future of Hempstock and other independent festivals may lie in the ability of festival attendees to become organizers, to make connections with others facing similar struggles, and to stand up for their rights over the long term.



# Ability Maine Speaks

## No Room at the Day's Inn : An exclusionary tale

BY NORM MELDRUM

It seemed simple enough: have wheelchair, have asthma, need hotel room, call hotel, make reservation. We've done it lots of times. My family was planning to accompany me to a conference in Bangor, Maine, about 2 hours travel from our home. I have chronic back pain and sometimes cannot climb stairs. Barbara has arthritis and must use a wheelchair to traverse concrete and other hard surfaces, she also has asthma. Our son, Noah, has asthma. We needed a nonsmoking room on the first floor of a hotel, preferably one with a pool. Anyone who has taken a 10 year old to a conference knows the importance of the pool. I researched hotel chains near the conference site and choose one that had a pool and reasonable prices. Barbara called to make the reservation. A few minutes later, she told me that the Bangor Day's Inn had refused to guarantee us a room. Being a typical macho type male, I said something like, "Give me the number, I'll handle this."

*The conversation (not verbatim, but you'll get the spirit of the thing):*

**ME:** I'd like to reserve a room for the nights April 19 and 20.

**DAYS INN:** What kind of a room would you like?

**ME:** I need a nonsmoking room on the ground floor. We have a wheelchair, but we don't have to have an ADA accessible room. (We have gotten by in the past by my ferrying the wheelchair back and forth from the van, if necessary.)

**DI:** We can reserve either a ground floor room, or a nonsmoking room for you.

**ME:** But, we need both. It's a medical necessity, like under the ADA.

**DI:** I'm sorry, but ground floor rooms and nonsmoking rooms are both considered to be *special requests*. This hotel only allows one *special request* per reservation.

**ME:** Do you have a wheelchair accessible room?

**DI:** Yes.

**ME:** Could we have a wheelchair accessible nonsmoking room?

**DI:** I'm sorry, but all of our wheelchair accessible rooms are smoking rooms.

**ME:** (getting a bit exasperated) Do you have a nonsmoking room on the first floor that is open on those dates?

**DI:** Yes, I can put you down for the room, but I can't guarantee it.

**ME:** What do you mean that you can put me down for the room, but it can't be guaranteed? I've never heard of such a thing before.

**DI:** I'm sorry, we're not allowed to honor more than one *special request* per reservation. We can put your name in for the room and you'll probably get it. We're not usually too busy this time of year.

**ME:** (getting perplexed, as well as exasperated) Let me get this straight. You can put my name down for the room, but if someone else shows up first and asks for the last downstairs nonsmoking room, they'll get it and I'll be on the street looking for a place to stay?

**DI:** Well, yes, that could happen. However, as I said, we aren't usually too busy this time of year.

**ME:** Do you understand that we need this room as a medical accommodation under the ADA?

**DI:** As I said, we only allow one *special request* per reservation. You can talk to the manager if you'd like, but he'll only tell you the same thing.

**ME:** Never mind. (Clunk sound as I gently replace the phone receiver.)

By this time, it occurred to me that I was talking to a person on drugs who had somehow gotten access to the hotel's phone system. However, after calling the company's national reservation line I discovered that exclusion of people who need more than one special request is a policy in some of the company's hotels. I tried to find contact information to write, call, or email the company's headquarters. I was totally unsuccessful. They seem to have insulated themselves quite effectively from disgruntled potential customers who have *special requests*.

I decided to email a person I know who works for a disability rights organization and see what my rights might be in this situation. What I found was that we probably can't sue them in any way because they didn't actually discriminate against us, they just implied that they might. In other words, if we had them reserve (but not guarantee) the room and it wasn't available when we got there, we might be able to sue. Of course, if we did that, we might also have to sleep on the sidewalk with all the other displaced people that you find in a U.S. city. That was too much of a cross cultural experience for us so we made a reservation in another hotel, no fuss. They were glad to have us, it was a slow weekend.

## Announcement from Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights

The Westbrook City Council passed an ordinance on July 29th that protects people from discrimination (in employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations) on the basis of sexual orientation. The city already has protections against discrimination on the basis of national origin, gender, race, religion, and disability.

Paul Volle, head of the Maine Christian Coalition, hit the streets immediately after the ordinance's passage in order to collect signatures to bring the ordinance to referendum and so overturn it. He has demonstrated great skill in fundraising and organizing a massive grassroots effort to turn out the vote in the past, as evidenced by four local and statewide referendums that he has won.

This issue has both statewide and national implications. Westbrook is seen by many as an unusual city to enact such an ordinance, given its image as a blue-collar, working class dominated town. Lewiston, a city that in many ways is analogous, passed a similar ordinance a decade ago, and had it rejected by voters in an election that wasn't even close. If Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights can beat Mr. Volle in Westbrook (his hometown), this could turn the tide in favor of civil rights statewide. Maine is the only state in New England that does not have such a law.

Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights is seeking time and donations in order to win the referendum and keep the ordinance intact. For more info, or to make a donation, contact: Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights, PO Box 1105, Westbrook, ME 04098.

## Gathering In Celebration Of The Life Of Justin Dart

On Friday, July 26, a group of people with disabilities, and other supporters, met at Wolf Neck Woods State Park to celebrate the life of Justin Dart and the 12th year of the ADA. Justin Dart was a leader in the disability rights movement, who for the past 16 years played a leading role in the development of and advocacy for national disability, civil rights, and health care policy, particularly the Americans with Disabilities Act. He traveled throughout the US and the world, meeting with disability community leaders in all 50 states to develop the National Council on Disability, which, in 1983, first recommended full civil rights protection for people with disabilities.

At the Maine celebration, people enjoyed walks through the park, picnic lunches and discussion sessions. A letter of support from the American Association of People with Disabilities was read. Much of the evening was given to chatting and networking. People visited with old friends and made new ones. Everyone agreed that cross-disability events need to become a mainstay of the disability rights movement in Maine. You will be hearing lots more from these people. All came away from the event feeling re-energized.

## A Call to Action!

### Stop the War Now: Reclaim Peace & Justice

BY TONY AMAN

A state-wide march and rally will be held in Augusta on October 26 to protest the war on terrorism and the proposed war on Iraq, in particular. Peace and justice organizations, churches, environmental groups, and civil rights organizations are joining together to rally supporters in a show of solidarity and determination to stop the Bush Administration from continuing its violent attacks on other countries and its aggressive intimidation of any who disagree.

The need for a rally was initially voiced at a conference on July 29 in Northeast Harbor called "Creating a Culture of Nonviolence." The day-long event, convened by six members of Maine's religious community, attracted more than eighty people from Hancock County who expressed their concerns about the violent and repressive tendencies of the current administration in Washington.

The October 26th event is being organized by a task force of members from groups all over Maine. Peace Action Maine of Portland has agreed to provide logistical support with the help of Veterans for Peace. Many of the organizers are from The Peninsula Peace and Justice Center of Blue Hill. The Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine is also supporting the rally and is serving as a key link to other groups throughout the state. Organizers hope that members of every group that comes to the rally will do their utmost to promote the event and raise awareness in their community about the injustice of the war on Iraq and the Pandora's box of hatred and fear that Washington is opening.

The date for the rally, October 26, was chosen because it is the anniversary of the signing of the USA Patriot Act. This legislation was rushed through Congress shortly after the September 11 attacks to provide the President with a new arsenal of anti-terrorism weapons.

For more information contact the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine (942-9343 or [peacectr@peacectr.org](mailto:peacectr@peacectr.org)) or Peace Action Maine (772-0680 or [peaceaction@peaceaction.org](mailto:peaceaction@peaceaction.org)).

**Maine Commons  
Submissions Deadline**

**October 1st,  
2002**

**for the Oct-Nov Issue**

If you need an extension, email  
[editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org)





## Eastern Maine Citizens Fight Aerial Pesticide Use

BY CATHY MELIO

C.A.P.S. (Citizens Against Pesticide Spraying) is a newly formed coalition of Maine citizens concerned about aerial spraying of pesticides by the Maine blueberry industry. Also billing itself as "The Real Pesticide Control Board," C.A.P.S. will hold public hearings to air stories of people who have been affected by pesticide spraying. C.A.P.S. will work on educating the public about this issues, as well as addressing serious concerns about the lack of proper notification to communities which are sprayed. C.A.P.S. will also explore how the Maine Board of Pesticide Control (MBPC) works (and doesn't!). Currently, a case before the MBPC regarding the accidental spraying of an organic farm in Orland has been referred to the Maine Attorney General, due to the fact that the owner of the helicopter company which did the spraying is also on the board of the the MBPC! Can you spell "conflict of interest?"

Maine has a system in which only citizens who contact the blueberry grower will be notified regarding dates and times of spraying. C.A.P.S. believes that this information should be made much more widely available to the general public, with the ultimate longterm goal to eliminate aerial spraying altogether. C.A.P.S. is based in Hancock County, but is interested in connecting with people throughout the state who have been exposed to pesticides due to spraying by blueberry companies. Please write to C.A.P.S. P.O. Box 945, Ellsworth, Maine, 04605 in order to tell of your experience. Sharing these stories with the public is the best way to let the blueberry growers know that they cannot continue to poison the people of this state.

One of the most toxic substances sprayed on blueberry fields in Maine is Guthion. Guthion is an organophosphate which contains Azinphos-Methyl. The EPA decided in 2001 to cancel, phase out, or continue under time-limited registrations the crop uses of this pesticide. Azinphos-methyl is highly toxic. EPA's website states that "Azinphos-methyl poses a high degree of risk to agricultural workers, as well as acute ecological risks." EPA admits uncertainty related to the absence of complete data (for example, neurotoxicity studies) for the assessment of potential effects on infants and children. Another quote from the EPA website: "All of the organophosphates are neurotoxic in that they may cause cholinesterase inhibition and related clinical signs. Organophosphates also may cause neuropathology of the visual system or effects on cognitive function, i.e., learning and memory, as well as other effects on the nervous system."

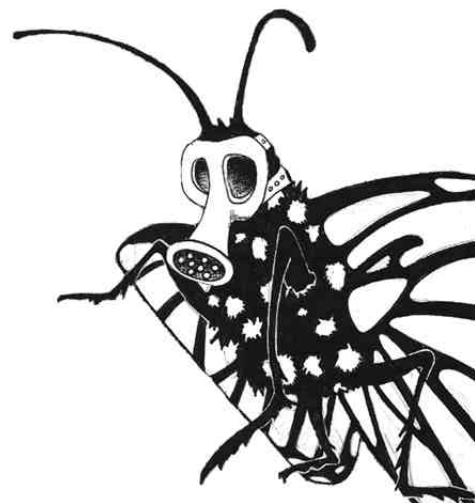
The public is woefully underinformed regarding the spraying of these pesticides. A partial list of the towns sprayed with Guthion (just by one company alone!) include Union, Frankfort, Stockton Springs, Surry, Blue Hill, Sedgwick, Dedham, Penobscot, Prospect, Orland, Bucksport, Ellsworth, Eastbrook, Aurora, Mariahville, Clifton, Brooksville, Sullivan, Franklin, Steuben, Cherryfield, Jonesport, Machias, and many others. The Maine Blueberry

Commission used to have an 800 phone number that people could call to find out when their towns are to be sprayed, but that was discontinued in 2000. Also discontinued was the practice of sending information to radio stations about which towns were being sprayed on what days. It is now incumbent upon the citizen to contact the blueberry company to be notified of the spraying. The vast majority of people are not aware and never know about this, even though their own health, or the health of their children may be undermined by this spraying.

It has been acknowledged that information about the drifting of pesticides is inadequate, that drift can spread much farther than most people realize, and that incidents of exposure are greatly underreported, probably because people are not aware of why they have the headache, sore throat, burning eyes, etc. People are advised to call the Maine Poison Control Center if exposed. Poison. That says something in itself. This product, produced by the Bayer Corporation is being phased out by the EPA for good reason. In the meantime, Maine people are being exposed without their knowledge. Someday, we will see how insane it was to poison our children. But we are not all at that point yet. The least we can do is be informed and choose to limit our exposure. We know that there are many children in Maine with asthma. Common sense will tell you that this spraying can only exacerbate that problem, among many others. People should be able to choose to keep their children inside during the spraying, at the very least. But we can't do that if we are not informed. And we shouldn't wait until next spring when the next round of spraying begins to take action.

Blueberries are known for their health benefits, for their high antioxidant content. Guthion, Hexazinone, Imidin, and other herbicide and pesticide products used by the blueberry industry negate those benefits if exposure to these toxic substances are the price the people (& the environment) of Maine must (unknowingly) pay. Blueberries are grown organically with great success in Maine. It's in all of our backyards. Cut the drift! Wake up and smell the pesticides.

*Learn more about pesticides and their effect on health and the environment by visiting Pesticide Action Network North America ([www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)) on the Internet.*



graphic credit: [www.beehivecollective.org](http://www.beehivecollective.org)

# BoundTogether

## Diversity Networking Project Works To Undo Racism

BY WELLS STALEY-MAYS

Since taking an "Undoing Racism" workshop organized by the Maine Coalition for Food Security and the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, I have come to believe in the DEEP LISTENING and COOPERATIVE INVOLVEMENT way of Diversity Networking (if I can label what I am doing). I believe it is important for white people (which most peace activists are) to be allies to people of color in their struggles for justice, but in supportive - not leadership - capacities. This approach takes time and commitment in order to build trust over the "color line" (to paraphrase W.E.B. DuBois). The Diversity Networking Project is an example of working in this way.

The Diversity Networking Project began in 1998 as an outgrowth of previous work between Peace Action Maine and the Portland Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Pleased with the rising attendance at the Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast and Interfaith Religious Service, in both of which Peace Action Maine took part, the Board endorsed me to work with other organizations representing people of color, immigrants, women, and the glbt communities.

Subsequently, I networked with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the Maine Rural Workers Coalition (MRWC) for the Livable Wage Campaign held on the birthday of Cesar Chavez in 1999. I continue to be in touch with the Maine Rural Workers Coalition and am on the Advisory Board of LULAC. In 1999, I visited Chiapas in southern Mexico with a group organized by Equal Exchange to study human rights abuses by the Mexican army there, sharing the information with LULAC and MRWC and speaking about the impact of U.S. Arms Sales on the war against the Zapatistas. LULAC is currently a member of the Campaign for Responsible Defense (CRD).

I have also worked with the League of Women Voters in the CRD, and networked closely with the Portland Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), including bringing them into the Campaign for Responsible Defense, which is working against National Missile Defense and the Nuclear Posture Review.

I have worked on the issue of Racial Profiling with a coalition including the Maine Civil Liberties Union, the NAACP, LULAC, and the Institute for Practical Democracy.

