



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 10 • Dec. 2002

Maine Lost History Project : Racism in Maine

BY LAURA CHILDS

Here is a brief interview with my friend Pal Tripp, aged 62 of Belgrade Maine. Tripp lives out in the middle of the woods - a rough ride out to his place. There's mud in November and plenty of it. Pals' place looks out over a half grown back 42 acre clearcut and this time of year you can see for miles. Sometimes, Pal can see a storm coming an hour before it gets to him. The Tripps were one of two black families living in the town starting in the 1920's and 30's. Through the years the family has moved outside of Maine, but Pal has chosen to stay, and he has lived and worked here all his life.

Recently two white supremacist groups have surfaced in the Lewiston area in response to a large influx of people from Somalia. One of the groups, The National Alliance is organizing a march to be held in January. I asked Pal how he felt about that and this is what he had to say. "Well, I don't like it. That's for sure. There is no sense in people going around and hating each other and if we give them the upper hand they will take it. It'll be just like the South where black men still to this day get dragged around behind automobiles.

"Years ago, some folks from the town got together and took up a collection for us. One man showed up at the house and presented us with \$27.50. He said, 'We have taken up a collection and you folks are to leave this town.' Well, we took the money and had a grand old time with it but we certainly didn't leave. Hate groups have always been here in Maine. This is nothing new. I still hear people say things like 'I hope no more black people move into town, we've got enough already.'

"Growing up, I remember walking home through the village and there were two kids that would hang out and hide near the bridge yelling out 'hey Nigga Nigga!' and much of the time I let it pass. But one day when I'd had about enough I grabbed both of them boys and dragged em' home with me. I was, after all, a lot bigger than they were. Well, my mother said 'What the hell is going on?' so I told her and she started puttin' logs on the fire when those boys asked her what she was gonna do. She told 'em, 'Well, I'm going to heat up that stove and pop the two of you right into it, and when you come out you'll be as dark as we are.' I think they got the point because they

RACISM : CONTINUED ON PG. 19

Something In The Air



photo credit: Marie Therese Martin

WHY CAN'T JOHNNY RUN TRACK?

A Rumford sports field in ironic juxtaposition to the nearby MeadWestvaco paper plant, the fumes from which many say cause asthma and other ailments.

Future of Rumford Air Quality Uncertain

BY HILLARY LISTER

"On one side of the chain link fence OSHA demands safety for its workers. On the other side of the fence, no one is protected"
-Marie Therese Martin

If you, as an individual, go and burn your trash, you'll likely be hit with a fine. Keep junked cars in your dooryard? Probably some more fines. Smoke in the lobby of the post office? Immediate fines. Smoke marijuana in the comfort of your own home? You could be looking at prison. Get pulled over for your car exhaust smoking? Might even get impounded. But if you're Connecticut-based MeadWestvaco,

you can put cancer-causing chemicals into the air, dump sludge into mountains, release tons of asthma causing particles - and as long as you have your permits, you can profit handsomely, and even be relied upon to help make the rules that determine the guidelines of your permits.

On November 14th, about 75 people gathered in Muskie Auditorium at Mountain Valley High School in Rumford, to take advantage of the Title Five process made possible through the Clean Air Act of 1990, an Act which former Senator Muskie helped create. Community members, MeadWestvaco workers, and members of Western Maine Citizens for Clean Air and Water (WMCCAW) came to listen to and ask questions of DEP and Mead representatives about the renewed air quality permit

MEAD : CONTINUED ON PG. 5

Colby College Distances Itself From Community ... Again

BY STEPHEN AUCOIN

*Tonight, I'm down here in Lyndontown
I watch the cars rushin' home from the mill
There's a beautiful, full moon a'risin'
Above the mansion on the hill
Bruce Springsteen, Mansion on the Hill*

The City of Waterville is fighting for its financial life and over one-quarter of its taxable property owners will not participate in that fight.

Over a great number of years, the Maine legislature has made certain types of properties exempt from local property taxes which are the mainstay any municipal budget. In Waterville's case, over 26 percent of taxable property is now exempt, helping make that city's tax rate of \$26.40 per \$1,000 valuation one of the highest in the state. As a result of that increase, Waterville continues to lose homeowners to surrounding communities at an alarming rate. And why not, when surrounding communities taxes are far less and services are nearby in Waterville. In addition, that city's taxes do not meet current infrastructure needs like road and facility upkeep so the infrastructure crumbles, making the city a less desirable place to live. Finally, as manufacturing plants close and jobs are lost throughout

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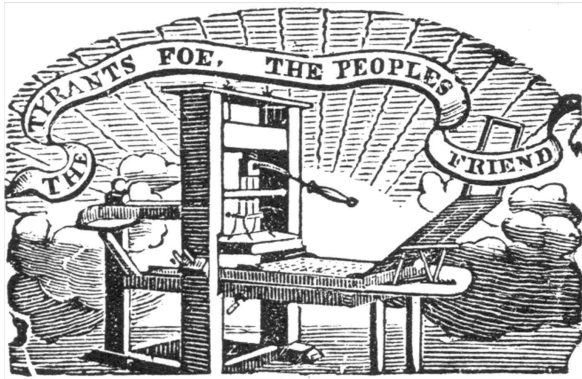
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central Maine, the urban centers lose their cashflow.

The amount of tax exempt property in Waterville includes properties like Colby and Thomas Colleges; two large hospitals; a great deal of public and private, non-profit owned residential properties, veterans and fraternal organizations, churches and charitable institutions. The city's overall exempt burden is second only to Orono's, but with a 13.6 square mile area, the impact is far greater on such a physically small city. In addition, the State of Maine, to compensate Orono for its loss of revenue due to the location of the state university there, makes an annual payment to the town of \$787,000

COLBY : CONTINUED ON PG. 7



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.**

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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!

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.

Letters to the Editors

Dear Maine Commons:

I came across a copy of your publication here at the Snake River Correctional Institution and enjoyed the coverage that you give.

I am a disabled veteran and my disabilities prohibit my walking. I've been incarcerated for the past 26+ years and just do not have any money.

I wonder if I may get a gratis subscription to continue reading your fine publication.

I thank you for both your consideration and for the showing of the hand you give.

**Peace & Light,
Robert Doyle Murphy**

(Editor's Note: Consider yourself subscribed! We have several subscribers in prisons all over the country, and we give out free subscriptions to any prisoner who wants one. If you, or someone you know is in prison, don't feel shy about getting a free subscription. Hopefully, donors will also latch onto this idea to support our continued free distribution to prisoners.)

Dear Editors:

Hello! I was introduced to your paper by my friend and fellow MGIP member Tim Sullivan. I have just been reading through the Oct-Nov issue and find it truly wonderful. It reminds me in spirit of the underground papers of the late 60's and early 70's which I used to stock in my bookstore in Honolulu. There is so much to comment on, but I will be brief here ... This is just a firm pat on the back. The first hand report of the police riot in Portland reminds me of Liberation News Service reporting "back then." I would suggest that the best way to prevent future recurrences is to make big print copies of that article and personally deliver them to all the Portland city council people, and all the state legislators, letting them know that this type of behavior is not acceptable and that we will push for civilian review boards any time and place such behavior is manifested. People armed with video cameras make an excellent antidote as well.

"Who owns Maine?" is a vital contribution ... I find myself indignant that corporations are given the right to natural resources anyway! We need term limits on corporations (and you may quote me on that!) Those that prove to be acting irresponsibly (as determined by the communities they occupy) must have their corporate charters yanked from under them. This is being worked on intensely elsewhere. The latest grab is to privatize WATER supplies! That only leaves AIR as the remaining free resource. What next, a license to breathe?

Jon Olsen, Jefferson

Hello Everyone -

Josh and I are still working on our second part to our Plum Creek article. It was supposed to be in this paper but we are not done in time. At this time we are doing interviews with people who work for Plum

Creek, people who live near Plum Creek owned land and people in general who are affected by Plum Creek. We are still hiking around the Jackman/Greenville areas. Josh is taking a lot of great pictures. We will be using the pictures in a slide show presentation that we will be doing soon in several places but dates are not set for anything. We hope that this article will be done for next month's paper and anyone who is interested can contact either of us. And thanks to people who have given feedback and helped with this

Breanna Norris, Farmington
breannannaerb@justice.com

Letter From The Editors:

This past month has seen major personal upheaval in the lives of several regular Maine Commons contributors. As a result, some articles which we were planning to have for this issue are not ready. What this does mean though, is more in depth reporting of these issues in future issues, as authors will have more time to research and work on these articles. We hope this issue will provide plenty of interesting and useful news. In upcoming issues of the Maine Commons you can expect to find:

- *Continuing coverage of race and racism in Maine - history, experiences, and community responses.*

- *Coverage of how government and corporate policies are harming Maine's dairy farmers, and how those farmers are organizing to save their livelihoods.*

- *Continuing additions to our "Who Owns Maine" series, with likely future focuses being on MBNA, Irving, McCain, various government agencies, and more. If you have an interest in working on investigating one of these owners, or have suggestions for owners to be investigated, contact us.*

- *Investigations into police brutality and the increasing police presence in Maine.*

- *...and more. If any of these topics piques your interest, if you have something to add, let us know! We want to hear your experiences. If you have stories to share, but don't feel confident in your writing skills, don't let that intimidate you. We'll work to help you write a piece, or if you just wish to be interviewed, we'll try and find someone able to conduct an interview with you.*

**Maine Commons
Submissions Deadline**

**January 1st,
2003**

for the Jan-Feb Issue

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



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Xmas, Hannukah, whatever -- who needs an excuse to give gifts?

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 tenth 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 23) and inserts from non-profit groups (see page 23 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.



opinions / editorials

From Trees to Ads

BY JON OLSEN

Reflect on the times you have shopped at the neighborhood supermarket and observed the row upon row of slick magazines displayed at the checkout counter. Now, have you ever bought one? Have you ever seen anyone buy one? Possibly once or twice?

Every month, tons of new magazines are brought into these stores and stacked neatly 6-10 deep for each of dozens of individual magazines, and at the end of the month, nearly the same number remains. This observation on my part that nearly all are returned is confirmed by my discussing the matter with a magazine stock clerk on two occasions. This person said that at least 75% are returned every month unsold. I suspect it is more like 85%. This goes on, month after month, year after year. Nationally, millions of unsold, unread magazines show up and then are gone. What happens to them then one can only imagine. From the consumer's perspective, why should we buy a magazine for \$3-\$5 that consists mostly of advertising anyway? Who wants to pay to be the object of advertising?

We might well wonder, why doesn't the law of supply and demand reduce the num-

bers that appear? How can magazine producers make any money if their product doesn't sell? The answer lies in what was just stated. It is evident that the magazine producers don't much care if they sell, because they get their money from the advertisers who are under the illusion that their ads are being "consumed." Furthermore, they can write off advertising as a business expense. Prudent business practice would dictate, however, that useless expense ought to be avoided.

Visualize the number of trees cut to provide this monumental and extravagant waste! Then ask, "What can be done?" I do not propose getting laws passed to prevent it, along with a monitoring bureaucracy that would probably be ineffective anyway. What I suggest is that an environmental organization take it upon themselves to do the basic research, contact other organizations, and launch a nationwide campaign to barrage the advertisers with what we know—they are foolishly wasting their money. Furthermore, these letters can state that because of this waste, you will NOT buy their products. The ads will have exactly the opposite effect intended. Demonstrations against particularly prolific advertisers can be held in front of their offices as informational pickets. After all, we want to persuade them to discontinue their wasteful and useless practices. We can acknowledge those companies who respond. No doubt readers will have other creative approaches.

put forward which I believe are weak but are still being used: (1) an invasion of Iraq will lead to the death of many innocent civilians (on top of the hundreds of thousands killed in the last decade by the sanctions) and that is immoral; (2) the important principle of national sovereignty will be violated by such an invasion (even if it is done with UN approval), and that threatens to bring the world back to a Hobbesian "state of nature" where nations will war against nations with the excuse that they do not like each other's treatment of their populations.

The first argument is logically sound and humane. It is true that an attack on Iraq organized so that the US military will suffer no casualties from enemy fire, would involve the death of thousands of innocent civilians. It is also true that such deaths are immoral, since a government's intentional inflicting of civilian casualties is a war crime.

But unlike the picture that logicians paint, sound arguments are not necessarily winning arguments. Perfectly reasonable people can agree that it is immoral to kill innocent Iraqi civilians but also come to the conclusion that it is more immoral to leave Saddam Hussein in power since he can cause even more Iraqi and non-Iraqi deaths. At the moment, it appears that the second argument is trumping the first within the minds of many moral and reasonable (and immoral and non-reasonable) people in the U.S. Unfortunately, it is not enough to say that thousands of innocents will die under U.S. bombs to stop these bombs from falling.

Respect Your Enemies— The First Rule of Peace:

An Essay Addressed to the U. S.
Anti-war Movement. Pt 1: No Fear

BY GEORGE CAFFENTZIS, MIDNIGHT NOTES

There is now a fledgling anti-interventionist, anti-war movement in the U.S. Can it effectively stop the war on Iraq and the series of future wars being planned by the Bush Administration? I believe it can. At the moment it is not completely marginalized, even though Pres. Bush has been beating the drums of war for months. Between one-quarter to one-third of the congressional representatives voted against granting him "war powers." The mid-term elections, though often cited as a "landslide for Bush," actually showed no mandate for the policies of war in Iraq and building of a unilateral "U.S. police agency" to keep the world's people in line.

