



The Maine Commons

A publication of the
Maine Independent Media Center
www.maineindymedia.org

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

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Issue 9 • Oct-Nov 2002

The Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign & The New Freedom Bus Tour: Poor People on the March

BY JESSE LEAH VEAR

All I knew was that it had something to do with poor people's groups and independent media coming together, but really I had no idea what I was in for when I said "Sure - I'll go" A fellow member of the Greater Portland Area group POWER (Portland Organization to Win Economic Rights) asked if wouldn't I please go and represent POWER at a conference organized by the relatively infamous (in an undergroundish kind of way) Kensington Welfare Rights Union (KWRU) in Philadelphia. I had heard lots of great things about KWRU, and since they were footing the bill for my airfare and accommodations, I couldn't sanely refuse. They had budgeted for another person to come, and so I began calling around to see who could make the trip with me - and soon enough Maine Commons contributor and fellow low-income activist Laura Childs and I were on our way. Neither of us had a clue as to what to expect, and just hours upon arriving (after a ridiculously circuitous day of layovers and security checks) the both of us were beyond delighted - not to mention, infinitely inspired - by what we found there.

Right after we arrived we were shuttled to a collective house called "Jubilee," where we left all our stuff and met a few handfuls of local activists, most of them from KWRU, and other delegates from poor people's groups around the country. We heard that we would be going to a film screening, and minutes later we were piled into another van and headed over to the first night of what we later learned was called "Break the Media Blackout: a Conference on Media Democracy and the Struggle to End Poverty." We screened two videos, "Copy This Tape" (which was also open-captioned for the deaf and hearing-impaired, created through what's called The Media College, a division of New York City's University of the Poor) and "Ultimate Song (a Rockamole production) - both of which were simple, inspiring examples of the power video and music can have in helping to more thoroughly translate our struggles to broader audiences. The entire event, like the rest of the conference, included sign-language interpreters for several members of the deaf community and Spanish translators (including those fancy

POOR : CONTINUED ON PG. 21

Who Owns Maine?

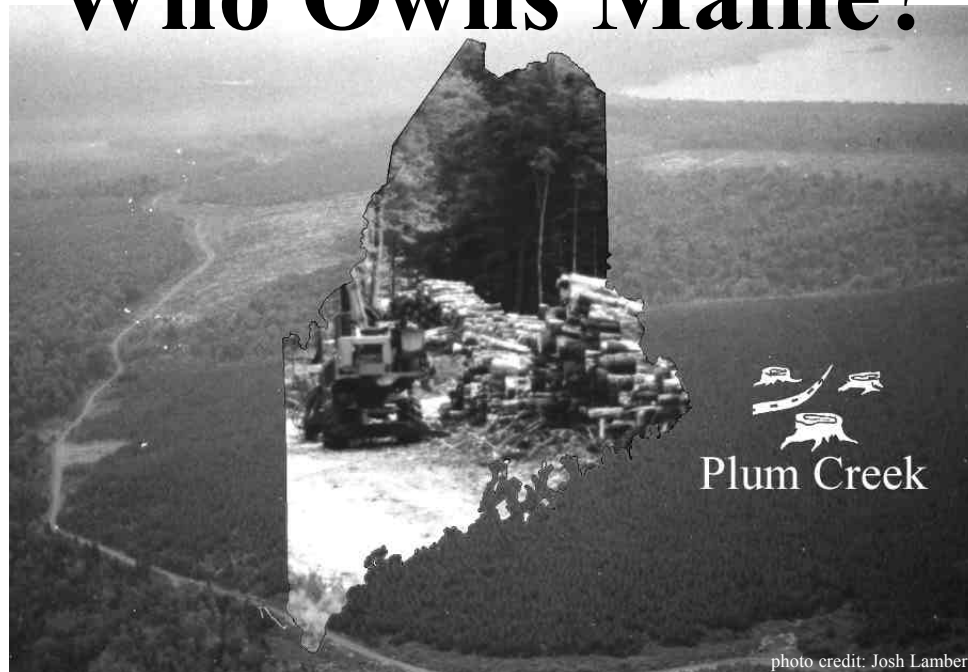


photo credit: Josh Lambert

Aerial photo taken East of Jackman, Maine, over a Plum Creek tree farm.

Getting To Know Your Owners: Plum Creek

Part 1 of a Continuing Series.

BY JOSH LAMBERT, BREANNA NORRIS,
AND HILLARY LISTER

"...We who live here know that things cannot stay the same, but we do not want to be treated as side issues. We do not just live and work and play in the forest - We are a part of it. We are ingrained in it, and it is ingrained in us." - New Hampshire North Country Native and Newspaper Editor, John Harrigan.

Several trips up North on Plum Creek land, driving on what seemed like endless logging roads. Hiking up to the top of clear cut hills and flying in a small airplane over the land to take pictures. It put a lot of questions in our heads that we wanted answers to. We started to take a closer look at what

Plum Creek has done in other states, and what it is now doing in Maine. We wondered, if all this land gets subdivided, what will happen to Maine as we know it? A large piece of land on which many Mainers and our family members live, work, and play, is being threatened by a large out-of-state real-estate company.

Seattle-based timber company, Plum Creek, began in 1989 when it broke off from Burlington Northern Railroad, acquiring 1.4 million acres in the Pacific Northwest. On October 6th, 2001, six subsidiaries of the Georgia-Pacific Corporation, collectively referred to as The Timber Company, merged with Plum Creek. This merger brought 3.9 million acres of primarily pine forests to Plum Creek. Following the merger, Plum Creek became the second-largest private timberland owner in the United States, with more than 7.8 million acres of timberlands located in 19 states.

PLUM : CONTINUED ON PG. 8

Protest Meets With Police Violence

BY HILLARY LISTER

"I've been in demonstrations in big cities and not gotten to witness the people getting hurt or arrested....And [I'm] in my own little home city of Portland, that is the safest city on earth as far as I'm concerned, where I've been stomping around alone and never even felt scared for six years. And I'm watching the police that I have depended on and trusted to keep me safe, beating someone up." - Tess Wilder

The flyer read: "Take to the streets! Protest the 'war on terrorism' and the loss of more innocent lives! Bring: friends, family, your voice, drums, signs, banners, puppets, instruments, costumes, food. Thursday September 26, 5pm, Congress Square. How long will we stand for these oil wars?" It is unlikely that any of the nearly 200 people who took to the streets that day, including myself, could have imagined how the demonstration would end. The festivities began with a mix of peace activists, anar-

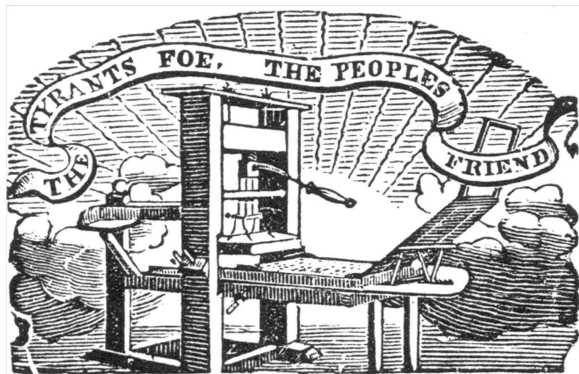
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Please help keep this paper alive -- pass it on when you're done with it.

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

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The Maine Commons

<http://www.mainecommons.org>

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

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

Founded in 2001 as a side project of the Maine Independent Media Center, The Maine Commons was created to be a Maine media "commons" where diverse ideas of diverse people are free to meet and congregate. We especially focus on viewpoints and stories that have been ignored or misrepresented by the mainstream media, and issues of effects of corporate 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 or send hardcopy, floppy disks or CDs to **Maine Independent Media Center, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903**. Thanks!

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

Chellie Pingree, running for US Senator of Maine, was once an organic farmer on the Island of North Haven (pop. 350). She ran the farm as a successful small business, selling her vegetables to the locals and tourists at a farm stand on the side of the road. Her farm grew to include cows, goats and sheep. With the tourists gone and the lobstering economy petering off for the winter months, Chellie later started a knitting business, using the wool of the sheep that she raised on her farm. North Island Design eventually employed thirteen local women and sold thousands of sweaters a year on a national level with mail order catalogues. Meanwhile, Chellie was also raising three kids as a single mother, and serving on the local school board.

Chellie might seem an unlikely candidate to be involved in politics. She was inspired to run for her district State Senate seat after hearing then-Representative Pat Schroeder complain that "good people don't want to run for office anymore." Her campaign technique involved going door to door in her district talking to individuals about what issues most concerned them. She was elected to the State Senate and served for eight years, four of which she was Senate majority leader.

Chellie has never shied away from radical politics. She authored the Maine Rx bill, which lowers the cost of prescription drugs for Maine citizens.

This bill has made national headlines and brought pharmaceutical companies, the richest and most powerful lobbyists in the nation, to their knees. In fact, these companies are so scared, they are filtering thousands of dollars into Susan Collins' campaign (the Republican candidate) for fear that Pingree might take the same leadership role on a national level.

Chellie needs the vote of the radical left. At a time when the level of apathy and disillusionment with electoral politics has reached an all time high, we need the support of people who are politically conscious and well informed out at the polls.

Laurel Brauns, Rockland, ME

Dear Editors,

My name is David Goetz. I have recently purchased several VERY well established delivery routes in York County and in some of southern and eastern New Hampshire.

Though I may be new to these routes, I have been delivering publications in this service area for about 8 years and consider it very important to protect the service that my clients pay for. In two locations in Maine, I have found The Maine Commons on my racks. I have checked your distribution list and it seems as if these locations are not even on your list - so you might not even know where your publication is being dropped.

*Litchfields Rest. in Kennebunk
Alls Well Books in Wells*

Looking back at correspondence of the

previous owner of this route, I see that you have been contacted before about this problem. Please make sure that this does not occur again, in these locations, or any others. I service these routes weekly and the next time this happens, I will just throw your papers out.

David Goetz, Durham, NH

(Editor's Note: While it may seem to many of our distributors that a rack with an empty space invites a stack of the Maine Commons, it is clear that the news outlets who own the racks take a dim view of this practice. The Bangor Daily racks, in many places, have space left for local publications. Apparently racks owned by the Portland Phoenix do not. This was made clear to a number of distributors already, but as the volunteer distribution job changes hands, the messages are not always passed on. Distributors, please do not drop significant numbers of papers anywhere they're not wanted -- as is evident in this letter, they are likely to be thrown out. Of course, creative subversion of, say, Mall-Wart magazine racks is still encouraged with small numbers of papers)

Dear Editors,

Funny, but all the problems Julian Holmes (Maine Commons letters, Page 2-3, September-October, 2002) has seen with consensus are ones I have had with majority rule/voting. I have found consensus to be a MUCH better form of decision-making, as long as the group has some trust for each other and has some idea of how consensus works and what its advantages are.

Consensus requires that every person involved in a decision hear what all other people (who choose to comment) involved in a decision have to say about a particular proposal or problem. Consensus encourages diverse views and conflicting comments. It requires people with differences to find a "third way" or a solution that satisfies everyone, not just the majority. Decisions by consensus are ones everyone can live with and support. Group unity is crucial in successfully carrying out any decision; there is no danger, when using consensus, of groups being split between a majority excited about a decision and a minority which feels left out or in disagreement.

By its very nature, consensus motivates agreement and consent by all, not conformity. Most initial proposals are changed by the consensus process before they are finally adopted by a group. It encourages true democracy, because everyone has a say in how a decision is made, not just the majority.

Whatever feelings of frustration or being an obstructionist or conformist that Julian has are likely coming from experiences with groups that do not understand or successfully practice consensus. It is not the fault of the consensus process itself.

If anyone is interested in information about how to practice the consensus process, they can call me at 525-7776 or email me at invert@acadia.net.

Larry Dansinger, Monroe, ME



Dear Editors,

One of my friends showed me your Corkstock 02 review and, whoever your nameless person was probably wasn't there because that is a bunch of crap.

First off, there was a PROFESSIONAL security team hired. but they asked, 1 hour before the show, for 4000 dollars up front, and of course, no one had that amount on them. The show was originally chemical free and then people just came in with beer. It wasn't controlled at all. even a member of one of the BANDS was selling drinks.

Second, no more than maybe 300 were at that show. And no one showed up until maybe nine thirty at night, because for the first 5 bands or so there weren't many people there.

Without security the show was insane, and people DID get hurt very badly. I walked out with quite a few dents.

No police showed up at all, or at least not in uniform. And there isn't any lawsuit. Also this show was mostly organized by Xact records, not whoever you mentioned. I don't know if this is posted on your site but if it is.....please take the time to correct it.

- Nick Alley

(Editor's Note: Thanks for giving your account of what happened. We heard about Corkstock issues just before we put out the last issue; because it was relevant to the other issues we were dealing with, we sort of rushed to get it in before the deadline. Perhaps we didn't dig deep enough in our research. We will dig further and post an update and response in the next issue.)

Errata Sept-Oct 2002

In the Sept-Oct 2002 Maine Commons article, "Hempstock Persists Despite Ordinances", I mistakenly wrote that the stores Happy Trails and Lookanotcha were present at the festival as vendors, and at the end of the festival, came under investigation for selling drug paraphernalia. This was incorrect. While Happy Trails and Lookanotcha owner James O'Keefe was present helping to vend, the vendors were individual vendors, and not present in the form of either of the previously mentioned stores. Also, while the vendors were issued summonses, it does not appear that they are under investigation, as was reported in the last issue. - Hillary Lister

Maine Commons Submissions Deadline

November 11th, 2002
for the Dec-Jan Issue

If you need an extension, email editor@maineindymedia.org

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 ninth 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

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.23.

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 23 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). 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.](http://www.indymedia.org)



opinions / editorials

Dialog With Police Only Part of the Solution

BY BILL LASCHER

Following the police violence that erupted at the September 26 anti-war demonstration in Portland a number of people have expressed their desire for increased dialogue with the Portland Police Department. While dialogue is important for broadening understanding between any two segments of society, proposed discussion with the Portland Police risks neutralizing our perspective of their role in the community. As long as the police have the monopoly on the use of force, this will remain a dialogue of deterrence, of crisis avoidance. While we focus on simply increasing communication we will remain distracted from the the real problem -- the reliance upon violent force as a means to solve problems. It is almost as if we are seeking a hotline like that which existed between the White House and the Kremlin during the cold war. I, for one, do not want to participate in a cold war with the police any more than I want to participate in a hot war. We must persuade both the police and the rest of society that true progress will be made when they lay down their arms, refuse to "just follow orders" and join us in changing society by working to eliminate the social stratification that currently exists. We must recognize that the police are people too, but the police must recognize this as well. We must move away from the paranoid defensiveness of our culture of violence toward an open acceptance of change.

We must not simply avoid a crisis, we must move forward. Now, as I said, the police have a monopoly on violent force. However, this does not mean the people should try to take over this monopoly. Just as a dialogue would be neutralizing, attempting to forcefully dominate the police and those whom they serve would be self-destructive. To do so would ensure that power would be determined not by the value of a movement's message, but by its ability to monopolize force. A victory on such terms would change nothing.

DOCTOR GLOBALIZATION AND THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

Doctor Globalization was making his rounds in his super charged Rolls Royce, when he came upon a skinny but smiling Third World pauper. The doctor took out his thermometer and stethoscope and, after examining the patient, diagnosed him as having a terminal case of backwardness.

"You need more GNP," stated the Doctor. "I prescribe cutting your forests for cash which will buy you white flour and Coca Cola. The cut forests will lead to erosion and floods which will result in massive landslides that will call for loans from the World Bank which will enable you to finance huge dam building projects, and the white flour and Coca Cola will give you diabetes and a boom in hospital construction. These activities will greatly increase your GNP and soon, burdened by enormous debt and social antagonisms, you will have to arm yourself to the teeth and thus enter the list of developing nations. Then, if you are fortunate, you will acquire sufficient air and water pollution to propagate asthma and dengue fever the cures for which will raise your GNP to levels equal to a first world nation."

The Third World pauper thanked Doctor Globalization for his diagnosis and advice and wandered off into the bush, speculating whether he should get another opinion from the local witch doctor.

A FABLE BY HERSCHEL STERNLIEB

We must disarm, and we must disarm the police as well. Despite my admiration for much anarchist philosophy, I consistently find fault with the impatience of some who use the rhetoric of "low-intensity warfare" and seek the destruction of the state through force. Certainly the state and all institutions of power must be dismantled if there is to be any true societal change. However, for revolution to be successful, these power structures must be carefully removed by the people. They cannot simply be destroyed. They must be made irrelevant. To take any other course would be to create new dichotomies of "us vs. them." If the contemporary social justice movement (for the moment and for the sake of an example please ignore the problematic nature of lumping a number of diverse movements under one simplistic umbrella) were to succeed and there was some stunning victory against the state, how would we prevent creating a new disenfranchised?

At the moment, I cannot think of any revolution where the victorious party has not been corrupted by its victory. I see only re-organization in history; the creation of new elites from the excluded. The desire for revenge and the realization of power only creates new class structures. We must not demand simply that power or wealth is redistributed. We cannot simply reshuffle the deck and deal out a new set of cards. We must change the rules of the game completely so power and wealth are inconsequential. We must stop thinking in terms of us vs. them, lest we repeat the failures of every previous revolution. This will be extremely difficult, for the creation of artificial hierarchies is as instinctive as greed.

That does not mean we cannot counter our own instincts. It will take work, but we can move in new directions. The work will be difficult, but the outcome will be unimaginably rewarding. We cannot do this by ourselves, but we must not wait for others to take the lead.