The Diversity Networking Project began working with the Islamic Society of Portland against the bombing of and sanctions on Iraq in 1998. After September 11, 2001 that collaboration became much more intense and included a closer relationship with the Maine Civil Liberties Union. In the spring of 2001, Peace Action Maine began

sponsoring a series of vigils for peace in the Middle East with Veterans for Peace, Pax Christi Maine and the Islamic Society. We also sponsored a number of programs. We have worked closely with the Maine Director of the National Coalition Building Institute. The vigils were renewed in the spring of 2002.

We have worked closely with the Maine Coalition for Food Security in bringing the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond to do three Undoing Racism workshops in Maine.

The Diversity Networking Project has continued Peace Action Maine's longtime support and involvement with people who are incarcerated in Maine's prisons and jails, through the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). In the past three years, we have focused on women incarcerated in Cumberland County Jail (CCJ). With support from the Maine Women's Fund, this project has enlarged to include some support and follow-up with women who are released. The new staff person for Family Crisis Services whose work is focused on the women in CCJ will strengthen this work. The new Family Crisis Services staff person in CCJ is herself a graduate of the AVP program. There are hopes that AVP can be adapted to programs with youth in Long Creek (formerly the Maine Youth Center) and with businesses and corporations working on Diversity Education.

### Mission Statement of Peace Action Maine's Diversity Networking Project:

"Because militarism is a major force that keeps racism and other forms of oppression in place, Peace Action Maine's Diversity Networking Project listens deeply to the voices of people who have been victimized in their home countries by U.S. weapons. The Diversity Networking Project advocates on behalf of immigrants from war-torn countries in which U.S. weapons have played a significant role, such as Mexico, Sudan, and Palestine, and educates the public about the nature of conflicts fueled by U.S. arms sales. Finally, the Project brings people who are the victims of U.S. weapons into the membership of Peace Action Maine and into its leadership structures."

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



# Maine Solidarity Calendar

Selected Events Sept 7 - Oct 26, 2002 (updated and with more info at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>)

## Saturday Sept 7th

### Domestic Violence Advocates Training

Contact: Peaceful Choices  
Phone: 255-4934  
Location: WHCA, 6 Free St, Machias  
Info: Sign up by August 16 is requested, but latecomers may be accepted, or they can find out about the next training.

## Sunday Sept 8th

### FTAA Workshop

Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Phone: 947-4203  
Location: Peace & Justice Center, Bangor  
Info: Workshop on FTAA, Free Trade Area of the Americas, the new NAFTA. Facilitated by Matt Schlobohm.

## Saturday Sept 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

### Maine Rivers Annual Fall Conference

Phone: 287-2345 x219  
Email: [mainerivers@nrcm.org](mailto:mainerivers@nrcm.org)  
Location: Bethel Inn, Bethel  
Info: With workshops, paddling, more.

### Freedom Rally Trip & Maine NORML

Time: 7:30 AM - 10:30 PM  
Phone: 527-2015  
Location: Aaron Fuda's, Norway  
Info: Bus trip from Aaron Fuda's to Boston pro-marijuana Freedom Rally. Formation of a Maine Chapter of NORML (National Association for the Repeal of Marijuana Laws) will be announced at the rally. Bus loads at 7:30 AM, Returns to Maine at 10:30 PM. Bus tickets \$30.

### Annual Day of Solidarity & Friendship

Time: 2:00 PM  
Phone: 743-2183  
Location: Twitchell Road Farm, S. Paris  
Info: Featured speakers Askia Toure & Carolyn Chute. Poetry by Richard Cambridge. Music by Ethan Miller & Roxanne Munksgaard. Open mike after.

### Jim Hightower Speaking in Gorham

Time: 6:00 PM  
Phone: 723-4656  
Location: Gorham High School, Gorham  
Info: Jim Hightower will be talking on "Kitchen Table Politics." Bush administration, corporate control, & Maine issues. Tickets \$15.00 in advance, \$20.00 at door.

## Monday Sept 16th

### "Working Cooperatively for Mutual Benefit"

Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 326-8211  
Email: [info@goodlife.org](mailto:info@goodlife.org)  
Location: Good Life Ctr, Harborside  
Info: Discussion w/Jane Livingston.

## Friday Sept 20th

### Puppetual Motion Cycle Circus

Phone: (802) 626-4411  
Email: [cyclecircus@pocketmail.com](mailto:cyclecircus@pocketmail.com)  
Web: [www.cyclecircus.org/cyclecircus](http://www.cyclecircus.org/cyclecircus)  
Location: To Be Announced, Farmington  
Info: The PMCC theater helps to create dialogue on topics generally not addressed by the corporate-controlled media. They offer workshops in puppet show making, mutant bicycle mechanics, sustainability, and political empowerment through street theater. The show is kid friendly, and interactive.



### THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

Four protesters at the Bush "welcoming party" in Scarborough, Maine, on August 3rd.

### Common Ground Country Fair

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 a fair schedule. Event continues thru Sunday, Sept 22.

## Sunday Sept 22

### Maine IMC Meeting

Time: 12:00 PM  
Phone: 649-5980 (after 7pm or weekends)  
Location: Common Ground Fair, Unity  
Info: Meeting for new and old participants. Bring yummy food.

## Monday Sept 23

### "Universal Health Care in Maine"

Phone: 800-838-0388  
Location: Civic Center, Augusta  
Info: Day-long conference, by Consumers for Affordable Health Care. Call for information and registration.

## Friday Sept 27

### Video: Greetings From Missile Street

Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 942-9343  
Email: [peacectr@gwi.net](mailto:peacectr@gwi.net)  
Location: Peace and Justice Center, 170 Park St, Bangor  
Info: Video showing about the plight of Iraqi citizens under US embargo that mainstream media has failed to report. Tom Jackson, who has been to Iraq twice, will talk about his film and Iraq today. Free, call if childcare is needed.

## Tuesday Oct 1

### Maine Commons Submissions Deadline

Phone: 649-5980 (after 7pm or weekends)  
Email: [editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org)  
Info: Submissions of articles & images must be in by this date. Get in touch by Sept 15th if you want to place an insert. If you need an extension, please be in touch.

## Friday Oct 4th

### MAIN Biennial Conference

Time: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
Phone: 947-4371  
Email: [krjguay@infi.net](mailto:krjguay@infi.net)  
Location: St. Andrews Church, Augusta  
Info: Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods Conference to set legislative priorities for low-income people in Maine. No fee but donations accepted, lunch and childcare provided.

## Sunday Oct 13th

### Maine IMC Workshop Day

Time: 9:00AM-dark  
Phone: 649-5980 (after 7pm or weekends)  
Email: [editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org)  
Location: JED Center, Greene  
Info: Workshops being led throughout the day include grantwriting, page layout, audio/video recording/processing. Bring yummy food. Childcare will be available.

## Friday Oct 18th

### Media Democracy Day

Location: Various in-state and global events  
Info: See info page 17.

## Saturday Oct 19th

### Maine NOW (National Organization for Women) Annual Conference

Phone: 989-3306  
Time: 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Phone: 946-4478  
Email: [jed@riseup.net](mailto:jed@riseup.net)  
Web: <http://www.jedcenter.org>

### Location: JED Center, Greene

Info: Garlic gathering, Apple Cider Pressing, & Potluck Supper. Bring your own apples for cider! Possibly an evening contradance at the Androscoggin Grange.

## Friday Oct 25th

### Critical Masquerade Bike Ride

Time: 5:00 PM  
Email: [p\\_engler42@yahoo.com](mailto:p_engler42@yahoo.com)  
Location: Monument Square, Portland  
Info: What is Critical Mass? It is where a bunch of bicyclists get together at the same time to take over the street, have themselves a bike rally. We are not blocking traffic, we are traffic! Come in costume.

### Video: Globalization and Terrorism

Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 942-9343  
Email: [peacectr@gwi.net](mailto:peacectr@gwi.net)  
Location: Eastern Maine Peace and Justice Center, 170 Park St, Bangor  
Info: Video showing. In the video, Michael Parenti, author of "Democracy for the Fed," discusses the origins and solutions to acts of terrorism. Discussion following film. Free. Call if childcare is needed.

## Saturday Oct 26th

### Stop the War Now - March and Rally

Phone: 326-9574  
Email: [aaman@metlife.com](mailto:aaman@metlife.com)  
Info: See announcement, page 8

## Monthly Repeating Events

### Mondays

#### Maine Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty Meetings

Phone: 884-7407  
Location: Canterbury House, Orono  
Info: All people are welcome to the meetings, regardless of race or any other criterion. Meets 1st Monday of each month.

#### Clean Clothes Campaign Meetings

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

#### People's Free Space Meeting

Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: Deering Park, Portland  
Info: We are meeting to start up the a new community space in Portland. Come to get involved & offer input. 2nd 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 transmen 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.



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## Maine Leads Country!

Sparsely populated and sometimes neglected, Maine is lighting the way for the rest of the country! Over 200 businesses have become Liberty Merchants with the FREE registration. Now anyone holding Liberty Dollars can spend them in Maine for anything from airline tickets to zithers - literally from A to Z. The *silver* backed, inflation-proof Liberty Dollar is voluntarily accepted by Liberty Merchants as full or partial payment for a huge array of products and services. Liberty Merchants can easily be located by searching the listings at the Yellow Page Directory at [www.NORFED.org](http://www.NORFED.org). Although Liberty Dollars are becoming increasingly familiar as they circulate in all 50 states, the "progressive-conservative" Mainers are leading the country. The new currency is issued by the non-profit National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act and the Internal Revenue Code (NORFED).

There are many advantages for becoming a Liberty Merchant. There is no cost or risk involved, since it's *free* to sign up, and you get a *free* web-site listing, with product-specific cross-referencing in the Yellow Page Directory. (See next two pages for a current roster of Maine Liberty Merchants, grouped by Zip Code.) What is the "responsibility" of a Liberty Merchant? Simply to accept and circulate the currency by offering it as change to the next customer! Not intended to be hoarded or banked, Liberty Dollars are an educational tool designed to awaken the citizenry to the fatal flaws of our government-imposed monetary system. But as it happens, using an "alternative" currency tends to *personalize* a normally impersonal transaction, building rapport and hence customer loyalty.

SEE LIBERTY MERCHANTS ON BACK PAGE



Dudley Gray of LA Gray Company in Hancock, Maine, holding a Silver Liberty that backs the Liberty Dollar currency. LA Gray Company, providing lumber and hardware for home improvement, is one of over 200 Liberty Merchants where you can use The Liberty Dollar and get your change in the new silver currency.

## Making Money - Making Change

The Liberty Dollar provides individuals and business owners an easy way to make money and add revenue to their bottom line. Anyone can become a Liberty Merchant for free. (See accompanying article, "MAINE LEADS COUNTRY!") But the really shrewd individual or astute entrepreneur will take the next step and for only \$250 can become a Redemption Center. Why? Simple - Redemption Centers can get Liberty Dollars at a discount and circulate them at a profit, just as the Federal Reserve banks do!

All merchants are acutely aware that quantity discounts on inventory expenses are what make a business viable. And of course, the larger the quantity, the greater the discount per item. NORFED operates the same way! When a business becomes a Redemption Center you get the Liberty Dollars at *well* below face value, translating into a handsome return - over and

above the profit on the retail item. Not bad! How is this accomplished? Simply by offering The Liberty Dollar as change to your customers - you're making money - making change.

Many Redemption Centers achieve a dramatic effect by putting The Liberty Dollar in the customer's hand. The customer walks out with a whole new outlook, and with hundreds of transactions a month, that's a lot of extra profit in the till! In some parts of the country this strategy has generated tremendous word-of-mouth advertising and customer traffic, with some patrons driving up to fifty miles to get some silver currency as change. And some store-owners report making more "money" making *change* than they do on the merchandise itself.

SEE REDEMPTION CENTERS ON BACK PAGE

## Shopping as Voting

Everyone has heard the expression "voting with your pocketbook," but how many of us sense the raw economic power in our hands? Trading with businesses in our own community casts a "vote" for local employment, prosperity, economic and social stability, and self-sufficiency both for individual businesses and for the region as a whole. Those are some of the principles underlying community currencies, a concept dating back at least to the American Revolution. Recently there has been a rejuvenation with the Ithaca Hour in New York and The Liberty Dollar, simply because these currencies *circulate* within their communities and tend to *stay* there! Just as blood must circulate in order for our physical health to be maintained, so money must circulate if economic health is to be sustained. Hoarding is stagnation, eventually resulting in decreased vitality and even death. But the current revival of community currencies is injecting "vitamins" into moribund local economies, as prescribed by Nobel Laureate economist Friedrich von Hayek, the originator and leading proponent of the Free Money Movement.

While the silver backed Liberty Dollar is not strictly designed for local use within a particular community, as a means of indirect barter it certainly "fills the bill." It's a unique educational piece which naturally spurs conversation - a community *builder*, a bulwark against inflation that affords a degree of control, protection, and *independence* to the locale whose citizens are astute enough to incorporate it in their economy. As Bernard von NotHaus, NORFED's Monetary Architect, points out, "When the government owns the money, it also controls the people. But when the *people* own the money, they control the government!" So a community currency promotes both economic and local political independence.

SEE COMMUNITY CURRENCY ON BACK PAGE

## The Maine Model

Mainers rightfully take pride in their state, which many outsiders regard with a degree of envy. Picturesque and relatively unspoiled, its hardy inhabitants carve out a "traditional" lifestyle in a climate that some would consider challenging if not harsh. Geographically isolated from the rest of the country, "Down-Easters" have the advantage of objectivity and a naturally conservative and independent outlook, dating all the way back to Colonial times.

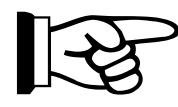
So it is not surprising to see Maine in the vanguard of the current movement to return our monetary system to value. By embracing the silver backed, inflation-proof Liberty Dollar, Mainers understand the philosophy behind NORFED, the National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act and the Internal Revenue Code. Put plainly, the "NORFED solution" mirrors their own traditional values!

Freeport's L. L. Bean Company is proof that success and recognition can be achieved independently of the major met-

ropolitan areas. And with scores of Liberty Merchants, the Maine Community as a whole is "declaring independence" from the government monetary system, and returning to the values of our forefathers.

The Maine Model demonstrates conclusively that the Free Money Movement is really happening and it's safe to join! To learn how simple and *profitable* ownership of your money can be for yourself, your own community, and the country, visit [www.NORFED.org](http://www.NORFED.org) or call 1.888.421.6181.