The antiwar movement can express the majority perspective in this country and stop war. To do this it obviously needs strong arguments. However, many of the movement's arguments are not convincing people to act and yet are still being used. I believe this indifference to the effectiveness of its words is due to a lack of a re-spect (as in "look again") for Pres. Bush and his staff, but re-spect is needed to gain a deeper understanding of the reasons for their actions and to form a realistic assessment of their weaknesses.

Let us consider two of the most important arguments the anti-war movement has

The "national sovereignty" argument is also problematic. It is true that national sovereignty is an important political value, especially since the period of decolonization. Third World governments have rightly appealed to this principle to criticize the tendency of former colonial powers to intervene in their internal affairs and bring about "regime changes" favorable to past and future imperialists. People in the anti-war movement are likely to have been in one or more efforts to oppose interventions in the Third World, so they are sympathetic to this argument.

The problem is that these very same people are strong supporters of human rights doctrines that contradict an absolute "national sovereignty" principle. Antiwar activists do not in general believe that any government which violates the human rights of its population or is preparing to threaten the human rights of people outside its territory ought to have sovereignty. Consequently, any use of this argument has a tendency to divide the movement internally. We saw this in the NATO-Kosovo and the U.S.-Afghanistan wars. Defending the Taliban's national sovereignty, for example, was hardly an easy pill for the feminists in the antiwar movement to swallow. So, this argument is even weaker than the first, since it is both unconvincing to those outside the movement and tends to divide the movement from within.

The movement's arguments must both trump the counter-arguments and not divide its supporters, if they are to win the peace. But there has been a significant neglect in crafting arguments. Why? I think it is due in large part to the antiwar movement's failure to grasp the underlying imperative propelling the Bush Administration's actions. It looks at the ungrammatical President, the secretive Vice-President, the Dr. Strangelovian Secretary of Defense and the Lady Macbeth-like National Security Advisor and dismisses them as just lackeys of a right-wing conspiracy fueled by the oil industry. "What more is there to say about and against the idiot boy king and his crew?," the movement asks.

However, the greatest error in any struggle is to disrespect your enemies. This adage is especially true when the other side is winning!

For the Bush Administration's policy is not a product of right-wing crackpots. It is widely supported by much of the corporate elite, by many "labor leaders," and by about half of the Democratic Party congress people. On closer inspection, it is a desperate initiative to try militarily to save the global corporate system that has been in crisis for more than five years and which is not recovering—as I will show in Part II of this essay. The display of the instruments of war is a sign of the weakness of the system the Bush Administration is supporting, not of its strength. Bush's global military offensive is a doomed attempt to imprison the world's population in this system of eternal debt, chronic financial catastrophes, and environmental destruction. Millions of people in South and Central America, Africa and Asia have lost hope in finding themselves in this system and are trying to recre-

ate their lives outside the precincts of neoliberalism and globalization. The same threatens to happen here in the U.S. That possibility, and not the machinations of Al Qaeda or Saddam Hussein, is the Bush Administration's deepest fear.

Now is time for us to learn from the wisdom of an enemy philosopher, Thomas Hobbes, the defender of the absolute state. In the epigraph we quoted, Hobbes locates the source of peace in three passions: Fear, Desire, and Hope. The Bush Administration has effectively used Fear to stifle opposition. It correctly claims that the right not to be killed is the greatest human right. It has asked for a carte blanche to defend that right and impose Peace on the world through the sword. Bush often pointed to the cinders of the World Trade Center towers to win the "war powers against Iraq" resolution, for the Fear is real. Not accidentally, however, the Bush Administration spokespeople have forgotten the other passionate sources of Peace—Desire and Hope. They know that they cannot stimulate these passions even rhetorically without rousing derision throughout the planet. Their economic and social system is that bankrupt. This is the Bush Administration's deepest weakness: it cannot win on the basis of Fear of Death alone.

The antiwar movement should instead speak to the Desires and Hopes of the people of the U.S., from universal health care to a healthy environment to secure social security. We also need to bring the demands of the anti-globalization movement of the 1990s into our demonstrations, forums and programs, especially the wisdom behind the slogan, "This Earth is Not For Sale," i.e., an end to the privatization of the gifts of the planet and its history.

I leave you now with a historical example in support of this thesis. The most effective way the threat of nuclear terror was answered in the 1950s was not the antinuclear war movement, but the black revolution in the U.S. and the anti-colonial movement around the planet. Black people in the U.S. and colonized people in the rest of the world made it clear that B-52 bombers and their hydrogen bombs were not liberating them, and they refused to be delayed by them. They declared that their civil liberation was a precondition for the "Desire of such things as are necessary for commodious living; and a Hope by their Industry to obtain them" that could lead to Peace. Indeed, it has been the thwarting of this Desire and this Hope by the imposition of a neoliberal economic order that has been the source of most of the War of the last two decades.

George Caffentzis is an Associate Professor of Philosophy and Honors at the University of Southern Maine. He has been involved in the anti-death penalty movement and the anti-globalization movement in Maine and elsewhere. Midnight Notes is a collective that has been publishing articles and books critical of war and capitalism for a quarter century.



A2U2 Report

BY ROLAND RHOADES

I am making it my personal mission to unite all heretics and revolutionaries to work together. I have been a Unitarian Universalist (UU) for a number of years; we are very involved in "saving the world" from corporate criminals. I view the UU un-Church as a refuge for people who hate regular church and the dogma of telling you what to believe. We work towards NON-Judgment Day. We have many Pagans, Buddhists, Taoists, Hindus, humanists, and many of us are a combination of all the above, thinking for ourselves. We enjoy having a place to meet and socialize with other socially responsible people, as opposed to most of the corporate or unenlightened world. Gandhi said those who think religion and politics don't have anything to do with one another, don't know much about politics, or religion. Each UU church is slightly different based on the size and interests of its membership.

I was very pleasantly surprised to discover The Maine Commons and Maine Indymedia this past spring at a benefit concert for Carolyn Chute. It was really encouraging to see an organized group of politically aware people in Maine. I was also amazed at the politically conscious talent of folksingers David Rovics and Ethan Miller. I knew then that I had to make the UU churches aware of you, and I hope you will help make yourselves known to UU churches in your local yellow pages or on the heretics website below. Unitarian Universalists are very active with Peace Action Maine, and I discovered that there were extra copies of your paper at their office, so I took a couple bundles to distribute here and there around Cumberland and York counties.

I am currently a member of Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church in Portland (nickname A2U2), so I am presenting a news report of our activities. Of course, we organized for the very successful October 26 antiwar rally in Augusta, and the minister of the Saco UU Church, Karen Brammer, even got her picture into the Portland Sunday Telegram. The UU Ministers Association also had an antiwar rally in Portland October 14. The election proves that we have much work to do in educating the public that war is not the answer, it just adds to the problem. We may seem like snowflakes at times - completely insignificant in a hopeless task, but... which snowflake is the one that creates an avalanche, completely changing the landscape? We must persevere.

The A2U2 Social Action Committee is also continuing its support of ASERELA, the Sudanese refugee community, with a Nov 15 forum, support of the Preble Street Soup Kitchen, and holds monthly forums

on social issues (public is invited). We had a speaker from Maine People's Alliance www.mainepeoplesalliance.org update us on their work towards universal single-payer health care. And we have a good sized contingent at the Maine Gay Pride March each year also. Our January 26 forum (details 797-7240) will be on Economic Globalization, and February 16 will be on Civil Liberties.

We have also been holding weekly sessions reviewing the Praxis Peace Institute Conference which was held in Dubrovnik Croatia last June, complete with videos and audios of the presentations, hosted by a Yarmouth UU church member who went there. I have been glad to see that it deals with not only physical warfare, but also gender warfare and economic warfare in which the corporate system purposely creates a class system in America. We have also discovered at these sessions that there is a 50-million strong contingent in America that generally believes in peace and environmental issues, but is unorganized and unaware of each other. They have been dubbed "cultural creatives" and the website www.culturalcreatives.org begins to organize these people who find the website (or the book), to let them know that they really are not alone in their beliefs. We could really get somewhere if we all worked together.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FAIR

On November 10, A2U2 hosted, and co-sponsored with the Maine Council of Churches, a demonstration of energy-efficient alternative transportation means with electric and gas-electric hybrid powered cars, and electric mopeds for people to test drive. It was very successful with hundreds of people attending. The event was covered by Portland TV stations and the Portland newspaper. The Toyota and Honda hybrid vehicles have plenty of pep and room and get 50-60 mpg. We also learned that they are self-charging, nothing to plug into special re-chargers, and the cost isn't much more than any other new car. American carmakers seem to prefer their alliance with the oil companies. We are also promoting "Buy Locally" to reduce the amount of oil required to transport foods across the country. We also had a solar panel display, and representatives from Sierra Club, Greater Portland Metro which now has some electric buses, and many other organizations and agencies. The church service beforehand included a skit with Mother Earth showing how much pollution a trip to Boston causes (20 lbs of CO2 per gallon!). The website below will have a link to more details on exactly how much you can make a difference.

I have created a website to help coordinate all the peoples working toward the same objectives at <http://gwbushwhacked.tripod.com/heretics.htm> (no www).

MEAD : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

being given to the Rumford MeadWestvaco paper plant.

The meeting got off to an odd start, with various officials sitting on stage in front of a large screen projection reading, "Pollution Prevention MeadWestvaco" and elevator muzak emanating from the auditorium's speakers. Passing into the room, you saw a MeadWestvaco display with charts and clippings declaring the "Environmental Highlights" of the Rumford mill. As the first speakers got up to speak, I was briefly confused in several cases, trying to figure out at first if the speaker was a DEP or Mead representative, as they stood speaking in front of the MeadWestvaco projection. I found I wasn't the only one feeling this way - Sumner resident Wilford Allen commented in the hearings, "It seems to me that when Mark [Cone, of the Maine DEP Bureau of Air Quality] first spoke that he was almost an apologist for Mead...at first I thought he worked for Mead" Once the DEP and Mead officials had made their presentations, though, the meeting took a decided turn.

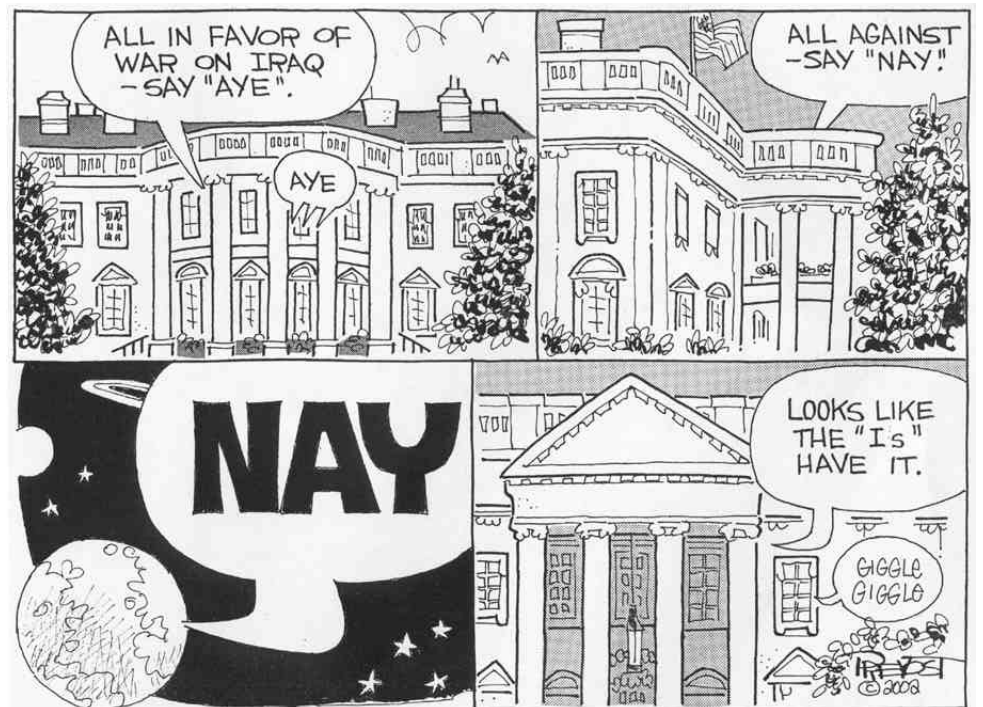
Dr. Ingrid Eriksson of WMCCAW got up on stage and changed the projections on the screen to that of a Mead mill smokestack. She read the DEP's mission statement, "Legislative mandate directs DEP to prevent, abate and control the pollution of the air, water and land. The charge is to preserve, improve and prevent diminution of the natural environment of the State. The Department is also directed to protect and enhance the public's right to use and enjoy the State's natural resources. The Department administers programs, educates and makes regulatory decisions that contribute to the achievement of this mission." She commented, "When considering the obnoxious odor in this area, the high level of asthma and other illnesses, the decrease in property values, the loss of recreational activities such as swimming and fishing because of dioxin contamination in the fish, and the depleted oxygen content in some areas of the Androscoggin river, we question whether the Maine DEP is fulfilling this mandate," and read from the WMC-

CAW technical comments, "There is a history, continuing to the present, of [the Rumford Mead plant] operating some of their processes either without any emission control at all or with inadequate emission controls. There is a history of seriously understating their emissions in violation of emission reporting rules and taking full advantage of regulatory exceptions and loopholes to avoid emission reductions in their facilities."