An Open Letter to Congressman Tom Allen

Dear Tom Allen--

My name is Briggs Seekins. I am a Maine native, a professional educator and a veteran. I am a solid, tax-paying, hard working citizen of your district. During the Persian Gulf War, I served as a Mechanized Infantryman with the Third Armored Division of the VIIth Corp. I did not see very heavy combat, but I can say that I have gone locked and loaded into harm's way. I have received enemy fire. I have been on a modern tank battlefield. I have been close enough to enemy soldiers--Iraqi soldiers--to stare them in the eyes. I have seen what the aftermath of bombing looks like--I saw what Kuwait City looked like after we "liberated it." I drove over the highway out of Kuwait City, where it was necessary to cover your mouth and nose with a cloth, because of the stench of the corpses that were rotting beneath the wrecked military and civilian vehicles that had been plowed over to the side of the road. I inhaled unknown quantities of depleted uranium. Along with the men in my unit, I saw many desperate, hungry refugees--children so hungry they would even tear open and devour the coffee creamers that we gave them along with our MREs. I never saw heavy, sustained combat, and I am grateful for that, but I can say in all honesty that before I was old enough to legally drink alcohol, I had experienced more of the horrible reality of war than our current Commander-in-Chief has; more, too, than the majority of his advisors.

I will also add: My unit would have been among the first sent into Baghdad, had the decision been made to topple Hussein at the time. Hence, I trained for combat in the streets of Baghdad and received Operations Orders about what to expect. I knew that my unit would probably sustain casualties in the range of at least 30%. Do you know how many body bags that would have filled, Congressman? Do you know how many it will fill, should Bush and his fellow chickenhawks get their way?

I know you do not have a military background, Congressman Allen, so allow me to edify you: combat in a city is a bloody, inch-by-inch struggle. It does not matter if we have superior weapons and better trained soldiers. Every single block in a city presents an opportunity for utter disaster. Remember what happened in Somalia? Those were Rangers, Congressman Allen. Rangers are extremely well-trained, motivated, skilled infantry men. Among the best of the best on the planet. But when you are in an urban area, you simply can't keep track of all the different directions from which you might receive enemy fire. Do an experiment today, Congressman. Walk down a typical block in any city. Look at all the windows surrounding you and imagine that people could be shooting at you from any one of those windows. Then look around for sewer grates--somebody could pop up from one of them. Look around at all the basements, at ground level, with windows. An automatic rifle placed in the

right ground level window can wipe out an entire squad of grunts before they even have the chance to react.

I'm not being hyperbolic. A Marine General was quoted recently of saying that we would probably lose a battalion a day, fighting block to block in Baghdad. Do you know how many men are in a combat battalion, Congressman? Imagine the entire student body of Portland or Deering High School, gunned down in an afternoon. And most of the men and women killed will not be much older than those high school students.

This war is a contrived, idiotic bunch of hysteria--and I do not believe that a man of your education could truly, in his heart, believe otherwise, Congressman Allen. If Hussein really has the chemical weapons that Bush says he has, surely you are a logical enough person to realize that Hussein is much more likely to use those weapons if he has nothing left to lose. He is very likely to launch a scud with a chemical payload against the people of Israel. Should the long-suffering people of that nation have to face a chemical attack simply because our country's foreign policy has been hijacked by reckless wannabe cowboys? And consider this, Congressman Allen: What happens if Sharon retaliates with a nuclear attack, which I and many others believe he will do? What will that do to the stability of that already perilous region?

Make no mistake--I hate Hussein as I hate any tyrant and thug. If I had him in my own crosshairs, I would not blink before I squeezed off the round. But I simply cannot fathom the possibility of killing up to 100 thousand or more innocent Iraqi civilians, just to get Hussein. And that's the type of number we would be looking at, Congressman Allen. They will bomb Baghdad around the clock, to prepare for the ground invasion, and you can't drop that many bombs on a city the size of Baghdad without killing tens of thousands of civilians. Bombs simply aren't that smart.

And what about the cost of this war, Congressman? How is it going to be paid for? I have seen estimates of about 200 billion. Where is that money going to come from? It works out to thousands of extra dollars in taxes per person. I can't afford thousands of more dollars in taxes. This war will mean the destruction of our own economy, of our educational and healthcare systems, which are already underfunded and stressed to the point of collapse.

This war will make us a Rogue nation. Even in England, the one nation that is formally onboard with us, the vast majority of people are strongly against the war. Hundreds of thousands of them are in the street. Here, too, in our own country, people from every walk of life are against this reckless, dangerous, expensive and bloody war. There will be hundreds of thousands in the street here, too, Congressman.



D.I.Y. MEDIA

HOW-TO GUIDES FOR MEDIA EDUCATION

Do-It-Yourself Computer Security

BY ALASDAIR POST-QUINN

Welcome to the 21st century. Technology has advanced to such a degree in such a short time that computers are becoming so inexpensive that more and more people are able to afford one. The side-effect of this is that one no longer has to know what one is doing in order to use a computer. Therefore, most people go blissfully through their computer usage (barring crashes, viruses, corrupted data, poor internet connections, etc), and it never even enters into their heads that there is a war on.

I'm not talking about Iraq or Afghanistan. I am talking about the war that has been on since the internet was seized from the military and expanded to encompass the globe. The war between hackers and virus-makers against your average Joe Clueless who uses a computer for his email, web-surfing, and minor word-processing needs. And now, the government has stepped into the fray. But they are not fighting on the side of the people, against the hackers and virus-makers - they are learning from these people how better to use the technology against the people.

If the words Carnivore, Magic Lantern, BugBear, Klez, or BackOrifice mean anything to you, perhaps you're already on your way to safety. But if you are a computer user and are looking bewildered right about now, read further ... you may learn something. I'm going to try to help you protect yourself against hackers, viruses and the government and corporations that want to rule one of the last democratic mediums left - the internet. And I'm going to help you do it for free, or at least cheap.

Because I am most familiar with Windows environments, I will orient this toward the masses who own Windows PCs. Most of these threats are geared only toward Windows users anyway - so one of the solutions often touted by non-Windows users is "switch to Mac" or "switch to Linux". But the reality is that the software we have already bought and the time we have already put in learning the ropes of Windows does not translate to Mac or Linux. Rather than another expenditure of time and money, is it not better to learn how to more effectively use what you have?

Viruses

Viruses are the longest-standing threat to internet security. Since before there was anything resembling the internet, people have been trying to take control of others' computers by viruses planted on floppy disks. Most of these viruses were not malicious, but did amusing things like caused your screen to appear to melt, or letters fall off and pile up at the bottom. They were

pranks, jokes, and to some people they still are. But virus makers began to give the viruses malicious instructions, like deleting all the files on your hard drive, or, with the advent of the internet and e-commerce, sending out porn spam (unsolicited email), stealing credit card numbers, or crashing mail servers. Similar to real viruses, computer viruses are often changed by the makers to new strains to outwit virus scanners.

Despite the immense damage these viruses have done in the past years (the most recent and most venomous viruses are Klez and IloveYou), viruses are relatively easy to protect against:

1.) Viruses which are sent out in email have been progressively more cunning in their ways of convincing you that they are harmless graphics or documents. It's really very simple. If you get a file in an email that you did not specifically ask to be sent to you, don't open it! Sure, you may miss some fun things that well-meaning people sent for your earnest amusement, but you won't miss anything important. And you will miss the majority of viruses since most of them are transmitted this way these days. If you are using Outlook Express, be especially careful - OE makes it very easy to open attached files.

2.) Since many viruses use Outlook Express' address book to send out emails that appear to be from "trusted people," sabotage your own address book. Either keep your addresses somewhere else and erase your OE address book, or add a bogus address like "!AAA" at the top of the list. This bogus address will mess up a number of viruses' algorithms and send them packing.

3.) Above all, get a decent virus scanner! The brand name scanners are overrated - Norton, McAfee, etc are only "standard" because they have the money to insert themselves into public awareness. But a virus scanner that updates itself only once a month is nothing compared to VET (www.vet.com.au) which is updated at least once a week. It does cost \$50 for a license, but you can use it for free almost indefinitely. Throw away all your other scanners - this one is the only one that really does its job, in my experience.

Trojans

Trojans are named for the famous Trojan Horse. They are virus-like programs that come packed inside other programs. They can piggyback on most any program, and will be released the first time you run the program. Most will not let you know they are there, but will silently open portals and broadcast to hackers that your machine's security has been compromised. Hackers equipped to hear the broadcast can then come and use the backdoor (BackOrifice was the most insidious of these Trojans, in its day, and the BugBear virus you may have heard about is really a keylogging trojan) to steal or delete your files, or even to take control of your computer entirely. The government is beginning to use this technology in the name of anti-terrorism, but really just as an excuse to spy on the American people. It's called Magic Lantern, and it hides itself very well. It is basically a keylogger; it logs all keystrokes, recording emails, documents, online transactions, physical addresses, everything you type into your computer, until it sends it back to the government for processing. It is a fast and efficient information-gathering tool, and it can be used against you.

1.) Most virus-scanners are equipped to identify and remove Trojans as well. VET, again, is your best bet there. But for more specialized scanning, look for a tool called Tauscan (www.agnitum.com). It will cost you \$25, but at least you can try it for free for 30 days.

2.) Get yourself a firewall. One of the best is called Tiny Personal Firewall (www.tinysoftware.com). v3.0 costs, and is much more complex than most people need. But v2.0 is still available, is free and simple and offers ample protection. A firewall blocks incoming and outgoing connections unless you OK them. For the first few days after installing a firewall, it will be a little annoying as every program tries to connect to the net and hits the firewall. But once you make the rules about which programs can send and receive over the internet, your machine is much more secure. The key is not to let applications that do not depend on the internet for functionality connect to the internet. And anytime the firewall pops up without a specific identifiable stimulus from you or a program you're running, deny the connection. This may not block every Trojan's communication, but it will certainly help.

Spyware

Spyware is mostly harmless. But it includes



I have been calling your Portland office several times a week, to keep updated on your position and to express my own opinions to your staff. I will say that I have been encouraged by the fact that you have not rushed to get behind this insane course of action. But I am beginning to grow impatient. It is time for you and your fellow Democrats to be real leaders. Frankly, most of the members of your party are behaving in a cowardly manner. I have found Senator Byrd's statements in the last week inspiring and hopeful. But I have to wonder what has gone wrong when the only vocal, public voice of opposition coming from the Democratic party is coming from an 80-something year old man. Where are those of your generation, Congressman Allen? Where are the Democrats your age, who gained their political educations by witnessing the hypocrisy of the Vietnam war? Are you Democrats so afraid of the American people that you are not willing to come out and talk truthfully to them? Do you have that much contempt for the American voters?

I am calling on you, Congressman Allen, to make a strong, public statement of conscience about this matter. I am full of hope as I write to you. I believe you have the ability to step up right now and be the kind of brave leader that our citizens desperately need. We are at one of the most dangerous and critical moments in human history, and you have a chance to be a true hero, a person of conscience and integrity. You can act now and become the Margaret Chase Smith of your time. I cannot understand what is preventing you from this. Your own seat is not at risk--you know as well as I do that Joyce is the weakest candidate the Republicans have run since Linda Bean.

I urge you to consider my words and to act, Congressman Allen. While this is a personal message to you, I will be making it as public as I possibly can. I feel with every patriotic bone in my body that this war will be the biggest mistake ever made by this country--it will be the most reckless and dangerous thing we have ever done as a nation. You could be a key figure in stopping this. Please, at least, consider it.

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www.weru.org**DIY : CONTINUED ON PG. 9***Don't Peek! Answers to the Acrostic on page 20 below:*

A. Garnish; B. Elbow Room; C. Newark New Jersey; D. Eventual; E. Running Off At
F. Ankara Turkey; G. Loose as a; H. Of the Moon; I. Make it on; J. Ammonium;
K. Room with a View; L. Nudes; M. Banning; N. Roger; O. Accentuate the
P. Duffel Bag; Q. Law and; R. Eff; S. Yacht Basin; T. Smithereens; U. Powwow;
V. Elwood P Dowd; W. Ecce Homo; X. Cove; Y. Hottentot
Quote's Author: General Omar N. Bradley



So ... What are you doing November 5th?

Get Informed: VoteSmart

BY HILLARY LISTER

If you're thinking of voting in the November 5th election, and you don't feel like the dozens of candidate signs in the right-of-way are giving you quite all the information you'd like in order to make an informed decision, there's an extremely useful free resource out there that can help you. It's called Project Vote-Smart, a non-partisan, independent, non-profit organization. Since 1992 it has gathered information on backgrounds, issue positions, voting records, campaign finances and performance evaluations of over 40,000 candidates for public office, from local elected officials up to the President. Vote Smart interviews every willing candidate filed for office for state legislature, governor, congress and the presidency a wide variety of issues through the National Political Awareness Test, or NPAT. Vote Smart makes public note of those candidates who do not reply, with contact information available for the public to ask those candidates to take the test. If you have an internet connection, reading the candidates' responses (or lack thereof) can be rather addicting, and at times, surprising. For example, you can find out on the Vote Smart website:

The following candidates for major seats *did* provide NPAT answers:

Chellie Pingree (Democrat, Senate)
Tom Allen (Democrat, House Dist. 1)
Steve Joyce (Republican, House Dist. 1)
John Baldacci (Democrat, Governor)
Jonathan Carter (Green, Governor)
Peter Cianchette (Republican, Governor)
John Michael (Independent, Governor)

The following candidates for major seats *did not* provide NPAT answers:

Susan Collins (Republican, Senate)
Mike Michaud (Democrat, House Dist. 2)
Kevin Raye (Republican, House Dist. 2)

Some Candidates had some answers that surprised me, such as:

- Cianchette, who in most cases answered in traditionally Republican stances (for example, he opposes the state recognizing civil unions between same-sex couples, and he supports national standards and testing of public school students), also stated he would "Promote increased use of alternative fuel technology, and "support state funding for open space preservation."

- Jonathan Carter answered that would want to "Greatly Increase" Cigarette taxes, while he would "Slightly Decrease" Corporate taxes (it was unclear if this mean a decrease in taxes for local small businesses, which are legally corporations, or on major multi-national corporations in Maine.)

- John Michael is the only gubernatorial candidate who answered that he would want to "Repeal state restrictions on the purchase and possession of guns." Of all the gubernatorial candidates, Carter fell most

heavily on the other end of the scale, answering that he would "Maintain and strengthen the enforcement of existing state restrictions on the purchase and possession of guns," "Seize guns from individuals subject to temporary protection-from-abuse orders," "Require manufacturers to provide child-safety locks on guns," "Require background checks on gun sales between private citizens at gun shows," and "Require a license for gun possession."

- While Tom Allen answered that he was undecided as to whether he supports NAFTA or Fast Track, and stated "Trade agreements must have strong labor and environmental protections, and respect public health needs of trading partners" he still expressed support for the GATT, "continued U.S. membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO)" and "China becoming a member of the WTO."

As you can see, the Vote Smart website provides insights into candidate's views on a wide range of issues. You can check out NPAT responses from all candidates running for the Maine Legislature.

In many cases, the more unique and personalized responses come from these legislature candidates. Some examples of 2002 candidates' responses...

- District 5 Libertarian Richard Davis Hart include his stances of, "No pay for state legislators," and "All but 5% of money for welfare should go to towns to administer welfare to the truly needy. Eliminate the state welfare bureaucracy."

-District 11 Green Independent Oliver W. Outerbridge wants to "Tax Wall Street/Stock Transactions," "Teach acceptance of masturbation," and "Stop aerial spraying of pesticides".

-District 85 Republican Michael A. Vaughan would like to greatly increase the cost of "Out of state hunting permits. Entrance fees to state parks, tax on camp ground fees, other tourist based usages," and charge a "\$10 entry fee at Maine borders."

- District 110 Green Independent Heather E. Garrold, in response to the NPAT statement, which she supports, "Ban the sale or transfer of semi-automatic guns, except those used for hunting," asks "Who uses semi-automatic weapons to hunt?"

-District 58 Democrat Morrison M. Bonpasse would like to "Decriminalize all drugs," and "simplify, simplify, simplify tax code."

- District 82 Green Independent Ruth Gabey believes that "Congress should repeal NAFTA, GATT and FTAA and help factories reopen in the U.S. Companies should stop hiring immigrants to fill non-factory jobs for which Americans are sup-

posedly being trained and for which much money is being spent. American workers are an endangered species."

-District 37 Republican Thomas B. Wheatley states that one of his two legislative priorities is to "Protect individual liberties. As government grows in power, we all have seen our individual liberties threatened. In order to reverse the trend, all legislators and other elected officials must be willing to support the rights of those with whom we disagree."

And Project Vote Smart is taking a role in giving voice to all (politician's) views.

The National Initiative for Democracy

BY EVAN RAVITZ

Democracy means government by the people. We don't really have it -YET.

Philadelphia II, led by former U.S. Senator Mike Gravel, is starting later in October - first in Portland, then Maine, then the nation- to collect votes for the National Initiative for Democracy. This will let people propose and vote for the laws WE want, similar to Maine's ballot issues like Clean Elections, but at every level of government, and with many improvements, including the ability to amend the Constitution. We're starting here because "As Maine goes, so goes the Union."

This is the first time since 1789 that voters -NOT Congress- will be asked to ratify an Amendment to the Constitution! Let me explain:

In 1977 several Senators including Gravel tried to pass the Voter Initiative Amendment, but of course Congress had no intention of sharing real law-making power with the people. Since then we discovered that the Framers of the Constitution had the same problem: the 13 Colonial legislatures had not intention of sharing real power with the upstart United States. So they went directly to the people, via the conventions, to ratify the Constitution. (See Article VII.)

ALL the framers agreed we could -and still can- do that. For example, George Washington said "The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government." They called this "First Principles."

America has gotten pretty far from First Principles. And only We the People -NOT politicians- can bring it back.

(One bit of terminology: Mainers use "referendum" for ballot issues placed by both the people and the by the legislature. We prefer to say the legislature refers a referendum, but the people initiate an "initiative." There's a world of difference! After all, this year the legislature is pushing a (non-binding) referendum to try to repeal Maine's Clean Elections law, passed by initiative.)

Greens and Republicans are treated equally in its forum. Many local libraries carry the Project Vote Smart 2002 Voter's Self Defense Manual which you can pick up for free. You can also search out your representatives and candidates backgrounds, endorsing groups, and opinions online by going to www.vote-smart.org and typing in your zip code in the "FIND YOUR CANDIDATES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS" section. I didn't find the site to be the most self-explanatory or accessible website in existence, so you can also get this free information on politicians and candidates by calling toll-free 1-888-vote-smart (1-888-868-3762).