# Over 200 Liberty Merchants in Maine alone!



Golden Touch Tech . . . . . 214-7332 . . . . . Baileyville	Tomcat's Redemption . . 862-6917 . . . . . South Hampden
Southern Maine ALC Ctr 283-3923 . . . . . Saco	Accountant . . . . . 862-4996 . . . . . Hampden
Maine Catch Lobster Co 283-3923 . . . . . Saco	Foreign Car Center . . . . 942-6731 . . . . . Hampden
G.B.O.C. Solutions . . . . 797-2368 . . . . . Portland	Hampden Electrical . . . . 942-6255 . . . . . Hampden
North East Diesel Svc 547-3032 . . . . . Sidney	Higgins Electric Motor 942-9215 . . . . . Hampden
Auto Paint Supply . . . . . 848-3731 . . . . . Bangor	Huffey's Paint Contr . . . 942-1175 . . . . . Hampden
Bangor Floral Co . . . . . 907-4569 . . . . . Bangor	Kamda's Pool Shed . . . . . 947-1119 . . . . . Hampden
Bangor Redemption . . . . 848-5802 . . . . . Bangor	P.D.Q. Door . . . . . 947-1899 . . . . . Hampden
Bangor Ski Rack . . . . . 945-5965 . . . . . Bangor	S&S Self Storage . . . . . 862-4094 . . . . . Hampden
Dorr's Equipment . . . . . 848-2434 . . . . . Bangor	Leavitt Plumbing . . . . . 234-1557 . . . . . Newburgh
Freedom Auto Body . . . . 848-7454 . . . . . Bangor	Piper Mtn Xmas Tree . . . 234-4300 . . . . . Newburgh
McAvey Transport Ltd . . 295-2998 . . . . . Bangor	Howland Storage . . . . . 732-4592 . . . . . Howland
McLaughlin Seafood . . . 942-7811 . . . . . Bangor	I-95 Towing . . . . . 732-6040 . . . . . Howland
Niaman's Big & Tall . . . . 942-4980 . . . . . Bangor	Cat Trax . . . . . 943-0973 . . . . . LaGrange
Penobscot Orthotics . . . 941-9544 . . . . . Bangor	Harts Electric . . . . . 884-8795 . . . . . Levant
Bangor Rye Bakery . . . . . 947-4198 . . . . . Bangor	JK Construction . . . . . 884-7277 . . . . . Levant
The Green Works Inc. . . . 947-3467 . . . . . Bangor	Union St Banquet Ctr . . 884-8372 . . . . . Levant
Top Shelf Coins . . . . . 947-4939 . . . . . Bangor	Jeffrey M. Kyes D.M.D 794-6577 . . . . . Lincoln
Bangor Paint App . . . . . 990-5514 . . . . . Bangor	Golden Opportunities . . . 794-3036 . . . . . Lincoln
Asay Automotive . . . . . Glenburn	J.J. Pizza & Subs . . . . . 732-3002 . . . . . Lincoln
Avon Rep of Glenburn . . . 884-6032 . . . . . Glenburn	Onperfect.com . . . . . 794-9065 . . . . . Lincoln
Bill's Handyman Svcs . . . 947-0422 . . . . . Glenburn	Rand Advertising . . . . . 794-8071 . . . . . Lincoln
Hair Styles Your Way . . . 947-6219 . . . . . Glenburn	Sheridan D Smith Cont 794-8067 . . . . . Lincoln
Sparkle Pond Trlr Pk . . . 942-6519 . . . . . Glenburn	Berry-Land Takeout . . . 736-4775 . . . . . Winn
Tam's Upholstery . . . . . 884-8474 . . . . . Glenburn	Winn Welding . . . . . 736-2075 . . . . . Winn
Cherri's Books . . . . . 848-2703 . . . . . Hermon	Markie's Garage . . . . . 736-4202 . . . . . Mattawamkeag
Equitable Appraisal . . . . 848-0903 . . . . . Hermon	McLaughlin Builders . . . 746-5406 . . . . . Medway
Landscape Supply Co . . . 941-2366 . . . . . Hermon	Ricoux Electric Inc. . . . . 746-9200 . . . . . Medway
Quinn's Auto Repair . . . . 848-3363 . . . . . Hermon	Ruthie's Restaurant . . . 746-3743 . . . . . Medway
RSJ Electric . . . . . 848-7483 . . . . . Hermon	Mike Brown Carpentry . . 723-6698 . . . . . Millinocket
Tapley Pools . . . . . 848-5576 . . . . . Hermon	Tapleys Market & Deli 723-6051 . . . . . Millinocket
Bradford Auto Sales . . . . 327-1236 . . . . . Bradford	Ox-Yoke Originals . . . . . 943-7351 . . . . . Milo
O&O Electric . . . . . 327-1381 . . . . . Bradford	Skateway Roller Rink . . . 943-2617 . . . . . Milo
Piano Tuning Services 327-1210 . . . . . Bradford	Monson General Store . . 997-3964 . . . . . Monson
Brasslett Pullen Const 327-2955 . . . . . Bradford	Jackson's Service Ctr 827-2676 . . . . . Old Town
Gray Knives . . . . . 965-2191 . . . . . Brownville	Pat's Pizza . . . . . 866-2111 . . . . . Orono
Smith's Grocery . . . . . 965-8818 . . . . . Brownville	J&J Auto Salvage . . . . . Orrington
Bucksport Variety . . . . . 469-2753 . . . . . Bucksport	Stewarts Wrecker Svc . . 825-3507 . . . . . Orrington
Christian NetCast.com 234-2157 . . . . . Carmel	R&R House Painting . . . 876-2270 . . . . . Sangerville
Computer Designs . . . . . 848-7441 . . . . . Carmel	Cat's Corner Gift Shop 564-7009 . . . . . Sebec
Condon Electric . . . . . 848-5731 . . . . . Carmel	Country Style Rest. . . . 564-3416 . . . . . Sebec
M&K Carpets . . . . . 848-4996 . . . . . Carmel	Charles Merrill Constr 296-2621 . . . . . Stetson
C&R Lumber Mill . . . . . 285-7008 . . . . . Charleston	E&M Construction . . . . 827-2762 . . . . . Stillwater
Maple Lane Farms . . . . . 285-3591 . . . . . Charleston	Dad's Camp . . . . . 746-7278 . . . . . West Enfield
Valley View Septic . . . . . 285-7374 . . . . . Charleston	Dan's Sports Bar . . . . . 732-3002 . . . . . West Enfield
Webber Survey . . . . . 285-7445 . . . . . Charleston	Gary Gould Wells . . . . . 223-5393 . . . . . Winterport
Berry Patch Farm Store 564-3242 . . . . . Dover Foxcroft	Roger Gould Wells . . . . 223-4346 . . . . . Winterport
Briggs Plumbing . . . . . 343-0323 . . . . . Dover Foxcroft	Ellsworth Subway . . . . . 667-4226 . . . . . Ellsworth
Corinth Hardware . . . . . 282-3866 . . . . . Corinth	Foremans Tree Experts . . 667-4063 . . . . . Ellsworth
Prebles Bee Farm . . . . . 285-7090 . . . . . Corinth	Holt Storage . . . . . 667-8160 . . . . . Ellsworth
Prebles Sugar House . . . 285-3682 . . . . . Corinth	John Gilbert Wells . . . . 667-8331 . . . . . Ellsworth
Bangor Generators . . . . . 843-5739 . . . . . Eddington	Jordan Bros Garage . . . . 584-3531 . . . . . Ellsworth
Sanzaro Stone & Gravel 843-6703 . . . . . Holden	Liberty Coin . . . . . 667 8160 . . . . . Ellsworth
Linscott's Auto . . . . . 746-9995 . . . . . E. Millinocket	Magoon Transport . . . . . 584-2922 . . . . . Ellsworth
McLaughlin Auto Body . . 746-2295 . . . . . E. Millinocket	Mill Mall Furniture . . . . 667-3212 . . . . . Ellsworth
Yorks Pet Supply . . . . . 723-8005 . . . . . E. Millinocket	
Stonebridge Farm . . . . . 876-3682 . . . . . Gilford	



THE LIBERTY CURRENCY  
Legal, Honest, and 100%  
backed & redeemable by Gold  
and Silver - Returning America  
to value - one dollar at a time

## THE NORFED SOLUTION : *Declaration of Monetary Liberty*

Sometimes in the course of events it becomes necessary for men and women of strong moral character to cast off the invisible economic chains of debt and taxation which bind them, and to form a more just monetary system. It is this common situation which inspired the National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act and the Internal Revenue Code (NORFED). We hold these truths as evident:

- The Federal Reserve and the Income Tax were both created in the same year - 1913. Neither are Constitutional.
- The Federal Reserve, by its own admission, is not "federal" nor has any "reserves." It is actually a private bank cartel that profits from enslaving the people with debt.
- "A heavy progressive or graduated income tax" is the Second Plank in the Communist Manifesto.
- "Centralization of credit in the hands of the State, by means of a national bank with State capital and an exclusive monopoly" is the Sixth Plank of the Manifesto.
- The American Revolution was not fought about taxes, but due to the oppressive British control over the money supply. The Colonies prospered prior to losing that control.
- According to John M. Keynes, inflation is a hidden tax that "only one man in a million is able to diagnose." \$1.00 today buys what four cents did in 1913!
- According to Lenin, "There is no surer way of overturning a society than to debauch the currency." He was referring to unlimited, un-backed government paper "money."
- According to our government's own Grace Commission Report in 1984, "not one dime of your income taxes goes to run the government or fund any program."
- According to researcher and author G. Edward Griffin in his 1997 study of the Federal Reserve, 48% of our income taxes pays the interest on the national debt.
- According to researcher and author Peter Kershaw, the day is coming when 100% taxation will not even cover the interest payments. Beyond bankruptcy!
- Federal Reserve "Notes" are IOUs that can not be nor ever will be paid.

From the beginning of time, some have always sought to control others. Now "they" strive to control us with their valueless fiat currency. NORFED turns the tables on their modus operandi by putting people at the head of the line, where money is worth the most. Now we can privatize our money and profit by introducing The Liberty Dollar. Now we can miraculously decentralize the monetary system with the simple NORFED Solution which returns the ownership of the money to the people.

# Become a Liberty Merchant today for FREE!

Ray Plumbing Co. . . . . 667-5536 . . . . . Ellsworth	Family Practice . . . . . 429-9100 . . . . . Mars Hill
Reed's Downeast Shakes 584-5621 . . . . . Ellsworth	McCrum's Saw Shop . . . . 429-9220 . . . . . Mars Hill
Sinclair Builders . . . . . 667-7477 . . . . . Ellsworth	Clifford Duff . . . . . 538-4467 . . . . . Monticello
Tate Telephone . . . . . 667-3385 . . . . . Ellsworth	Designs by the Stitch 538-9849 . . . . . Monticello
TLC Locksmith . . . . . 667-5369 . . . . . Ellsworth	MacIlroy Plumbing . . . . 532-9608 . . . . . New Limerick
Treestump Leather . . . . 584-3000 . . . . . Ellsworth	Katahdin Forest Prod . . . 757-8278 . . . . . Oakfield
West Bay Builders . . . . . 537-2231 . . . . . Ellsworth	Mike's Archery . . . . . 528-7886 . . . . . Patten
J.H. Butterfield Co. . . . 288-3386 . . . . . Bar Harbor	vinyns-books.com . . . . 528-6045 . . . . . Patten
MDI Imported Car Svcs 288-1013 . . . . . Bar Harbor	Accountant . . . . . 764-5800 . . . . . Presque Isle
John Dunbar Co. . . . . 244-5942 . . . . . Bernard	Aroostook Trusses . . . . 768-5817 . . . . . Presque Isle
R.W. Mathews & Sons . . 546-7525 . . . . . Cherryfield	Commercial Repair . . . . 764-1780 . . . . . Presque Isle
Mark's Small Engine . . . 348-6427 . . . . . Deer Isle	DRD Sound/Lighting . . . 764-0764 . . . . . Presque Isle
Cormier Construction . . 348-6943 . . . . . Deer Isle	Fred's Auto & Salvage 764-0165 . . . . . Presque Isle
M&M Salvage . . . . . 565-2457 . . . . . Franklin	Perry's Mini Mart . . . . 768-8060 . . . . . Presque Isle
S.M.W. Redemption Ctr 565-2284 . . . . . Franklin	Presque Isle Redemp . . 764-1591 . . . . . Presque Isle
P.E Nevells . . . . . 565-2265 . . . . . Eastbrook	Skyway Trailer Park . . . 764-0214 . . . . . Presque Isle
Hancock Redemption Ctr 422-3321 . . . . . Hancock	Wally's Garage . . . . . 365-4267 . . . . . Sherman Mills
Hungry Bear Restaurant . . . . . Hancock	Bartman's Towing . . . . 757-8411 . . . . . Smyrna Mills
Indian Motorcycle . . . . 422-2453 . . . . . Hancock	Langille Construction 455-4363 . . . . . Washburn
L.A. Gray Co. . . . . 422-3321 . . . . . Hancock	Central ME Orthotics . . 873-1131 . . . . . Waterville
No Frills Oil Co . . . . . 422-3581 . . . . . Hancock	Uncle Dean's . . . . . 873-6231 . . . . . Waterville
Big Al's Pit Stop . . . . . 244-9750 . . . . . Bass Harbor	Worldwide Vacations . . 872-0200 . . . . . Waterville
Artfull Designs Hair . . . 244-9062 . . . . . Southwest Harbor	J.E. Carson Co. . . . . 453-9864 . . . . . Benton
Beals Lobster Pier . . . . 244-3202 . . . . . Southwest Harbor	Big John's Repairs . . . . 437-5191 . . . . . Albion
Billie's Place . . . . . 244-7891 . . . . . Southwest Harbor	HL Keay & Sons . . . . . 437-2540 . . . . . Albion
Kozy Kove Restaurant . . 244-9607 . . . . . Southwest Harbor	Jason's Butcher Shop . . 437-2490 . . . . . Albion
Main(e) Panels . . . . . 244-5451 . . . . . Southwest Harbor	S&S Variety . . . . . 487-5482 . . . . . Burnham
C.R. Kane & Son Inc . . . 667-7832 . . . . . Surry	Swain Farm . . . . . 474-5292 . . . . . Canaan
K.J. Dugas Constr. . . . . 667-5735 . . . . . Surry	Dostie's One Stop . . . . 426-8918 . . . . . Clinton
Stanley C Saunders Con 667-7157 . . . . . Surry	Weymouth's Inc. . . . . 426-3211 . . . . . Clinton
Lynn Wallace & Son . . . 454-7805 . . . . . Crawford	Wheel House Auto Sales 257-2419 . . . . . Detroit
Beals Aircraft Service 532-9079 . . . . . Houlton	Seaman's Electric . . . . 924-7466 . . . . . Dexter
Broadway Inc. . . . . 532-4166 . . . . . Houlton	Kaw-Liga Sales . . . . . 234-2380 . . . . . Dixmont
Bruce Warman Logging . . 532-9217 . . . . . Houlton	East Newport Grocery . . 368-5940 . . . . . E. Newport
DBJ McGuire Inc. . . . . 532-9397 . . . . . Houlton	Lighthouse Bible . . . . . 453-4444 . . . . . Fairfield
Doyett's Floor . . . . . 532-2020 . . . . . Houlton	Far Out Foreign Auto . . . 924-6961 . . . . . Garland
Elm Tree Diner . . . . . 532-2113 . . . . . Houlton	Peter Hurd Trucking . . . 342-2005 . . . . . Morrill
John's Audio . . . . . 532-9285 . . . . . Houlton	Auto Parts Inc. . . . . 368-5060 . . . . . Newport
Main Street Fitness . . . 532-2300 . . . . . Houlton	Towne + Country Gift . . 368-2148 . . . . . Newport
Mitchell's Auto . . . . . 532-4936 . . . . . Houlton	K&K Garage . . . . . 368-2264 . . . . . Palmyra
Nature's Pantry . . . . . 532-0779 . . . . . Houlton	Maine Flight Center . . . 487-6000 . . . . . Pittsfield
Peggy's Dairy Bar . . . . . 532-9891 . . . . . Houlton	Mikes Body Shop . . . . . 487-3179 . . . . . Pittsfield
Richard Gogan Constr . . 532-9612 . . . . . Houlton	L&J's Seafood . . . . . 548-6267 . . . . . Searsport
Weston's Mobil . . . . . 532-3812 . . . . . Houlton	Perry's Store . . . . . 567-3392 . . . . . Stockton Springs
York's Bookstore . . . . . 532-3354 . . . . . Houlton	Discount PC . . . . . 948-7000 . . . . . Unity
Graham's Redemption . . . . . Houlton	Old Homestead Rest. . . 948-2244 . . . . . Unity
Scovil Building Supp . . 425-5731 . . . . . Blaine	
Bridgewater Inn . . . . . 429-0918 . . . . . Bridgewater	
Gold Masters . . . . . 425-7113 . . . . . Bridgewater	
N. Maine Icelandics . . . 425-7113 . . . . . Bridgewater	
James L. Harris Const 498-8406 . . . . . Caribou	
R. Harris Gen. Cont . . . 492-3541 . . . . . Caribou	
Alpine Air Filter . . . . . 488-2532 . . . . . Easton	
N. Maine Tactical . . . . 476-0000 . . . . . Ft Fairfield	
Shapiro Hay Sales . . . . 476-0000 . . . . . Ft Fairfield	
Island Falls Redemptn 463-2828 . . . . . Island Falls	
Jerrys Food Store . . . . 463-2828 . . . . . Island Falls	
Bill's Auto Body . . . . . 429-9622 . . . . . Mars Hill	



# Our National Debt The Story In Pictures

If your best friend were already \$6 trillion in debt and asked to borrow more money on the strength of his IOU, would you seriously expect to be repaid?