The last time a public meeting of this size occurred was in 1992. At that meeting, the late Dr. Ed Martin, a Rumford native and husband of MCCA member Terry Martin, drew attention from around New England when he presented a letter and testimony accusing the (then Boise Cascade) Rumford mill of being a major contributor to high cancer and asthma rates and other health problems in the valley. He fought against the renewal of Boise's emissions license then because it allowed the following emissions increases, as read from his findings by Terry, "Increase emissions of particulate matter by 19%, or 52 tons per year. Particulate matter - 10 to 30%, or more than 88 tons per year. Sulfur dioxide - 66% or more than 1,440 tons per year. Volatile organic compounds - 40%, or more than 37 tons per year. And carbon monoxide - 82% increase, more than 3,598 tons per year." Terry presented these findings, asking if it was true that the DEP allowed these increases when it issued the 1992 permit - the DEP officials offered only a long silence in response.

These emissions increases were not mentioned again by Scott Reed, the Environmental Manager of Mead's Rumford mill, or by any of the Mead or DEP officials. Scott instead detailed the environmental improvements made to the Mead mill since 1997, which included replacing old boilers with four new more efficient ones, two of which can burn more solid wastes; purchasing chipped tires and adding them to that fuel mix; installing scrubbers and steam stripper systems which

MEAD : CONTINUED ON PG. 6



Don't Peek! Answers to the Acrostic on page 20 below:

A. Cookie cutters; B. White water; C. Restlessness; D. Edward the First; E. Nodded; F. Summer time; G. Expectations; H. Name That; I. Biographic; J. Roof of the World; K. Iota; L. Narcissus; M. Kettle drums; N. Ampersand; O. Laps; P. Loss; Q. Invoked; R. Names; S. Overzealous; T. Usherettes; U. Rocky; V. Pathetic; W. Latch the door; X. Ask not what; Y. Comedy of Errors; Z. Extraterritorial; Z1 Shamefaced. Quote's Author: C.W. Rensenbrink


MEAD : CONTINUED FROM PG. 5

contain odorous compounds and incinerate them; and converting from an elemental chlorine to a 100% chlorine dioxide bleaching system which greatly reduced chloroform emissions. While all of these changes resulted in some significant improvements in certain aspects of emissions and wastewater discharge and toxicity, each change either added a new concern or highlighted existing problems with the permitting structure.

Mead officials tout burning tires as a "significant pollution prevention project," providing greater value per pound than coal and calling it "an excellent alternative to landfilling used tires." Yet, the company's efforts are not entirely altruistic. According to Shirley Damm of WMCCAW, Mead has a contract with Central Maine Power, and is selling the energy produced by those tires for a profit. A Lewiston Sun Journal article entitled "Environmentalists protest using tires for fuel; company, state say it's safe," dated July 2000 reports that coal was 25 percent more expensive per ton than tires at that time. According to Scott, tires make up 10 to 20% of the fuel mix in the plant's two cogeneration boilers. The mill burns about four to seven tons of tires hourly, although it is licensed to burn up to 10 tons an hour. And while replacing coal with tires does reduce many of the pollutants referred to by EPA as "criteria" compounds, which are tested for and/or regulated by the DEP - such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, and particulate matter - tire burning (even at the required high temperatures) greatly increases the release of "non-criteria" compounds into the air. The "criteria" compounds usually affect air pollution and aggravate respiratory problems, but it is within "non-criteria" compounds that you find the chemicals that cause birth defects, mutations, reproductive system damage, and cancer. These non-criteria compounds, which are often not tested for at all, include zinc, mercury, dioxins, furans, chromium, and lead. Some or all of these pollutants have shown up in the emissions from various tire burning facilities, even when the tires were burned at high temperatures. At the hearing, I asked if the DEP knew of lead being a byproduct of burning tires, and if they found the presence of lead in emissions to be a concern. Bryce Sproul of the Maine DEP replied, "I have not heard of that previously." The Rumford Mead mill does not run stack tests for dioxin, so the amount of dioxin being released into the air is unknown. However, the July 2000 Sun Journal article states, "Michael Beliveau, the director of the toxics and pollution prevention project at the NRCM [Natural Resources Council of Maine] said it's virtually certain dioxin is being created by Mead's fuel mix." Dioxin is proven to cause cancer and childhood immune, nervous, and reproductive system disorders. One test subject in an EPA tire-burning study was a California energy plant that burns 100 percent tire-fuel in a state of the art boiler (which is subject to the state's strict air pollution regulations and has three air pollution control devices), and burns only 3 to 4 tons of tires an hour. That plant produced 0.19 milligrams per day of dioxins. According to the EPA, the "acceptable" lifetime dose of dioxins for one person is 0.001 milligrams. Burning tires is not quite the "excellent alternative to landfilling used tires" that Mead claims it is - much less harmful re-uses of tires can be found in using ground tires for making in athletic tracks, asphalt, garbage cans, and carpet backing.

Mead also lauds itself on the decreases of material it is sending to landfills. This is a needed improvement, especially since Mead's landfill inside Farrington Mountain off Route 2 (which is 1.5 miles deep, according to WMCCAW member Terry Martin) was filling up and leaching into the groundwater. However, one of the ways that the Mead mill is reducing this was by burning the facility's wastewater treatment sludge. At the hearing, Norway resident Gail Geraghty asked, "So sludge, ...the remains of all of these chemicals -- is basically burned for fuel? How is that safe?" A DEP official replied, "The wastewater treatment sludge is dewatered and added to that fuel. Portions of the wastewater treatment plant sludge, which is wood fiber, things of that nature, ...is mixed with other fuels that are introduced to the burner." Apparently feeling that this was not enough of an answer, Gail pressed, "And how is that safe? That is the concentrated leftover of all of this process, the scrubbing and everything," to which the official replied, "The boiler temperatures are of a certain temperature where dioxins are destroyed. It's a practice that's fairly common throughout the United States." The DEP official explained that continuous emission monitors (CEMs) don't exist for dioxin monitoring, and CEM technology for measuring mercury and particulates is in its infancy, so the DEP requires that combustion temperatures be above the level at which these compounds are destroyed when burning tires or sludge. There was no further clarification as to whether there might be other safety concerns beyond simply destroying dioxins.

And yes, Mead did greatly reduce emissions of cancer-causing chloroform when it switched to using a chlorine dioxin bleaching system. However, it only makes sense that the mill focus so much of its pollution prevention efforts on reducing chloroform, since, according to DEP officials, it is the only mill emission that the DEP can measure at this time. When asked by Mexico resident Mary Gallant, "I was wondering if there could be a type of chemical that could be being released that could affect a person's health in the surrounding area of the mill," DEP air quality monitor John Chandler responded, "...the only mill compound that we measure for is chloroform. I don't know what else might be out there, and that would be speculation on my part. In terms of what the concentrations would be. We're really in the infancy of starting up ...toxics monitoring."

Since the mill is held to the requirement of using "Best Available Technology" (BAT) one woman from Mexico asked if, seeing as fully chlorine-free (currently the mills bleaching system uses chlorine-dioxide, but not the more toxic elemental chlorine) bleaching processes exist, wouldn't the totally chlorine-free process be the best available technology? One DEP official conceded that this system would significantly reduce chloroform being released, but the economic cost would outweigh the benefits of that system. A woman from WMCCAW argued this, stating, "I believe the economics that was figured out by the Natural Resources Council of Maine, it came to an increase of 0.6 cents per 500 pieces of paper, or one ream of paper. That would have been the increased cost. And that would have been made up during the operation in the future. That would have been totally chlorine free." A woman in the back of the room added, "And what about the savings in health care costs!" It does help to know that what BAT fully stands for, according to the EPA, is "Best Available Technology Economically Achievable."

One point that came out repeatedly through the night was that the DEP does not know the effects of the majority of the mill's emissions, or even what the compounds are, and cannot measure most of them. One example of this came out when Mary Gallant asked, "...I just want this to be brought to the attention, that some people, most of the people in the resident area, have seen particles of things that are not just dust on your windowsill, but black particles. Now if that's in the air, it would seem to me that it would be going into your lungs. ...I was wondering if that could cause a type of lung disorder, or something that could do with your respiratory system, because it just seems to me that if there's something in the air like that, that it would do something to you." The DEP and Mead officials provided long replies explaining that they have recently started using monitors that measure particles that are extremely small, and as a result these particles get furthest into a person's lungs, potentially causing the most damage. The officials didn't cite any specific actions being taken to actually prevent the release of these dangerous particles, only that there was now a monitoring program and the department will be putting out health advisories. And the officials could offer no answer whatsoever to what the visible black particles might be, other than that, "although they're not good, [they] are probably less of a concern than the fine particles. ... I'm not a medical expert, but obviously breathing particles is not good," and the equally reassuring and unspecific, "it's not just a total amount that you're breathing, it's what that consists of." There were a number of questions posed asking if any studies had been done to make connections between the health problems of people living in the surrounding area, such as the high cancer and asthma rates, and what chemicals are being put into the air and water by the mill. After many answers explaining the fact that the DEP monitors ozone and puts out ozone advisories, and that Mead monitors the exposure of its workers to chemicals, the answers again came down to, "We don't know." It appears that any study attempting to make connections between chemicals released by the mill and health effects on people in the area will have to be done independently. It was interesting to note that, despite the lack of any visible concern about health risks emanating from the mill among the Mead and DEP officials speaking that night, none of them lived in the Rumford/Mexico valley, and the only one who had grown up in Rumford had since moved out to Turner.

Even when the DEP can measure emissions, it is rarely able to take much enforcement action against large companies such as Mead. About eight years ago the Maine DEP had a list of hazardous air pollutants and safe values of those were provided by the Bureau of Health. Those values were used for modeling purposes to determine a predicted impact of a pollutant in an area. If the DEP found a high level of pollutants it could ask the company that was producing these pollutants to try and reduce their output of these compounds. The DEP had no regulatory authority to legally make the companies reduce the pollutants, only the ability to offer suggestions or, in Bryce's words, "Make 'em look bad, play upon their sympathies, or something." Industries put pressure on the King administration because, according to Bryce "it was felt that we [the DEP] had the ability to abuse [the guidelines] and ratchet down on facilities." How a Department without any regulatory abilities could "ratchet down" on a facility seems questionable, but nevertheless, it was decided that the DEP should abandon the

modeling effort, and instead focus on developing and enforcing Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) standards for industry. There exist only a few state regulations that can be used to control certain industries or processes - one of the few is the one that regulates chlorine emissions from paper mills. The emphasis on finding the Maximum Achievable or Best Available Technology shifts enforcement heavily to industry, since industry is developing this technology. When Gail asked, "I wondered to what extent you relied on paper industry analysis in evaluating the compliance [of a mill]," the DEP's Marc Cone replied, "It's relied upon fairly heavily. That in conjunction with data the EPA has developed through its MACT standards. ...the paper industry has to supply a significant amount of that information, and all of that is peer reviewed by scientists and engineers from both the industry and the regulatory community."

Of course, even when the DEP does have regulatory authority to "ratchet down" on a mill, it appears that it will avoid using that authority unless the facility has been particularly egregious in its violations. Gail commented, "I understand Mead had - ...quite a few exceedances last year. ...How does this permit address those exceedances, and how many were there last year?" Bryce replied that he did not know the number of exceedances, but that exemptions are granted for exceedances under various circumstances and "What triggers an enforcement action generally is either some sort of a repeated pattern of bad behavior, flunked stack tests, continuous emissions monitors that are down excessively, things of that nature." If only the police were so forgiving when they pull you over for an expired sticker.

The hearing wrapped up at 10 PM, leaving most with many more questions than answers. Yet Mead's attempts to control even the information that came out of the meeting was made obvious the next day. Scott Hudson, from Mead's public information office, called the editor of one of the reporters who was present at the hearing, complaining that the reporter's questions had taken the side of WMCCAW and that the reporter did not identify as a reporter. I was at this hearing, and all I saw by any reporters was active investigative reporting, something being lost in this age when journalism means reporting an "official's" word at face value, and not asking the logical and needed questions of it. As for identification, the DEP was not requiring that people identify themselves, and only a portion did. This was a public hearing, and as far as I have been able to find, there is no rule in most journalistic codes of ethics that calls for a reporter to identify as such at a public hearing. This phone call does add to the already existing concern about how much control industries such as Mead have over the information that is available to the public. As the industry-sponsored Bush administration takes away the powers of the Clean Air Act that make industry at least somewhat accountable to the public, companies like MeadWestvaco are being given even more free rein to disregard the health of the workers and families living near their smokestacks and landfills, while the company's stockholders and officials, who live far from the sources of their profits, can breathe easy.



COLBY : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

per year. So, there is no community in the state faced with Waterville's dilemma. There appears to be a way out, but most local politicians shy away from even mentioning the subject and the local press, the Central Maine Morning Sentinel, cannot bring themselves to write even the most cursory article about it. One reporter there, who asked not to be named, said the subject "is simply taboo. You will have to move [the issue] yourself."

The heart of the matter, the core of resistance, does seem to be Colby College, with its \$330 million endowment and \$40 million worth of taxable property. While there are other considerable units of exempt property, like Maine General Hospital's \$18 million valuation, Colby draws the most attention, largely to itself. Within the last eight months, three major articles have appeared in the Morning Sentinel, allowing Colby officials to praise their "community contributions." Nothing critical was in the content of any of the articles. The only criticisms of Waterville's tax exemption dilemma have appeared in the Sentinel's Letters to the Editor columns.

In June of this year, Colby's Dean of students, Earl Smith, gave a special audience to the Waterville City council and Mayor Nelson Madore (himself an employee of Thomas College). Smith's appearance was sponsored by Ward 2 councilor Kelly Goulette, who is also Smith's daughter. In his presentation, accompanied by a full packet of self-congratulatory PR information, Smith did not apologize for anything, but rather informed the council how lucky

they were to have Colby's presence.