This is not going to be "instant democracy." Our proposal includes extensive hearings and deliberations by randomly-selected citizens and much more public information and discussion. It would be much easier for regular people to get initiatives on the ballot than presently. You can see all the details on our web site at www.NationalInitiative.us or call our office at 761-1789 or stop by in Portland at 107 Elm Street #100.

Claims that the initiative process existing in 23 US States and Washington, D.C., has been corrupted by big money are largely false, coming from those opposed to government by the people. The best academic studies show much the opposite -see www.Vote.org/gerber. But we're going to ban contributions to initiative campaigns except by individual U.S. citizens. Most real problems with initiatives are caused by the limitations imposed on the people by the legislatures. In spite of this, a century of state initiatives show the people have a superior track record of legislation -much of which was later adopted by Congress

Think there's too many "referenda" already? The fact is that from 1971-2000 citizens placed 31 initiatives on the ballot but the LEGISLATURE placed 210 referenda! YOU could start an initiative to prevent them from doing that -or anything else you like.

This will be the ultimate "check and balance" to the powers that be, but there are many other reasons for us to share law-making power with politicians. We the People, will take responsibility instead of being treated like civic children by the government and media. It gives us an incentive to educate ourselves. It gives politicians some competition -an incentive to do better. The 9/11 attacks give us a new reason: If the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania had hit the US Capitol, as the hijackers apparently planned, the US would have lost its legislative branch of government. The "Legislature of the People" we propose would be everywhere, impossible to target.

If you believe in people like I do, vote for the National Initiative for Democracy. Portlanders, look for your ballot in the mail late in October.

Don't hate the government, become the government!



Posted to the newswire at maine.indymedia.org:

12:08pm Sun Oct 6 '02
Ruth Rader, 51-A Oak Street #305
Portland, Maine 04101
blondie_starii@hotmail.com

Meeting between all 3 candidates for Governor and the homeless on Oct. 21, 9:30 am at the Preble Street Resource Center in downtown Portland. Housing situation in Portland is almost hopeless right now. Will any of these guys change that?

I eat a lot of my meals at the local soup

kitchen, aka The Wayside Soup Kitchen which is located on the bottom level of the Preble Street Resource Center. I usually eat in peace.

But not lately.

Recently someone put a fist through one of the windows. Someone else rounded up a group and they beat a guy's head in.

Now I understand that all three candidates for Governor of the State of Maine are going to come down to the soup kitchen for a "breakfast discussion" on October 21.

And I wonder...

On September ninth I attended a much different "breakfast and lunch discussion" at the Samoset Resort.

All three candidates attended that get-together, too.

The meeting at the resort was sponsored by the Maine State Housing Authority...and so is the meeting at the soup kitchen on the 21st. The difference is...the people at the soup kitchen won't have the education or financial padding or the confidence that those people had at that Governor's

Conference on Affordable Housing at Samoset.

The folks at the resort didn't break any windows or anybody's jaw.

But then, they didn't spend one too many nights sleeping on a mat on the floor in an over-crowded room.

And while I am not excusing violent behavior of any type, I am hoping that both sides will honestly communicate in a rational and productive manner.

I don't want the meeting to end up being a "feel-good" whistle-stop on the campaign track.



What is Senator Susan Collins afraid of?

I can understand why Collins does not want to answer questions on her close ties with Attorney General Ashcroft and his program to dismantle American civil rights. That may explain why Collins is unwilling to accept the offer of the The League of Women Voters for a debate with Chellie Pingree. The non-political League is known to ask tough questions, and to give opposing debaters a chance to challenge one another. Pingree has agreed to the debate. What I can't understand is why Collins has also refused to answer the survey by Project Vote Smart.

Project Vote Smart is a project established in the 1980s by a bipartisan group of political leaders including Barry Goldwater, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Newt Gingrich. The goal of the project is to provide unbiased information to potential voters. A well informed voting public is crucial to a democracy. Collins was given the national survey 6 weeks before it was due. Three phone calls were made to her office requesting her response.

Chellie Pingree has agreed to the debates, and has answered the survey.

What does Senator Collins want to hide?

Bill Ellis, Rangeley, ME
(207) 864-3784

Election '02 and the Environment: Candidates Say Exactly What You Thought They Would.

BY CATHERINE SCHMITT

PORTLAND - No one would expect a gubernatorial candidate to announce that he was anti-environment at an event sponsored by Maine Audubon, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the Nature Conservancy, Maine Forest Alliance, and the Maine Conservation Voters Education Fund. And no candidate said he wouldn't protect the environment at the October 3rd forum. But each candidate remained in the mold of his party, and each made predictably molded remarks.

The New Hampshire room at the Holiday Inn by the Bay was packed full of voters who were presumed to be "card-carrying environmentalists." Jonathan Carter, John Baldacci, John Michael, and Peter Cianchette took turns answering pre-determined questions. Cianchette held his own in the pit, answering questions carefully, while at the same time staying true to his Republican foundations. And if he sounded distracted when he began to say "clean elections" instead of "clean water", well, it was probably because he knew this forum was not about him. At least he pronounced "ecosystem" correctly, while John Michael insisted on the less common "echosystem." Michael gave up before he even entered the forum, and used the night as an opportunity to deride government with every answer. The real show was between Baldacci the Democrat and Carter the Green. Baldacci sounded like a politician, and frequently referred to his work in Congress. He was the only one to use the word "leadership". Carter was comfortable and confident speaking to the choir. He began his opening statement by saying, "What a pleasure to be here tonight to talk about my favorite subject," and then recited a Cree proverb.

On pollution from paper mills:

Michael suggested we let the mills discharge their effluent 100 yards upstream from their intake, so they'll have to use their own cleaned waste water. Baldacci supported the Maine Rivers Act and wants to move forward. Carter (standing) wants to have only closed-loop paper mills. He also wants to establish a water resources task force to investigate water issues, such as the water shortages Maine is experiencing due to drought and global warming (apparently no one told Carter that drought may or may not be related to climate change). Cianchette would encourage com-

panies to use new technologies without compromising the economy.

On persistent toxicants like mercury:

Baldacci supports phase-outs if alternatives exist. He also wants to eliminate the hazard of lead poisoning within eight years. Carter (standing) said that technology is available to eliminate dioxin completely. He would also pursue legal action against coal-fired power plants in the Midwest. Cianchette said we should look for alternative products. Michael doesn't think the government is protecting the public, and we need laws to strengthen the rights of towns and neighborhoods.

On the northern forest:

Carter (standing) said that global economies are forcing paper companies out of Maine and in order to stay here they need to focus on niche marketing. He said we need to restore the north woods (it was not clear if his use of the word "restore" was a reference to RESTORE: The North Woods). Cianchette said our forests are healthy and conservation easements are a successful and innovative approach to preserving access to the north woods. Michael answered by saying, "Clearcutting is a stupid use of the land." Baldacci supports woodworkers, whether they are from Maine or foreign guests.

On liquidation harvesting:

Cianchette doesn't think we have enough information on what is going on in the north woods. He isn't sure that liquidation harvesting is actually happening to the extent that people are claiming, and thinks banning the process is an overreaction. Michael is hesitant to intrude on property rights. Baldacci would work to ban liquidation harvesting. Carter said that liquidation harvesting is the most serious problem, and would introduce legislation that would tax short-term liquidation land deals.

On the Land for Maine's Future Bond:

Michael doesn't like bonds. Baldacci (standing) wants to double the bond. Carter would support a \$250 million bond. Cianchette is hesitant to commit funds when the state is in debt.

On wildlife conservation:

Baldacci wants more money and mapping. Carter wants more money and mapping and

believes sprawl is the biggest threat to wildlife. Cianchette supports mapping and management plans. Michael said that if we keep the environment clean, the wildlife will follow.

On endangered species:

Carter (standing) wants to protect large tracts of land. Cianchette wants to understand exactly what is happening. Michael does not want to give the DEP any more power. Baldacci supports ecological reserves on public reserve land.

On the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Provincial Leaders' agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the Kyoto protocol:

Cianchette wants to understand climate change and have plenty of sound science before rushing into any regional agreement. Michael is hesitant to enter any agreement because he isn't sure how much hydrocarbons and carbon dioxide have to do with global warming. Baldacci thinks that Maine can and should join the compact. About climate change doubts, Carter said, "This is absurd." He said we need to go further than Kyoto and informed Baldacci that he drives a hybrid car.

On what kind of people they would appoint to state agencies:

Michael would appoint independent people who want to serve the public. Baldacci would appoint people who would work with the public, with the people. Carter would look to the environmental community for suggestions, and would appoint scientists to head agencies like Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the DEP. Cianchette would appoint people who could balance the economy and the environment.

In their final remarks:

Michael: Lets get rid of "dirty little fish pens."

Baldacci: "Environmental accomplishments live forever."

Carter attacked Baldacci.

According to Cianchette, Maine's most pressing issue is the economy.

And with that, the forum was over. See you on November 5.


PLUM : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

In October of 1998, Plum Creek made its first New England land purchase, buying 905,000 acres in Maine, mostly in the Jackman and Moosehead Lake regions, making it the fourth largest landowner in the state. Plum Creek bought its Maine land from SAPPI (South African Pulp and Paper Inc.) at tree-growth value of less than \$200 an acre. This amounted to a purchase of 5% of all Maine land, over a third larger in size than the state of Rhode Island. There are over 2,500 miles of logging roads running through Plum Creek's land in Maine. Mt. Abraham, Bald Mountain, Spalding Mountain, and Sugarloaf Mountain are a few of the mountains on which Plum Creek owns a significant amount of land. It also owns land on 143 ponds and lakes, including Spencer Lake, Roach Pond, Moosehead Lake, and Bald Mountain Pond.

In the Western states where Plum Creek owns land, it has gained a reputation for business practices that are harmful to the surrounding community. Bob Eckey of the Wilderness Society said, "Quite simply, Plum Creek hasn't been a good neighbor in Montana. They have liquidated their forests, degrading water quality and damaging wildlife habitat throughout Western Montana". The criticism has not been limited to environmental groups - in 1990, Washington State Representative Republican Rod Chandler, who has been called one of the "most vocal timber industry advocates in Congress" commented on Plum Creek's practices, stating, "Within the industry they're considered the Darth Vader of the State of Washington." Plum Creek earned this characterization after company executive Bill Parsons expressed his feelings on sustainability, stating, "We have never said we were on a sustained-yield program, and we have never been on a sustained-yield program. ...Let's get to the heart of it. Sure, it's extensively logged, but what is wrong with that?"

In 1999, Plum Creek lost its single largest customer, Home Depot, when the home improvement retailer adopted stricter purchasing guidelines, that require wood products it purchases to have independent, third-party forest certification and come from certified forests. Plum Creek's wood products do not meet these new guidelines. Instead, Plum Creek has continued to subscribe to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. This program is run by the American Forest & Paper Association, and organization made up by about 200 large companies that produce timber, paper products and hardwood. As a result of this industry control, the requirements of the program are much weaker than many would like - it allows for cutting of old-growth forest, and its guideline on cutting trees is to leave eight trees per acre. In a September 26th 2002 article in the Independent Voice, Kim Woodbury of Home Depot said that Plum Creek's Sustainable Forestry Initiative does not provide the independent stamp of approval that Home Depot requires for certification and "Home Depot's purchasing guidelines require the application of external standards developed outside the industry itself. Those standards must consider social as well as environmental issues."

While the nation's largest home improvement retailer won't support Plum Creek's

current practices, there are some very unlikely groups who do, such as the Forest Service and other government agencies. This is at least partly due to the fact that Plum Creek, like almost all large timber and real estate companies, plays a role in shaping those agencies' policies through major donations and lobbying. Between 1993 and 1998 timber companies that log National Forests hired more than 35 lobby firms and at least 141 lobbyists at a cost of more than \$22.5 million. In the 1999-2000 election cycle, over a third of Plum Creek's direct donations to candidates and party committees went to candidates and committees in its new land-base of Maine. Within Maine, 76% of all campaign contributions from timber companies, sawmills, and others engaged in cutting down trees were from Plum Creek. In addition to direct donations, Plum Creek has both created and become a member of other Political Action Committees (PACs) that lobby and make donations. It formed the Plum Creek Good Government Fund in 1993, which has given \$32,000 in the upcoming national election, \$2,000 of that to Maine Senator Susan Collins. Plum Creek is also a member of the



photo credit: Josh Lambert

BEAUTY IS ONLY 150 FEET DEEP

In this aerial photo of a road through Plum Creek land near Jackman, the "beauty strip" of trees between the road and the clearcut is much more obvious than it is to a driver on that road.

very powerful National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts which has given \$227,000 in this election cycle, again with \$2,000 of that going to Senator Collins. According to a 1999 Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) report, Senator Collins was among the top five recipients of PAC money from timber companies that log National Forests, of which Plum Creek is one of the eight largest. It would seem that these donations to Collins, which have been occurring regularly since she first ran for office, have been reflected in her voting record. According to the PIRG report, Senator Collins voted to continue a timber road building subsidy and supported continued logging in National Forests. Plum Creek also plays a significant role in shaping logging policy in Maine, as Doug Denico, Maine's Plum Creek Representative, is also the Chairman of Maine's Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program.

In the Northwest, Plum Creek has seen

direct benefits from its donations to politicians. In the 1997-98 election cycle, Plum Creek was the fourth largest contributor to Washington Senator Slade Gorton's campaign, donating \$21,000 (between 1996 and 2000 Plum Creek made \$58,700 in direct donations to the Senator). When Plum Creek was attempting a Washington land swap of thousands of acres of its for a smaller amount of public land in 1998, it began to face public outcry and challenges. While Plum Creek would be gaining less land than it was offering, much of the land it was offering was either already cut or in areas too difficult and expensive to cut, and the new land had more valuable trees and was far less visible. "Clearly, for Plum Creek, this exchange would allow us to take somewhat of a lower profile in Western Washington," explained Plum Creek vice president William Brown. As the challenges and negotiations increased, Plum Creek threatened to pull out of the deal unless a decision was made quickly. As a result, representatives of Plum Creek met with Washington Senators Slade Gorton and Patty Murray to craft a rider that would short circuit the normal environmental

them get it." He went on to say, "But don't blame the Forest Service. Currently Congress appropriates more than one third of the forest service budget to the timber program, while only 11% goes to recreation, watershed protection, and wildlife programs combined."

Plum Creek has benefited from logging on public lands in the Northwest, cutting at a rate of over 500 million board feet a year, and in the process of doing so, has been able to greatly underbid smaller logging operations and mills. With many small, family-owned mills having a tough time surviving in Montana (where Plum Creek now makes up 90% of the timber industry) a group of small loggers and mills have proposed a five-year plan that would prevent the large timber companies from bidding on a percentage of federal timber sales. The small companies argue that they log using more environmentally sound practices, and this change might allow the last remaining independent mills and loggers in Montana to survive in the face of Plum Creek ownership.

In addition to being able to cut and buy timber cheaply from public lands, government programs in the form of taxpayer subsidized road programs have also helped Plum Creek. According to US Forest Service data compiled by Common Cause, from 1991 to 1997, Plum Creek received \$4,648,460 in taxpayer money to cover the cost of timber road construction. Plum Creek was benefiting from a program called the Purchaser Road Credit Program, which was since eliminated in 1998 as a result of protests of corporate abuse of the program. However, as soon as that one program was ended, it was replaced with a new similar program, called the Specified Roads Costs (SRC) program. While no data was found on the specific amount of money received by Plum Creek as a result of this program, already over \$14 million in taxpayer money has gone to benefit private timber companies (almost definitely including Plum Creek) under the SRC program. Under the Bush administration, this amount is only growing, with a \$12 million increase in timber subsidies planned for 2003 alone. According to New York Agriculture Department official Jim Lyons, the number one water quality problem in the forest is roads.

Tax structures in the IRS have been kind to Plum Creek. Before 1999, Plum Creek was structured as a master limited partnership corporation, which exempted it from paying federal tax on its profits, which exceeded \$150 million a year. In July of 1999 it restructured as a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), amid what the Wall Street Journal called "a knotty tax issue", in its new structure and plans to merge with The Timber Company. However, almost exactly four months prior to the Plum Creek and Timber Company merger, the IRS revised and clarified its rules, deciding that a company can distribute to its shareholders tax-free stock (called spin-off) of a company that would elect REIT status. The ruling allows landowning companies to cut their tax burden by moving real-estate assets off their books and paying rent to a REIT they would create. According to Plum Creek's website, a REIT structure is profitable to the

review and public process, and allow the company and Forest Service to avoid appeals and lawsuits after the exchange occurred. The exchange passed with that rider inside a much larger, unrelated Omnibus Appropriations Bill. A 1999 Seattle Times investigative series "Trading Away The West" commented on Plum Creek, "These days, Plum Creek might be called 'The Tree Swapping Company.' No other company is pushing land exchanges with the federal government more aggressively. It has 10 proposed swaps in the works, involving everything from sections of the Lewis & Clark Trail in Montana to rattlesnake habitat in Arkansas."

As Jay Letto observed in the Seattle Times series, "Trading Away the West", "So why does the Forest Service pursue projects that don't benefit most people? Simple: it needs money to operate. There is no shortage of business interests offering cash for a piece of the forest and no shortage of members of Congress who will take the cash to help



company since "Plum Creek derives most of its income from the sale of timber, which is treated as capital gain income. Accordingly, the taxable portion of Plum Creek dividends will, for the most part, be treated as a capital gain (taxed at the maximum rate of 20 percent)."

According to University of Georgia forest economist, Mike Clutter, REITs were created about 25 years ago as a way to help small investors own real estate, but because of their favorable tax status, they have become a huge presence in the world of property ownership. Plum Creek was the first timber company to use the REIT structure in this way. While moving timberland into the REIT structure is profitable for the companies like Plum Creek, it often deprives the communities in which the land is owned of a large portion of tax dollars. Additionally, tax laws frequently force individual and small landowners (and even some of the traditional larger, locally based timberland owners) to sell their land, as they cannot afford the property and inheritance taxes, and are not able to form the REIT structure for their land that major companies like Plum Creek are able to form. Clutter concluded, "There has always been a connection between traditional forest products companies and the timberland they managed. But the new tax structures mean we'll see more and more land owned by those most removed from it."