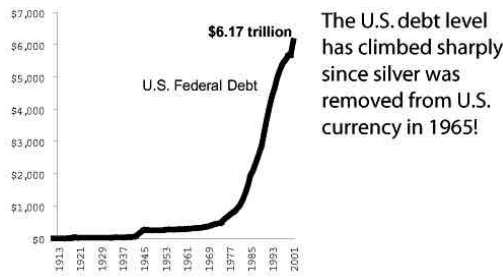
Americans have been led to believe that our national debt is a necessary evil, dating back all the way to George Washington. This is simply not the truth. It was not until the creation of the Federal Reserve System in 1913, that the government could "cook" their own books, which has led to depressions and inflations. (See graph at right.) A short twenty years later the Federal Reserve foreclosed on the Department of the Treasury, and demanded all of the gold as payment of interest. Then the "gold standard" was suspended in 1933 by HJR 192, and Fort Knox was emptied!

Instead of repealing the Federal Reserve Act, Congress has continued its profligate ways to this day. Each time it votes to raise the "ceiling" on the national debt, it is yet another admission of the bankruptcy, which can only be postponed by more borrowing. Today the interest on the debt *alone* constitutes the government's largest single expenditure, and could exceed the Gross National Product in the near future!

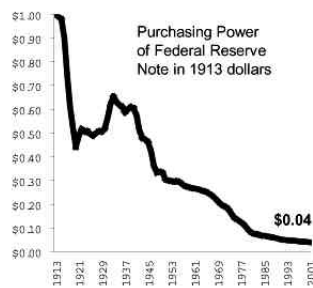
Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve operates in total secrecy, it has never been audited, it answers to no one, and it creates "money" by extending credit (i. e., debt) and printing ever more Federal Reserve Notes. The more of these debt based "dollars" in circulation, the less each one is worth - hence inflation.

Nothing less than individual and national sovereignty is at stake. By you making a conscious choice to use Liberty Dollars - American's inflation proof currency - Americans can turn away from the slavery of perpetual debt, and return to a secure future.

America's modern inflation is created when the Federal Reserve issues money backed by government debt. Known as 'fiat' currency, this monetary system enslaves the people with the debt based money.



The U.S. debt level has climbed sharply since silver was removed from U.S. currency in 1965!



The U.S. Federal Reserve Note (the "dollar") has lost 96% of its purchasing power since 1913!



On the other hand, silver has held its value and has even increased some years. Which would you rather have, the declining FRN or the stable silver?

# Liberty Dollar Miscellany

The Liberty Dollar has been acknowledged by the U. S. Treasury Department as *legal*, and the Federal Reserve's response to The Liberty Dollar was, "So be it." While part of NORFED's agenda is to see the Internal Revenue Code repealed, it is not the purpose of The Liberty Dollar to avoid the payment of lawful taxes. Nor is The Liberty Dollar "legal tender," because acceptance of Liberty Dollars is completely voluntary. The Liberty Dollar is convenient to use as it exchanges one for one with the Federal Reserve Notes but actually trades value for value like barter. It is similar to the other fifty plus "community currencies" in use around the country, but The Liberty Dollar is the only one 100% backed and 100% redeemable in .999 fine silver.

The security features of the Liberty Dollars are superior to those of the "new improved" Federal Reserve Notes. Each Silver Certificate has a secure hologram,

micro-printing, an invisible thread with a unique DNA code, and other *undisclosed* features. There are three silver denominations - \$1, \$5, and \$10 - each with a different color and length, and one \$500 gold denomination.

Although banks may not accept Liberty Dollars yet, Liberty Merchants find that the more Liberty Dollars are *used*, the better it is for their business. And the more people who use the currency in the community, the better the community is protected from the next monetary crisis or recession, because The Liberty Dollar is backed by gold and silver stored in an independent warehouse, which is fully insured, and audited *monthly* by an independent CPA.

NORFED is *not* a multi-level marketing company (MLM), as sponsorship and residual referral fees are available on a "single tier" only.

# Redemption Centers

As an example, let's suppose that the Liberty Merchant proprietor of Joe's General Store sees the potential, and decides to become a Redemption Center. For his one-time, initial fee of \$250 Joe gets one hundred Liberty Dollars, his Redemption Center sponsor receives \$100, and \$50 is retained by NORFED for administrative costs. That's it! From now on, Joe is "head of the line" in the monetary process and gets his Liberty Dollars at a discount to their face value.

So Joe spent \$250, got \$100 Liberty Dollars back and is now upside down for \$150. And as NORFED is as opposed to Joe being in debt as it is to the debt based currency, Joe gets \$100 for every RC he sponsors. When Joe

sponsors two friends or customers to become a RC too, he's up \$50. Plus, Joe gets a 5% referral fee on all of his sponsoree's currency exchanges, forever!

NORFED is a unique national organization - there are no meetings, no dues, no obligations, nor are you required to handle any redemptions as NORFED does that. Redemption Centers are just suppose to "Make money, do good, and have fun!" says Bernard von NotHaus, the Monetary Architect who designed and developed The Liberty Dollar.

To get your questions answered or to sign up a Redemption Center simply call 1-888-421-6181 or visit [www.NORFED.org](http://www.NORFED.org).

## LIBERTY MERCHANTS

Many Liberty Merchants report increased traffic flow - particularly those who build a reputation for giving change with real silver currency! (See accompanying article, "MAKING MONEY - MAKING CHANGE.") Liberty Merchants are often featured in articles in their community newspapers - especially after an "anonymous tip" to a reporter! For the enterprising entrepreneur, offering advertised sales or "specials" to holders of Liberty Dollars can be an effective business builder. And for those who understand that the debt-based Federal Reserve *Note* must eventually collapse, holding a few Liberty Dollars backed by silver cannot be a bad idea.

To sign up as a Liberty Merchant and get free advertising, fill out the coupon on the back page of this insert. Questions? Call NORFED toll-free, 1-888-421-6181, or visit them at [www.NORFED.org](http://www.NORFED.org).

## COMMUNITY CURRENCY

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# Maine Solidarity Calendar (continued from page 10)

## Weekly Repeating Events

### Sundays

#### Belfast Weekly Peace Vigil

Time: 12:00 PM  
Location: Corner of High & Main Street  
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

#### 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 youth working on building connections between youth in El Salvador & Maine, corporate control, & peace work.

#### Lewiston Peace Vigil

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

#### Rockland Peace Vigil

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

#### Portland Vigil for Peace

Time: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Location: Monument Square, Portland

#### 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)  
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 Street

#### 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  
Email: [stevbee@midcoast.com](mailto:stevbee@midcoast.com)  
Location: Historical Society, 225 Main St., Warren  
Info: Group dedicated to protesting & researching alternatives to the DOT's Route 1 widening project

#### Gay Men's Support Group Meeting

Time: 7:00 PM

Email: [centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com](mailto:centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com)  
Location: UU Church, 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. 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.

#### Location: Outright Space above Portland Glass, 832 Congress St, Portland

Info: For 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, 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.

### Groups Forming:

- A Greater Bangor Area Community Media Center is forming. For more info, meeting times, & to get involved, contact Ilze at 942-9343.

- A food/crafts/supplies cooperative is forming in Athens. For more info, meeting times, & to get involved, contact Shyam at 654-2315.

## Farmers' Markets Listing Autumn 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.

<b>Daily:</b>	
Houlton .....	794-8306
Fort Fairfield .....	473-7786
	<i>(closed Sat. and Sun.)</i>
Portland (Public Market) .....	228-2006

<b>Sundays:</b>	
Bar Harbor .....	288-4930

<b>Mondays:</b>	
Damariscotta Area .....	549-5112
Ellsworth .....	667-1220
Fort Kent .....	834-6933
Pittsfield .....	487-5056

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

<b>Wednesdays:</b>	
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

<b>Thursdays:</b>	
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



<b>Fridays:</b>	
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

<b>Saturdays:</b>	
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

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[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.**



# Maine Independent Media Resource Guide

Sept-Oct 2002

## Zine Reviews from Cal Clark

Please send more zines to: R.R.2 Box 8049, Gardiner, ME 04345 for reviews in future issues!

*Rotwife #1*, 1619 Alna Rd. Alna, ME 04535 (4X5 38pgs.)

*Rotwife* contains several short essays that are both personal and political, dealing with heartbreak, self mutilation, an overprotective mother, repression of anger and other subjects, with some rad artwork as well.

*Suicide Kisses* (5.5x4 50 pgs.)

[Kyle-xairknucklesx@juno.com](mailto:Kyle-xairknucklesx@juno.com),  
[peter-xfulleffectx@hotmail.com](mailto:peter-xfulleffectx@hotmail.com)

*Suicide Kisses*, as described by the authors, "is a last ditch attempt to raise money for Hellfest." For all of you who don't know what Hellfest is, it's a 3 day hardcore/metal festival that has taken place annually in Syracuse, New York. Pete and Kyle wrote some amazing poetry and from what I hear they sold enough copies at the fest to feed themselves for the weekend and even buy some records from the bands.

*Thus Saith The Lord*, Dugan, 851 Congress St. Apt. 5, Portland, ME 04102 (8.5x5.5 26 pgs.)

*Thus Saith the Lord* is a humorous publication out of Portland. In the past Dugan has written comical rants about capitalism, consumerism, and the horrors of school. He is able to take almost any subject and place a political analysis on it. This is the third issue dealing that consists of his boating expedition to the Caribbean, as well as his *The Great Portland to Portland Cross Country hitchhiking extravaganza*.

## Zine reviews from Dan C

*Allergic*, Mary Craft Publications, 19 Deering St, Portland, ME 04101 (\$3.00)

The debut issue of *Allergic* is an impressive compilation of original drawings and essays, and a welcome addition to the other radical zines coming out of Portland. The main feature is a radical assessment of gender coming from a transgendered perspective, drawing interesting connections to Wilhelm Reich's critiques of fascism and the nuclear family. Also included are some interesting historical accounts of Europe's former Surrealist and Lettrist and Situationist movements, along with instructions for "Surrealist Games". Each copy is uniquely handcrafted with yarn-binding and a watercolor painted cover.

*Communicating Vessels*, P.O. Box 7328, Portland, ME 04112 (\$3.00)

*Communicating Vessels* is a unique journal of revolutionary theory, and surrealist prose, complimented by some very interesting artwork. There are several pieces of refreshing original prose by the editor which offer some critical insights into the social estrangement forced on us by capitalist society. Another interesting read is "The Hellish Underworld of Day Labor" in which the author recounts his experience working for Labor Ready, while analyzing the day labor industry from a down-to-earth anti-capitalist analysis. Also noteworthy is a reprinted interview with an Iraqi anti-state communist discussing the radical labor movement in Iraq in the 60's, and a analysis of the Arab/Israeli conflict by some folks from Brighton, England's "No War But the Class War" group.

*Moss On Urban Decay*, P.O. Box 1582, Portland, ME 04104 (\$3.00)

*Moss On Urban Decay* is an informative and accessible zine chock full of news and essays pertaining to a variety of issues. Each issue contains bios of political prisoners, prisoner writings, updates on the so-called "War On Terrorism" (resistance, and what

## An Incomplete Listing of Zines Around The State

Zine - n. - "A small, handmade amateur publication done purely out of passion, rarely making a profit or breaking even." -Factsheet 5

A brief history of zines by Fred Wright, excerpt from *From Zines to Ezines*:

The true history of the zine begins in science fiction fanzines. Fanzines emerged initially out of science fiction fandom as fans began to connect with one another through the letter pages of the professional magazines such as *Amazing Stories* that published science fiction. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, science fiction fans, often geographically isolated from other fans because interest in science fiction was many (light?) years away from being a mainstream interest, in order to discuss their interest and communicate with other fans over the geographic distances began publishing their own magazines, eventually called "fanzines" to distinguish them from "prozines" like *Amazing Stories* and from "fan magazines," commercial newsstand magazines which appealed to fans of movie stars and pop singers of the time. ...These fanzines contained letters, stories, reviews, initially all related to science fiction and fantasy literature, but eventually growing into anything else that interested the publishers and readers. ...most of the characteristics associated with zines can be found in the early science fiction fanzines. ...[F]ans eventually adopted the most affordable publishing technology ...a characteristic of zines that continues today. ...In addition, the zine characteristics of noncommercial ethos (e.g., preferring to trade for other zines rather than sell one's publication), self-publishing by a small group or individual, erratic and ephemeral publishing existences, and filling a need commercial publications are not meeting, were all firmly established by science fiction fanzines in the 1930s.