Only councilor Charles Kellenberger of Ward One dared to take exception, telling Smith that he wanted him to tell the Colby governing board that the time had come for the college to start paying service fees to the city; to be part of the community. Interestingly, Kellenberger's father used to be a professor at the school. The rest of the council fell silent on the subject, with councilor Tavares noting that the school's policy of returning all students to campus had hurt the city's rental unit providers.

So, what was Kellenberger talking about? What are service fees and who would have to pay them? It turns out that the same law which grants exemptions to all those classes of property holders also allows the municipalities to charge "service fees," essentially a bill which would exclude the costs of education and welfare. In Waterville, according to city assessor Paul Castonguay, the rate would be approximately \$9 per thousand of valuation. This would add an additional \$800,000 -to-\$900,000 revenue annually to the city's coffers. Approximately \$300,000 of that added money would come from Colby College. The balance would come from all other tax exempt units. Interestingly, the way the law is structured, the council could exempt any category, houses of worship, for example, from the process. If all the recipients of service fees bills paid up and no new expenditures were added to the city budget, the tax rate could drop by as much as \$2 per thousand.

It appears there is some sentiment in the tax exempt community to pay what they

see as their share, usually accompanied by the phrase "as long as every one else does." Seton Village, located off Kennedy Memorial Drive, is a senior housing complex of low-rise duplexes taking up a considerable piece of land which might otherwise be occupied by single family homes. With its property valued at over \$3.5 million, its service fee payment would be approximately \$30,000 per year. Ron Gilbert, who was chairman of the Seton Village should be paying those fees "if everyone else does." Most recently, the former Hoyt Cinemas on KMD was acquired by a religious group whose pastor, William Cripe, made the same offer in front of the city council, not once, but twice. The director of a large social service agency based in Waterville made exactly the same offer in private two years ago. The law is admittedly cloudy and would most surely be challenged in state court, probably by Colby, since they have the most to lose. Or pay.

In Brunswick, home of prestigious Bowdoin College, it is a not so well kept secret that Bowdoin voluntarily pays that city \$150,000. And in Lewiston, it is rumored that Bates makes an annual contribution to that city's coffers of \$75,000. But most of these types of voluntary arrangements are difficult to document because they are made on the condition of confidentiality.

It seems that little help in clarifying the matter will come from the state legislature. Any initiative, to stand a chance in Augusta, would have to be sponsored and pressed by the local delegation. That group is led by State Senator Ken Gagnon, a long time

Colby employee. In the end, his positioning is typical of the years of Colby's influence on the city's political structure. Although a stand-up Democrat with a 90 percent rating from the state's most progressive political voice, the Maine People's Alliance, Gagnon refers to towns like Waterville as "service centers" and has reached into existing state coffers for some minimal relief for his hometown. He is silent on the matter of service fees. Most likely, his service center initiative will fall to budget considerations in the next session.

The towns which surround Waterville all benefit from that city's payrolls and services. All have considerably lower tax rates than Waterville, but nothing has been heard from their delegation members.

It appears that, in the end, this subsidy can only be threatened from the grass roots. There has been sentiment voiced for a referendum on the matter, though it appears that the necessary votes are not there on the current city council. So the only option left appears to be a popular initiative forced onto a ballot by petition drive. And there is serious talk of just that for the first time that any political observers can remember.

Meanwhile, plans are in the works to cut off Mayflower Hill Drive and North Street, the main city roads to Colby, at the base of the campus on the hill and build a ring road around the college. This would effectively cut off all local traffic, further isolating the elite school from the town. The road would be constructed with taxpayer money.

-STEVE AUCOIN

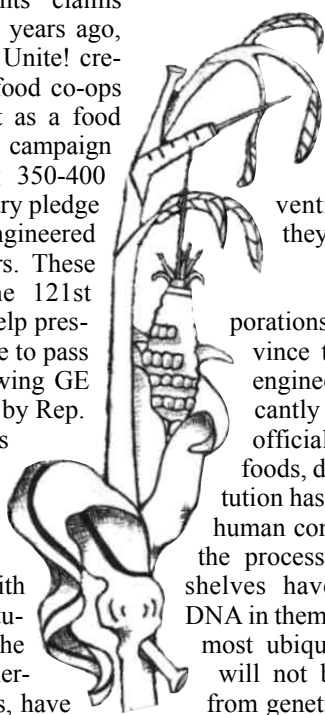
Keep Maine Free From Genetically Engineered Crops

BY LESLIE CUMMINS

A grassroots group from Blue Hill has organized a campaign called "Keep Maine Free from Genetically Engineered Foods." Using whatever forum they can get, they have worked to raise public knowledge above the corporate proponents' claims that these foods are safe. Five years ago, the group called Co-op Voices Unite! created an affiliation of Maine's food co-ops and small buying clubs to act as a food watch group and a lobby. The campaign began a year ago by asking 350-400 Maine farmers to sign a voluntary pledge to NOT grow genetically engineered crops in Maine for three years. These pledges will be taken to the 121st Legislature this December to help pressure the Agricultural Committee to pass into law a moratorium on growing GE in Maine. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Linda Rogers McKee and is endorsed by MOFGA. A source of more information is on web-site www.keepmainefree.org.

The reality of farming with GE crops is that these crops actually demand the increase or the stronger use of pesticides and herbicides than conventional crops, have

a lower yield than conventional crops, and cost more to grow than conventional crops. Nutrition levels may be lower. With the addition of the problems of superweeds and superpests, GE farming does not present a very attractive picture. Why do farmers choose to continue to grow these crops if they do not do what the suppliers promise? One answer might be the U.S. subsidy which GE farmers receive. In the Midwest, many farmers can't change back to conventional farming now that they have chosen GE farming.



The biotechnology corporations spend billions to convince the public that genetically engineered foods are not "significantly altered" -- the USDA's official language -- from regular foods, despite the fact that no institution has done any safety testing for human consumption. 80% to 90% of the processed foods on our grocery shelves have genetically engineered DNA in them. All of American corn, the most ubiquitous food in our nation, will not be able to claim freedom from genetically engineered contami-

nation whether grown conventionally or organically. Pollen drift will soon take care of that. The moratorium bill is designed to help protect Maine farmers from lawsuits against those who have inadvertently been trespassed by GE pollen drift which can result in renegade corn plants; or those who have saved seed for the time-honored farming method for next year's crop. While Maine does not yet grow many GE crops (2000 acres of field corn), nationally, farmers have endured much hardship because of court cases against them.

In the words of Dr. Charles Benbrook when giving a talk at a GE Forum on Nov. 14 in Bangor, "Maine has to make a choice between organic and GE styles of farming. We will not be able to have it both ways." Dr Benbrook who is an economist and consultant for farmers, went on to say that Maine is in a critical position. With the meat and dairy industry in free fall disaster which will take a decade to recover, Maine could choose in the interim, organic for both meat and dairy industries and build an infrastructure for processing plants. The organic industries have a growth rate of 20%-25% while growth for conventional food industries are only 5%. Maine already has a strong organic niche market established, not to mention that 10% of Maine's milk is now from organic farms.

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Renewing the Possible: Maine's 2nd Global Solidarity Delegation to Brazil

A COLLABORATION OF THOUGHTS AND INPUT
WRITTEN BY KATE BRENNAN

"From the moment in which you involve yourself in the struggle, you begin to acquire a bit of consciousness and you begin to fight not just for your rights but for the rights of all the exploited in Brazil and the world. You find many friends, and this lets you feel powerful, and even with all the difficulties, you continue strong, fighting."
-Eron Domingos, former shoemaker, current MST member who lives on a settlement in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil*

"[the current system] fences in what we think is possible. We are constantly told of the impossibilities. There are fences on the street and fences in our minds. We need to be a part of a global conspiracy of inspiration and possibility."

-Naomi Klein

Imagine A group of a few hundred landless Mainers armed only with farm tools march onto Irving land in Northern Maine, set up make-shift, black plastic tents and squat the land.

These Mainers start farming the land, building permanent structures, and establish a school for their children. A group of outside supporters fight for title to the land.

After a long process of moving from an encampment of tents to an established settlement, these Mainers gain title to the land and purchase it with funds from a federal agency. According to a clause in the constitution, the Irving family has no choice but to accept the land expropriation. The seized land becomes a collectively owned parcel.

What? In Maine?

The Movimento dos Trabalhadores sem Terra in Brazil

Although this scenario may seem unrealistic, it is a reality for over a million landless workers in Brazil. They are a part of the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais sem Terra (Landless Rural Workers Movement or MST) and since the mid 1980's, the MST has organized over 300,000 Brazilian families to take back their rights to land, livelihood, and dignity. It is not uncommon to hear of hundreds squatting on land that belongs to government officials, international figures, business elites, even former President Cardoso's land. At present there are 1.5 million Brazilians squatting or settled (with land ownership) on 15 million acres of arable land in almost every state in Brazil.

(For more detailed information on the MST see www.mstbrazil.org, Brazil indymedia and www.zmag.org Brazil watch)

Maine Youth Delegation to Brazil 2002

Last year, 8 young activists were lucky enough to travel to Brazil as part of a Maine Global Solidarity Delegation. With the aim of visiting the MST and other social move-

ments in southern Brazil, networking with Brazilian youth activists, and attending the 2nd annual Forum Social Mundial (World Social Forum), we left Maine in mid-January and returned just three weeks later with a new perspective on what is possible in the world.

It was a 15 hour bus ride from São Paulo through the beautiful countryside of southwestern Brazil to Cooperunião, a per-



Picture of group with Maria, Marcos, Fritz and all at Cooperunião. The sign reads "Somente o povo e capaz de mudar a realidade" which means "Only the people are capable of transforming reality"

manent MST settlement comprised of 1200 hectares of land, 60 families (roughly 300 people), 7,200 chickens, milk cows, beef cattle, fruit trees, hundreds of acres of vegetables, a school, a community hall, and a radical politics that has been lived now for 12 years.

Upon arriving, we were greeted by Maria, her husband Marcos, their 12 year old son Fritz and some of his curious friends. It didn't take long for us to be whisked into a soccer game, with intermittent political discussions on the sideline. Cooperunião, one of the first settlements in the state of Santa Catarina, is one of the most established and functional settlements in southern Brazil. 12 years earlier, Maria, Marcos, baby Fritz and the 50 plus other families on the settlement had been landless, working as tenants on huge plantation-like land holdings, living in the favelas (informal urban slums) of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, or working as rural laborers for Brazil's elite. Now they wake each day to a life on their terms, on their land.

Will Neils from Lincolnville often tells the story of our first tour of Cooperunião's 1200 hectares. Walking with Marcos through small gardens and larger farm plots, past corn fields and grazing cattle on the hillside, we wound our way up a muddy path to the top of a hill. When we all got quiet, Marcos pointed, "See those trees two

ridges over to the south?" He turned to his right, moving his arm to follow the land. "And then to the west as far as you can see of corn? And then three ridges back to the east? All this" he said with outstretched arms, "is our land." From the favelas of São Paulo to the countryside of hope and dignity.

What it comes down to is that the MST has developed an effective formula for

tions of small farmers leading the fight to undermine the strong hold that transgenicos (genetically modified organisms) are gaining in Brazil; and the MTST (Movement of Roofless Workers), a movement of homeless and landless Brazilians from the cities. All are organizing around people's basic needs -- food, shelter, land, community, dignity -- but at the same time are asking what kind of system created these barriers to our needs and how can we transform it? They are fighting for more than specific rights, they are fighting for a different life. Viva os movimentos do Brasil!

Bringing it home to struggles in Maine

The parallels between struggles in Maine and those in southern Brazil are striking. In both places people are struggling with the corporate take over of communities, undemocratic land distribution, and ever increasing levels of social inequality. But the MST and other Brazilian movements have come forward with a different response. Instead of meeting people's needs with NGOs, service organizations or federal "charity" funds as we most often do in Maine, these movements, who are organized by and for the most affected by the inherent flaws in the global system, look to the root causes of these inequalities, not to band-aids. They have built their own analysis and then out of this analysis are building social movements.

This new sense of movement redefined for us what is possible. It expanded our ideas about what large, inclusive social movements could accomplish in Maine. The experience also made clear that a widespread critical analysis of the world, like that used by so many movements in the south, does not exist in the U.S. Our ability to imagine anything different has been effectively buried. Most people do know that the system is flawed but feel powerless in the face of the overwhelming empire. The creation of alternatives is a powerful way to show people that other ways of being in the world are possible and that we do not have to settle for what we are handed by those in power.

Maine is not Brazil and there is of course no singular way that change happens. But, with our eyes set on the MST, the Brazil IMC, the work of youth activists there, the urban movements for homeless and poor people's rights throughout Latin America and the rich lineage of struggle we have on our own continent, we can begin creating our own formulas for movements in Maine that focus on meeting peoples needs for survival and simultaneously makes connections between these needs and the systems that keep people from realizing dignified existences.

The corporate media and the powers that be call us an "anti-globalization" movement, but we are a different globalization movement. We are fighting the globalization of insecurity and isolation with a globalization of struggle, self-determination, and dignity.

We are excited that Maine's connections with Brazil are being built upon by a

During our trip, we also met with, and were duly inspired by, Brazil's Independent Media Center in Sao Paulo, giving protection, security and legitimacy to movements for social transformation; the confedera-



new Global Solidarity Delegation in January 2003. We couldn't have made our trip happen if it hadn't been for the hundreds of people from all over Maine who helped us out. Please support this delegation so that we can continue strengthening these global networks of support, our commitment to social transformation, and the important work that we are all sharing in Maine!