With its shift to a REIT, much of Plum Creek's focus has turned to real estate and development. "These lands have been enjoyed by generations of Maine people for hunting, fishing, and remote recreation, yet - if Plum Creek manages these lands as they have managed their holdings in other states - then these precious areas could be sold off for development, posted with "no trespassing" signs, and become off-limits to the people of this state forever. ...Unlike Maine's other larger land owners, Plum Creek is a major real estate developer in addition to being an aggressive timber harvester," explained Peter Didisheim in 1998 in a Natural Resources Council of Maine statement. "One look at Plum Creek's website shows that the company specializes in subdividing their most attractive properties for vacation homes." A November 2001 Wall Street Journal article confirmed Didisheim's fears, stating, "[Plum Creek President] Mr. Holley said at least 400,000 of [Plum Creek's] acres appear ideally suited for commercial or residential development, since they are either near big cities like Atlanta and Daytona Beach, Fla., or along lakes such as in Montana and Maine. Analysts praised the move, saying it builds on Plum Creek's existing practice of selling off timberlands for development or other purposes for more than it could get from logging." Indeed, Plum Creek officials admit that they focus on finding the most profitable use for the land they own, whether it be as timber, other resource extraction, or real estate development. "We are clearly focusing on identifying our assets that have a higher-and-better use for real estate value," explained executive vice president for real estate and strategic business development, Tom Lindquist in a Seattle Business Journal article, adding that oil, gas, coal, and mineral extraction, and land subdivided and sold or leased for

development could eventually account for as much as a quarter of the company's earnings. The company has begun to make inroads to energy extraction, recently having signed an agreement with Iluka Resources Inc, and Australia-based processing and mining company, for the purpose of exploring Plum Creek's lands for mineral deposits. A Plum Creek subsidiary has also signed an agreement to begin drilling 70 wells to extract methane gas from coal beds in West Virginia and Virginia. Real estate activity currently generates the third largest amount of revenues for the company, behind timber harvesting and manufacturing. It generated about \$23 million in revenue from real estate in the first quarter of 2002, and with 400,000 acres the company's land having what Plum Creek considers "real estate potential," this number will likely increase.

In the Northwest, Plum Creek has become known for engaging in double liquidation forestry, cutting the valuable timber, and then subdividing and selling the land for real estate development. After selling off large amounts of timber for log and wood chip exports to Asia, Plum Creek began selling off prime valley-bottom and riparian areas for real estate development. "The communities and forests of our nation are being exploited as colonial possessions by Plum Creek and other huge timber corporations," said John Osborn of The Lands Council in Spokane, Washington. "From Maine to the Great Lakes to the Pacific Northwest and back again they take our forests, they take our workers' jobs, they take their promises and cut and run."

Since Plum Creek has moved to Maine, it has shown its intent to make profits from real estate, and has already begun selling off large sections of its originally \$200 an acre land (how many people get a deal like that?). While Plum Creek lauded itself for its environmental consciousness for selling a 65 mile strip of lakeshore and riverfront to the State's public reserved land system, it was not making major sacrifices in this sale, since it sold the land to the state at \$652 an acre. Plum Creek also sold 7,500 acres of its newly acquired land to billionaire summer-resident John Malone (who, ironically, has been dubbed the "Darth Vader of the cable industry"). Malone paid \$10.5 million for the land, or \$1,333 an acre, around the northern half of Spencer lake, including Fish Pond and a private boat launch that the previous owner, SAPPI, had kept available for public use. Many people in areas where Malone has been purchasing land have been voicing concerns about public access and leased cabins on the land and lake. Then, in July of 2001, Plum Creek officials announced the largest subdivision ever in Maine's unorganized territory of Kokadjo, in the Moosehead Lake region, subdividing much of the area surrounding First Roach Pond into 89 camp lots.

As one of the largest landowners in the state, Plum Creek's history and practices should not be ignored. Converting wild and working woodlands into summer homes, restricting access to the land, and practicing unsustainable forestry practices will lead Maine down the path that many states and countries have followed, turning parts of the state into either plantations for large

out-of-state companies, or retreats for out-of-state wealthy people who profit from these companies. The Maine Forest Service has recently released an analysis of the state's timber supply which shows that Maine's largest landowners are cutting 14% more wood annually than the forests are growing. Companies such as Plum Creek do not necessarily have what is best for the local history, cultures, and environment in mind when they conduct their business. They do, on the other hand, have their profits in mind, and indeed are legally bound to generate the greatest profits they are able to for their stock holders. If sustainable harvesting of wood and employing local workers is the most profitable path, then the company will take it. If selling the land to the state or conservation groups is the most profitable path, the company will take it. If selling off the Maine woods to become just another vacation retreat is the most profitable path, the companies will take it. If cutting the wood as quickly as possible, mechanizing forestry, paying out-of-state contractors who hire non-local workers, paying workers the lowest wage they can get away with, or avoiding responsibility for worker safety are the most profitable paths, then the company will take them. If the company faces damage to its reputation and lost profits as a result of the actions it was taking to generate profits, it will change (though not necessarily stop) its practices until it can regain profits. Plum Creek is not unique in its practices. Just like many other major real estate and resource extraction companies, it influences and benefits from government policy. It benefits from tax rules that allow it to pay the least taxes possible to the communities whose land generates its profit. Its practices, whether they be clear cutting, creating easements, road building, manufacturing, gas extraction, or real estate subdivision are based on a need to create the greatest profit possible. Will the people of Maine leave it entirely up to Plum Creek to choose from these options? It is the people who live and work on this land, who are a part of this land, who are affected by these practices. It is also these same people who will be able to observe Plum Creek's practices. With research and organization, the people who are a part of this land might be able to have some say in what happens to the land, and make themselves known to be more than just side issues.

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This article is Part 1 of a new Maine Commons series focusing on companies, individuals, organizations, and government entities that control and own the state of Maine. Next issue will explore how Plum Creek has personally affected people living and working in and around its newly owned lands. Following issues will likely focus on businesses MBNA and Irving. If you have ideas for "Owners" to include, or would like to contribute a column, please contact the Maine Commons (see contact information, page 2.)

instructions that could very easily be malicious, and you have no way of knowing. It's best to delete it all. Spyware is any software package that has programmed-in monitoring software to observe your online activities and send them to a central server. While this may seem like Big Brother in action, its most frequent use is to monitor the sorts of websites you visit and tailor spam, pop-up ads, or adware to your interests. However, since it does send all of your online activities to a central server, it is no stretch of the imagination that this information could be used for nefarious purposes.

1.) A freeware utility to delete spyware and adware is called Ad-Aware (www.lavasoftusa.com). It is free, but one can get a version that does realtime scanning for \$15.00

2.) Go to www.tom-cat.com/spybase and look through their list of spyware-supporting applications. If you see something you use, delete it and find some sort of replacement that does not use spyware.

3.) Again, install a firewall. If an active spyware program tries to send out a communiqué to a central server, you'll know about it and can block it.

Other threats

The most pervasive and easily-dealt-with problems already having been addressed, there are a few more things to watch out for.

Carnivore is the email-spying system used by the government to track computer criminals. However, since Carnivore must scan all internet traffic in its search for keyphrases, innocent users may stray into the crossfire. If you are concerned about email security, consider PGP (Pretty Good Protection). It will encrypt email messages, and those messages can only be opened by someone who has the key, which you have given them previously. Government code-breakers cannot crack PGP easily, and will generally not dedicate the time it requires to do it by brute force unless heavily motivated. Instead, they will go looking for the key, which also must be transmitted over the internet in most cases. It isn't foolproof, but it can help. Go to www.pgpi.org for more info.

Windows and Internet Explorer security holes are the results of bugs in Microsoft's code caused by rush-jobs on the parts of MS' programmers. MS would rather make flawed products and get them out faster than take the time to find all the holes. Also, they don't need to hire as many people to debug the software if people are paying them to be guinea-pigs in real-world environments. Keep up to date on Windows and IE security updates at <http://windowupdate.microsoft.com>.

More info at these resources:

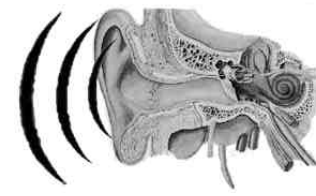
<http://www.net-security.org/>

<http://www.cert.org/>

<http://www.securityfocus.com/>



Call & Response



Maine Commons writers respond to criticism and concerns

This response is to a letter that was originally a "letter to the editor" but whose resulting response became too long for that section.

Dear Editors:

You ran an article in the June-July 2002 Issue of the Maine Commons on pg.6 col.1 "Washington Deals Blow to Freedom of Speech" concerning the passage of HR2356, the Election Reform Bill. The article states the act "will prohibit any person or organization from advertising the voting record of an incumbent politician ... within 60 days of an election." I have several concerns about the running/reprinting of this article.

1.) Was this an "Associated Press" listing? Where did this originally find publication? What date?

2.) If the Act included a clause with an "obvious violation of (our) freedom of speech," why didn't the paper follow up and write a more in-depth article on this?

I wrote to my representatives on this because the idea of making such an act "illegal" was reprehensible to me. In response, Senator Snowe explained the clause addressed in a totally different way. "Illegal" and "prohibit" never came up.

If you expect to be taken seriously, give accurate information and properly cite your sources.

I would like to know where the Commons stands in regards to this article and its assumption put forth.

Sincerely, **M. Conway**, Steuben, ME

Dear M. Conway,

You write "Was this an "Associated Press" listing? Where did this originally find publication? What date?"

This was not an AP listing. As was stated in the Maine Commons, below the article, this article was written by David Deschesne, from the Citizen Reporter, a monthly independent free publication out of Presque Isle. We didn't state, but should have, that it was from the April 2002 edition of the publication.

You write "If the Act included a clause with an "obvious violation of (our) freedom of speech," why didn't the paper follow up and write a more in-depth article on this?"

First, I'd refer you to the Maine Commons FAQ (pg 3). The Maine Commons does not have any paid staff - all writing is from regular people around Maine researching and sending in submissions. Those of us on the editorial team work hard to follow up articles we've printed, but it is not possible, on

our time and budget to follow up everything. If you are interested in this particular issue, you are more than welcome to become the media and write a follow-up, more in-depth article on this issue.

You write "If you expect to be taken seriously, give accurate information and properly cite your sources. I would like to know where the Commons stands in regards to this article and its assumption put forth."

The Maine Commons, as a publication, does not have any stance on the assumptions put forth in this article, it is a forum for that article. However, the editorial team does attempt to fact check articles before they are published. In regard to this article, I did more research to make sure that the facts put forth were correct, and I have found nothing to make me believe otherwise since then.

The article states that the Act "will prohibit any person or organization from advertising the voting record of an incumbent politician ... within 60 days of an election." The American Civil Liberties Union has written a fact sheet, available at www.aclu.org/congress/1021202c.html supporting the truthfulness of this statement (and, in fact, shows that the restrictions of the bill are even broader than just advertising the voting record). The ACLU states that "H.R. 2356 would burden and abridge the very speech that the First Amendment was designed to protect: political speech." I will include some excerpts from that fact sheet here:

"The bill's statutory limitations on issue advocacy would force groups that now engage in issue advocacy - including non-profit corporations known as 501(c)(4)s -- to create new institutional entities in order to "legally" speak within 30 days before a congressional primary or runoff and 60 days before a general election. This restriction applies to any ad that "can be received" by 50,000 or more "persons," including minors, within a district -- which covers almost all TV or radio ads, since few persons do not possess TVs and radios. If a group wanted to take out a broadcast, cable or satellite ad during this period they would have to create a PAC [a Political Action Committee, which is created to raise money for the purpose of electing a candidate] where donors would have to be disclosed to the FEC in a way never before sustained by the courts. The opportunities that donors now have to contribute anonymously (a real concern when a cause is unpopular or divisive -- see NAACP v. Alabama) would be eliminated.

"Being forced to establish a PAC as a condition of commenting on campaign issues could entail a significant and costly burden for many non-profit organizations. Separate accounting procedures, new legal compliance costs and separate administrative processes would be imposed on these

groups -- a high price to exercise their First Amendment rights to comment on candidate records. ...Further, members of Congress need only wait until days before a primary or general election (as they often do now) to vote for legislation or engage in controversial behavior so that their actions are beyond the reach of public comment and, therefore, effectively immune from citizen criticism.

"... None of the proposals [of the bill] seek to regulate the ability of the media -- print, electronic, broadcast or cable -- to exercise its enormous power to direct news coverage and editorialize in favor or against candidates. This would be clearly unconstitutional. However, if the sponsors of Shays-Meehan have their way, the only entities that would be free to comment in any significant way on candidates' records would be the media, wealthy individuals, PACs and the candidates themselves. Corporations and unions need only to purchase media outlets if they want to have influence over candidates - their wealth and influence will not be abated by these so-called 'reforms.'"

Other organizations, ranging from the National Right to Life Committee, to the Home School Legal Defense Association have echoed these concerns. The stated concerns are supported by reading the bill (though it's extremely long and wordy and full of legalese), as well, which, for those with internet access, can be viewed by visiting <http://thomas.loc.gov> by typing in HR 2356 in "Bill Number."

I would have to be in contact with Senator Snowe myself to find out how she "explained the clause addressed in a totally different way." and why "Illegal" and "prohibit" never came up." It may be that she is not fully aware of the implications of the bill herself. The bill quite definitely does include fines and imprisonment for violations of its restrictions, thus making violations "illegal" and "prohibited"

Thanks for reading the paper and making sure we're putting out the truth. We're working on it.

Sincerely,
Hillary, of the Editorial Team
Dear Editors,

The next response is from a letter written to us shortly after the last issue came out. We forwarded the letter on to Ron Huber, who responded. The original article appeared in the Maine Commons Issue 7, July-Aug 2002.

In your summer issue, a photo of Eastport in Ron Huber's article about "Marine Hog Farms" was captioned,

"A view of Heritage Salmon's Eastport

plant and pens, from a neighboring State Park. The photographer noticed a strong unpleasant odor, even at this distance."

The implication that the fish farm stinks is entirely wrong, and glaringly ignorant in an article that purports to know what's going on in the fish business. I've spent several nights anchored in that same bay, and can tell you that the salmon smell fine; the odor comes from the Pearl Essence factory, which is also in the picture. Herring scales, a byproduct of fisheries all along the coast, are gathered here and processed into the iridescence in products like eye shadow and buttons.

I believe that it is an ecologically sound business, and certainly one that is valued by fishermen and the residents of Eastport. And I guess unknowingly by folks who like shiny eye makeup. But old, unprocessed, herring scales are smelly!

The most disturbing thing is how unsurprising this error is alongside Huber's diatribe. Living in the midcoast, I've gotten used to his over-the-top harangues, in which facts are treated lightly. I appreciate the effort you are making at The Maine Commons to provide independent journalism, but mistakes like this hurt your credibility.

Sincerely, **Ben Ellison**, Camden, ME

Mr. Ellison may not be comfy with my writing style, (one person's advocacy is another person's diatribe, I guess). But he correctly doesn't challenge the facts of the article - as he shouldn't, since the bulk of Maine's marine and coastal trades industry, of which he's an important part, is up in arms about fast-tracked corporate aquaculture degrading Maine's coastal environment.

That environment powers coastal Maine's thriving decentralized ecotourist economy - the very economy that Ellison's industry serves and supports.

As for the photo and its caption, they were added by the editor after I submitted the story (heck, I like the smell of fish plants, though clearly some folks, such as the author of the photograph, don't.) One interesting coincidence in Ben's letter: the father of Penobscot Bay Watch president Herb Hoche INVENTED the herring scaler that makes possible the 'Pearl Essence' business that Ben describes. Small world...

Sincerely, **Ron Huber**, for Penobscot Bay Watch

(Editor's Note: The caption of the photo was adapted from the caption used where the editor found the photo in an online photo-essay at the following URL: <http://epbea.org/article06.htm>. Our apologies for not crediting the source, though we did give credit to the photographer.)



Ability Maine Speaks

Excerpted from

Tied To The Railroad Track Of Progress: How the American Ideology of Progress Fuels the Oppression of People with MCS part 1 of 2

BY SHARON WACHSLER

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) has become a hot topic for talk shows, newspaper and magazine articles, legal debate, and medical conferences. Most discussions of the illness focus on whether MCS is real or not. Detractors cite psychological causes for MCS, including "hysteria" and depression. The courts, uninformed about chemical injury, are unsympathetic to people with MCS who seek disability benefits, worker's compensation, or compensation from those responsible for their injury. Furthermore, attacks by industry-supported lawyers, physicians, and the media only increase as evidence amasses that MCS is a serious physical disorder effected by a toxin-filled environment. This essay discusses how America's belief in "progress" influences such events.

The Ideology of Progress

While data on the lives of people with MCS are limited, evidence suggests that people with MCS might even be worse off than the general population of people with disabilities where rates of poverty, unemployment, undereducation, and suicide are all much higher than in the nondisabled population. Often unable to participate in activities outside their homes, people with MCS are at risk for extreme isolation. This is compounded when friends, family, and coworkers - uneducated about MCS or hearing it described as "insanity" - abandon the sufferer, leaving her/him without access to help and empowerment. That people with MCS have so little access to economic and social power is an indicator of the level of their oppression.

Sociologists define oppression as the maintenance of power by a dominant group over a subordinate group. The dominant group maintains control of the society's economic, political, and cultural resources, as well as creating a belief system - an ideology - that serves to justify and reinforce the status quo. The ideas contained in this ideology are passed down as "truths" to each successive generation, becoming more ingrained and less discernible. Therein lies the power of ideology - what was once an idea becomes an imperceptible, pervasive belief system that, thoroughly ingrained, is rarely questioned. Members of the subordinate group therefore not only have limited access to society's resources, they also experience a definition of reality that serves to maintain their oppression.

As with all pervasive belief systems, the notion of progress is upheld by a network of other socially constructed truths. Two of the critical tenets of American progress are domination of the natural world and consumerism. Both serve to maintain the status quo by keeping certain segments of society in power. Psychologist Chellis Glendinning states that "the values fueling our modern concept of 'progress' as unchecked technological development have become the moral imperative of the modern age."