From the 1970s onward, zines emerged on every subject imaginable including the collection of Pez dispensers, professional wrestling, practical anarchy, murder, and the minute details of a zine publisher's own life. Many of these publications might have remained in their own subcultural ghettos with only wrestling fans reading wrestling zines and only anarchist zine publishers corresponding with other anarchist zine publishers, were it not for the cross pollination across subcultural boundaries provided by a publication called *Factsheet Five*, whose founding publisher, Mike Gunderloy, saw commonalities in the publications produced by the members of various and diverse subcultures. ...[I]n the pages of the early *Factsheet Five*, the publications were listed in alphabetical order with the result that zines from various subcultures which previously had never known of one another's existence were listed next to one another. Thus, the publishers of science fiction fanzines read about punk zines and the publishers of libertarian political zines read about literary zines and vice versa, with the result that eventually a community of zine publishers emerged, even though initially the only things that they had in common were the medium they published in and an alienation of some sort from the mainstream culture that drove them to publish in the zine medium in the first place. ...As time progressed, zine publishers became conscious of zine publishing as a social activity that transcended subcultural borders. Others outside the community also noticed the rise in do it yourself publishing and in the late-1980s and early-1990s, zine publishing would attract attention from such mainstream sources as the academy, the mass media, and the publishing industry.

the mainstream media isn't telling you), and Native resistance struggles. Also included as a regular feature, are instructions on how to build simple, sustainable tools. Issue #2, for example, contains info on how to build a cob oven and a rocket stove. Issue #3 (due out in September) features instructions for several home-made water purifying devices. Additionally featured are plenty of other inspiring articles, lots of cool graphics, and a comprehensive list of activist resources.

## Zine reviews from Other Folks:

*Chalice of Plasma*, PO Box 7723, Lewiston, ME 04243 (sliding scale, \$1) [ewokrage@hotmail.com](mailto:ewokrage@hotmail.com)

Personal zine with observations of personal relationships, friendships, society. Issue 2 is all personal, issue 3 will be more of a fanzine for music and art. Issue 1 is being reprinted.

*The Citizen Press*, 79 Conifer Lane, Skowhegan, ME 04976 (Free) [thecitizenpress@yahoo.com](mailto:thecitizenpress@yahoo.com)

*The Citizen Press* is a free press out of Skowhegan, Maine. Although politically informative, it's not limited to any one particular leftist agenda. It's creator, Graham, describes its motivation as truth, and the vision of a better, more secure future, free from corporate rule, violence, and oppression. *The Citizen Press* works to promote that vision in every aspect of life by exposing the truth, and providing the knowledge for a better future, one in which the people have control over their own fate.

*Citizen Reporter*, PO Box 1310, Presque Isle, ME 04769 (8.5x11 4pgs) (Free)

Not to be confused with the *Citizen Press*, the *Citizen Reporter* is described by its creator, David Deschesne, as a "Pro-American, Pro-freedom, Educational Newsletter," the monthly *Citizen Reporter* is also, by definition, a zine. It offers a more libertarian and Christian slant than many of the other zines listed here. While promoting views on sexuality that many people disagree with, the *Citizen Reporter* also succeeds in providing well-researched investigations into issues such as the IRS, the Fed, property rights, and government oppression.

*Fertility Awareness for NonInvasive Birth control*, Jesse, PO Box 4281, Portland, ME 04101

[arthousecoalition@riseup.net](mailto:arthousecoalition@riseup.net) (Free)

An extremely useful, readable, and full of info zine. Includes DIY birth control and emergency menstrual promotion; Politics of Birth Control; Resources for other books and periodicals, herbs. 2nd portion is all herbal recipes. Jesse made this zine to accompany a workshop of the same title. It was designed for people to take home so that they would have all the info from the workshop. If anyone would like to host the workshop (free), contact Jesse. would need transportation. Jesse also needs help with copying and distro.

*Screw The Norm!*, RR1 Box 150, Milo, ME 04463.

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

STN! is a recent addition to the world of anarchist collectives. Striving for social awareness and education about anarchism. Making the site and webzine an effort, not just of the staff, but of all who desire to get their message heard. All submissions are highly considered by the staff, and so far, all of them have been posted. They are in need of help though, so if you want to assist them in any way, just contact them through [screwthenorm@maineindymedia.org](mailto:screwthenorm@maineindymedia.org) or snail-mail them at the above address. Currently STN! is in webzine format only; if money can be collected, the print version will be created.



## TCE : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

to DEP project geologist Rob Hoey, the levels of TCE that have been found had to have come from some kind of industrial activity. It is unlikely that the Town would have used TCE in large enough quantities for it to reach groundwater

Mike Cornett of the Maine Aviation Historical Society says that he used TCE while stationed at a Nike missile facility in Germany in the early 1970s. Cornett said the TCE, which was stored in 55-gallon drums, was applied with a paintbrush to clean the back of electrical contacts in the communications unit. "We used it liberally," says Cornett. TCE could have been used in a similar way at the Glenburn facility. TCE has been found in the groundwater beneath other Air Force facilities, including another radar tracking site in Bucks Harbor near Machiasport.

DEP has been trying to involve the Army Corps of Engineers, who manages cleanup on "formerly used defense sites," since they first began investigating the contamination in the mid-1990s. The Corps has yet to issue a formal response or take action. Meanwhile, drinking water wells continue to be tested by the Bureau of Health.

The Glenburn Town Office property is but one of hundreds of formerly used defense sites in Maine, land once owned by the Department of Defense but now in private hands. The Army Corps' Formerly Used Defense Sites Program lists over 9,000 sites across the United States; there are close to 200 sites in Maine. Roughly one-quarter of these are listed on the State's Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Sites Program List of contaminated properties. Three Defense sites in Maine are on the Superfund National Priorities list of sites that need clean up: Brunswick Naval Air Station, Loring Air Force Base, and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. At Brunswick, leaking landfills, pesticides, and various chemicals have leaked into soils, and contaminated groundwater threatens Harpswell Cove. At Loring, hazardous wastes generated and buried on the base include waste oils, fuels cleaned from aircraft and vehicles, spent solvents, PCBs, and pesticides. Wastes from shipyard activity at the Portsmouth site on Dennet's, Seavey's, Jamaica, and Clark's Islands, including battery acid, lead sludge, wastewater and spent baths from an electroplating operation, were discharged into the Piscataqua River. From 1945 until approximately 1978, 25 acres of tidal flats between two of the islands were filled with wastes including chromium-, lead-, and cadmium-plating sludge; asbestos insulation; volatile organic compounds (VOCs); waste paint and solvents; and mercury-contaminated materials.

According to Denise Messier, who oversees Department of Defense sites for the DEP, the Corps does not have the funds to clean up every single contaminated military site. Instead, money is directed to the highest priority (severely polluted) sites across the country. Only a certain portion of the budget is allocated for all of the sites in Maine. Messier said that the budgets for military site cleanup have not increased in



photo credit: Catherine Schmitt

## CONSPICUOUS REMNANTS

The massive (presumably derelict) military communications array behind the Glenburn town office has been pinpointed as a possible source of the TCE in the groundwater.

the six years she has been with DEP's Defense program. The DEP only takes action where there is a public health risk, where pollutant levels exceed the standards. For drinking water, the action level is half of the drinking water standard. Messier acknowledged that there is some uncertainty in using half of the standard as an action level, but said, "It is not our mandate to clean up all the groundwater in the state." Messier also said that an investigation of clean-up options is warranted in Glenburn,

and the DEP considers the site a priority.

Still, with the Army Corps focusing on only the dirtiest sites, places like Glenburn will continue to sit unexplored, as residents continue to drink the water and wait for action. And formerly used defense sites throughout the state, some converted to other uses and some remaining untouched, continue to stand testament to a dangerous environmental legacy of the Cold War mentality.

## Bomarc's Heyday

BANGOR -- In a scratchy black and white video from 1960, after a young girl cuts a ceremonial ribbon, military personnel and well-dressed civilians march between rows of rectangular concrete buildings. The crowd watches in awe as a giant rocket-shaped missile rises up from inside one of the buildings, in demonstration of the U.S. military's ability to protect the nation from evil Russian threats.

The scene was filmed in Bangor, and the missiles are Bomarcs. Walking the Bomarc Industrial Park today, off Burleigh Road, it is hard to imagine that it has such history. Vinyl siding and roof shingles disguise the otherwise unchanged buildings, and a chain link fence surrounds the now-quiet industrial area. Nuclear missiles capable of intercepting attacking aircraft over 250 miles away at speeds up to 2000 miles an hour could have been launched from the structures now occupied by small private businesses, storage, and the Silo Seven Bookstore.

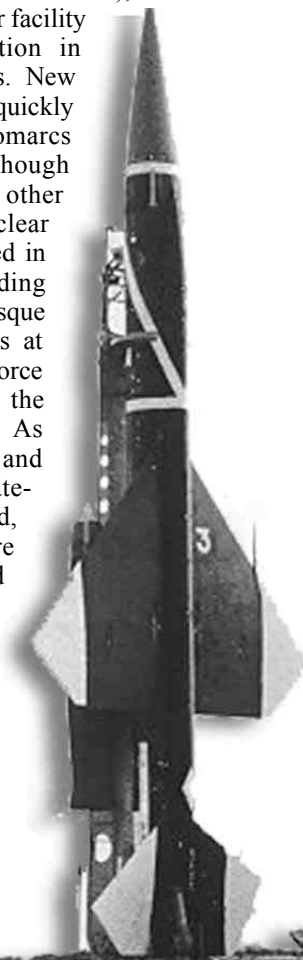
Bomarc missiles, named for their creators Boeing and the University of Michigan, were the first long-range anti-aircraft missiles. Bangor was one of ten Bomarc sites in the United States and Canada. The missiles, which were armed with nuclear warheads, were stored horizontally in four rows of seven silos. Within seconds of receiving a radar signal, the roof panels would slide open and missiles would be raised and launched into the skies.

Bomarcs were one stage in the post-World War II frenzy of military expansion. The concept of missile defense evolved as a result of the Cold War with the Soviet Union. The fear that the Russians were developing nuclear weapons

set off a technological race to develop and activate an international defense system unprecedented in military history.

The lines of missile and radar facilities that stretched across North America were intended to intercept Russian planes attacking from over the North Pole. Missile sites were constructed around major metropolitan areas, borders, and coastal extremities. In the thirty years after World War II, many of these complex defense systems would begin and end. The Bomarc missiles were only active for twelve years (1960-1972),

and the Bangor facility ceased operation in the mid-1960s. New technologies quickly made the Bomarcs obsolete, although there were other types of nuclear missiles housed in Maine, including Snarks in Presque Isle and Nikes at Loring Air Force Base in the Caribou area. As technology and defense strategies changed, facilities were closed and sold, or else were converted to other uses.



## Something In The Water

BY CATHERINE SCHMITT

All Tammy Collins wanted to know was whether her kids were being poisoned. She had no idea how difficult it would be to find the answer.

A chemical called trichloroethylene, or TCE for short, had been found in the groundwater near Tammy's home in Glenburn, where she has lived for ten years. Fear spread through her thoughts, echoing the question, "What is coming out of my tap?"

Anxious to find out what she and her two children have been drinking all these years, Tammy called the Department of Environmental Protection for information on TCE, but received little help. Tammy then called the Glenburn Town Office, hoping to get her water sampled, and was told in what she thought was a condescending manner, "Don't worry about it."

The town said it would not pay for a water test. "I think they're all messed up and they don't have the people's interest as their priority. I think they're worried about how much money it's going to cost them," says a frustrated Tammy about the town officials.

Tammy lives in Homestead Estates, a mobile home park located just south of the Glenburn Town Office. The Town Office is the site of a former Air Force radar tracking facility and is believed to be the source of the TCE. Tammy's water comes from one of two drilled wells that serve the entire park. Because the wells at Homestead Estates are considered a public water supply, the state is required to sample the wells every year. DEP has detected TCE intermittently in these wells since the mid-1980s, although never at levels higher than the drinking water standard of five parts per billion (ppb) set by the EPA.

The Bureau of Health takes action when the levels reach above half of the standard (2.5 ppb for TCE). The last testing was in July of 2001, when the level of TCE was 1.2 ppb. According to Jeff Folger of the Drinking Water Program, the state has until December of 2002 to take another sample. But for Tammy, that is too long to wait. She wants a sample from her tap inside her home. "I would just feel so much better if my water was tested from my tap," she says. "I want to know what's coming out of my house and into our bodies."

According to the Center for Disease Control's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, drinking small amounts of TCE-contaminated water for long periods of time may cause liver and kidney damage, and impaired immune system function. The International Agency for Cancer Research, part of the World Health Organization, classifies TCE as "probably carcinogenic to humans." But the extent of TCE's effects on humans is not well understood.

Naji Akladiss, the DEP project manager, has said that he wouldn't drink the water




**TAMMY : CONTINUED FROM PG. 13**

with even low levels of TCE. Yet residents are expected to continue drinking the water or make other arrangements at their own expense, as long as levels remain below half of the drinking water standard. "As far as I'm concerned," says Tammy, "I don't care if it's .5. I don't want to drink it. I've been buying spring water. We go through a lot of water. I'm not cooking with it, I'm not making coffee with it, I'm even concerned about washing with it."

As a single working mother, Tammy's financial resources are strained. She does not have the \$80 it will cost to get her drinking water sampled, and thinks it's unfair that she should have to pay for it. The state testing laboratory will grant a fee waiver in some cases, but documentation of Medicaid, food stamps, or other public assistance is required.

Tammy, who works hard to be self-sufficient, now finds herself unable to pay for a water test yet not qualified for a waiver. "I make a minimum amount of pay, I have a mortgage, I have lot rent, I have bills just like everybody else. I do not get food stamps, I do not get Medicaid, I don't get any help from the state whatsoever, I pay all my bills on my own and they come in here, they do this stuff, and I have to pay for the water test? It's not right."

Tammy is not alone in her anger. People who suddenly find out that their drinking water may be contaminated often have a difficult time getting answers. City and town officials don't want their town to be known as a dirty or unhealthy place to live, so they keep things quiet. Health departments are primarily concerned with how much of chemical is in the water and its associated health risk, because their resources must be spread across the state. Those responsible for the pollution may or may not be known, or may no longer own the property.

In the Glenburn case, the U.S. government sold the property in 1967. Contamination was not discovered until twenty years later. The DEP is meeting with the US Army Corps of Engineers to get them to takeover remediation activities. Until that happens, residents like Tammy must wait for new rounds of sampling. Or pay for their own test.

And what if TCE is found in her water? Tammy has considered moving. "I'm not going to live in a place where I can't drink the water," she says. Tammy doesn't know if the other residents of Homestead know about the contamination, because as she says, "Glenburn really hasn't made that much of a big deal about it, and I don't think that they've warned people enough."

Tammy is determined. "I will just feel better once I know what is actually coming out of my tap," she says strong but calm, unfettered by anyone who may think she is hysterical or paranoid. "If they find TCE, what else is there? What else is in the water?"

She'll just have to wait and see.

## 10 Things To Remember When Dealing With The Police

Maine lawyer Phil Worden offers some advice that could help you if you're at an event where the authorities show up.