PLEASE SUPPORT THE 2003 MAINE GLOBAL SOLIDARITY DELEGATION TO BRAZIL!

*Brazil's MST: Taking Back the Land by Jason Mark Jan/Feb 2001

Maine's 2nd Global Solidarity Delegation to Brazil 2003

Maine's 2nd Global Solidarity Delegation to Brazil, leaving in about 2 months, is in many ways renewing the possibilities of struggle and creation. This year, the delegation is multigenerational and comprised of low-income grassroots organ-

izers. The nine members of this delegation are closely involved with their local communities and this trip to Brazil offers the opportunity to link their local work with global issues and struggles. The trip will be leaving on January 17th and returning on February 7th.

From the 2003 delegation:

Jim Devine, Preble St. Resource Center Consumer Advocacy Project, Portland

Bridgette Bartlett, Lots to Gardens and the JED collective, Lewiston and Greene

Heather Blanchard, Preble St. Resource Center Consumer Advocacy Project, Portland

Laura Childs & Hillary Lister, Maine Independent Media Center and the Maine Commons, Belgrade & Waterville

Carol Dove, the Victory Gardens Project, Athens

Michael Vernon, the Victory Gardens Project, Athens

Patrick Wilding, Downtown Neighborhood Association, Lewiston

Vanessa Stasse, the JED collective, Greene

We will begin our trip with several days in São Paulo meeting with social and economic justice activists and organizations. We have made plans to connect with the Movement for Land and Roof (MTST) and to visit the Anita Garibaldi Encampment, a massive urban squat, and meet with homeless workers and organizers. We will talk about the impact of globalization on both hemispheres sharing with Alcaralho, a group dedicated to educate and mobilize against the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA). From São Paulo, we will travel to Santos where we will learn from the struggles of Coletivo Alternativo Verde (CAVE), a poor people's environmentalist group fighting the poisonous corporations. From the 23rd on, we will attend the 3rd annual World Social Forum in the southern city of Porto Alegre. After a week of conferences and networking, we will spend a week at Cooperunião, the same cooperative settlement of the Landless Workers' Movement (MST) that hosted last year's delegation. As we are told by their vibrant stories, Cooperunião is dynamically inspirational.

We are requesting the financial support of friends and fellow freedom fighters to help us cover passports and travel visas, plane tickets and bus travel, food and lodging in Brazil. We are currently pursuing funding from grants, organizations and individuals, emergency funding sources, as well as fundraising activities like raffles, dinners, house parties and auctions. While we have raised some funds thus far, we must raise at least an additional \$7,000 to ensure that everyone in our delegation can go.

Your support is necessary to make this trip happen. Together we are certain that we can move one step closer to building both real connections of global solidarity and powerful social movements right here in Maine.

Please contact Vanessa Stasse at The JED Center if you can make even the smallest contribution -- telephone: 946-4478, email: vanessa@jedcenter.org, or snail mail: 217 South Mountain Rd., Greene, Maine, 04236.

FOGLIGHT ZINE DISTRO

Winter 2002 Catalogue

The Foglight Zine Distro distributes zines and other independent media produced in Portland, Maine and the surrounding area. The zine (pronounced zeen) publishing movement began to flourish in the Eighties, primarily among young people who used photocopiers to print their writings and ideas. The perspectives found in zines are often those that cannot be easily found in mainstream, commercial media sources. Today, there are tens of thousands of zines printed throughout the world, covering every imaginable subject. The Foglight Zine Distro focuses on giving exposure to local publications that are striving to create social change and alternatives to the racism, sexism, war, economic exploitation, and state control that characterize today's society. The prices of each item are printed next to the titles listed below. All prices include shipping and handling. To order, please send well-concealed cash (sorry, no checks) to:

Foglight Zine Distro
C/O Moss Publications
P.O. Box 1582
Portland, ME 04104

Stamps can be sent in the place of cash for small orders. All zines are free for prisoners. Prisoner's zines are paid for with the small proceeds we make from our other sales. Donations are gladly accepted from anyone who would like to help send reading material to prisoners.

ZINES (We will send the most recent issue unless back issue is specified)

Allergic - Original essays and illustrations. First issue (\$2) among other things, questions gender, and introduces the reader to the histories of the situationist and surrealist movements. Number 2 (\$1) has more of a personal feel with a continuation of the gender discussion, an essay about the problems with school, and some short prose and poetry.

Black Star North (CLEARANCE SALE \$1!) - The editors of BSN pissed away a lot of money getting the 3rd and final issue professionally printed, before deciding to move on to other projects. Issue #3 (Fall 2001) is packed full of "revolutionary anti-capitalist and anti-state perspectives" and theory, including anti-war analysis. Get your copy of this legendary collector's item while supplies last!

Communicating Vessels (\$2) - Original surrealist prose, poetry, and essays from an anti-capitalist / anti-state perspective, with a strong anti-war current. Also features rare but important reprints of writings by other authors with similar perspectives.

Moss On Urban Decay (\$3) - Loaded with essays, articles, and news on political prisoners, Native resistance struggles, opposition to the so-called "War on Terrorism", sustainability, and more! Features lots of art from local people and others. Issues 1, 2 & 3 available, \$5 for all three issues

Outlet (\$1) - 'A collection of voices and images against the elements of capitalism and authority.' Includes short essays outlining the problems with cars, television, and prisons.

Siren (\$1) - 'Radical Perspectives On The Liberation of Women'. An anarchist feminist

zine combining the editor's personal writings with essays reprinted from a variety of other sources.

Sprout Thru Cracks (\$1) - Collection of the editor's original poetry and short prose. Personal, with social significance.

Strike Anywhere (\$1) - Monthly zine with calendar of radical/activist events in Portland and beyond, as well as some short articles and graphics.

Thus Saith The Lord! (\$1) - Hilarious insight and observations from a '19 year-old caucasian male from Maine', covering topics such as school, wage-slavery, traveling, veganism, and pirates.

PAMPHLETS

Fertility Awareness For Non-Invasive Birth Control (\$3) - practical and comprehensive guide to natural methods of birth control for both women and men.

Native Resistance to Canada (\$1) - Outlines recent developments in the ongoing resistance to 'Canada' by the indigenous people of that land. By the editor of Moss on Urban Decay.

Native Resistance in Canada 1990-Present (Free with other order)- a brief timeline of Native resistance in "Canada" with contacts for indigenous people.

The Victory Gardens Project: A Hands On Guide (\$3) - An introduction to the Victory Gardens Project, which grows organic food in rural Maine for distribution in various urban communities on the East Coast. The VGP uses food as an organizing tool to promote community self-determination and educate people about political prisoners.

Steve (\$1) - A humorous short story by the editor of Thus Saith The Lord!, about the abduction of a late-night gas station attendant.

They Who Marry Do Ill, by Voltairine DeCleyre; Patriotism: A Menace To Liberty, by Emma Goldman; Jealousy: Causes and a Possible Cure, by Emma Goldman; Preparedness: Road to Universal Slaughter, by Emma Goldman (2 for \$1) - Classic anarchist essays reprinted in pamphlet form by some local folks.

MUSIC

Dan C., Sarah, and Detritus: "Live At The St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center" (\$8) - Live recording from January 2002 of three of Portland's radical acoustic musicians. 2 CDs.

Detritus: "Parasitic Confessions, Feral Dreams" (\$6) - CD of original music; solo, acoustic-punk style with social/political/eco-conscious lyrics. Includes lyric book with beautiful illustrations. Features "Corrections By Assassinations", "Control", and "The Night Protects Us."

Ethan Miller: "In Times of War" (\$10) - First studio CD by one of Maine's more well known political folk singers. Guitar and vocals accompanied by banjo, fiddle, piano, and mandolin. Features "Declaration of War", "Invisible Hand", and "Allagash".



Maine Solidarity Calendar

Dec 3 2002 - Jan 25, 2003 (updated and with more info at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>)

Tuesday Dec 3rd

"Affluenza" Movie Showing

Contact: Norma
Phone: 594-1478
Location: Public Library, Rockland
Info: Video showing about overconsumption vs. simple living. Call to confirm time (either 6 PM, 6:30 PM, or 7 PM) Sponsored by Midcoast Peace and Justice Group.

Genderqueer Discussion Group

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Contact: Lyndon or Dorn
Phone: 228-8235
Location: GLBTQA Resource Center, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Thursday Dec 5th

MCLU Annual Awards Dinner

Contact: MCLU
Phone: 774-5444
Info: Maine Civil Liberties Union annual meeting and celebration, time/location TBA

MAIN Statewide Meeting

Time: 9:30 AM
Contact: Judy Guay
Phone: 947-4371
Email: krjguay@infi.net
Location: National Theater Workshop for the Handicapped, 96 Church Street, Belfast
Info: Reimbursement for transportation and childcare is available at the meeting. If you are interested in car-pooling - get a ride or give a ride - call us and we will try to link you up with others.

Friday, Dec 6th

New Freedom Bus Tour comes to Portland

Contact: Jesse
Phone: 775-2801
Email: arthousecoalition@riseup.net
Web: <http://www.kwru.org>
Location: Portland

Info: As one part of the ongoing Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, this historic bus tour is made up of poor, unemployed, homeless, working, rural, and urban families, and human rights observers.

Palestinian Film Festival

Contact: Railroad Square Cinema
Phone: 873-6526
Email: movies@prexar.com
Web: www.railroadsquarecinema.com
Location: Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville
Info: Pictures of Palestine; Two days of films. Continues to Sat., Dec 7th. Festival Passes \$20; Individual tickets at regular cinema prices.

"War Tax Resistance in Peacemaking"

Email: invert@acadia.net
Location: Deerfield, MA
Info: Annual gathering of war tax resisters and supporters in New England. Email for carpooling and details. Continues to Sun. Dec 8.

Saturday Dec 7th

NEVER AGAIN! A Patriotic Remembrance for Peace

Time: 1:00 PM
Phone: 942-9343
Email: peacectr@gwi.net
Location: Davenport Park, Main St, Bangor
Info: Join us on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day to honor those who sacrificed their lives in past wars. March Together Afterwards to the Peace & Justice Center for Refreshments / Sharing Thoughts / Community Peace Activities



photo credit: Nathan Harrington

MARCH WEATHER IN OCTOBER

2,900 wet activists marched on the Capitol on October 26th, in what has been described as "the largest march in Augusta since Spiro Agnew came to town in 1972"

Brazil Delegation Benefit Dinner

Time: 5:30 PM
Contact: Vanessa Javaux
Phone: 946-4478
Email: vanessa@jedcenter.org
Location: Androscoggin Grange, Greene
Info: Fundraising Dinner for the Maine Solidarity Delegation to Brazil. A dinner and an evening of music (Ethan Miller, Julia Plumb, and friends) and a "Chinese auction" of prizes given by friends (massage, art, food, pottery, etc.). Tickets are a sliding scale \$5-15.

Monday Dec 9th

Anthony Arnove speaks on Iraq situation

Contact: Cyndy Hoeh
Phone: 778-3513
Email: Cynthia.Hoeh@maine.edu
Location: University of Maine, Farmington
Info: Exact time and location TBA

"The Prison Industrial Complex and the Global Economy"

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Contact: Cal
Phone: 774-2801
Email: amongsttherubble@justice.com
Location: Peace & Justice Center, 1 Pleasant St (above Hi Bombay), Portland
Info: Discussion on the pamphlet "The Prison Industrial Complex and the Global Economy" by Linda Evans and Eve Goldberg. After the discussion we will have a meeting to discuss starting a books-to-prisoners/prisoner support group.

Tuesday Dec 10th

International Human Rights Day

Contact: Amnesty International
Phone: 832-6863
Email: thesil@midcoast.com

General Assistance & Housing Issues Informational Meeting

Time: 5:00 PM
Contact: Crystal Bond
Phone: 626-7058 ext 205
Email: cbond@mejp.org
Location: Location TBA, Lewiston
Info: Potluck 5 pm - Meeting 6 - 8pm - Everyone Welcome!

Maine-ly NORML Meeting

Time: 7:30 PM
Contact: Cindi
Phone: 696-8879
Location: Location TBA, Bar Harbor Area
Info: Maine chapter of Nat'l Org. for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Thursday Dec 12th

"Against The Machine" Book Signing

Time: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Contact: Bill Lippincott
Phone: 942-4398
Location: Lippincott Books, 36 Central St, Bangor
Info: Meet author Nichols Fox, who will be signing copies of her new book "Against The Machine: The Hidden Luddite Tradition in Literature, Art and Individual Lives"

"Once a Republic, Now an Empire"

Time: 7:00 PM
Phone: 743-2183 or 824-3151
Email: atwhit@megalink.net
Location: Norway Memorial Library, Norway
Info: Discussion Led by Steve Kelly

Friday Dec 13th

Role of Nuclear Weapons in Global Domination

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 of recent speech by Noam Chomsky. Discussion to follow. Free. Call if childcare is needed.

Sunday Dec 15th

**Brazil Delegation Fundraising Brunch

Time: 10:00 AM
Contact: Hillary
Phone: 649-5980
Email: editor@maineindymedia.org
Location: Grand Central Cafe, Railroad Square, Waterville
Info: Call to confirm.

Kwanzaa Celebration

Time: 7:00 PM
Contact: NAACP
Phone: 827-4493
Location: Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor, 120 Park St, Bangor
Info: Celebration with cultural food. Free. Sponsored by Greater Bangor NAACP.

Wednesday Dec 18th

"Affluenza" Movie Showing

Contact: Norma
Phone: 594-1478
Location: Public Library, Rockland
Information: See description Dec. 3rd

"The New Rulers of the World"

Time: 6:00 PM
Contact: Cathy
Phone: 338-4920
Location: Free Library, Belfast
Info: Film on globalization.