Progress is also uniformly regarded as "inevitable."

The notion of progress originated with the French aristocracy in the latter half of the 18th century. They believed that "mankind" was on an unstoppable, linear path towards a higher plane of culture, morality, technology, and science. All aspects of "intellectual and moral progress would go hand in hand," with science leading the way, and "common men would eventually accept scientific guidance to reach for further perfectibility." Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, published in 1859, seemed to offer a powerful argument for the truth of human progress. Evolution was not just a social imperative of progress but a political and moral one as well. During the cultural shift of the industrial era away from Christian theology and an enchanted view of nature and toward a scientific world view, This philosophy took hold in America and became its new theology. "Social Darwinism" was the name given to this belief that those who are rich and successful are morally and intellectually superior - more "fit" in the social "survival of the fittest." Those who did not evince progress by Western standards - such as Native Americans - had to either be brought in line, or die, for the betterment of the human race.

Social Darwinism was therefore a useful ideology for the white settlers who needed to conquer new land and resources to build their fortunes. The U.S. Industrial Revolution, built on domination and technological application of the earth's resources, established a social, ethical, and economic blueprint for the intertwining of morality with wealth, technology, and domination.

The social and technological changes in the last century have further magnified and entrenched the progress ideology. The U.S. conversion from a capitalist to a consumerist society has increased societal reliance on the creation of technology. Between 1945 and 1975, U.S. production of synthetic organic chemicals increased by 162 billion pounds annually. From 1976 to 1987, production increased another 46 million tons per year.

Those invested in progress also control the means of promoting this ideology. Seventy-five percent of commercial network television time is paid for by the 100 largest corporations in the U.S. In addition to controlling television and print advertisement, they sponsor most major sporting and cultural events; shape movie and television programming; sit on the boards of national medical organizations; and "lobby" our elected officials. Since the 1950s, politicians and advertisers have linked consumerism to patriotism, reifying the connection between morality, progress, and consumption. Through advertising, American industry continually creates markets for its ever-expanding line of new products. Advertisements like General

Electric's "Progress Is Our Most Important Product" and AT&T's "Bringing You a World without Limits" support the dominant view that progress is inevitable, limitless, and the answer to all our problems.

Sharon Wachsler, a cartoonist, poet, and essayist, holds a BA in Sociology and Women's Studies. Sharon's work appears in numerous magazines and in Restricted Access and Yentl's Revenge. Get her cartoons at www.SickHumorPostcards.com. Her monthly humor column is at www.AbilityMaine.org

Young Writer Seeks Typewriter

I don't have much money, so it has to be cheap or free. I am willing to trade a 20gig harddrive for the right typewriter. Send correspondence to:

Paul Madore
RR1 Box 150
Milo, ME 04463

BoundTogether

CLASS

BY CLAIRE GÉLINAS

Last year Barbara West came to Norway, Maine to lead a discussion about CLASS. About a dozen people came, and we talked for a couple of hours.

I took notes, because I'm trying to figure this stuff out for myself, including how it relates to the "let's change the world and make it a better place" work I'm trying to do. In this BoundTogether, I'm sharing some of the remarks people made. I agree with some of them, and disagree a lot with others. But they all made me think.

Someone said class may be the "root oppression" in our lives, and that the other "isms" are used by the class system to keep us divided. That made me think of class as the sorting of people into places of more or less privilege and power, with racism and sexism and other isms as the tools for doing (and justifying) the sorting. And then I started thinking of how class is also a tool for doing the sorting. And THEN I started thinking of how, depending on where you stand, maybe any of these isms can be seen as the "root oppression," and the other isms as tools to keep that oppression in place.

Someone said that class is like an invisible fault line. I am a now-financially-comfortable-but-grew-up-low-income person, and every now and then in the discussion we had, someone said something that made me feel like I had just stepped into a huge (invisible) crack in the ground beneath my feet. My stomach churned, and a couple of times I wanted to interrupt and talk loud and fast (no class) and a couple times I almost left because I started thinking maybe I didn't belong there. I wrote those things down. Things like:

- "A good education is the great equalizer."
- "Poor people are less active today than in the past."
- "I'd like to put in a plea for the beleaguered middle class."
- "It seems like a lot of the energy and passion for social change comes from the middle class and upper middle class."

- "The internet has brought a whole other dimension to equality of education."

- "We need to educate people with wealth and power who don't know what's going on, because they're the ones who can make a difference."

- "Middle and upper class people are the ones who have the leisure, education, and time to analyze a situation and respond."

Of course, I also heard stuff I liked. Things like:

- " 'Individualism' works for people who have all their needs met. Solidarity is the only thing that's going to work for people who are not privileged in this way."

- "Class. It's about attitude. And it's about structure."

- "Power differences are felt by the people who don't have power. Those with power are often unaware of it."

- "The strategies we choose, the ways in which we make change, reflect our class attitudes."

- "If we pretend there are no class differences in the room, they will get in the way. We need to bring them to awareness."

- "Education separates people who communicate and learn in different ways, and attaches power and status to the differences."

- "What should groups do to address these issues? Start by being aware, for instance being aware of who doesn't speak."

- "I see a wall, and it's a pretty thick wall."

When different kinds of people work together, and all have power, the world changes. How can we get together in all our differences, and do it without repeating the patterns that got us into this mess in the first place? Send your reactions to what you read here. Or send a letter, pictures, ideas, suggestions, cartoons, your thoughts, experiences, crankiness, dreams etc. to BoundTogether, 18 Stone Road, West Paris, ME 04289. Claire at 674-2358 or email rutabaga@megalink.net.

BoundTogether is a joint project of the Maine Commons, Resources for Organizing and Social Change and YOU.



Maine Solidarity Calendar

Selected Events Oct 17 - Nov 22, 2002 (updated and with more info at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>)

Thursday Oct 17th

"Legacy of Community Action" Movie

Time: 5:30 PM

Phone: 941-2347

Location: Park Woods, 11 Bolling Drive, Bangor

Info: Free Pizza, Movie, & discussion. "Legacy of Community Action" is a compelling film featuring a family and their struggle to find a permanent home, as seen from a teenagers perspective.

Countercoup Theater and Forum

Time: 6:30 PM

Phone: 967-2390

Email: kubiak@nancho.net

Location: 16 Alfred St. (behind the Happy Dragon Restaurant), Biddeford

Info: Showing Tonight: The Best Democracy Money Can Buy, Gregg Palast

Friday Oct 18th

Media Democracy Day

Location: Various in-state and global events

Info: See www.indymedia.org for global events. See page 21 for local events.

"Where Are The Jobs?" Rally

Time: 2:00 PM

Phone: 945-3917

Email: jmckay@cs.com

Location: Federal Building, Bangor

Info: Join workers, unions, & other community organizations to memorialize jobs lost and to demand corporate and economic accountability from our Senator!

Bangor Area Unemployed Workers Video Showing and Town Meeting

Time: 3:00 PM

Phone: 947-4203

Email: jmckay@cs.com

Location: H.O.M.E., Orland

Info: Free video showing and discussion.

Countercoup Theater and Forum

Time: 6:30 PM

(see Oct 17 for location & contact info)

Info: Showing: Drum Beat for Mother Earth: Pollutant threats to tribal peoples

Saturday Oct 19th

Maine NOW (National Organization for Women) Annual Conference

Phone: 989-3306

"Where Are The Jobs?" Rally

Time: 9:00 AM

Phone: 622-3151

Email: blniccoli@compuserve.com

Location: Hathaway Shirt Building, Downtown Waterville

Info: See October 18th listing for details.

"No More Business As Usual" Unemployed Workers and Anti-Sweatshop March

Time: Noon

Phone: 622-3151

Email: blniccoli@compuserve.com

Location: Monument Square, Portland

Info: Highschool student-organized anti-sweatshop march to join Portland unemployed workers rally.

2nd Annual JED Garlic Gathering

Time: 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Phone: 946-4478

Email: jed@riseup.net

Location: JED Center, Greene

Info: Garlic gathering, Apple Cider Pressing, & Potluck Supper.

Community Dinner & Info Session

Time: 5:30 PM

Info: See Page 21 for more info.



A GROWING MOVEMENT FROM MASS. TO MAINE

Two members of a busload of Mainers who attended the Boston Freedom Rally, where the formation of "Mainely NORML" (Nat'l Org. for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) was announced.

photo credit: Hillary Lister

Countercoup Theater and Forum

Time: 6:30 PM

(see Oct 17 for location & contact info)

Info: Showing: Bulworth: Warren Beatty's black comedy on Big \$ election corruption

Sunday Oct 20th

Countercoup Theater and Forum

Time: 6:30 PM

(see Oct 17 for location & contact info)

Info: Showing: Roughing the Uppers: History of Maine shoe industry & 1937 strike

Monday Oct 21st

Talk on Papal Power and Confronting the Religious Right

Time: 7:00 PM

Contact: Pax Christi Maine

Phone: 773-6562

Location: St. Pius X Church Hall, Ocean Ave, Portland

Info: Joanna Manning, Canadian Catholic, speaks on confronting papal power and the religious right.

Tuesday Oct 22nd

Coming Together for Maine Workers with Disabilities - Northern Maine

Phone: 1-800-800-4876 ext.4843 (8-5PM M-F) or TTY 1-800-331-4902

Email: lminden@usm.maine.edu

Web: choices.muskie.usm.maine.edu/conference/

Location: Civic Center, Bangor

Info: For everyone interested in new employment services and resources for people with disabilities in Maine. This includes consumers, service providers, state agencies, employers, family members, advocates and researchers. Free registration.

Portland Events for International Day Against Police Brutality

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Congress Square, Portland

Info: Come support the Portland 14 who were arrested on September 26th, and all members of the Portland Community, especially immigrants and homeless people who have had to deal with police brutality in Portland. Rally, Open Forum and Discussion on police brutality in Portland and around the country.

Penobscot Gay Mens Retreat

Contact: Coastal AIDS Network

Phone: 338-6330

Location: Lincolnville, ME

Info: Continues to Sun. Oct. 27

Thursday Oct 24th

"Legacy of Community Action" Movie

Time: 5:30 PM

Phone: 941-2347

Location: Families And Children Together, 304 Hancock Street, Bangor

Info: See Oct 17 Description.

Countercoup Theater and Forum

Time: 6:30 PM

(see Oct 17 for location & contact info)

Info: Showing: Artists Pushing Social Change: Howard Zinn, Art in the Revolution

Friday Oct 25th

Critical Masquerade Bike Ride

Time: 5:00 PM

Email: 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

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.

Valerie Corral, Medical Marijuana Activist, Speaking at USM

Time: 7:00 PM

Phone: 780-4955

Email: chapkis@usm.maine.edu

Location: Luther Bonney Auditorium, USM Portland Campus, Portland

Saturday Oct 26th

Stop the War Now - March and Rally

Location: Augusta

Info: See Page 19 For Details.

Countercoup Theater and Forum

Time: 6:30 PM

(see Oct 17 for location & contact info)

Info: Showing: Star Wars Revisited: Plan for US world domination from space.

"What Americans Want to Know about the New International Criminal Court"

Contact: Physicians for Social Responsibility

Phone: 772-6714

Email: psr_maine@yahoo.com

Web: <http://www.unamaine.org/ICCevent>

Location: Law School, USM, Portland

Info: Register online or call.

Thursday Oct 31st

Countercoup Theater and Forum

Time: 6:30 PM

(see Oct 17 for location & contact info)

Info: Showing Tonight: New War on

Terrorism: Noam Chomsky.

Friday Nov 1st

Countercoup Theater and Forum

Time: 6:30 PM

(see Oct 17 for location & contact info)

Info: Showing: Loss of Liberty: Whitewashed Israeli murder of US sailors in 1967 war.

Saturday Nov 2nd

Iraq and US Global Strategy

Time: 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Info: See Page 19 for details.

Sunday Nov 3rd

Countercoup Theater and Forum

Time: 6:30 PM

(see Oct 17 for location & contact info)

Info: Showing: Trade Secrets: Bill Moyers on chemical industry pollution & lies

Saturday Nov 9th

Alternatives to Militarism for Youth In Maine

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Info: See Page 19 For Details.

Tuesday, Nov 12th

Coming Together for Maine Workers with Disabilities - Southern Maine

Location: Sheraton Hotel, South Portland

Info: See Oct 22nd for info and contacts.

Thursday Nov 14th

Democratizing the Media

Time: 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Phone: 581-3860

Email: Douglas.Allen@umit.maine.edu

Location: Coe Lounge, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono

Info: Free Panel & Discussion

Saturday Nov 16th

Toxics Action 2002 Annual Conference on Fighting Toxic Pollution

Time: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Phone: 871-1810

Email: maggie@toxicsaction.org

Location: Colby College, Waterville

Wednesday Nov 20th

Film: "The Vigil"

Time: 6:00 PM

Phone: 338-4920

Location: Free Library, Belfast

Info: Film about Elijah Lovejoy of Albion, opponent of slavery before the Civil War, who was born 200 years ago.

Friday Nov 22nd

September 11: Ways of Looking

Time: 7:00 PM

Phone: 942-9343

Email: peacectr@gwi.net

Location: Peace and Justice Center, 170 Park St, Bangor

Info: Video of speech by Johan Galtung, known as the founder of the discipline of Peace Studies. Discussion to follow.



Maine Solidarity Calendar

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

Maine Time Dollar Network Monthly Gathering

Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Phone: 874-9868

Email: robin@mtdn.org

Web: <http://www.mtdn.org>

Location: The Family Workshop, 215 Congress Street, Portland

Info: Potluck. Time Dollars are a community currency in Portland. Meet other Time Dollar members and share great food and conversation, while building community and having fun. 4th Tuesday each month.

Waldo County Peace and Justice Group

Time: 7:00 PM

Phone: 338-0406

Email: 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

Location: Lewiston

Info: Monthly gathering & movie night for gay/bi men men & gay/bi identified transmen of all ages. 3rd Wednesday of month.

People's Free Space Meeting

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Portland West (181 Brackett St), Portland

Info: We are meeting to start up a new community space in Portland. Come to get involved & offer input. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Every 1st Monday is Movie Night. Every last Wednesday is a film and discussion night.

Thursdays

Peninsula Peace & Justice potluck supper

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Phone: 326-4405

Email: 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

Info: 2nd Thursday of the month.

"Other"

Machias Vigil of Hope

Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Contact: WFP

Phone: 546-2961

Location: Steuben Green (Harrington Library & Machias Savings), Machias
Information: Sponsored by Work for Peace. Occurs the 11th of each month.

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

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

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

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

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.

Deer Isle Peace Vigil

Time: 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Contact: Peter Robbins

Phone: 326-4405

Location: On Route 15 on the left, across from Deer Isle Congo church, Deer Isle

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

Web: 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

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: centermaineoutright@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

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.

Peace Action Maine Vigil

Time: 12:00 PM

Contact: Peace Action Maine

Phone: 772-0680

Email: jennifer@peaceactionme.org

Location: In front of Library, Portland

Info: Vigil to Stop the War

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: centermaineoutright@hotmail.com

Location: 11 King Street, Augusta

Info: A weekly safe drop-in program for GLBTQ and allied youth ages 22 and under

Fridays

Farmington Women In Black Vigil

Time: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Phone: 293-2580

Location: Post Office, Farmington

Augusta Women in Black Vigil

Time: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Phone: 549-3061

Location: Lithgow Library, Augusta

Portland Q&A

Time: 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Phone: 828-6560 / toll-free (888) 567-7600 for long distance in-state.

Email: outright@outright.org

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

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

Web: 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

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

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

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.



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
or write to: **Maine IMC, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903.**



FROM PEACEFUL PROTEST TO

On September 26th, 2002 there was an anti-war protest in Portland. The call was put out by anonymous activists, and the organizing and event was decentralized and open to all. This of course confused the hell out of the police who were looking for leaders, and brought on the expected media spin of "leaderless, purposeless mob rule."

After a half hour peaceful march full of music, drumming, puppets, and visible public support, and then an hour of occupying a major intersection during rush hour, arrests began to occur and the night ended with the police attacking and beating protesters. In the end 14 were arrested and 3 charged with assault - The police chief, Mike Chitwood (who showed up in the street, not in uniform, but in his sweats) claimed he was kicked and punched in the head.

On 5:08am Fri Oct 4 '02 Michael Chitwood, Police Chief of the Portland Police Department in Maine posted the following letter on the Maine Indymedia newswire: (<http://maine.indymedia.org>)

The Portland Police Department is seeking to contact representatives of the group that demonstrated in the downtown area on September 26, 2002. The Police Department fully supports the right of any group to gather and engage in free speech provided such gatherings do not pose a threat to public safety and the actions of the participants are lawful.

The Portland Police Department seeks contact with these individuals to ensure that future demonstrations are provided full access to the public domain but remain respectful of the rights of non-participants and are conducted in a safe and lawful manner. An open dialogue and planning between groups involved in public demonstrations, the Police Department and other City departments will mean safe, mutually cooperative, and productive events.

We encourage those who can represent the demonstrators of September 26, 2002 to contact Chief Michael J. Chitwood by telephone at (207) 874-8601 or by email at mjc@ci.portland.me.us. The Chief of Police encourages community participation and partnership for the benefit of all citizens of the City of Portland.

A good deal of discussion resulted from this post - Two of the replies follow.

S26 : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

regular people. After the play, the group took to the streets in chanting, drumming, carrying signs, dancing, and singing. Signs included messages such as "Gas Kills"; "Another World Is Possible"; "Every Government Is Based On War And Terrorism"; "Bush Family Values: Bombing Civilians and Killing Children for 3 decades"; "War Is Not Justice - George Bush Is A Toilet Brush"; and "Bush Chicken Hawks Have Never Seen Combat". The marchers became Portland's downtown traffic for over two hours, snaking throughout the streets, ending with the group of marchers dancing, drumming, and standing in the intersection of High and Congress streets. Throughout this march there was no violence or property destruction on the part of the protestors; indeed, the mood was quite celebratory. The majority of feedback I observed from drivers and workers was supportive, with several truck drivers honking their horns and giving a thumbs up.