### Don't's

**1.** Don't be surprised if the police don't read you your rights. Under the Miranda decision, police only have to read you your rights if you are being subjected to "custodial interrogation." Thus if you are held in custody but are not being interrogated, they do not have to read you the Miranda rights. Similarly, if you are being interrogated but are not being held in custody - even if the interrogation is at the police station - they do not have to read you your rights. But your rights still apply even though Miranda does not require the police to inform you of those rights.

**2.** Don't consent to searches and seizures. The police do not need to establish probable cause or have a warrant if the suspect "consents" to a search or seizure. There is no equivalent to the Miranda decision under the Fourth Amendment prohibition against "unreasonable searches and seizures" so there is never a time when the police must inform you of your rights under the Fourth Amendment. Your body is being "seized" any time the police interfere with your freedom of movement in a significant way. A brief "investigatory detention" - such as the typical traffic "stop" or a "pat and frisk" - only requires the officer to have an "objectively reasonable, articulable suspicion." A full arrest or custodial detention for prolonged interrogation requires "probable cause." In most cases, officers must have a warrant to arrest for a misdemeanor unless it was committed in the officer's presence.

**3.** Don't talk about your arrest, even with fellow prisoners. Some arrestees tend to "brag" about their arrests to fellow prisoners. These conversations are not privileged and can be used against you. The police can (and do) monitor conversations among prisoners and sometimes plant undercover agents among the prisoners.

**4.** Don't argue the law with the police. It's good to assert your rights and to let the police know that you know your rights. But it's not a good idea to argue the law with the police. For example, if presented with a search warrant you believe is invalid, it is good to assert that you do not consent to the search and will yield only because they have a search warrant. It is not a good idea to start arguing with them about why you think the affidavit fails to establish probable cause, etc. If the police do something you think is illegal, it is good to try to document what happened but if you try to intervene to prevent the illegality, the police are likely to arrest you on charges varying from interfering with governmental administration to resisting arrest ... or even assault.

**5.** Don't threaten or resist the police. You have a First Amendment right to protest what the police are doing. This can include using colorful language and profanity. But you have no right to threaten the police, challenge them with "fighting words" or to physically resist their actions.

### Do's

**1.** Assert your right to remain silent. If you are being interrogated, there are two acceptable ways to cut off questioning: 1) simply say that you do not wish to answer any questions and want to assert your Fifth Amendment right to remain silent; or 2) say you wish to consult with an attorney before answering any questions.

**2.** Ask if you are free to leave. There are lots of cases in which the police have "asked" a suspect to come to the station where they are subjected to an intense interrogation in a back room. The police claim that these are not custodial interrogations because the suspect "consented" to come to the station and was always free to leave. So ask if you are free to leave - or better yet, whether you have to go to the police station in the first place - and make it clear that you want to leave if you are free to do so. If they say you are free to leave - even if they discourage you from leaving by saying they will get a warrant - get up and leave.

**3.** Ask to call your attorney. This is almost always a good idea. It should stop an interrogation. However, you have no right to consult with an attorney before submitting to a lawful seizure under the Fourth Amendment. For example, in a drunk driving case, a suspect who insists on calling an attorney before deciding whether to submit to a blood alcohol test will be logged as a "refusal" since there is no right to consult with an attorney before submitting to the test. Blood, hair, and voice samples, like fingerprints, are "seizures" under the Fourth Amendment, not "testimonial evidence" under the Fifth Amendment.

**4.** Write down what happened and who the potential witnesses are as soon as you get home. It is amazing how quickly the human memory fades.

**5.** Stay calm and confident. Police read body language and look for a "consciousness of guilt." So stay calm and confident. Make it clear that although you have nothing to hide, as a matter of principle you are going to exercise all your legal rights.

## The Streets Belong to the People!

BY PHIL WORDEN

I want to explain some of the legal and political issues that are beginning to emerge in the Rt. 1 civil disobedience cases. I will first explain what happened, then what the First Amendment issue looks like, and finally how the legal issues raise profound political concerns.

### Will The Truth Set Them Free?

Any good legal defense must be based solidly on the truth. By "truth," I mean what the evidence will show at the trial, including the state's evidence. Here then is some of what I believe the evidence when viewed in the *light most favorable to the police* will show:

Several years ago, the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) developed a plan to incrementally widen parts of Route 1 to bring it into conformance with federal highway law. After holding public hearings on the various phases of the project, MDOT became aware that there was considerable opposition to the planned widening, especially in Warren. People were angry both at the undemocratic way MDOT ran the public hearings and how it ignored the public's concern that the Warren widening involved cutting trees, including the famous "Elephant Tree." They organized protests against the widening and planned to resist the tree cutting.

During the work week of June 10-14, protestors nonviolently interfered with MDOT's attempt to widen the Warren section of Rt 1. Unsure how to proceed, MDOT stopped work, and, on June 13th, MDOT officials met with District Attorney Rushlau along with representatives from the Sheriff's Office as well as the State Police, to develop a plan on how to deal with the protestors. They decided that if any protestor interfered with MDOT's work, an officer would warn the protestor to leave and, if the protestor refused, they would arrest the protestor for "criminal trespass." To protect the protestors' First Amendment rights, they decided not to ban the protests altogether but to establish clear lines where those who wished to protest the cuttings could do so without interfering with MDOT's crews.

On Friday, June 14th, Timothy Sullivan and Susan Higgins were arrested pursuant to the plan developed the day before. They allegedly refused to follow police orders to move to the areas approved for protest. On the next work day, Monday June 17th, even more protestors appeared at the site. Some chained themselves around trees or climbed into them in an attempt to save the trees by "laying their bodies on the line." Others only wanted to protest the cuttings without getting arrested.

Knox County Deputy Sheriff Lt. Lawrence Hesseltine was the officer in charge. As MDOT crews would approach a tree for cutting, he would create bubble zones around the tree in which the protes-

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tors would be excluded so the MDOT crews could do their job. Any protestors who remained within the bubble zone (including those in, or chained to, the tree) were warned to leave and then quickly arrested for criminal trespass. The rest of the protestors were ordered to remain behind the lines established by Lt. Hesselstine, but were free to protest from behind those lines. Lt. Hesselstine established these bubble zones not only so the MDOT crews could cut the trees unhindered, but to protect the protestors from getting hurt during the cutting as well.

### What's A Woman's Right to Choose Got to Do With It?

The law on establishing bubble zones to prevent the exercise of First Amendment rights from interfering with the exercise of other legal rights is most developed in the context of preventing abortion protestors from interfering with a woman's right to choose. Therefore, the caselaw in the abortion clinic context must be consulted to evaluate the legality of Lt. Hesselstine's actions pursuant to the enforcement plan developed on June 13th by MDOT, the DA and the various police agencies.

When protestors first began interfering with women entering abortion clinics, the police could not offer much assistance because the streets are a traditional "forum" for the exercise of First Amendment Rights. A clinic would have to go to court to get an injunction prohibiting protests in those areas deemed essential for the clinic to carry-on its lawful activities. It would take a judge - trained in the intricacies of First Amendment law and only after hearing evidence from both sides - to draw limited "bubble zones" in the public sidewalks and streets around the clinic in which protests would be banned. The legal standard for these bubble zones is that they can "burden no more speech than necessary." The other alternative open to the clinics was to lobby for a statute or local ordinance to regulate more generally where, when, and how all protests could take place in the public streets.

In the First Amendment cases arising from the anti-choice movement, the U.S. Supreme Court has made it very clear that it will review a judge-drafted injunction more rigorously than a legislatively drafted statute or ordinance. The reason for this heightened scrutiny of injunctions is a concern that a judge's use of his or her power would inevitably reflect his or her personal biases on the particular issue being protested, such as abortion. As the Court explains, "Injunctions also carry greater risks of censorship and discriminatory application than do general ordinances. '[T]here is no more effective practical guaranty against arbitrary and unreasonable government than to require that the principles of law which officials would impose upon a minority must be imposed generally.'" *Madsen v Women's Health Center* (US Fla 1994).

The MDOT-law enforcement decision on June 13th to delegate to Lt. Hesselstine the authority to create similar bubble zones shocks the conscience when viewed in the light of the US Supreme Court's worry that even a trained judge can so easily abuse

this power. "Police State" is the technical term for a system that allows the police to decide the line between legitimate protest and illegal interference with valid governmental interests. The District Attorney's June 13th delegation of that power to Lt. Hesselstine has no basis in Anglo-American jurisprudence.

The problem underlying this unconstitutional delegation to the police is probably that the District Attorney *assumed* that since MDOT is a governmental agency with the legal authority to build roads and even

photo credit: Hillary Lister



### TO PROVOKE AND SEVER

Various law officers en route to arrest tree-sitters and keep the media away at the Elephant tree protest, June 18, 2002. The cop on the ladder really enjoys his job.

seize private property, law enforcement could do anything they thought "reasonable" to protect MDOT's "right" to cut trees, as though the streets were MDOT's private property. But these same law enforcement officials would never take it upon themselves to create such bubble zones in the streets around abortion clinics. The only real distinction between a women's clinic and MDOT is that a woman's right to choose is of constitutional dimension while MDOT's right to cut trees is merely statutory. By establishing a double standard for law enforcement based upon *who* the target of the protests is, the Knox County District Attorney has inadvertently strayed into regulating free speech based on its content ... the taboo of all First Amendment law.

Had MDOT sought an injunction against the protestors for interfering with its project, not only would a neutral judge rather than Lt. Hesselstine have drawn the line between legitimate protest and illegal interference with MDOT's widening project, but the protestors could have challenged the *legality* of the widening itself. As will be seen, the protestors had good grounds to support such a challenge.

Because the Maine Constitution requires all funds raised from gasoline and road taxes to go straight into the highway fund, MDOT is not subject to the same degree of democratic oversight as other state bureaucracies; the Legislature simply does not control MDOT's purse strings. Concerned that MDOT was pursuing an out-of-control transportation policy of expanding roads without considering the alternatives, the people of Maine passed a popular initiative in 1991 requiring MDOT to follow a "Sensible Transportation Policy,"

This Act, however, only applies to "significant" highway projects, a term the Act does not define. MDOT used its administrative rule-making authority to pass rules under the Act that, among other things, define the words "significant highway project." The definition that MDOT internally adopted defines "significant highway project" so the Sensible Transportation Act does not apply to the Warren project. Thus MDOT uses its internal rules to claim that it can ignore the Sensible Transportation Policy Act because the widening of Rt. 1 is

not a "significant" project(!) Significantly, however, these same rules also say:

*Individual projects or segments may not appear to be significant highway projects when viewed in isolation, but may cumulatively constitute significant highway projects. This rule is not intended to permit a process by which incrementally planned highway projects ultimately result in constructing a significant highway project without undergoing the evaluation and process required by this section.*

Although courts usually defer to an administrative agency's interpretation of its own rules, given the legislative history that the Sensible Transportation Policy Act was forced on MDOT by the people precisely to curb its abuse of power, a court might well have agreed with the protestors that MDOT's attempt to define its way out of compliance with the Sensible Transportation Policy Act on a project as significant as the widening of Route 1 was self-serving, an abuse of its power, and flatly inconsistent with the will of the people.

But, of course, rather than seek an injunction - as women's clinics were required to do - MDOT decided to let the police rather than the courts decide (or, probably more accurately, *assume*) both the legality of MDOT's project and the limits of the protestors' First Amendment rights.

### Widen the Issues, Not the Road!

The main political weakness of the widening opposition is the ease with which the media can present the protest as a petty "NIMBY" issue ("not in my back yard"). To be sure, some of the leading opponents of the project live on Rt 1 and are losing their lawns and trees. But the issues go much deeper than these narrow self-inter-

ests and the protestors need to bring the broader issues into the open.

MDOT, as a perpetually self-funding paving bureaucracy, opens Maine to globalization. They see this process as inevitable and scramble to keep up with the increased traffic that both causes - and reflects - this uncontrolled development process. Whether one considers: the paper companies' self-proclaimed need to squeeze more and more out of our forests to "compete in the global market" only to then change an ownership pattern that provided stability in the North Maine Woods for 150 years; or how the delivery of processed commodities from massive agribusiness has all but destroyed the Maine family farm; or how the need to serve the influx of summer residents into "Vacationland," has "gentrified" the Maine Coast by uprooting the local fishermen and women with rising real estate prices affordable only by out-of-state summer residents; a continually expanding road system is the essential ingredient for all these trends to open Maine's resources to global exploitation. Rubbed-out in this process of global consolidation are the crusty Maine Yankees, whose fierce independence stemmed from the security of making their living from the their own wood lot, farm, or boat. Even our mills succumb as the roads bring cheaper commodities produced in even more oppressive mills from around the world, leaving labor to blindly lobby for the protection of "our" (!) mills over "their" mills. Our children are now offered new "opportunities" from this "economic development" in fast food joints, "big boxes," and in chain motels as maids, etc. With its vast forests and coastline, Maine has always been one of the richest states in the country; it is only the people who are poor. Of all these trends, the relentless paving machine is the symbol.

It is only against this background that the deeper significance of the protests against MDOT begins to emerge: the battle to tame this rogue bureaucracy is a battle for democracy itself. Just at the time when global consolidation of power in the hands of a few seemed inevitable, a new movement is rising in Maine - as it is around the world - to assert the power of the people. If the ballot box represents its passive side, street demonstrations represent the active, participatory side of democracy. The peoples' power has always been in the streets.

It is difficult to find an historic precedent for the social change coming over the horizon. Like crippled, crazy Captain Ahab heading out in his factory ship against Whiteness on the eve of the Civil War, sober Commissioner John Melrose heads his paving machines at the Tree of Liberty to bring us a new post-liberal "progress."

Standing in his way, however, is a handful of protestors willing to lay their bodies on the line. Their cases now stand in the courts and no one knows what will happen to them. Some question whether these petty cases are really that important. The real question, however, is whether in this prolonged "one struggle with many fronts" others will join the "good fight" or whether these protestors will get isolated and forgotten ... thereby once again feeding the cynicism that "you can't beat city hall." But that, of course, is a question that can only be answered by action rather than words.



# ACROSTIC #284

by Herschel Sternlieb

Quote's Author: Franco Nogueira

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 5.