"Affluenza" Movie Showing

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Contact: Annie
Phone: 623-0427
Location: Lithgow Library, State/Winthrop Sts, Augusta
Info: Movie and discussion about overconsumption and its effects on the U.S. and the world. Free.

Saturday Jan 25th

8th Annual Changing Maine Gathering

Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Contact: Resources for Organizing and Social Change
Phone: 525-7776
Email: invert@acadia.net
Web: www.abilitymaine.org/rosco/rindex.html
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 209 Eastern Ave, Augusta
Info: Gathering for organizers and activists on the theme of "Organizing in Our Communities."

Monthly Repeating Events

Mondays

Maine Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty Meetings

Phone: 884-7407
Location: Canterbury House, Orono
Info: See pg.19. 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.



Collecting the Evidence:

Poor People All Across America Are Standing Up, Speaking Out, and Fighting Back!

"Well I went down to the president's house
and I took back what he stole from me..."
- Freedom song

BY JESSE VEAR AND BRIGGS SEEKINS

Have you ever had to work more than one job just to pay rent? Have you ever gone without healthcare because you just couldn't afford it, yet you were denied Medicaid because you 'made too much'? Do you ever find yourself choosing between medicine and food? Have your lights, gas, water, or heat ever been turned off? Have you ever been homeless? Have you ever been laid off? Ever had to wait for an entire day at DHS or General Assistance or the Unemployment Office, just to find out if your family would have a place to sleep that night, if you'd get to heat your house, or buy some groceries - and then get treated like dirt for it? Would your car breaking down put your family into economic crisis?

Far too many of us answer 'yes' to far too many of these questions. According to the Census Bureau report for 2001, 33 million American people live in poverty - more people than the populations of The District of Columbia, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming combined. And it is important to remember that the Federal Poverty threshold is no longer even an accurate measure of true financial need. It is an antiquated formula based on Department of Agriculture statistics from the 1950s and fails to take into account the reality of current housing costs. For example: According to Federal statistics, in order for a family of four to be considered 'officially' poor, their annual income must fall below \$17,960; in order to live in most parts of the United States, a family of four would probably require at least twice that amount. Ten percent of Mainers -- roughly 128,000 people -- are currently living below that poverty line. And 'official' or not, the ranks of the poor continue to rise. According to the Hunger in America 2001 report, there has been at least a nine percent increase since 1997 in the number of people using food pantries. Last year nearly nine million children in the United States received emergency food assistance -- a million more than the residential population of New York City.

The hourly livable wage for a single parent with two children in Maine (in 1999) is \$14.61, or a monthly wage of \$2337.60. This is how much money we must earn to afford the things we need, like adequate shelter, food, medical care, transportation, childcare, etc. But how many of us are earning anything close to a livable wage, and how much longer will the waiting lists for things like fuel assistance and food stamps and section-8 housing grow? Thanks to 'welfare reform,' single mothers are forced to work 30 hours (Bush wants to make it 40) at lousy, dead-end jobs serving sandwiches to out-of-state college students to get their TANF benefits, making barely

enough to pay rent, childcare, and transportation. As factories pick up and leave the state for cheaper labor overseas, whole communities are disappearing. As the cost of living rises, many of our cities and towns are courting tourist dollars to foot the bills that us locals just can't afford. That leaves us with an awfully rough scenario, where those of us who are from here can't afford to live here, yet many of us are too poor to leave. And damn it -- if things really were 'the way life should be' -- we wouldn't have to!

In this richest nation in human history, the wealthiest 1% of the population owns 40% of the wealth, while the poorest 80% of the population owns a meager 20%. This kind of gross inequity means that while a certain few have unlimited wealth and access to resources, the rest of us have next to nothing and must spend the majority of our life's energy struggling just to feed and house our families. It means that over 78 million people in this country are barely

surviving. As the years go by, the transfer of wealth into the hands of the few becomes more and more pronounced. From 1979 to 1997, the richest 1% of Americans saw their after-tax income rise 157%. The middle fifth saw theirs rise a modest ten percent - barely more than 1/2 of 1% a year. And real income for the poorest fifth of Americans dropped 1% during that time. From 2000 to 2001, income fell for ALL AMERICANS except for the richest five percent. According to the Census Bureau, while the median pre-tax household income fell by more than \$900, from \$43,162 to \$42,228, the average income of the top five percent of Americans rose from \$259,445 to \$260,464. Keep in mind that the census bureau does not include capital gains income, which goes disproportionately to the wealthy. Keep in mind, too, that the Bush tax cuts will only cause this disparity to skyrocket.

Since 1990, CEO salaries have risen 571%; if the minimum wage had risen at a

similar rate, it would now be \$25.50 an hour, rather than the impossible-to-live-on \$5.15 that it actually is. While upwards of a hundred million American people barely scrape by month to month, and while millions of Americans have had their retirement funds stolen by fraudulent corporate accountants, a chosen few still manage to rake in fortunes that could never be spent in a thousand lifetimes. And we should probably not be surprised to learn that the CEOs who are doing the best financial work for the corporations that are most abusively exploiting their workers. The Executive Excess 2001 study found that CEOs in firms that had announced layoffs of one thousand or more workers made an average of 80% more than their peers. According to a survey of 365 top firms conducted by Business Week, layoff leaders averaged \$23.7 million, CEOs as a whole \$13.1 million.

As the CEOs continue grabbing for everything in sight, more and more of us have been finding ourselves in desperate situations. During the 1990's the US economy experienced a remarkable surge in growth and resulting wealth. But instead of investing this wealth in ways that would have helped the poor, the Clinton administration instead responded with the 'Personal Responsibility and Work Reconciliation Opportunity Act' (PRWORA) of 1996. As a result, poor mothers with small children have been turned off the welfare rolls in the tens of thousands, simply because their lifetime 5-year limits 'are up.' In many states, private corporations (such as weapons manufacturer Lockheed-Martin) have taken over the role of managing caseloads -- while well-fed, well-heeled politicians assured us that these private corporations would bring 'efficiency' to the administration of social services, the results have been exactly the opposite. Tax dollars that are supposed to be used to help needy people instead are used to pay large salaries to corporate CEOs. Individual caseworkers are paid bonuses for lowering the numbers of people they help and widespread corruption has been reported; deserving, needy people are being turned away so that bureaucrats can earn their bonuses. Already in Wisconsin -- where workfare programs were first implemented under the directives of then Republican Governor Tommy Thompson -- it was found that Goodwill Industries was arbitrarily sanctioning their below-minimum-wage workfare 'employees' and keeping their benefits. Now workfare programs have been implemented in several other states, and the effects have been devastating for women and their families. Those who are still eligible for what is now called Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) must work at least thirty hours for their 'benefits,' often for less than minimum wage, in unsafe conditions, and without childcare for their children. In many cities and states, TANF mothers have been used as a cheaper, easily exploited alternative to well-paid, unionized government workers. As a result of this exploitation, women and children now represent the



photo credit: jesse vear



How to Document Human Rights Violations

This is a great project for poor people organizing in welfare offices, downsized workers and union members, caseworkers and students. Some social work professors are using this documentation as a class project.

Gathering evidence of human rights violations

- Gather data on incidents such as those listed on the "Violations Report Form"
 - Create a flier asking for people's stories, and distribute wherever appropriate.
 - We want to focus our documentation on the impact of the recent welfare cuts, but we also want to document the effects of past medical and welfare cuts (GA, pilot projects, etc.), and violations caused by poverty in general.
 - Use any source of news or records you have access to. Look up back issues/records as well as current issues if you can. Possible sources include national and local newspaper articles, TV news reports, legal cases, medical records, official statistics, the internet and special interest or professional list serves.
 - Hold meetings with local organizations and agencies you trust who may have access to information we need for this project. Explain to them what we're doing, show them materials and ask how they can help.
 - Conduct face to face interviews with people who are being affected by the cuts or who have experienced violations in the past. This is a great way to organize people and involve them in the campaign.
 - Take photos, do video recordings, etc. of people you interview, and of places where violations occur.
 - Make a sheet to do quick interviews with people as you organize in welfare offices or other locations. Use it to get potentially useful stories or to identify people who may be interested in having a longer interview at some point.
 - Fill out the "Human Rights Violation Report Form" whenever you hear of, see or receive information about a violation. Attach this form to everything you send in (interviews, articles, photos, videos, etc.)
 - Use contacts you gain through this project (especially with welfare recipients, poor people, immigrants, etc.) to build your organizing efforts to build this movement.
 - We'll use what you send us to take this historic case before the United Nations and to present this story to the world.
- Who to interview or to ask for evidence on human rights violations:**
- People you know who are poor, on welfare, cut-off welfare, or who work in low wage jobs. Ask them for their stories and ask about people they know.
 - Social workers, caseworkers, anyone who works in poor communities
 - Health centers, welfare offices, 3-2 centers, shelters, etc.
 - City officials
 - Immigrant organizations
 - Labor unions
 - Lawyers (especially public defenders and legal service attorneys)
 - Religious congregations - for experiences of members or people they "serve"
 - Women's and children's advocacy organizations
 - Schools, community colleges and community centers based in poor communities
 - Community organizations and agencies (YWCA, Rotary, etc.)
 - Hospitals, doctors and nurses serving poor areas

- Journalists
- Prison employees, firemen, policemen, etc.
- Anyone who has access to "inside" information on fires, homeless deaths, sweatshops, utilities shut-offs, hiring of workfare recipients, prison workers, etc.
- Learn as much as you can as you do your interviewing and research. Adapt your work to the lessons you learn.
- Be creative - there are no wrong answers.
- Make people understand that the story of what is happening to them is worthwhile and must be told. Just in asking people for their story, we are helping break their isolation and empower them.

Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign Violations Report Form

Answer questions on this form, attach any additional information, comments, or documentation, & return to: Portland Organizing to Win Economic Rights: P.O.W.E.R. PO BOX 4281 / Portland, Maine 04101 / email answers from form to power@riseup.net. There is no deadline in submitting this form. You can also bring this with you to the New Freedom Bus Tour's Portland Maine stop on Friday 1-6pm 6th December (Location TBA - call/write for updates, and check www.poorpower.net, www.kwru.org, for more information), but remember, after December 6th, POWER will also continue to collect these forms. The questions on this form correspond to our respective rights as provided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed by the United States in 1948. If you have any questions about this form, or if you need help filling it out, please call Stephanie: 774-7024, or jesse: 775-2801. Feel free to leave blank any questions you don't want to answer.



This form is formatted specifically to be copied onto the front and back of a piece of standard letter (8.5 x 11) paper. Please feel free to make as many copies as you want and distribute them to your friends, family and neighbors. Thanks!

The Right to a Job with a Living Wage, Safe Working Conditions, & the Right to Unionize (Article 23) -

- 1) The hourly livable wage for a single person in Maine in 1999 - \$8.45, for a single parent with one child - \$11.41, for a single parent with two children: \$14.61. Have you had to work for less than these wages? _____
- 2) Have you had to work for less than these wages W/OUT benefits such as healthcare, childcare, or paid sick leave? _____
- 3) The Federal Poverty Line for the year 2002 (monthly income) is \$739 for a single person, \$996 for two, \$1252 for three, \$1509 for four, \$1765 for five, and \$2022 for six (add \$257 for each additional person). Are you, or is your family, at or below the poverty line? _____
- 4) Have you been forced to work for your welfare / TANF / General Assistance? ____ If so, were you making less than minimum wage? ____ Were you forced to take the first job offered to you or risk losing your benefits? ____ Were your wages ever held, garnished, or sanctioned by an employer or case-worker? _____
- 5) Have you ever lost a job because of having to stay home with your child? _____
- 6) Did you ever have to take unsafe transportation to work because you couldn't afford to fix your car? _____ Were there ever any accidents on the way to or from work? _____
- 7) Did you ever have to work in unsafe conditions? _____ Did such work ever injure you physically? _____ Have you ever been disabled due to your line of work or working conditions? _____ If so, did you go without compensation for your losses &/or injuries? _____
- 8) Have you ever worked at a job for many years and not been given a raise? _____ If so, were new people ever hired at the same or close to the same pay that you were making? _____
- 9) Were you ever laid-off? _____ If so, was it because your former employer moved the company overseas to where the labor is cheaper? _____ If so, which company did you work for? _____
- 10) Have you ever been unemployed and before you found another job you used up your unemployment? _____ If so, were you then unable to get any more assistance? _____
- 12) Have you ever had to work for temporary "flexible" employers such as 'Labor Ready'? _____ If so, how long did you have to work for them? _____ Were you ever able to get a permanent job from this arrangement? _____
- 13) Have you or anyone you know ever been intimidated, threatened, and/or fired for trying to unionize or for calling out safety violations? _____
- 14) Were you ever incarcerated and forced to work for less than minimum wage? _____

The Right to Well-Being of a Person and Their Family, including Food, Clothing, Housing, Medical Care, & Necessary Social Services (Article 25) -