However, during this time, police presence was building steadily. It became clear that the police were shifting from their role of managing car traffic, and rerouting it around the demonstration, to making sure that the demonstrators moved out of the streets.

At about 6:45, a police car started driving through the street, announcing in gar-

bled tones over its megaphone that anyone who did not move out of the streets would be arrested. Then Police Chief Mike Chitwood showed up. Many recognized him immediately, even though he was not in uniform but wearing a simple white Nike sweatshirt. Very soon after he appeared, arrests began. The first to be arrested, Constantine Duffy, was not even a part of the protest, but, according to witnesses, was simply in the area attempting to cross the street to return videos to the library. The next person arrested was Pete Engler who was standing in the street. Then Nick Jackson was arrested. According to eyewitness Sarah who posted to the Maine Indymedia newswire, "Nick, who was standing near me, tried to sit down either on the curb or on the edge of the street. Before he could sit he was knocked down by an officer and jumped by three other cops. His head was repeatedly knocked against the street and curb while also receiving blows to the neck, head, and back from officers' feet, knees, and hands. This entire time Nick did nothing to resist except go limp and try to curl into a ball. One involved officer I'd overheard stating: 'He started it, he hit me first.' I questioned this directly since it definitely did not happen and he replied, 'Well, (Nick's) hand did touch my back.'" According to the Portland Phoenix article "Let's not bury the message", some of the police reaction was a result of stress on the part of the police. The article quoted

An Open Letter to Police Chief Chitwood

FROM THE UNGOVERNABLE

This letter only claims to "represent" those who wrote it. The September 26th protests were attended by over 200 people, all with their own beliefs, ideas, philosophies, and reasons for being there. We do not claim to speak for anyone except ourselves.

In this young country, as well as world-wide throughout history, those who want to change the world always seem to have strained relationships with the police. Why is this? Let us examine it further:

The mission of a police department, the job of a police officer, is to uphold the Law. That's the bottom line. This is why the job is officially called "Law Enforcement". The phrase "to serve and protect" is invoked as if it were the public the department was referring to - instead, anyone who looks closely will see differently - What the police "serve" is the Law. Who they "protect" are the people who made those laws or agree with those laws. These laws are in place to serve Business. Laws are determined by the flow of money. This is true on the city level, the state level, the world level. As the U.S. military protects Global Capitalism, the Portland Police Department protects local business and property owners.

Officers are required by their superiors, and paid by the city, to enforce the Law. This means they do it whether they agree with the law or not. If Officer X has a few

beers after work and drives home, or maybe lights a joint every once in a while, it doesn't mean she still won't arrest you if you do it. She may think: pot should be legal. But she still is paid to arrest you if you have it. The police are not paid to Judge or Think or Ponder or Debate Ethics. They are paid to enforce the Law others have made.

So here's the rub. Activists want to change the status-quo. They want to change the system that makes up the Laws. So, whether the police agree or not with a given cause, they are paid to maintain the status quo. Their job is to defend the system and its Law. And so we clash.

So the police ask: why not protest legally? Why not get a permit and hold your protest and tell us what you are going to do and everything will be fine?

For some this has always been fine. In fact there are many in Maine and world wide who are satisfied going to permitted marches and protests. They are quite happy to stand in a square and sing and chant with signs. And those in power are happy to allow these "permitted" protests as pressure valves. Like giving us the illusion of power with "voting", those in power let us "protest". Folks look out of their offices and say: look Sally, wonder what they're protesting about today? Nobody is bothered or inconvenienced. Business goes on as usual. Traffic keeps moving. The media snores.

Captain Laughlin saying "I was getting very angry and upset..." The article's author observed, "Yes, the cops screwed up and arrested a guy crossing the street to go to the library, but that guy should have paid slightly more attention to what was going on, and the cops were highly stressed by this point."

After these three arrests, the march continued down to Middle Street, in front of the police station. The demonstrators went there to be in solidarity with those arrested, and because they did not yet know whether the arrestees would be brought to the Police Station or Cumberland County Jail. The protesters resumed chanting, drumming, and dancing in the streets until again being ordered off the streets or else risk arrest. And the arrests began again.

The next person to be arrested was Daniel Pepice, who explained that he had simply been following the protest out of interest, and not specifically as a protestor. He was arrested standing on the street near the curb. Maine College of Art student Gregory Souza, who had been standing in the street playing a bucket drum that read, "Never Trust the News!" was the next to be arrested. Jamie Mandrake was standing on the sidewalk holding her bicycle which had its tires on the road (as it is legally supposed to be). However, according to eyewitnesses, it seems that the police considered that to be an act of disobeying their orders to get out

of the road. As a result, Jamie was arrested and her bicycle taken by the police. By this point, people were being continuously arrested. Thomas Winton, Joseph Domand, Mary Libby, Cary Losneck, and Shannon O'Connor were arrested. Several of them passively resisted arrest by going limp. Shannon commented on her arrest, "My arresting officer asked me, ...'What do you have against the Portland Police Department?' and I said 'Nothing' and they cuffed me. I think his second question was a telling one, that the police felt besieged somehow. They should get over it. There will be more demonstrations and more civil disobedience if the war juggernaut continues. It's nothing personal against the police."

Lisa Hopkins was the next person to be arrested. She was holding a wooden noisemaker in her hand which inadvertently hit a police officer's arm. As a result she was arrested and charged with assault, facing the highest charges of any protestor. Observing these arrests, Walter Beasley, standing on the sidewalk, began shouting "This is what a police state looks like!" According to eyewitness Tess Wilder, Chitwood pointed at Walter and about six police officers, followed by the chief himself, dove into the crowd and tackled Walter. According to Chitwood, Walter was inciting the demonstrators, and in the Portland Press Herald Chitwood explained "I went to assist the



POLICE BRUTALITY:

THE STORY OF PORTLAND SEPT. 26



But this is not for us. Why not? We are not here to just stop a war. We are not here to just piss on the cruise ships that have destroyed the working waterfront. We are not here to just protest the FTAA. We are not here to just rally behind Labor. We are not here to just protest police brutality. We do not want nicer, green, non greedy corporations. We don't want to replace George Bush with Al Gore or Ralph Nader. We are not trying to reform the system. We demand the impossible. We demand revolution. This doesn't mean we want violence, it means we struggle against power, we flatten hierarchy, we destroy racism and patriarchy, and we build sustainable, loving, co-operative relationships that are not based on dominance of any sort.

We laugh not at you as much as the laws you must enforce. We see you as pawns and when not angry at you, feel sad. Just look at this tiny example from Portland Law:

Chapter 17 Offenses, Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 17-1 Loitering

Loitering shall mean remaining in essentially one (1) location, seated or standing, and shall include the concept of spending time idly; to be dilatory; to linger; to stay; to saunter; to delay; and to stand around.

17-17

(c) No person shall in, on, or adjacent to any of the streets, ways or public places, make, continue, or cause to be made or

continued any loud, unnecessary or unusual noises which shall either annoy, disturb, injure or endanger the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others....yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling, or singing shall be considered to be loud, disturbing, and unnecessary noises ...

Reading further in this section we learn that it is basically illegal to loiter in a way that upsets the flow of vehicles or interfere with "lawfully conducted business". Money and cars over singing and spending time idly. Sounds like America.

They got to be nuts! To hell with your laws!

So when you ask us to get permits we laugh. The system we are trying to destroy wants us to come down to city hall and pay a fee to allow our protest? How disdainful and patronizing! A protest always has been and always will be non-permitted! Freedom cannot be granted by a city council or police department - Freedom is ours as human beings to have or take as we please. You don't give us our rights! Nor does the State. Nor does the Constitution. Nor Bill of Rights.

So the police and their supporters say: but the police help us when we need it. They come to our aid when we get robbed. They solve murders. They protect battered women. They keep the peace. But we say: We can do this ourselves! We don't need a police department for that. We need to destroy the roots that cause these problems. The police become necessary in human

society only at that junction in society when there is a gap between those who have and those who have not. The police, who have a monopoly on the use of legal violence (notice they are the ones who arrive at protests with guns, clubs, dogs, and fists...and who's violent?), are paid to keep order because without that order, without the police, those in power would be unprotected from us!

So where do we go from here. First off we demand all charges be dropped from those you arrested during your last attack on the public (9/26/02). We were watching. We saw. We have it on film. We know who is to blame and everyone else knows too. You all felt under siege and acted hastily, viciously, and irresponsibly. We can't imagine you'd ever apologize, but you could start with dropping all charges.

Secondly, understand that the possibility of invading Iraq is foremost on our minds right now and so you should expect further peaceful protests, disturbances, and actions both legal and illegal. We will not ask for permits.

Thirdly, even if George Bush was to leave office tomorrow and we become best friends with Iraq by next week, we will not fade away. We are here for the long struggle.

Hopefully we will see you on the other side. If not, or till then, see you in the streets!

Communication With Police: Another View

Telling the police what a group is going to do can be a good thing. (This has to be done by someone(s) empowered by the group to do this.) Many police will feel less threatened and more friendly toward demonstrators if they, or some police, have talked to them before any action and don't expect any violence from the direct action or civil disobedience.

We don't ask permission, but we tell them at least some of what we are planning. If they don't know what the plan is, they are more likely to try to subvert it.

And, can we really believe that police don't know what is being planned anyway? Are we sure there are not agents or provocateurs in our groups?

- Larry Dansinger

International Day Against Police Brutality

Tuesday October 22nd, 2002
See Calendar pg.14 for more info.

AN APPROXIMATE TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2002

5:00 PM Protestors gather in Congress Square

5:20 An anti-war play is performed in Congress Square.

5:30 Protestors begin marching through downtown Portland.

6:00 150-200 people take over intersection of High and Congress Streets, police presence increases.

6:37 Protestors march to Monument Square

6:43 Police announce in garbled tones over loud speaker that anyone who does not get out of the street will be arrested.

6:45 Police Chief Mike Chitwood appears, police bus show up.

6:46 Constantine Duffy, crossing the street to return videos to the library is arrested.

6:47 Nick Jackson arrested.

6:47 Peter Engler is arrested for standing on the street.

7:08 Protestors march to Police Station in a show of solidarity with those arrested.

7:14 Protestors who were standing in the street are again ordered to the sidewalk.

7:15-7:19

1. Greg Souza is arrested.

2. Joseph Domand is arrested

3. Daniel Pepice is arrested.

4. Jamie Mandrake is arrested.

5. A woman named Margaret who was walking with her service dog was almost separated from her dog and arrested, but remained free.

7:18-7:22

1. Mary Libby is arrested.

2. Shannon O'Connor is arrested.

3. Cary Losneck is arrested.

4. Lisa Hopkins is arrested.

5. Thomas Winton is arrested.

6. Walter Beasley is tackled, sprayed with mace or pepper spray, and arrested.

7. Christopher McCadden is tackled and arrested.

7:25 Arrests end, remaining crowd marches to Tommy's Park. Several protestors march circling through the crosswalks, where, they explained, they have the legal right to be.

8:00 Chitwood, who has been walking around looking entirely unharmed the whole time(despite numerous reported injuries in various mainstream media articles), finally gets into his car and drives off.

8:15 People in Tommy's Park disperse.

(Timeline based on time-stamped photos, personal experience, and interviews.)

officer. ...Next thing, I was dragged down by this person being arrested and then I got kicked several times by someone behind me." According to Walter, Chitwood jumped on top of him, stumbled, regained his balance and sprayed either pepper spray or mace directly in his face. Walter says that officers were bearing down on his neck and body, and he kept asking the officers to just cuff him and let him breathe, while they told him to stay still, but when he stilled they would bear down harder (while the Press Herald reports that Walter refused to be cuffed and that's why police maced him).

According to the police, another protestor, Christopher McCadden, responded to Walter's being tackled by punching Chitwood repeatedly in the head. I have been not able to find any non-police witnesses to corroborate the claim that Chris repeatedly punched Chitwood. This reporter did see Chris being led to the police bus with his shirt pulled over his head. When he was placed against a cruiser he was able to get his shirt off his head, and his scratched and bloodied face was clearly visible. Eyewitness Tess Wilder, who only got involved with this demonstration as she was walking down the street, related her experience of Chris' arrest. "The first thing I saw was [Chris] running, and that there were several cops, four or five at least, run-



photo credit: Hillary Lister

After being tackled by a group of police and his face bloodied, Chris McCadden (person with shirt over head) is led to the police bus. The police pulled his shirt over his head and face as they walked him from the the ground where they had tackled him, to the bus, despite repeated requests from Chris and others that they remove it so he could breathe better.

If anyone would like to find out what they can do to support those who were arrested in Portland on the 26th, please contact Nigel at portland_14@yahoo.com OR write: Arthouse Coalition PO Box 4281 Portland, ME 04101.



S26 : CONTINUED FROM PG. 17

ning after him, into the crowd of us. I got an elbow from someone in a blue uniform in the face and kinda got knocked off to the side, tripped over my skirt, it took me a minute to get myself sorted back out. And then a bunch of us huddled in a doorway. Right there, I was only a few feet from the man - they took him down to the ground and they had several officers holding him down, holding onto his arms and legs, and one of them was grinding his face into the bricks. He started bleeding, the woman next to me started crying. He was trying to curl up into a ball, ...they were pulling on his arms and legs to keep him from curling up, I dunno why. When the blood started coming, ...The woman next to me said that this is the kinda thing that she wanted to call the cops [about], because someone was getting beat up, but it was the cops doing the beating up." She continued, "They had the side of his head, most of the front of his face, shoved into the bricks. There was a pile of blood on the sidewalk, I got his blood on my skirt. I was very very close. ... Afterward I talked to one of the cops as I was walking away, ...and he told me they had no choice but to do what they did. And I told him that I didn't think that that made any sense, that crossing the street's not a violent action and doesn't deserve a violent response. And he said that they can't have people blocking off the streets, and they have to draw the line somewhere."

The protestors who had marched to the police station stayed on the sidewalks, protesting the arrests and beatings until the police bus closed up and got ready to drive off. Some people marched to Tommy's Park where they chanted and drummed, though the festive mood had entirely dissipated, and there was a much more pervasive feeling of frustration, anger, and exhaustion. Some people still had energy to talk to passersby about the issues of the US attacking Iraq, others marched peacefully circling through the crosswalks, where, they explained, they had the legal right to be. A group of high school students stopped by and talked about how people in their classes have been discussing about the impending war on Iraq in their schools, and that they felt it that attacking Iraq was a bad idea and expressed support for the protestors.

In the aftermath of the protest, all 14 arrestees were released on bail from jail. The arraignment hearings will be in early November, with trials not likely until February. Lisa, Chris, and Walter all face assault charges. Chris and Walter, ironically, were the most assaulted by the police. After being released from jail, Walter was sent to the hospital. He was put in a neck brace, received possible damage to his carotid arteries, and received an abrasion on his cornea resulting from impact by a foreign object.

Throughout the protests there was a woman wearing a police badge, walking around videotaping the events. According to one demonstrator who spoke with her, she was hired as a result of the brutality investigation that the Portland Police Department is currently under, to document, and thus supposedly prevent police abuses. I have repeatedly attempted to contact the Portland Police Department to find out if I and others would be able to either get a copy of the video, or visit the department and view the video there. I have received no response.

Except for coverage on the Maine Indymedia website, press coverage of the events of September 26th has been extremely critical of the protestors and supportive of the police. Portland Press Herald and Portland Phoenix articles both took stances that the people who were beaten and arrested both wanted to be arrested and those who sustained injuries brought it upon themselves (Additionally, they reported Chris as the only arrestee who sustained any injuries.)

According to the Press Herald, Chitwood received the greatest beating, being supposedly attacked by demonstrators when he dived in after Walter. According to the Press Herald, Chitwood was "kicked in the ribs and grabbed by another man who punched him repeatedly in the head, leaving a large, reddish lump on the right side of his face." A Portland Phoenix article added to the list of injuries, reporting that Chitwood also received "a knee on his neck." Having witnessed Chitwood hold Walter against the police car, and then wander around in the Portland

Old Port for over 45 minutes after his alleged assaults before getting into his car and driving off, the Chief appeared, other than a light reddish mark on the right side of his face, to be quite unhurt, and not in need of or actively seeking medical attention.

While a later Press Herald article appeared that it was attempting to show a more balanced picture, it only continued its bias. The article stated, "Most of the demonstrators involved in Thursday's anti-war protest in Portland had no role in the violence that characterized several arrests toward the end of the event." However, the premise of the article continued to support the claim that some of the protestors were violent, and it was the protestors' fault for the violence that characterized several arrests at toward the end. The initial Press Herald report relied exclusively on quotes from Chitwood to explain what occurred with the arrests at the end of the demonstration. The second Press Herald article did not dispute those claims, but instead relied almost entirely on Greg Field, executive director of Peace Action Maine, who was not present for any of the protest, to explain the actions from the protestors' side. The Portland Phoenix was equally one-sided reporting, relying on Captain Joseph Laughlin for a majority of the quotes on the event. The Press Herald's bias was unsurprising, since I saw a Press Herald reporter spending much of his time chatting with (he did not appear to be interviewing) the Portland Police Lieutenant Swett after the arrests had wrapped up. I am not claiming that my reporting is unbiased - if I had not been photographing the events I would have been participating in the demonstration - but is helpful to if reporters are more clear about their backgrounds and biases when they exist, so the readers can place the reporting in context.

Both the Press Herald and Phoenix articles lamented and placed much of the blame for the arrests on the fact that the demonstration did not have clear leaders. The Phoenix asked "Where were the people with bullhorns, leading chants and making sure that people stayed on message?" The reporters for these papers appear unaware that leaderless events like this do not happen out of poor planning, but out of an

intention to allow people to make their own choices about their actions and to organize among themselves without a top central leader on a bullhorn telling them their next course of action.