- A. Winces, draws away. 39 18 75 141 86 2 74 130
- B. Pay up 104 215 25 56 127
- C. The financial bottom ( 2 wds) 14 102 92 202 6 142 213 229 71 70 84 36 228
- D. Stair case support 153 108 198 26 226
- E. Onward\_\_\_\_. Religious call to action. ( 2 wds) 191 224 117 152 180 151 209 105 172 115 60 158 45 205 22 188 82
- F. The\_\_\_\_Poker Flats. (2 wds) 68 178 110 211 150 107 73 34 20 61
- G. Tobacco's addictive element. 222 192 120 187 162 128 101 79
- H. \_\_\_\_hazard or safety. 72 174 99 146 51 85 148 212 132 30 7 13
- I Consumed greedily ( 2 wds) 19 12 136 230 214 166 109 133 57
- J. Author of "The Jungle." (2 wds) 29 116 171 225 63 197 159 47 55 134 217 96 208
- K. Empirical knowledge. 44 168 114 189 1 220 67 129 121 182 58
- L. \_\_\_\_Economy\_\_\_\_ ( 2 wds followed by one wd) Carvelles saying. 53 112 33 95 78 5 218 87 41 207 118 236
- M. Elihu before, beer after. 201 40 111 48
- N. What criminals display. ( 2 wds) 156 11 203 106 231 97 184 140 80 31 9 196 216 66 21 169 173 165
- O. \_\_\_\_Zee Bridge. 181 100 122 138 193 42
- P. \_\_\_\_Universe. Boston. (3 wds) 163 126 219 62 160 28 113 232
- Q. Reverberates 32 177 149 190 164 170
- R. An idea that is demonstrably true. 147 49 235 46 154 221 179
- S. Mark Twain's literary pal. 131 90 223 161 123 157 38
- T. Coming between two parties . (noun) 35 98 77 200 176 234 59 8 83 195 145 24
- U. Combination of sauerkraut and pastrami. 23 167 17 125 10 183
- V. Put off. Delay 135 185 16 103 4
- W. Young women 15 143 76 94 199 137 206
- X. Getting better. (3 wds) 89 210 194 204 124 65 93 27 43

1	K	2	A	3	Z	4	V	5	L	6	C	7	H	8	T	9	N	10	U	11	N	12	I						
13	H	14	C	15	W	16	V	17	U	18	A	19	I	20	F	21	N	22	E	23	U	24	T	25	B	26	D	27	X
28	P	29	J	30	H	31	N	32	Q	33	L	34	F	35	T	36	C	37	Z	38	S	39	A						
40	M	41	L	42	O	43	X	44	K	45	E	46	R	47	J	48	M	49	R	50	Z	51	H	52	Y				
53	L	54	Z	55	J	56	B	57	I	58	K	59	T	60	E	61	F	62	P	63	J	64	Y	65	X				
66	N	67	K	68	F	69	Z	70	C	71	C	72	H	73	F	74	A	75	A	76	W	77	T						
78	L	79	G	80	N	81	Y	82	E	83	T	84	C	85	H	86	A	87	L	88	Z	89	X	90	S				
91	Y	92	C	93	X	94	W	95	L	96	J	97	N	98	T	99	H	100	O	101	G	102	C	103	V				
104	B	105	E	106	N	107	F	108	D	109	I	110	F	111	M	112	L	113	P	114	K	115	E	116	J				
117	E	118	L	119	Z	120	G	121	K	122	O	123	S	124	X	125	U	126	P	127	B	128	G	129	K				
130	A	131	S	132	H	133	I	134	J	135	V	136	I	137	W	138	O	139	Y	140	N	141	A	142	C	143	W		
144	Z	145	T	146	H	147	R	148	H	149	Q	150	F	151	E	152	E	153	D	154	R	155	Z						
156	N	157	S	158	E	159	J	160	P	161	S	162	G	163	P	164	Q	165	N	166	I	167	U						
168	K	169	N	170	Q	171	J	172	E	173	N	174	H	175	Z	176	T	177	Q	178	F	179	R	180	E	181	O		
182	K	183	U	184	N	185	V	186	Z	187	G	188	E	189	K	190	Q	191	E	192	G	193	O	194	X	195	T		
196	N	197	J	198	D	199	W	200	T	201	M	202	C	203	N	204	X	205	E	206	W	207	L						
208	J	209	E	210	X	211	F	212	H	213	C	214	I	215	B	216	N	217	J	218	L	219	P	220	K	221	R		
222	G	223	S	224	E	225	J	226	D	227	Z	228	C	229	C	230	I	231	N	232	P	233	Y	234	T	235	R		
236	L																												

- Y. Thief 52 139 91 81 64 233
- Z. Cotton cloth that imitates flax. 227 175 69 3 88 155
- Z1Day and the Menace. 144 50 54 119 37 186

## On the Road with the Nomadic Art and Healing Brigade part 2 of 2

In Issue #7 (pg.13), the Beehive Design Collective and Deviant Information by Yentas\* (DIY) introduced their vision of an ongoing mobile infoshop and educational tour. We conclude the article here:

Throughout the trip folks in the Brigade were continually asked (and asked each other) what do these seemingly unrelated groups have to do with each other?

"By the end of our tour we found some very exciting common ground," said a Bee. "We are two groups of young radicals trying to learn from the mistakes of movements in the past. We have all chosen to share healthy ways to live and take care of each other."

Both groups are interested in the process of things.

"Working in mosaic is one strategy

the Beehive has found to communicate more than a reaction against this tragic world," explained a Bee. "Talking politics in pictures is healthy for the viewer and for the people making it. Art can be like a pillow to help us think with open minds when we are confronted with scary information," reflected one Bee. "Mosaic is an exercise of looking at the big picture and the little picture - a meditation on all the pieces that fit together to make the world we live.

"Out of desperation we make art and out of desperation we speak out about the abuses in our society. Making art and speaking out are also ways of taking our despair and turning it into something else."

Deviant Information by Yentas' focus on supporting every survivor of abuse is the same process, caring about every individual while confronting a complex system of violence and

oppression. "As folks working for radical social change, if we're not fighting the good fight, it's not worth winning," said Yareak.

The connections between the two groups of the Nomadic Art and Healing Brigade coalesced with a shared project.

"We are reaching out for survivors and abusers to go through a healing process, using art to create a space for healing," said a Bee. "We are asking for submissions of art and stories about healing processes."

The submissions can either describe a healing process or be something that was created as a form of healing, and be sent to the Beehive in Machias. The Brigade will create a collage from these submissions. The other project that lingers after the tour is to create an illustrated packet of useful information about abuse within radical communities.

"This winter we had time to think

about how abuse affects people and communities," one Bee reflected one sunny afternoon in Machias. "Now we are home to work on ourselves and our own activist community as we make ties with people in Washington county, our community if place. The Beehive chose to work in Washington County to serve the needs of a community where people are struggling to live in an area made poor from years of failing industries. Like all communities, it should be a safe place for people to live and heal."

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

Deviant Information by Yentas:  
<http://www.angelfire.com/realml2/diyentas>

Beehive Design Collective  
3 Elm St  
Machias, ME 04654  
<http://www.beehivecollective.org>



## News From Away

Media Democracy Day  
October 18th

Media Democracy Day is an occasion to push for and promote a media system that informs and empowers all members of society. It offers an opportunity to create and link grassroots media and build alternatives to the present media monopolies. It will connect existing pockets of critical and creative media projects with broader social movements.

There are three themes for Media Democracy Day:

•Protest - against a media system based on commercialization and exclusiveness.

•Educate - help others to understand how the media shapes our world & limits democracy.

•Change - call for a media culture that encourages citizen participation and responds to public interests. Demand diversification of media control, equitable representation and community access.

For Updates Visit:

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

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

OR

Listen to WERU radio or write the Maine Commons for updates.

## Biddeford Public Access Update

Biddeford Public Access TV is still in limbo. Government access has returned to the air in the form of Chamber of Commerce meetings, workshops, and other such affairs. Former Biddeford Public Access producer Richard Rhames suspects that Educational access may also soon be allowed to air, and through that the local officials would allow the return of popular school sports games and performances. The cable committee is working on a proposal that would bring back public access, but in a restricted form. Possible restrictions include: not allowing material produced outside of Biddeford to be shown anytime other than late night/early morning on weekdays (with exceptions for material from approved educational institutions); restricting the amount of live programming; requiring full names of all callers to live programs; preventing (until the complaint is "processed") repeated airing of live programming if a complaint is filed against a show; requiring a staff member to be present to supervise all live programming. Richard is hoping that a more pro-access proposal goes to the cable committee, so that if the committee (which wants to restrict public access) wants to change any part of it, the public will have a chance to speak on each amendment. Most changes in Biddeford public access (most notably, its shut-down) have taken place without public notification or input.

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Urgent Call For Observers at  
Oneida Indian Territory

*In late December, 2001, several people working with Maine Indymedia and other groups answered a call for observers from the Oneida Nation in upstate New York, where Ray Halbritter has claimed illegitimate power over the last native sovereign nation left within US borders. Their hope was to get the word out to the rest of the country about what is happening to them. Maine IMC has video footage of interviews and gestapo tactics perpetrated by those on Halbritter's payroll. On August 22, 2002, we received this message (edited for length):*

My name is Danielle Schenandoah Patterson. My children and I are Oneida citizens of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy in upstate New York. I am requesting for immediate supporters and legal observers to come to the Oneida Indian Territory. Private home owners, residents of this long-standing community, are facing eviction and the destruction of their houses at the order of the illegitimate government of Arthur Ray Halbritter. Halbritter's 'leadership' was imposed upon the Oneida people, against their will, by the BIA, the federal Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. He has since created a dictatorship and established the "Oneida Indian Nation of New York," a **corporation** disguised as a nation.

Halbritter wields power only through this federal recognition. The Iroquois Six Nations Confederacy has continuously notified the BIA that Halbritter does not represent the Oneida people, as he does not follow elective nor traditional forms, but there is **no process through which the people can remove him from this appointed federal position**. A men's council government (unheard of amongst the Iroquois) was established by Halbritter, on his payroll to validate all his decisions.

In May 1995, a peaceful March for Democracy was held on Oneida homelands. The participants in the March were exercising their rights to choose their own leadership and government, opposing the federal imposition of Halbritter and BIA treaty violations. In retaliation, Halbritter took tribal membership away from over 200 Oneida participants, stripping them of their tribal benefits, including employment and education benefits, and right to participate in tribal affairs. He also closed down our food bank that serviced 280

## Commons Camera: candid snapshots of our readers

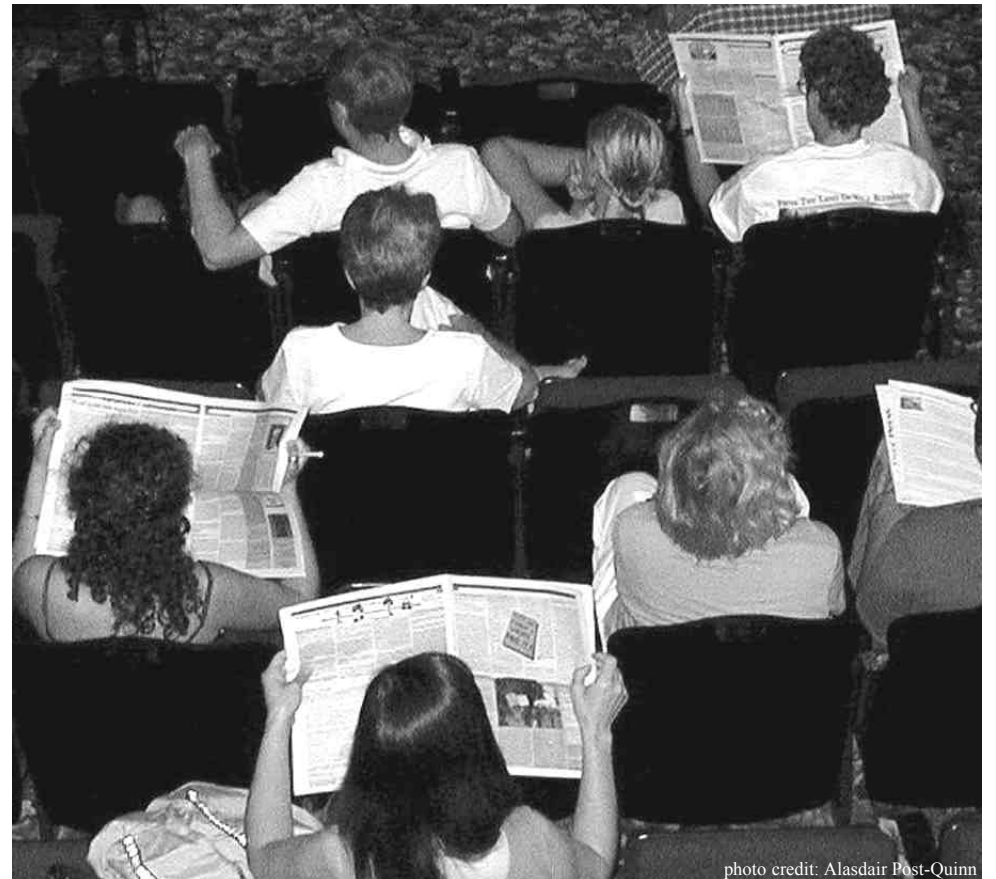


photo credit: Alasdair Post-Quinn

Issue #7 is well received by the Camdenites before the Jane Holtz Kay talk ... send us your photos of people reading the Maine Commons! We'll do our best to include one in each issue.

native people. Halbritter then locked our longhouse (traditional religious building and center of the community) and banned all traditional activity and ceremonies. He threatened that any Oneida found entering any tribally owned buildings would be arrested.

The Territory residents learned from the local media that the Halbritter administration had announced a "Beautification Project 2001" where our homes would now be inspected, condemned, and demolished under the guise of health and safety. The territory families' homes were destroyed although some of those homes were 1990 models or newer. In one year, eleven Iroquois families were evicted and their homes demolished. The only option these displaced families were given was to pay rent to the Halbritter administration for homes outside of this community. The remaining residents rejected the Halbritter-sanctioned inspections because they only lead to eviction. The local media was present when this announcement was made by the territory residents.

I was called yesterday by media and asked for a statement on the August 8th decision of an appeal of the eviction of my family and destruction of our home. Halbritter's tribal court ordered the demolition of my home to be executed by no later than September 15th, 2002. I was shocked as I was unaware of this decision. I immediately went to Halbritter's legal office to obtain my paperwork on this order. I was denied the demolition order, even though it's publicly accessible.

My three children's & my inherited birthrights of this country are being violated. Although my home meets and exceeds all New York State safety and housing codes, we are going to be made homeless with no financial means as we have to seek all future accommodations at our own

expense. I have been a prisoner, unable to leave my home unattended in fear of when the demolition & eviction will occur. There is no justice in this tribal court since Halbritter has final decision over any and all appeals. Because I do not recognize this illegal dictatorship under Ray Halbritter, "whatever it takes" measures are being used against me and the remaining families to remove us from our inherited birthrights to live as Haudenosaunee free people upon our indigenous land.

I ask for anyone who opposes violators of civil, constitutional, religious, and human rights to please aid us in our stand to exercise our right to fight with the truth and save my home as well as the homes of the other remaining residents who all face the same fate. We are in need of financial assistance and legal observers to come to the Oneida Territory. Help us to record inhumane and cruel treatment and actions forced upon Indian people by the hired non-native paramilitants.

Rules: NO WEAPONS, NO DRUGS, NO ALCOHOL We are maintaining our peaceful presence, our community rejects any violence to be used as the excuse for Halbritter to execute every last one of us here fighting for our rights.