+++++ H O U S I N G +++++

- 1) Do you have to work more than one job just to pay the rent? _____
- 2) Have any of the utilities ever been turned off in your household: gas, electricity, or phone? _____ If so, have you or anyone in your family ever become ill, injured, killed, or homeless due to gas, water, or electricity being shut off? _____
- 3) Have you ever had to go without heat or hot water? _____ If so, have you or anyone in your family ever become ill, injured, or killed due to lack of heat or improper ventilation? _____
- 4) Have you ever been evicted for inability to pay rent or arbitrary decision of landlord? _____
- 5) Have you &/or your family ever been homeless? _____ If so, have you ever suffered any health problems due to this? _____ Has anyone you know ever died or committed suicide due to living on the streets, in a car, or in other dangerous circumstances? _____
- 6) Have you &/or your family ever had to stay at a shelter? _____ If so, were the conditions inadequate (not enough space, breaking up of families, poor treatment, arbitrary penalties, disease)? _____
- 7) Have you or has anyone in your family ever been injured, killed, or made homeless by unsafe or structurally unsound housing situations? _____
- 8) Have you experienced fires in your home resulting from: faulty wiring, crowding, use of kerosene due to lack off heating, lack of smoke detectors, children left alone, unsafe conditions in the home? _____ If so, did this cause injury, death, or homelessness to you, your family, or your immediate neighbors? _____
- 9) Have you ever experienced police harassment or brutality for being homeless? _____ Were you ever imprisoned for being homeless? _____
- 10) Have you ever been denied your civil rights as a public housing tenant? _____

+++++ H E A L T H and N U T R I T I O N +++++

- 1) Do you lack health care? _____ If so, have you ever been denied Medicaid? _____ Has this lack of health care resulted in illness, injury, death, or suicide in your family? _____
- 2) Have you had to go without medicine or doctors visits because they cost too much? _____ Has this resulted in worsened condition, injury, disability, death, or suicide? _____
- 3) Have you or anyone in your family gone without dental care because it cost too much? _____ If so, did this result in the loss of teeth, excessive pain, infections, etc? _____
- 4) If you receive Medicaid, have you or your children ever gone without dental care because you could not find a dentist who accepted it? _____ Did this result in loss of teeth, excessive pain, infections, etc, for you? _____ For your children? _____

- 5) Have you ever been denied mental health care or insurance to pay for this care? _____
- 6) Were you, or anyone you know, suffering from mental illness but couldn't afford to get treatment or a diagnosis and instead wound up in jail as a direct result? _____
- 7) Has anyone in your family or anyone you know committed suicide because they were cut off welfare, from desperation due to poverty, or due to lack of mental health services? _____
- 8) Have you relied on food pantries for food at any time during the last 12 months? _____
- 9) Have you or your family had to go without food? ____ If so, has anyone in your family suffered from malnutrition or opportunistic diseases/infections caused by malnutrition? _____
- 10) Has anyone in your family suffered emotional or physical injury resulting from a lack of decent food, clothing, housing, medical care, or necessary social services? _____
- 11) Is your home located on/near polluted land, air, or water, a landfill, a trash incinerator, a paper mill, chemical companies, etc? ____ Has anyone in your family suffered from illnesses related to living in a polluted environment - such as asthma, lead poisoning, health problems associated with proximity to toxic waste, polluted air, pesticides, etc? _____

+++++ S P E C I A L P R O T E C T I O N S for M O T H E R S and C H I L D R E N +++++

- 1) Are you a single mother in need of assistance who has been forced to work to receive TANF benefits? _____ Have you ever become ineligible for TANF because your wages were "too high", yet the job still didn't cover all your bills? _____
- 2) Have you ever left welfare/TANF within the past six years to enter the workforce? ____ If so, were you able to stay off welfare? ____ If yes, do you and your family now enjoy a relatively higher standard of living and more economic security? ____ Has your situation since you left welfare remained the same (i.e. are you still poor)? ____ Has your situation gotten worse? _____
- 3) Have you not been able to spend time with your children because you must work so many hours just to survive? ____ Because you must work for your TANF? ____ Has this resulted in family stress, trouble at school, or other problems for your kids? _____
- 4) Have you had to leave your children in unsafe conditions to work for a low-wage job? ____ To work for welfare/TANF? ____ Have there been any injuries resulting from this? _____
- 5) Have any children in your family (immediate or extended) ever been taken by the DHS, either due to the arbitrary decision of a case-worker or because your family was poor (i.e. because of inadequate housing, homelessness, lack of income, neglect due to lack of affordable childcare, etc)? ____ If yes, has this resulted in increased hardship for your family, such as depression, trouble with school, trauma, etc? _____
- 6) Have you or any family member suffered anxiety, stress, or other emotional duress because DHS threatened to take children away from home due to poverty? _____
- 7) Have you ever had to identify your abuser in order to get welfare benefits? _____
- 8) Have you ever had to stay with an abuser because you could not get welfare & could not afford to leave? ____
- 9) Have you ever been denied aid because paternity could not be proven, because of your age, or because of the birth status of your child? _____
- 10) Have you ever been denied welfare/TANF/General Assistance because of your immigrant status, family background, or because of how long you had already been on welfare? _____
- 11) Have you ever lost your benefits due to mistakes of the DHS or General Assistance, because of lack of communication, the arbitrary decision of the a case-worker, lack of bilingual translation or sign-language interpretation, or your lack of knowledge of your rights? _____
- 12) Have you ever been arbitrarily accused of welfare fraud? ____ Were you ever sanctioned due to such an accusation? ____
- 13) Have you ever had to sign an impossible or invasive contract to get benefits? _____

The Right to Education (Article 26) -

- 1) Have you ever been forced to leave school, job training, language class, or GED training to go to work because of lack of child care? _____ Because of the arbitrary decision of a case-worker? _____
- 2) Have your children ever had to miss school to help care for their siblings? _____ To work to support the family? _____
- 3) Have your children ever had to miss school or had trouble learning due to homelessness, malnutrition, or other circumstances previously listed? _____
- 4) Would you like to attend college to increase your ability to provide for yourself or your family but you can't afford it? _____
- 5) Are you burdened with debt due to your post-secondary education? _____

Additional Comments: Please attach a separate sheet if you need to explain any of your answers or want to add additional comments.

Optional (yet helpful) Information:
 Your Name:_____ Your Age:_____
 Your favorite animal:_____
 Address:_____
 City/Town:_____ Zip Code:_____
 Phone:_____ Email:_____

Please return this form to *Portland Organizing to Win Economic Rights:*

**P.O.W.E.R.
PO BOX 4281
Portland, ME 04101**

POOR : CONTINUED FROM PG. 11

largest growing percentage of the homeless population in this country. In Detroit alone, the infant mortality rate among black families has already increased a staggering 57% since the implementation of Welfare 'Reform' and workfare. Make no mistake: The class warfare being waged today by corporate America is not a metaphorical war of ideas. It is a real war that is killing real people, every day. Bush wants to increase the number of required hours mothers with children must work to 40. As a special slap in the face, once selected for office, Bush appointed good old Tommy Thompson as head of Health and Human Services, so that he can better disparage and fleece poor people at the national level. Moreover, Bush has made a deliberate effort to target Maine's own highly regarded and successful 'Parents as Scholars' (PaS) program. The obscenely rich oil-magnate George W. Bush, who never earned a thing in his life (least of all his presidency), has said that helping poor parents to attend college does not "promote responsibility."

The time has long gone by when we can safely look to our political 'leaders' to help us. In the 1990's, Clinton and the "New" Democrats instituted free trade and welfare reform policies that paved the way for the corporate assault that we are suffering from now. The current Bush regime has proposed solutions that would be comical if they did not promise such deadly consequences. 92% of his 'economic stimulus package' consists of nothing more than tax cuts for huge corporations. Already, at least 43 States are anticipating shortfalls in their 2002 revenues - this just after what used to be a huge budget surplus got sucked up in all that 'economic stimulus.' Here in Maine we are bracing for a budget deficit of \$1 billion for next year. With Federal aid to states shrinking all the time, it is obvious that programs that help the poor get out of poverty are only going to suffer deeper cuts, such as a proposed \$9.1 billion in cuts to our already under funded mental health services. True to his pseudo-Christian platform, Bush has cynically promoted marriage as a solution to poverty -- truly one of the silliest (not to mention anti-women and anti-gay) public policy proposals ever made. In the first place, over 50% of women receiving TANF benefits have already suffered domestic abuse at the hands of their male partners. Secondly, marriage is no ticket out of poverty: nationally, 34% of poor households contain two parents, and in rural areas like Maine, fully 44% of poor people live in households headed by married couples. Meanwhile, those of us still lucky enough to scrape by as workers can look forward to thousands of dollars in new federal taxes to pay for the Bush Administration's endless wars. According to the National Priorities Project, assuming a war with Iraq will cost \$100 billion, this war will cost hard-working Maine taxpayers \$267 million in income taxes -- and experts are now saying that this war will cost twice to three times the initial estimate.

As corporations pick up and leave for cheaper labor overseas, thanks to "free trade" policies like NAFTA, implemented under the Clinton administration, prison

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largest growing percentage of the homeless population in this country. In Detroit alone, the infant mortality rate among black families has already increased a staggering 57% since the implementation of Welfare 'Reform' and workfare. Make no mistake: The class warfare being waged today by corporate America is not a metaphorical war of ideas. It is a real war that is killing real people, every day. Bush wants to increase the number of required hours mothers with children must work to 40. As a special slap in the face, once selected for office, Bush appointed good old Tommy Thompson as head of Health and Human Services, so that he can better disparage and fleece poor people at the national level. Moreover, Bush has made a deliberate effort to target Maine's own highly regarded and successful 'Parents as Scholars' (PaS) program. The obscenely rich oil-magnate George W. Bush, who never earned a thing in his life (least of all his presidency), has said that helping poor parents to attend college does not "promote responsibility."

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As corporations pick up and leave for cheaper labor overseas, thanks to "free trade" policies like NAFTA, implemented under the Clinton administration, prison labor programs, and now Fast Track (which transfers decision-making power over new trade agreements from Congress to the

President), implemented under Bush, entire communities are laid off, left to dry up and blow away. In Maine alone, we have lost over ten thousand jobs in the past year: 484 in Bangor, 250 in Millinocket, 550 in Waterville, 742 in Augusta/Gardner, 683 in Portland, 179 in Lubec (that was 25% of the whole town's jobs!). The list goes on and on, and is already well known to many Maine Commons readers. (*Ed.Note: See pullout section in Issue 9*) The vast majority of these jobs will never come back. To replace these jobs, to get by, to survive, workers are left scrambling for whatever they can find: Service sector jobs that pay seven or eight dollars an hour, that have no health benefits. These are not jobs that people can live on, but increasingly, they are the only jobs many of us can get. For a single mother with three kids, earning eight dollars an hour, it would take nearly three weeks wages, before taxes, to pay for an average, 2 bedroom apartment in the city of Portland. Indeed, 70% of the homeless people surveyed in the 2002 Point-in-Time study of homelessness in Portland listed inability to afford rent as the primary cause of their homelessness. Nearly a third of the respondents were actively working.

What does it mean to be homeless? Recently New York City Mayor Bloomberg, himself a billionaire media mogul, issued orders to the NYPD to begin arresting homeless people on the streets of Manhattan, the finance capital of the world. Arrests for the month of November are already 15% higher than in previous months. One night alone, 500 people were rounded up and tossed into jail. After a few days, the people are released from police custody and sent right back out to the streets to be arrested again. The goal seems to be to terrorize homeless people into the darkest, most hidden corners, where they will not accidentally startle a tourist or disturb a calendar shot. As New York is bidding to host the next Olympics, it also appears that Mayor Bloomberg is embarking on a bit of "street cleaning," to "tidy things up" before the Olympics committees show up.

People lacking in their most basic needs must no longer be punished, persecuted, sanctioned, or blamed for what in fact is the wholesale neglect, mistreatment and outright malfeasance on the part of the US government and corporate America. For it is the government, and its corporate benefactors, who must be held accountable for depriving people of their most basic rights. The last thing poor people are asking for are handouts -- we are not asking for charity -- we are demanding the recognition of our right to live with dignity. A person should not have to be rich in order to have the right to flourish and not just barely survive. In all other comparably industrialized countries, living wages, food, housing, medical care, and education are standard rights enjoyed by everyone regardless of income or class privilege.

In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United States was one of 48 countries that signed this Declaration. By signing the treaty, the United States pledged that it recognized the fundamental right of every person on the planet to live free from the tyranny of political and economic oppression. By signing

the treaty, it committed to the idea that all people have the fundamental right to housing, adequate nutrition, healthcare, education and a job that pays a living wage. Worldwide support for the Declaration was overwhelming, and while there was certainly a moral basis for this support, there was a pragmatic one, too. After the staggering horror and atrocity of the Second World War, political leaders of all ideological stripes recognized that establishing meaningful, international legal standards for the treatment and dignity of individual human beings was the necessary first step for creating a true, lasting peace. As Gandhi said: "Poverty is the worst form of violence."

In the Western European countries that actually implemented much of the Declaration, the working people experience a quality of life that we Americans could only dream of. Western Europeans work many less hours than us each year and receive many more weeks of paid vacation. If they are sick, they simply go to a doctor -- unlike here, where so many of us must suffer quietly, hoping we can better on our own, since we could never afford to get any sort of treatment. Approximately 43.2 million Americans have no health insurance at all -- that's one in six people -- 11.3 million of them are children under 18. And this is not even an accurate statistic, because it fails to take into account the millions of under-insured Americans who only have 'catastrophic' coverage with flesh-gouging deductibles. According to the World Health Organization, while the U.S. spends more money per capita on health care than any other country in the world, among comparably industrialized nations (that pay 1/3 to 1/2 of what we pay), the US ranks a miserable 37th in the quality of health care, with the highest infant mortality rate. And although it would take a mere four billion tons of food to feed everyone who was hungry, in this country every year forty billion tons of food are destroyed. As Martin Luther King observed, the US has more than enough capability to eliminate poverty, but "...The real question is whether we have the will." As in the past, the government will not comply with its obligations on its own. That will that King spoke about must come from all of us.