The Phoenix article and even progressive reporting on WMPG's "Big Talk" also lamented the fact that so much attention was being paid to the police brutality and arrests, that this was taking away from the true focus of the impending war on Iraq. For the people who arrested and beaten, this is unavoidable, as they now have a new component of injuries and legal battles to face. Yet even for the larger community, focusing on issues of police abuse and brutality does not mean that our focus will shift away from the impending war. Instead, it is a chance to make connections between issues. This is the first time in recent memory that middle class white people have faced police brutality in Portland; however, this is a daily concern for homeless, some youth, immigrant, non-white, and poor people, and people with mental illnesses in Portland. The same night that police were assaulting demonstrators, across town Michael Esposito was being beaten after being arrested for a drug offense. In the 2001, the Portland Police Department was faced with 6 major police brutality cases, and the department is now under an ongoing federal investigation for police brutality. The violence by local police departments against those who lack a voice in society and against those who dissent, is a local manifestation of the larger, more visible violence. That larger violence is carried out by this country's government, against the those without a voice and those who dissent throughout the world, it is what leads to the attacks on Iraq. If people are serious about "thinking globally, acting locally," this is as good a place to start as any. Police brutality is not a lesser issue than the impending war on Iraq. It's part of the same, larger issue, of unaccountability of government organizations, of the fight for people to have freedom and control over their lives.

The next issue of the Maine Commons will further explore the history and patterns of police brutality in Maine. If you have an article to contribute, please mail or email us. Contact info is in the FAQ, on page 3.

First Person: From Maine to DC - "Can't Pay? Won't Pay!"

BY SKY HALL

Why are people forced to move from their homes, and entire communities wiped out when a new giant dam gets built for hydro electric power? It was probably a project funded by the World Bank. Why is the government of that country getting rid of social services like schools and hospitals, while beefing up the police force? It was probably the conditions, or "structural adjustment", that country to meet to get a loan from the International Monetary Fund. These institutions cause lots of problems for the whole world, so lots of people came to Washington D.C. on September 27-29, 2002 to protest against the IMF and the World Bank during their annual meeting.

My group was called the Black and

Blue Cabaret -because sometimes oil and water DO mix! (but that's different story). Our contribution to the actions was our street theater; a puppet show starring Agualita- the drop of water- and her misadventures in a world of water privatization, and an explanation of the graphics from the Beehive Design Collective about "Plan Colombia"- the U.S. aid to the war in Colombia.

Our cabaret plans were thwarted by a typical police tactic: the pre-emptive arrest. "Just lock up those protesters before anyone hears what they have to say!"

On the morning of September 27th, we joined a critical mass bike ride through the city. Our entire ride was escorted by police on Smith & Wesson bicycles and Honda Rebel motorcycles. You figure out the

irony there. We were led to Freedom Plaza, the park across the street from the World Bank. After a short time everyone in the park realized that we were surrounded by police in riot gear and that they weren't going to let anyone out of the park. The crowd began chanting "'We would like to leave the park peacefully, We would like to leave the park peacefully" and "We would like to be freed from Freedom Plaza".

Nevertheless, after about an hour of standing in the park we were informed that we were under arrest and the police began handcuffing us and loading us onto busses. I was put in a bus with a friend and about 40 other protesters and passersby (the police closed in and arrested everyone in the park!). All in all there were 350 people arrested at the park. And 649 demonstra-

tors and passersby were arrested in total that morning. We were driven to the outskirts of the city to the police academy where we spent 12 hours handcuffed on our bus.

We were not allowed to communicate with anyone on the other busses. We were told that our charges were "failure to obey", but no one ever heard any orders from the police in Freedom Plaza. They simply closed in on us and arrested everybody in the park.

We were let off the bus in the middle of the night and fingerprinted, our photos taken. They brought everybody into the gymnasium where they had everybody separated into categories. The police called the areas "the people who want to



Upcoming Events In Maine Around Militarism and Impending War In Iraq

On Saturday, October 26th, the anniversary of the US PATRIOT Act, a call has been put out internationally for groups to rally and stop war before it starts. Anti-war, civil rights, labor, student and autonomous groups around the world are planning actions for that day.

Peace Action Maine has sent out the following Call To Gather:

Rally and Silent March to Stop the War NOW .. Restore Peace and Justice.
Gather In Your Communities. Caravan by bus or carpool to Augusta. Meet at noon next to the Buker School parking lot, opposite the National Guard Armory on Western Avenue. March in silence to the Samantha Smith Statute in front of the State Library alongside the State Capitol, the site of the Rally. Rally at 1:30 - Enjoy Prominent Guest Speakers, Musicians, and More!

Bring signs, banners, and prayer flags that express your opposition to the war in Iraq and US involvement in global conflicts. Support creating a culture of nonviolence on the anniversary of President Bush's signing of the U.S.A. Patriot Act.
Civil Disobedience is not welcome.

Rally will be held rain or shine, whether the invasion has happened yet, or not.

Contact Information: Peace Action Maine, PO Box 3842, Portland ME 04104 (207) 772-0680, e-mail peaceactionme@peaceactionme.org and Tony Aman, (207) 326-9574.

Donations of any amount welcome! Make checks payable to: Maine Council of Churches-Stop the War, and mail to: Maine Council of Churches, 15 Pleasant Avenue, Portland, ME 04103

Saturday November 9th, 2002 - Alternatives to Militarism for Youth In Maine

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Contact: Natalie Kempner, Phone: 442-0907, Email: natkempner@gwi.net

Location: Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston, ME

Information: US militarism is affecting Maines young people. This conference, sponsored by the Maine American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Peace and Justice Clearness Committee, is planned to respond to questions about militarism and the draft and to explore peaceful solutions to violence. CO-SPONSORS are Veterans for Peace, Maine Council; Department of Philosophy and Religion, Bates College; Maine Draft and Military Counselors.

In the morning, Keynote Speaker KEVIN RAMIREZ, will speak on ENDING THE POVERTY DRAFT OF MAINE YOUTH. Kevin is Program Coordinator of the Military Out of Our Schools Program of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) in Philadelphia. The program counters military recruitment in high schools. By presenting alternative information on the realities of military life, CCCO offers the message of peace and conscientious objection to young people.

LUNCH: In Bates Cafeteria for reasonable cost or bring your own.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS will provide opportunities to discuss registration, the draft, conscientious objection and military recruitment, as well as issues of war and peace.

GOALS FOR THE DAY:

-To reduce fears about our violent world.

-To inspire and encourage young people to take action for a less violent world..

COST: 0-\$20 for the day , according to ability to pay. To register or for more info, call or email. A map and a more details will be sent to pre-registrants. Registration at the door is available as space permits (call first). The location and bathrooms are fully wheelchair accessible. For special needs/requests, rides, and childcare, please note on registration form.

Another Call To Gather on October 26th has also gone out anonymously:

On October 26th, folks from all over the state will gather in Augusta to demonstrate and protest against the War on Iraq. This action has been organized by Peace Action Maine and several church based groups.

This is an open protest against The War, and Peace Action Maine's web site/call encourages others to join them.

So, we call on all Autonomous groups, Anarchists (of all -adj.), Anti-Authoritarians/Anti-capitalists, liberators, freedom-fighters, independents, radicals, and all revolutionaries who are in for the long battle AGAINST DOMINANCE in all its forms, to come together on October 26th in Augusta. We shall form a solid presense to show Maine and the world that the War in Iraq and Dictator Bush are just the tip of our struggle!

This IS NOT a call for a black bloc - though it is not a call against one either.

This IS NOT a call for physical confrontation with the police - though we believe in self-defense and don't believe property damage is "Violent".

This IS NOT a call for specific direct action - though what you and your friends/affinity groups do is your own business. We do believe that Direct Action and Civil Disobedience are NECESSARY to shut the War Machine down, but also respect and understand that Peace Action Maine and other organizers are bringing out many people who can't or won't risk illegal actions or arrest. All this means is that if you or your group plans actions, please keep in mind and respect others that are around you.

This IS a call for solidarity.

This IS a call for showing our understanding of the tangled web that Capitalism, the State, Racism, and Patriarchy weave to give rise to WAR!

This IS a call for creativity, noise, costumes, banging pots, resisting, music, occupying, singing, shouting, black flags, wild sex, large banners, puppets, love, sharing, connecting, and the spirit of revolt!

To hell with Sadaam, to hell with Bush, to hell with WAR, to hell with them all! QUE SE VAYAN TODOS !!!!

Saturday November 2nd, 2002 - "Iraq and US Global Strategy"

Time: 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Phone: 483-6133

Location: Faith United Methodist Church (Rt 1 Just North of 4 Corners), Harrington

Information: Sponsored by Work For Peace

1pm - Dr. Joseph Gerson, director, Middle East program, NE Regional office of American Friends Service Committee

3pm - Panel: "Alternative Energy: Alternative to War" "hands on" experts and users

5pm-8pm - potluck supper - with music & entertainment

Child care provided

No charge - but donations gratefully accepted

THE STEP TEMPLE - A FABLE BY HERSCHEL STERNLIEB

Once upon a time, an intergalactic traveler from earth came upon a planet so like his own that for a time he felt he had lost his bearings and was actually back home, for the flora and fauna were the same as on earth and the humans spoke the same earthly languages and were greedy and full of vanity. But he noticed that all the buildings were in wonderful condition, there were no slums and the people were universally healthy and well attired. He inquired as to why this general prosperity prevailed and was told that the reason was there had not been a war for 18,000 years.

"How can that be," he asked, "when you are exactly like earthlings...full of conceit and avarice?"

"Quite correct," came the reply, "but we are also full of cowardice. If you look closely, you will notice that in every city and hamlet, we have erected a step temple at least fifty feet high. In the center of the temple is a pit, at the bottom of which is an eternal flame. If a nation wishes to go to war, the leader is escorted to the top of the temple by two strong young men. Immediately after he signs the edict to go to war, he is flung into the pit, for if he is willing to sacrifice the lives of beautiful, young men, he must also be willing to sacrifice his own life. On this planet, we detest hypocrites. After the leader has given his life, the new leader, if he wishes to continue with the declaration of war, must also give up his life. By this means, we eventually arrive at an official who wants to live, and thus all disputes are resolved peacefully. At the time of settlement, both parties are usually dissatisfied, but after a few years, people tend to forget and they adjust comfortably to the situation. In all these 18,000 years of perpetual peace, only three leaders believed enough in their causes to sacrifice themselves. To most of us, they are great heroes who died for their convictions but to some skeptical historians, they were seeking an easy way out of impending trials for corruption."



photo credit: Hillary Lister

A "Peace Declaration" banner was draped over the front of a police van during the September 26th Portland anti-war rally at the intersection of High and Congress Streets.



ACROSTIC #277

by Herschel Sternlieb

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, or the Quote's Author, turn to page 5.

A. Edible decoration

220 121 75 34 135 145 165

B. Lebensraum in America (2 wds)

120 195 157 63 40 47 70 185 32

C. Large City due west of NYC. (City and state)
D. Ultimate

93 15 31 202 111 170 143 180 151 77 169 88 19 67 13

155 44 76 126 59 103 4 138

E. ___mouth. Talking too much (4 wds)

154 159 116 100 218 91 46 114 64 29 68 26 65 54 78

F. Near Eastern Capital city and country.

11 203 193 174 186 162 83 117 61 206 81 62

G. ___goose. Very relaxed (3 wds)

196 17 172 49 85 188 107 125

H. By the light___ (3 wds)

176 141 214 134 45 56 9 98 167

I. I'll___my own. Independent child's phrase. (3 wds)
J. NH4

89 129 148 51 124 133 158 16

108 14 71 38 149 21 213 184

K. Recent movie set in Venice. with A. (4 wds)

122 28 8 10 209 216 178 201 48 5 197 183 146

L. A Renoir Specialty

140 191 113 22 105

M. Prohibiting

189 166 73 219 106 23 123

N. He of Thesaurus Fame.

104 150 37 132 101

O. ___positive. Eliminate the Negative.(2Wds)

210 24 182 33 207 160 177 137 192 87 53 66 2

P. Private's Carry-all. (2 wds)

52 99 115 18 41 119 211 43 199

Q. ___Order. TV Drama Series. (2 wds)
R. Newt

112 181 173 142 198 131

30 36 127

S. Marina. (2 wds)

57 156 79 42 94 175 72 86 194 12

T. Small fragments

58 152 139 200 3 25 163 205 96 130 128

U. American Indian Gathering.

179 212 161 1 90 204

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

V. He saw Harvey. Full name.

55 215 168 102 35 74 50 39 27 109 82

W. Pontius Pilate's Famous phrase. (2 wds)

6 118 136 60 84 190 97 153

X. Have a great Craving.

20 110 217 187 69

Y. Member of a South African Tribe.

95 92 144 80 147 171 7 208 164

DC : CONTINUED FROM PG. 18

go home" and "the people who don't". That was so annoying, as if we all didn't want to get out of there. "The people who want to go home" were the people who were going to "post and forfeit" which meant give their names and show identification and agree to pay between \$25 and \$100 to be released from jail and lose your right to a trial. Everyone else either had no money or no way to prove their identity or refused to give their name or pay money to get out and give up their right to a trial. Why should we have to identify who we are or pay money to the police when all we were doing was standing in the park?!

The guards treated us like third graders who were bad and had to stay inside for recess. We were forced to sit on playmats and got into trouble if we moved to another mat. Every meal for 36 hours was a bologna sandwich, 2 chocolate chip cookies and a box of juice in a paper bag. We

had to raise our hands until we got called on to go the the port-a-potty. If you were "bad" they put you in the corner. And if you were really bad they would separate you from the 'bad' corner and put you in a corner of your own. The guards tried to divide the group spirit of people arrested. They would make announcements to the whole gym that they were unable to process "the people who want to leave" because there was too much noise. The noise in the place was usually either a talent show organized by an imaginative detainee or a group demanding to talk to their lawyer. We chanted "This is fucking bullshit" and "This is Really Dumb" to the tune of "We Shall Overcome".

A few hours after the last of the people who "paid out" their \$25-\$100 were let go, the last of us were sent to the holding cells at the superior court. Slowly, we were brought before the judge and arraigned for a court date. Eventually one of the judges

got tired and decided to release a lot of us and throw out the paperwork. Even though only a few dozen people refused to give their names, show identification, or pay money to the courts, a lot of people were released because the bogus cases were too much of a hassle to deal with. After a week the last three women who refused to give their names were released and their charges dropped. I can't help but think they'd have gotten out with the rest of us the day after we were arrested if more of us refused to waive our rights to trial and give money to the system that swept our dissenting voices off the street.

"Next time lets keep the money on our side!"- quote from a protester as he was released from the jail.

BY SKY HALL



**POOR : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

electronic devices with the ear-piece) for the dozen or more Spanish-speaking participants. Furthermore, anyone who wanted a copy of the videos could put their name on a list - by the end of the weekend, KWRU's director of education made sure we all had a copy to take back with us. (Yes, I have one, and yes, I'll copy it for you.)

In case you're like most people and aren't quite sure what KWRU's all about, the Kensington Welfare Rights Union is named after one of the most impoverished, neglected areas of Philadelphia. It was here that over ten years ago a group of six welfare moms, including Cheri Honkala, KWRU's passionate, rock-solid (and very very LOUD) executive director, banded together and transformed one of many abandoned buildings into a free health clinic. Since then they have become a force to be reckoned with - whether it's occupying abandoned buildings and churches to transform them into homes for families, doing free food and clothing distribution, building tent cities in very public places to call attention to the plight of Philadelphia's homeless communities (while aiding them with temporary shelter), or the boisterous rallies, marches, and processions publicizing the everyday struggles of poor and homeless families who are barely getting by in this 'city of brotherly love,' in this 'land of plenty.' As its mission statement says, KWRU is "a multi-racial organization of, for, and by poor and homeless people dedicated to organizing welfare recipients, the homeless, the working poor, and all people concerned with economic justice." KWRU stands by the notion that regardless of one's economic status, "ALL people have a right to thrive, and not just to barely survive." Over the years, KWRU has grown immensely in its size, impact, and mission - now poor-people's groups around the country are modeling themselves on KWRU's immense success. Since 1998 KWRU has even been producing its own weekly TV program "Marching On," with producer, host, and KWRU member Joy Butts. Another major effort of the group, the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign (PPEHRC - pronounced 'p-perk' for short) was a major theme of the conference, and the main reason for our being there.

So what the heck is the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, you might ask (and yes, how wearying acronyms can be) and how the hell did an organization of, for, and by poor and homeless people pay for poor people to come from all across the country to this conference? How did people hear about it? Firstly, the goal of the PPEHRC (remember - just think 'p-perk') is to document, call attention to, and protest economic human rights violations committed against the millions and millions of poor people in the United States. You see, according to this little document called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - which was not only signed by the U.S. in 1948, but drafted with the help of Eleanor Roosevelt - all human beings, regardless of which government they may live under, have a fundamental right to adequate housing, food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, a job with a living wage, education, and communication (i.e. access to the media). Since the signing of the

Declaration, these rights have not only gone unacknowledged, but they have been continuously violated by the US government and corporate America. With the PPEHRC poor people all over the country are taking it upon themselves to collectively record evidence of these human rights violations and present them to the United Nations in the form of a formal petition at the end of a month-long national bus tour, called the New Freedom Bus Tour: Economic Human Rights for ALL! The Center for Social and Economic Policy, a much larger and better-funded group [and apparently a lot more top-down in terms of its organizing structure] picked up the tab for all of our various travel costs and thus are helping this bus tour move from beyond possibility to reality.

About all the folks from around the country: besides all the wonderful people from the KWRU, the rest of the folks came from different poor/homeless/economic justice groups that they work with in their local communities. Most of the groups had been organizing for quite some time now, but some were only a few months old, and many of them had found out about KWRU through their website (not too surprisingly: www.kwru.org). Some of the groups represented include the Women's Economic Agenda Project from California (WEAP - who just finished their second bus tour, called Save the Soul of America Freedom Bus Ride, which went from San Jose on Aug 26 to Vallejo, ending on Labor Day, Sep 2nd 2002), Florida's Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW - currently on their Taco Bell Truth Tour: a boycott and protest of the gigantic Taco Bell restaurant chain until they agree to pay just one penny more per pound of tomatoes picked by the overworked, underpaid, and often abused workers), Northeast Ohio's Deaf and Deaf-Blind Committee on Human Rights (DDBCHR - a group working within the all-too-often 'invisible' deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind communities in the daily struggle for housing, living-wage jobs, education, healthcare, and communication), Portland Organization to Win Economic Rights (POWER: a poor people's group in Greater Portland, actively fighting for universal health-care, living wages, adequate and affordable housing, a rent freeze, etc., as well as providing community dinners, 'tourist appreciation' days, adult political-education sessions, public events, and press conferences - including the annual 'Corporate Villain of the Year Award'), Massachusetts Welfare Rights Union (MWRU - publishers of "Survival News"), Idaho Struggling in Solidarity (ISIS) and the new Utah group Mormons for Social Justice. That's just what I remember (and please forgive me if I remembered anything incorrectly) - the list goes on...