Directions: Off NY State Thruway exit 33, make left onto Rt. 365 follow to end to Rt. 5, make right and at the intersection of Friendly's restaurant make left onto RT. 46 S, 3 1/2 miles make left at intersection of blinking light, check-in point is last home on the left side at end of road. Please bring tents, any and all recording devices, walkie-talkies, supplies, and food. At any given moment the paramilitary may be here to evict and demolish.

[www.Oneidasfordemocracy.org](http://www.Oneidasfordemocracy.org)  
Oneidas for Democracy, PO Box 555,  
Oneida, NY 13421 (315-363-2304)



# NEWS BLURBS

short attention span news compiled by sterren

**Outhouses and payphones are two useful structures** both rapidly disappearing from the state. The number of Maine homes without indoor plumbing dropped by about 6,700 between 1990 and 2000. With that has come the disappearance of the outhouse, which, when well-set up, is in many ways more environmentally healthy and sustainable than a flush toilet. Social stigma attached to not having a flush toilet, increasing suburban and new development, and low-income aid and loans that require one install indoor plumbing have all led to the decline of Maine outhouses. Additionally, 1700 payphones have been eliminated in Maine since 1998. Verizon owns most of the phones, and is removing phones that they find to be no longer cost effective (one wonders of the true cost of maintaining a pay phone.) Increased cell phone ownership and a dropping population in some parts of the state have led to decreasing profitability of pay phones. Phil Lindley of the Public Utilities Commission has reported complaints about the phone removals and is concerned how the removals could affect public safety and people who use pay phones because they can't afford a cell phone.

**Maine papers have recently been full of articles selling** the strength of Maine's economy. The Kennebec Journal pointed to Banknorth's record earnings in the past quarter. It went on to attribute the success of Banknorth, owner of People's Heritage Bank in Maine, to increases in commercial and consumer mortgages and loans, and buyouts of smaller banks in the New England area. The Kennebec Journal also ran an interview with the director of the Maine Center for Economic Policy, titled, "Maine's economy: 'Better than many states'." That title comes from the fact that the unemployment rate in Maine right now is lower than the national rate. That possibly optimistic fact is dampened by the statement in the Bangor Daily article on the "Rise in Maine jobless rate" that "The [Maine] economy really has not felt the full impact of the recession that was felt nationally. We're usually six months to a year behind." Several articles pointed out the statistic that Maine had a net gain of 1,000 jobs between January and July. They tended to not emphasize the fact that a bulk of those new jobs, especially north of Portland, are service industry positions like cashiers and stockers at Wal-Mart, which are rarely full time, pay significantly below a living wage, are not unionized, and offer few if any benefits. Articles in both the Bangor Daily and the Portland Press Herald did acknowledge that most hiring and economic growth in Maine is concentrated in the southern tip of the state. The Lewiston Sun-Journal appeared to have more sober and straightforward articles on the current state of Maine's economy.

**There are a couple of economic developments that actually do look good** for Maine people. A 50 employee log stud mill will be built in Greenville, possibly re-employing some of the 100 people who lost their jobs in Greenville when the Dirigo Lumber Mill closed in 1998. The mill will provide business to Greenville Steam Co. by buying power and steam from that company, and in return selling its waste sawdust and bark to the steam company. Not all of the money will stay in the local economy, though. While a local man is a partner in the business, the majority ownership is held by two Canadian companies, McNutt Lumber Co., of New Brunswick, and Neal Pelletier of Quebec. With the hopeful news of the log mill also comes the announcement of a new partnership between the Hannaford supermarket chain, Wolfe's Neck Farm in Freeport, and Maine's beef producers, mostly in Aroostook. Hannaford supermarkets around New England will begin carrying a Maine-produced line of natural (raised without synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, or hormones) beef. The chain had previously bought its natural beef from a supplier in Colorado. The non-profit Wolfe's Neck Farm Foundation is working with more than 52 farms and feedlots throughout Maine. These farms agree to raise cattle to Wolfe Neck's all-natural specifications, and in return are paid a consistent wholesale price that is 5-20% higher than the price for conventional beef. At this point, the cattle are shipped to a Pennsylvania slaughterhouse to be killed, though some farmers have expressed the need for a federal slaughterhouse in Maine, so the beef can remain all in-state when being processed. Now if only there could be more locally owned supermarkets ...

**Unfortunately, the past months have also brought a number of layoffs** and suspected layoffs. National Starch and Chemical Co. is cutting 12 jobs at its Island Falls starch plant. GE Power Systems will be cutting at least 45 jobs from its Bangor facility. Osram Sylvania in Waldoboro is going to lay off one-third (about 50) of its workers over the next two years. It is moving its operations to the Czech Republic, where it will be able to pay workers \$3 an hour. 75 jobs will not return to St. John Plantation. In March, the Canadian-owned Irving sawmill in St. John burned down. At the time, plans to rebuild sounded definite, but now J.D. Irving has announced that the mill will not be rebuilt, with a company rep explaining, "We have been running business models for a sawmill in St. John, and it is not looking viable." At least 100 people at the Bucksport IP mill are expected lose their jobs soon, though they will be likely offered either early retirement or a severance package. An unknown number of jobs are expected to be cut soon at the IP mill in Jay as well. Great Northern Paper in Millinocket shut down 2 of its paper machines, eliminating 200 jobs. 1,012 Maine workers are losing their jobs with the closure of all Ames department stores across the nation. The layoffs were announced in a

very....efficient....manner. All employees were asked to be at their stores prior to their usual 9 a.m. openings. Then, Ames CEO, Joseph R. Ettore in CT, announced the closures of the stores to all 22,000 people at the same time over the PA system. The Ames closures led to the layoffs of at least 35 of the 50 workers at K-D Co., an Illinois-owned wood products firm in Bingham. A majority of the Bingham plant's operations were funded by a contract with Ames. Finally, the Sanmina-SCI electronics plant in Augusta is shutting down at the end of September, leaving 440 people out of work. Randy Furr, president Sanmina explained the layoffs in advanced corporate newspeak, "Unfortunately, we had an announcement at one of our facilities today that is part of the restructuring efforts. ... We're going to consistently and constantly try to right-size this organization, balancing both our customers' need in the short and long term, as well as our shareholders and our employees here. We will do the things we have to do, as unpleasant as they are."

**Hathaway Shirts in Waterville is still waiting to find out** if it will receive a contract to make shirts for the Air Force. If it does not, Sappington, the firm's CEO, says that the factory will likely run out of work by the end of September. The non-profit Made In the USA Foundation has inquired about buying the shirt company, but has not yet lined up financing for the purchase.

**According to new census results, Maine is top in the nation** for percentage of vacation homes. 15.6% of all Maine homes are for seasonal use only, with 33.9% in Franklin county, and 40% of all homes in Piscataquis county being seasonal-use homes. 101,470 of 661,901 homes in Maine are for seasonal use only. And there's a housing shortage in Bangor, mid-coast, and southern Maine.

**New plants and creatures (besides summer people) are showing up** in Maine, and having rather disastrous effects in an environment not prepared for their invasion. The Japanese shore crab, which first appeared on these shores in Long Island Sound, was likely dumped into the ocean with ballast water from an ocean liner. The tiny purple crab has shown up on the Maine coast as far north as Penobscot Bay. It is able to adapt to a number of ocean environments, it has no known predators, and each female lays up to 450,000 eggs in her lifetime. There is worry that the crabs could affect the shellfish population, as the crab has an enormous appetite for immature shellfish such as mussels, clams, and possibly lobster. Meanwhile in the lakes and ponds of Maine, milfoil is taking new shapes. While most people are aware of the threat of Eurasian milfoil choking lakes and ponds, a possibly even more damaging type called variable-leaf milfoil is appearing. This native to the Southern US grows in ropes that have been described as looking like "big green worms." It takes root in warm, shallow water bodies, chokes out native plants, and takes up oxygen from the water, transforming a lake into a swamp. According to the DEP, it can't be stopped, only slowed. A tiny fragment can birth an entire colony, it can survive being frozen and being dried for months at a time.

**If the crabs and milfoil didn't seem enough** like some 1950's science fiction movie creation, there is giant hogweed. This carrot family perennial has found its way from Europe to Maine through fascinated gardeners. It resembles Queen Anne's lace but for the fact that it grows from 12-20 feet tall and has hairy splotched purple stems. The seeds of the plant can remain viable for 8 years or more. The sap of the plant makes human skin extremely sensitive to UV light, essentially acting as the Bangor Daily describes, "an anti-sunscreen." There have been reported cases of temporary or permanent blindness resulting from contact with the sap. In the sunlight, skin that has come in contact with the plant will turn red, itch, and then break out in large water blisters. Conditions can last for months, with resulting dark scars remaining for years. Hogweed has been spotted in the Bar Harbor/Ellsworth area, Midcoast Maine, Portland, and Greenville.

**The city of Augusta has received almost \$55,000** in USDA grant money in order to implant microchips in city trees. The city forester believes that these are the first microchipped trees in the state and possibly the country. According to the Kennebec Journal, these chips record tree age, height, diameter, latitude and longitude, and other information.

**The National Guard is building a \$1.2 million building** behind the Waterville armory that would house 22 full-time National Guard reserves who are trained to handle biological, chemical, and nuclear emergencies throughout Maine. According to Guard officials, there wouldn't be any chemical or nuclear agents or dangerous materials stored in Waterville. The reservists at that space will be the 11th Civil Support Team, Weapons of Mass Destruction. This will be the only facility of its sort in Maine. The Guard says it chose Waterville because it is in the center of the state and near Augusta.

**Buried at the bottom of a Bangor Daily article** on the need for more free flows of trade across the Maine-Canada border, is this: as part of a "30-point 'smart border' agreement" intended to speed traffic while raising security, "Iris scanning devices and other technology also are coming to border points."



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  - Legal defense:** I am an attorney, paralegal, law student, trained legal observer.

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**Maine Commons / Maine Indymedia Order Form**

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

Comments

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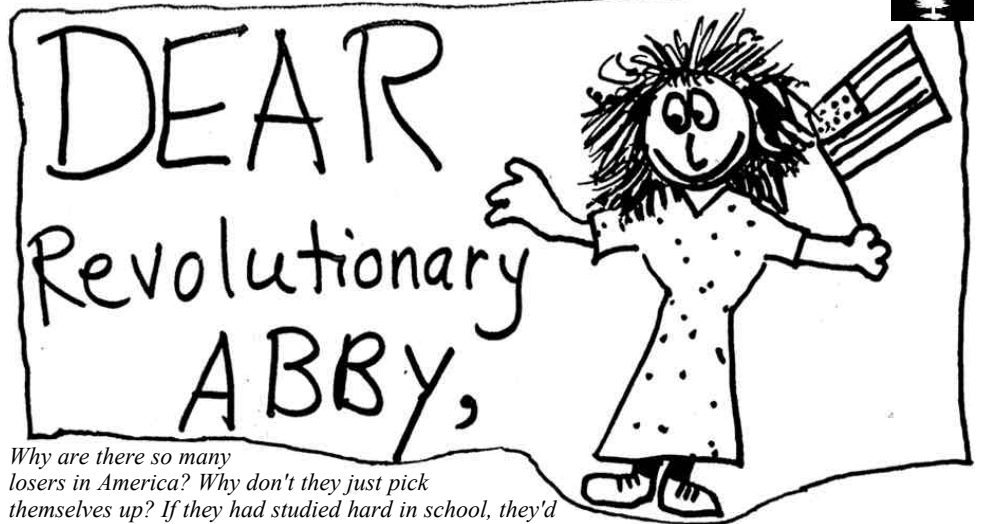
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Why are there so many losers in America? Why don't they just pick themselves up? If they had studied hard in school, they'd be successful today! Education is everything! Why remain ignorant and miserable? Maybe we need more money in education, higher standards, more demand for excellence. It's probably the fault of the parents or the teachers, but mostly it's the fault of the students. The individual MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. It's high time that Americans start putting their noses to the grindstone. I'm tired of seeing all this sloth, depression, drugs, suicide, child-murder, disrespect and soaking the public. America is about OPPORTUNITY!!!

Yours, Opportunist in Old Orchard

Dear OOO:

Let me tell you a little story. It is about a King in the Land of Laughs.

The Land of Laughs was called something else during the reigns of other Kings and Queens, but when King Jolly took the throne, his first royal decision was to change the name of the kingdom.

King Jolly loved a good laugh. The bigger the better. You could say he was addicted to laughter. In fact, he was ...ahem... crazy.

But he was in charge and so he had his way. Everything he did was in the pursuit of bigger and bigger laughs. His disease spread to the Queen and princesses and princes and bishops and other high officers.

There were many court jesters but the one who could cause the King etc to laugh the BIGGEST laugh would have a small castle nearby the royal castle. And so the funniest jester's family would thrive.

Jesters who weren't as funny were not rewarded. In fact, they died in the streets.

There was a law that you had to be funny even out of the sound range of the King. People were reported on for being humorless.

Hence, there was a lot of cheating and scamming.

Major advertizing campaigns were done to create GROWTH on laughter and funniness.

Masks were sold so you could look funny and drugs to make you feel funny or to help you from feeling the terror of realizing you were not funny enough and it would catch up with you.

Only funny people were fed, entertained, sheltered, and included. Only funny people had health care. You had to be funny. You had to be VERY funny. People born with a natural sense of irony and good timing excelled. They began to accumulate stuff.

People who failed at causing a good HAW HAW in public were so afraid and agitated, they began to overdose on drugs. There was, therefore, a prohibition on certain drugs, while some remained legal. So lots of people were dealing both and the days passed.

Laugh school was required. At the age of five you were taken from your parents for most of the day (for twelve years) so that you could learn excellence in being funny.

Certain kids did very well and they became honor students.

Other kids just couldn't get the hang of it. Their jokes weren't funny. Their antics seemed artificial. Their stunts didn't crack anybody up. These kids were shamed and ridiculed in subtle ways every day. Some would feel so outcast and upset they would mouth off or throw stuff. They were shamed and ridiculed in BIG ways. This made the Honor Jesters even MORE proud of themselves.

The prisons filled with unfunny people. Some had actually turned murderous, super sneaky, and were scam artists. Those who were successful at being funny in life wore HUGE white ruffs around their necks. White Ruff crime was not as bad as Blue and plaid Ruff crime (the unfunny people wore plaid and blue), so the prisons held few White Ruffs. As long as you made people laugh, you could be responsible for murder, torture, thievery, whatever.

The Funny Police were VERY busy.

People would admire you and suck-up, hoping some of your funniness might wear off on them. They would imitate you, sometimes getting funniness, thievery, murder and selfishness mixed up. In their earnestness to survive, to be included in the new Funny Culture, they had gone a little crazy. But they had adapted. Their children would live to make more children and so on. True, their children were rude, selfish idiots but they were FUNNY and SUCCESSFUL and believed in the old saying, "Opportunity only knocks once."

Eventually there was so much carbon dioxide from all the real and artificial laughter, that the atmosphere got weird and the world ended.

Weird insects and silver pond scum survived, however. And they lived happily everafter.

Yours Forever In Truth, Revolutionary Abby