All of these separate local groups are crucial components in the upcoming national strategy in the fight to eliminate poverty: The New Freedom Bus Tour. As one part of the ongoing PPEHRC, this historic bus tour is made up of poor, unemployed, homeless, working, rural, and urban families, and human rights observers. Beginning with a massive kick-off rally (for universal, unconditional health care for everyone) in Philadelphia, the month-long tour starts on November 10 and will stop at approximately 25 different cities and states (a complete

list of stops should be posted at www.kwru.org) - one of which is Portland, Maine (on Friday, 6th December). The goal of the tour is to stop at as many low-income, poor, and downsized areas as possible, including stops at welfare offices, food banks, employment offices, health clinics, and closed-down factories. At each stop the local community will greet the bus tour with whatever evidence they have collected, some kind of colorful mock tribunal, and a noisy, boisterous public march and/or rally. The tour ends in front of the United Nations in New York City to commemorate International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2002.

So - after two more days of awesome workshops involving do-it-yourself poor people's media strategies and discussions involving the scary consolidation of media technologies by huge multinational conglomerates and learning how to document evidence of the economic human rights violations the PPEHRC would be taking to the UN - before we got a chance to do the 'Drug War Reality Tour' we had heard so much about - we had to go. We were sad to leave, and it was reluctantly that we headed back to the airport to catch our circuitous flights back to Portland. We had made tons of new friends and allies - and experienced some of the most spectacular displays of solidarity and support from seemingly perfect strangers. These were people who didn't have much, but who nonetheless immediately welcomed us (And did they feed us! Ask me about New Jerusalem some time - holy smokes!) and took us into their bustling flock. But, of course they would do this. After all, we ARE all in this together - we are all poor, we are all expendable in the eyes of the government. What's more, we got a big ole' chip on our shoulders - and we're taking it to the UN.

In the richest nation on earth, it is not only deplorable that 28 million people live below the poverty line - it is criminal. Join people from all walks as we document evidence of economic human rights violations (there is now a website for the recording & storing of our evidence, including images, text, sound: go to www.economichumanrights.org and record your own evidence). If you are interested in going along for the month-long tour, contact the Kensington Welfare Rights Union: www.kwru.org, or email: kwru@kwru.org, call (215) 203-1945, mail: PO Box 50678 / Philadelphia, PA 19132.

If you would like to work on planning what's going to happen here in Portland to greet the 2nd New Freedom Bus Tour - or if you'd like to find out more about the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign: check out several upcoming local (to Portland - maybe some north of here if someone can provide transport) teach-ins, video-showings, dinners, etc. While they are in town, the participants will need to be fed and put up for one night, and in addition we will need to raise funds to contribute to gasoline and bus-driver (union labor) expenses. We also need sign-language interpreters for the deaf, as well as Spanish-English translators. For more info about any of this, or if you can help in any way to make this happen: contact jesse leah veer: arthousecoaliton@riseup.net / 775-2801 / PO Box 4281, Portland, ME 04101

Upcoming Portland Events Involving The Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign & The New Freedom Bus Tour:

A Weekend of Community ACTIVISM!!!

Friday, 18 October: Celebrate International Media Democracy Day in Portland: 8pm Portland West: 181 Brackett Street, Portland. Video-showing & Discussion, featuring Noam Chomsky's Manufacturing Consent - methodically exposes the mass media's allegiance to, complicity with, and responsibility to the same corporate America that owns it. Also showing "Myth of the Liberal Media"

Saturday, 19 October: Free Community Dinner & Adult Info Session - 5:30pm Portland West: 181 Brackett Street, Portland Children's activities will include making your own kaleidoscopes! Free yummy food & video showing of Copy This Tape, produced by The Media College, part of New York City's revolutionary University of the Poor. The video focuses in general on organizing in poor people's movements in the fight to both eliminate and decriminalize poverty, and in specific on the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign. Discussions and brainstorming to follow. Hosted by members of POWER (Portland Organization to Win Economic Rights)

Sunday, 20 October: POOR PEOPLE'S ECONOMIC HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN 2pm Video-showing, Brainstorming, and Discussions - bring yummy food if you can Portland West 181 Brackett Street, Portland Showing The California Freedom Bus Tour 2000, a thoroughly inspiring video documenting the work of Women's Economic Agenda Project (WEAP) in their fight to empower one another and demonstrate that, in a country as opulently rich as the US, poverty is not just a human rights violation, it is a crime against humanity. Brainstorming and idea-sharing regarding what folks would like to see happen when the historic 2nd New Freedom Bus Tour comes to Portland on December 6th. We gotta start planning early - please come and share your ideas, skills, and any help you can give.

CriticalMass220@hotmail.com

Grassroots effort to organize a Critical Mass bike ride in the Bangor area.

Critical Mass Rides have been used to take back the streets in cities around the world, and Bangor Maine should be no exception. In case you are not informed of what a Critical Mass is, it's a bike ride through busy city streets aimed to intentionally slow down traffic to a bikes pace. It's a way of "being the traffic" and essentially taking back the streets. Although this is just an idea, hopefully it can gain enough response in this area to actually follow through with an event. It only takes a few riders to slow one lane of traffic, so even a small response would be great. Ideally, the ride would start just outside downtown Bangor (the business district) and flow right through downtown. The Bangor/Brewer bridge would be a convenient place to start...and things can just flow from there. If anyone is interested or wants to contribute e-mail me at CriticalMass220@hotmail.com



NEWS BLURBS

short attention span news compiled by sterren

Five staff members of the Katahdin Times in Millinocket broke off in September to form their own new community paper, "Community Press Weekly." The new paper is entirely locally owned, while the Katahdin Times is owned by Canadian publisher, Henley Publishing Ltd, owner of seven other weeklies, including the Fort Fairfield Review and five papers in Canada .

The new Millinocket weekly has already shown itself skilled at quality reporting. The first issue carried an interesting story on Great Northern Paper. In 1993, the Fin and Feather Club (a land access rights group) signed a contract that went into effect in 1997 with Bowater (the parent company of Great Northern), allowing free day use for Maine citizens on 1.2 million acres of land within Great Northern's gate system. In return, Great Northern got use of Millinocket's dams to generate 1.5 billion dollars in electricity. The contract was to be good for 30 years. However, in 1999, Great Northern sold 650,000 of those acres to a newly created corporation called "Great North Woods," and after the sale a \$4 "toll" was erected on the Golden Road as a day use fee for the land. Incidentally, that new corporation, "Great North Woods" is a wholly owned subsidiary of Great Northern Paper. Fin & Feather is now in court fighting to regain access and to hold Great Northern to its contract. Fin & Feather lawyer, Hillary Billings, told the court, "Great North Woods was created for the express purpose (to conceal the transaction)."

Plum Creek isn't the only landowner selling off Maine land for development. In March 2000, Dale Thomas, a resident of Chicago suburb Crest Hill, purchased 7,915 acres of land in Whiting and Marion Townships in Washington County, from Five Islands Corporation. He is now selling off over 4,110 of those acres at auction in October. He is advertising the land as "Six Lakes Ranch," stating that it will be divided into 20 parcels suitable for "an upscale subdivision, recreational retreat, hunting preserve or golf course."

On September 13th, the Domtar paper mill in Baileyville had a meltdown at its pump house that resulted in more than 150,000 gallons of black liquor, a mix of water, sodium hydroxide, wood solids and wood extract used in papermaking, to be released into the St. Croix River. According to company representatives, there were "no detectable quantities of dioxin" in the liquor. No nearby residents were evacuated, though it was reported that about 1,700 fish died. While the mill notified state authorities, it made no announcements to the public, and only offered any public details when the Bangor Daily News made an inquiry ten days after the spill. Domtar has a history of similar incidents in Canada. In 1999, Domtar received a \$150,000 fine for allowing over 780,000 gallons of lethal effluent containing chlorophenols to discharge during a single winter storm in Vancouver. Additionally, byproducts from Domtar's tar plant in Nova Scotia contributed to the creation of the Sydney tar ponds, North America's largest toxic waste site. Domtar moved into Maine in 2001, and it looks to be continuing the patterns it established in Canada.

This summer a representative of Fraser Paper told the Madawaska town council and school board that they would have to cap or lower the town's property taxes if Fraser were to keep its Madawaska paper mill open. The mill, which has been in the town since 1925, employs 1000 people, in a town of 3,326. Fraser representative Don Arnold explained that the town and its schools need to find other ways than property taxes to fund their budgets. He explained, "I am not using threats, but taxes tend to be a topic of discussion among investors." Interestingly enough, in September the Bangor Daily carried an article (with no mention of Fraser's warnings earlier in the year), announcing that somehow "Fraser Papers Nexfor's municipal valuation has gone down this tax year by nearly \$13.7 million, causing a loss in property tax revenue for [Madawaska]. Fraser's valuation decreased from \$216,398,900 last year to \$202,724,850 this year." As a result, the property taxes the mill was paying to the town decreased significantly (though by exactly how much was not reported). The article also did not explain the reasons for the new devaluation of Fraser's property.

Layoffs in Maine continued at a heavy rate since the reports in last issue of the Maine Commons. You can check out the centerfold map for this year's roundup. Layoffs since those reported in the September issue include: 12 at Adelphia in Augusta; 33 at Pride Manufacturing Co. in Guilford; 35 when C.B. Cummings & Sons Dowel in Norway closed; 45 at Mid-State Machine Products in Winslow; 80 at Fairchild Semiconductor in South Portland; 86 at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Services in Livermore Falls; 304 at Hathaway Shirts in Waterville which is now closing; an as yet unannounced amount to occur at CMP

in Augusta; and 185 if Kent Inc. in Fort Kent closes, which was first thought to be a definite, but now has a chance of being saved for the time being. Without even counting Kent Inc., that makes a total of 595 publicized layoffs in the last six weeks.

If you're late in paying your bills to the state, you receive a fine. If the state is late in paying you, you just wait, and hope you can continue to pay for food and medicine and rent. Thanks to a computer glitch in late September at the Department of Labor, over 6,000 unemployed workers were waiting for days without a check, and newly unemployed workers (of which there are many), would have to wait until the system was fixed before they could be added and even hope to see a check. In a Kennebec Journal article on the delayed checks, unemployed construction worker John Castle commented, ""The state can give computers to seventh-graders, but it can't have a backup for an unemployed guy?"

On the West Coast, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) has refused to sign a new contract without having guarantees that workers will not be replaced by new technologies and that new positions will stay unionized. The Pacific Maritime Association, which represents shipping companies and terminal operators on the West Coast, accused the workers of a slowdown and locked out about 10,500 members of the ILWU. Since then, the US Government has invoked the Taft-Hartley act, forcing the workers back to the docks and barring a lockout, work stoppage or slowdown through Oct. 16. This has resulted in more cargo coming into the ports in Portland, Maine. Jeff Monroe, Portland's transportation director is quoted in the Portland Press Herald as saying, "I'm sorry to see the fact that there's labor unrest on the West Coast, but I think the reality is that all the ports compete with each other and any time something gives us an advantage - whether it be price or unrest or even the weather - the bottom line is we try to take advantage of it."

Census results are coming out, and not showing a positive economic picture for Maine. The gap between rich and poor grew during the 1990's by 5.8% in the state as a whole. Harpswell had the largest gap, likely resulting from its transition from a fishing community to an attractive retirement and summer home for people moving in from out of state. The next widest gaps were found in Unity and Corinna (note: having grown up in Corinna, I'm really at a loss as to how it came to be included in this group - as apparently was town selectman Marvin Lister [no relation], who commented, ""The 'haves' that you're talking about, I don't know that they have that much.") Other towns with the greatest income gaps were of Damariscotta, Fort Kent, and Waterville and Lewiston, two mill towns that have been losing their mills, but also have a large college and hospital presence. The national census results also reported that, in the past year, income has declined, while poverty levels have risen, with 32.9 million people in the US living in poverty last year. Income levels fell for all groups except for the very richest and very poorest.

Members of the Houlton Band of Maliseets have experienced a history of problems with the Maine DHS. In the past, the DHS has taken children from Maliseet homes at high levels, and placed them the majority of the time with non-native families. In the past 5 years, the state took 29 children from the 742-member Houlton Band of Maliseets, or 11 percent of the 256 children under age 18 enrolled in the tribe last year. Of those, eleven were placed in non-native homes. Under the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, a tribe has exclusive jurisdiction over any custody proceeding involving an Indian child who lives on a reservation and concurrent jurisdiction with the state over families who don't live there. The law stipulates that Indian children be placed first with extended family, and then with tribal homes or other native homes. As a last choice, an Indian child may be placed with a non-native family. On September 17th, the Houlton Band of Maliseets and the state of Maine signed an agreement, hailed as the first of its kind, that gives the tribe authority over child welfare issues, allowing them to administer all aspects of child protective proceedings, such as custody and foster-home placements.

Residents of Madison will likely see a referendum on their November 5th ballots asking if they support imposing a curfew on people under 18 in the town. Residents complain about youth hanging out in the downtown area and around Irving's at night. The skate park and basketball courts are closed and locked at 9 PM, leaving the downtown area as the next viable option for people who aren't allowed to spend their social night lives in bars. Of course, the people directly affected by this vote, anyone under 18, are not allowed to vote on this matter.



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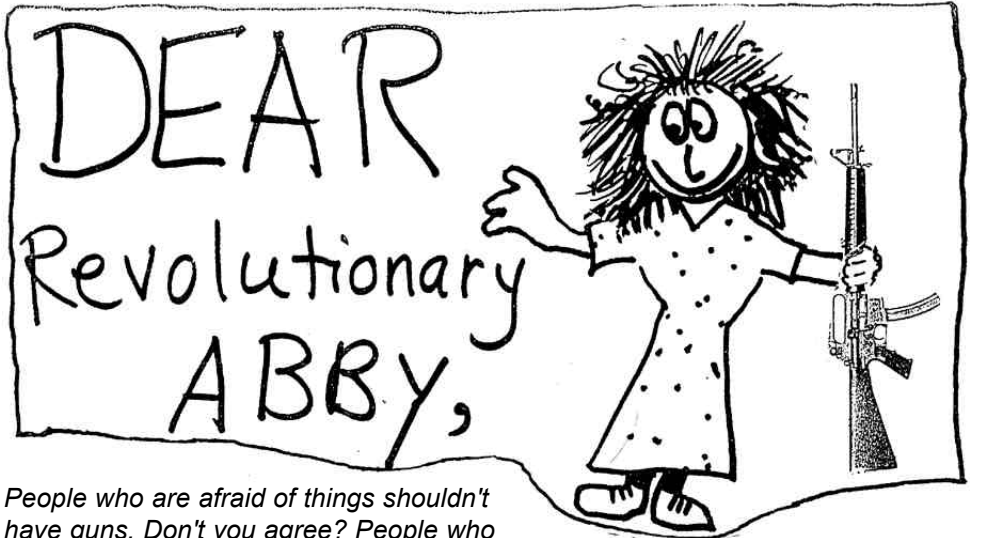
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People who are afraid of things shouldn't have guns. Don't you agree? People who believe they are in danger are a little coo coo, right? And then people who are "insecure" or have a bad marriage or who have been trauma'd in war or in childhood or people who have had bad grades in school or have expressed anti-government sentiments. Or people who are racist. Don't you think we need to limit guns only to police and guards and other officials?

Yours, Sane in Sanford

Dear S.S.

You are so right. By golly, yes. Humans have all these emotions which could make them use guns, hurt others, make mistakes. Humans are not able to handle such a heavy responsibility.

Only systems, establishments, governments, agencies and corporations should have guns. Only these things which have no emotions, no fear, no conscience, no passion, no obsessions, no love of family, no instincts for survival, no instincts AT ALL should have the guns. These agencies and things only have the ultimate agenda of protecting their "interests" against citizens and citizen-wanna-be's.

Oh, yes, lordy lordy lordy, you are so right. S.S., you are really thinking there.

Dear Revolutionary Abby,

I read what you said to Sane in Sanford and I need to speak up. A better plan than limiting the guns to just the officials, would be to disappear all guns ... to ban them ... all guns, handguns, rifles, pop guns, toy guns, guns from movies, even the mention of guns if mentioned in a violent-thinking state-of-mind.

Yours, The Ultimate Solution in Unity

Dear USU,

Oh yes, ELIMINATE guns and thoughts of guns and mention of guns and mean thoughts. Oh, yes! Just like we did when we outlawed alcohol and street drugs and prostitution and gambling and abortion and sodomy and adultery and sex on Sunday or in funny positions not pertaining to missionary preference. Yes, we made those things go away and people are so nice now except for this one last correction, violent thoughts and violent mentions and guns. Oh, but maybe after that, a few more last touches on this perfect society, a few more laws. Let's do it. Hurry now! Let's not give it too much more thought ... we might think that life is complex... we might think life can't be whipped into shape. We might come to the conclusion that that there is never any conclusion ... that beyond the solution might be more to discover and it might be UNTIDY.

PS. Oops! I forgot. I have a question for both of you, SS and USU. Do you have a lot of shares in some Underworld Blackmarket Wholesale-Retail (ahem) companies? Or maybe the prison industry? Just wondering.

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Fairfield, Wednesdays 2-6pm until Halloween
Pittsfield, Mondays & Thursdays 2-6pm until Halloween
Orono, Saturdays 8-1 & Tuesdays 2-5:30 until November 16
Unity, Saturdays 8-1 until December 7

TOMATOS, GARLIC, BASIL, BEANS, CARROTS, LETTUCE, PEPPERS, HERBS

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