We've suffered long enough in silence and isolation. When alone we experience the frustration of having to go without heat and hot water when it's 15 degrees outside (and inside), when we go alone to the General Assistance Office and find out we're not eligible for food vouchers that week, when we get sicker and sicker because it costs too much to go to the doctor, it really dehumanizes us. For most of our lives, we have blamed ourselves for our plight. We've felt bad about ourselves, we've felt guilty and ashamed, we've tried to hide the extent of our poverty. We've even internalized our anger and frustration, and projected this anger outwards onto our fellow workers and poor people, resenting them for being in the same hopeless, desperate situations that we have found ourselves in. But what happens when we realize that being poor is not the crime? What happens when we stop blaming ourselves for what is systemic injustice? The more we get together and share our stories, the more we see that, in a land of plenty, what is

criminal is poverty itself. What is criminal is that our children are forced to go without -- here, in what is by far the richest country in the world.

On Friday, December 6th the Kensington Welfare Rights Union out of Philadelphia will visit Portland, Maine as one of the final stops of their New Freedom Bus Tour. On this historic pilgrimage across the country, working poor, homeless and unemployed people have been organizing, educating, and documenting poor people in America. In doing so, they (and we) are building a strong, broad-based Poor People's Movement of poor people, by poor people, to eliminate poverty. Together we are demanding justice for all people, not just those who can afford to pay for it. As the conclusion of their tour, the folks from Kensington will bring all the mountains and mountains of evidence they have documented to the United Nations in New York City, to publicly confront the US for violat-

From November 30th to January 8th you can view "[Bits and Pieces of Yesterday's Poverty](#)" in Waterville. This display is made up of items such as:

- Wash Boards - used by women in the 1950's who could not afford even a wringer washer.
- Ropes - which made hammocks for the New York homeless shelters in the late 1800's.
- Pay Checks - for \$5 a week in the 1920's when rooms cost \$2-3 a week
- A Box - used as a shelter on city streets.
- Clothes - that sharecroppers wore in the 1930's.
- Sugar and Flour Ration Cards - from World War II.
- A Copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- And more. This is a work in progress, donations/loans of items which relate to poverty of yesterday or today are welcome.

This exhibit is free and open to all. Sponsored by the Hospitality House Inc. The exhibit will be open Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 AM to 4 PM. At 5 East Concourse, Waterville, in a small space across from Steve's Restaurant. Contact Jan at 861-7020 for more information.

HERETICS UNITE!

Buddhists, Taoists, Pagans, Humanists, social activists, liberal religious dilettantes against dogma, cultural creatives, all find home at

Unitarian Universalist churches.

Check your yellow pages for one near you or go to

<http://gwbushwhacked.tripod.com/heretics.htm> (no www).

ad placed by a UU activist



Maine Solidarity Calendar (continued from pg.10)

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 trans-men 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 P & J 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.

Sundays

Yankee Boyz

Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Contact: PJ

Phone: 783-4630

Email: yankeeboyz@hotmail.com

Web:

members.tripod.com/TransSupport/meetings.htm

Location: Unitarian Universalist Church (corner of Pleasant St & Elm St), Auburn
Info: Female to Male Transgender Support Group. A social/support group for those born female and which female and/or "woman" as an identity does not fit. Call ahead to verify meeting is taking place.

"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

Food Not Bombs Meal

Time: 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Contact: Kelly

Email: wynken_blinken@hotmail.com

Web: <http://www.xmbjx.com/fnb>

Location: Monument Square, Portland
Info: Anyone who is hungry is welcome to join us for a free warm vegan meal every Sunday. We are also on the look out for more members!

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

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: centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com

Location: UU Church, Augusta

PACT Meeting

Time: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Location: Peace and Justice Center, 1 Pleasant St, 4th floor, Portland

Info: People Against Corporate Tyranny. Meets every 2nd and 4th Tues.

Wednesdays

Let Cuba Live Meetings

Time: 7:00 PM

Phone: 273-3247

Email: stevbee@midcoast.com

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: centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com

Location: 11 King Street, Augusta

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

Fridays

Farmington Women In Black Vigil

Time: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Phone: 293-2580

Location: Post Office, Farmington

Augusta Women in Black Vigil

Time: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Phone: 549-3061

Location: Lithgow Library, Augusta

Portland Q&A

Time: 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

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

Email: outright@outright.org

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.

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Excerpted from

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

BY SHARON WACHSLER

Misfits in the Survival of the Fittest

The experiences of people with MCS (Multiple Chemical Sensitivity) contradict these deeply held values that progress and technology are inevitable social boons. Since scientists and doctors own much of the power in dictating "truths" about health and disability, the industries supported by consumerism are funding scientists and doctors who will say that MCS is not a real condition. In some cases, entire "pseudoscientific" organizations have been developed - apparently paid for by members of industry - to discredit MCS. One example is the Environmental Sensitivities Research Institute (ESRI), which writes brochures, advertisements, and letters in scientific and medical journals that claim that MCS is a belief system instilled in patients by their doctors. According to Cynthia Wilson, director of the Chemical Injury Information Network, "ESRI does promotion and propaganda. . . . When someone publishes a study claiming MCS is psychogenic, [ESRI] puts out a press release and sends it to all the media outlets." In a legal deposition, ESRI's former executive director did not deny that he "spends 95 to 100 percent" of his time working on behalf of industry.

Inherent in all ideologies are the tools to disempower those presenting alternative views. Since the notion of progress was founded on social Darwinism, those who are not part of progress are seen as intellectually and morally inferior. As misfits in the "survival of the fittest," people with MCS are therefore unpatriotic moral failures, and are treated accordingly - with scorn and cruelty. For instance, when several women became ill with MCS at Signetics (an electronics manufacturing plant in California) the company not only refused to make job accommodations or fix the hazards, it set the women up as objects of derision for their coworkers, tried to force them to quit, and finally, used them as human "guinea pigs" to test the fume levels in problem rooms.

Progress Relies on Other Oppressive Ideologies

The women who became ill at Signetics were mostly from poor, immigrant families - which raises another important point: The ideologies of sexism, ableism, racism, and classism - powerful belief systems integral to U.S. history and society - are central to the progress ideology and have been a major factor in the "debate" over MCS. Since these social "trigger points" are intrinsic to the ideology of progress, it is not surprising that they are activated in the oppression of people with MCS. Those seeking to discredit MCS tend to make the same assertions: 1) Most people with MCS are women (usually followed by the statement that these women are young to middle aged, white, college educated, and middle to upper class); 2) people with MCS are

mentally, not physically, ill; and 3) there is no medical or scientific evidence to support the existence of MCS.

The fact that virtually all articles that refute the existence of MCS point to a "typical patient" as female cannot be overemphasized. Caustic, often misogynistic remarks abound in these articles, calling people with MCS "cuckoos," "lunatics," "daft hypochondriacs," "batty," and "neurotic housewives." Frequently the suggestion that MCS is a "women's disorder" (sometimes in combination with the alleged demographic of "white, well-educated") is presented in and of itself as evidence that MCS is not a legitimate physical disorder. The word "hysteria" - derived from the Greek husterikos (injured womb), based on the belief that women's uteruses caused insanity - appears in the majority of these articles (occasionally amended as "mass psychogenic illness"). The current meaning of hysteria is the spreading of false symptoms among a group of people (almost exclusively used in reference to women and girls), due to fear, suggestibility, or a desire for attention.

That MCS is portrayed as a fake illness of rich, white women is part of a common pattern in American history. Physical disorders touted as affecting privileged women are historically derided as imaginary. For instance, before the advent of brain-scan technology, multiple sclerosis (diagnosed more in women than men and in whites than African Americans) was considered a psychological malady. To understand the obscurement of people of color and working-class or poor people with MCS, we must look to the dominant ideologies, remembering who gains by undermining MCS.

When a dominant group perceives a crack in the armor of its ideology, as is the case with the threat posed by people with MCS to the industrial and scientific community's mantra "progress is good," it responds by trying to prevent members of oppressed groups from forming alliances. By portraying MCS as a disease of crazy, wealthy, white women, the establishment relies on racist, classist, and sexist stereotypes to prevent organizing across race, class, and gender lines. Since women are devalued in this society, men with MCS may not want to be associated with the illness and may try to hide their diagnosis or steer clear of MCS organizations. Although poor people and peoples of color appear to be at higher risk for the illness, presenting MCS as a "boutique disability" makes getting an accurate diagnosis and treatment less likely for people who do not fit this stereotyped demographic.

When coalitions among oppressed groups do form that threaten the dominance of limitless technology and consumerism, every attempt is made to divide and disempower them. For example, when women's and children's organizations and groups

concerned with the environment and MCS called for a halt on production of the 15-thousand chlorinated compounds that are used in pesticides, solvents, and other products, the chemical industry hired a public relations firm to infiltrate and discredit grassroots organizing to phase out chlorine. The plan outlined by the firm targets women and people with disabilities.

Conclusion: Making Alliances, Questioning Progress

It is a frightening reality that the business, medical, and scientific communities are so invested in preserving the progress ideology that they are staging an economic and ideological campaign to discredit people with MCS. However, this formidable opposition must not prevent us from taking action and rejecting the methods that have brought us to this dangerous place: the pitting of subordinate groups against each other and unquestioning belief in the ideologies of the greater culture. There is a great deal of overlap among oppressed groups: People with disabilities are dispropor-

tionately likely to be poor or of color. Those most at risk for MCS are people with disabilities, women, the poor, children, and the elderly. Women and people of color are at high risk for poverty. Strong, creative alliances - such as the anti-chlorine campaign that united women and children's groups, environmentalists, and health and disability organizations - counteract the divisive tactics of industry. By forming coalitions we can attempt to envision and practice new ways of living that support the health and survival of all people.

To view the complete article, visit the online Disability Studies journal at www.disabilitystudies.com.

Sharon Wachslar, 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.



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Announcement

The Maine Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty

The Mission of the Maine Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty is to understand and support Native American tribes and their continued, inherent right of self-governance. We are a group of primarily non-tribal people who have organized to encourage and promote the establishment of government to government relationships between the State of Maine, and the Penobscot Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribe. We seek to inform the public about the connections between preserving tribal sovereignty, reestablishing in Maine clean river waters and other natural resources, and protecting all people's civil rights.

The Maine Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty has formed to protest the erosion of tribal sovereignty, the continued pollution of our State's rivers, land and air and the unbridled political influence wielded by large corporations in the State of Maine. We see clear connections between historical and current social injustices imposed upon Native Americans in Maine and the environmental degradation of our state's air, water and land by corporate interests. We believe that respecting the sovereignty of the Penobscot Nation and Passamaquoddy tribe is an inherent obligation of the government of the State of Maine. We believe there is also a direct connection between the protection of civil and sovereign rights.

The Maine Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty exists to accomplish several ends. We are a voice of mainstream public support for the cause of Native American sovereignty in Maine. We are an educational group that seeks to reach out to all Mainers to help them understand what Native American sovereignty is, that it is non-threatening, and that its protection is a public obligation. We are a cross-cultural group, that seeks to build bridges of understanding and trust between members of Maine's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. Our methods are peaceful, ranging from letters to editors, to meetings with public officials, to peaceful demonstrations. We promote a continuing dialogue between tribal and non-tribal people about the meaning of sovereignty and means of protecting and enhancing it. Above all, as a group of primarily non-tribal people, we seek to model open and honorable relations with all members of the Native American tribes in Maine.

Our meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, usually at the Canterbury House in Orono, Maine. All people are welcome, regardless of race or any other criterion. For more information please contact: John C. Frachella, Chair, 207-884-7407 or Roger Smith, 207-622-2188



D.I.Y. MEDIA

HOW-TO GUIDES FOR MEDIA EDUCATION

Anyone Can Do An Interview

BY AMY BROWN

Anyone can do an interview. Thankfully, I am not an "expert". What follows are some notes from what I've learned over the past few years doing audio interviews for radio and Indymedia. The information is more specific to audio than other types of interviews. The most important thing is for each of us to know that there is no secret to any of this, no "right way" or "wrong way", and that our own personal style is what will work best for each of us. That said, I hope that some of this will be useful in helping people get started.

The person who did the volunteer training at WERU when I attended (Joel Mann) said that preparing for an interview, having a list of questions, etc., is important but that once the interview starts the most important thing to do is listen. Sounds pretty basic, but he told of interviewers nervously doing their first live interview and asking a question that the interviewee had already answered because they were more focused on their list of questions and what they (the interviewer) were going to say next, than they were on what was happening in the moment. It's easy to do that when you're nervous.

When possible, doing some research into the topic you'll be interviewing the person about is definitely helpful. But you don't have to be an expert, nor do you have to know as much about the topic as the person you are interviewing. Remember who the "audience" for the interview will be and try to ask questions that they would want to ask this person. Avoid jargon and acronyms and "insider" lingo and try to clarify it as soon as it's used if the interviewee uses it. It's ok to quickly interrupt and ask them to explain what "FTAA" stands for or what "cointel-pro" means, for instance.

It is helpful to have a list of questions prepared ahead of time. That way you don't forget anything you wanted to ask. In a live interview one of the fears people tend to have is of drawing a blank or running out of things to say. Having a list of questions to fall back on helps minimize that fear. You might also want to consider having some quotes or other vignettes that you read to the interviewee for their response (i.e. "bush said 'blah, blah, blah' the other day, how would you respond to that?")

Try to avoid asking questions that make it sound like you are just trying to demonstrate how much you know about the topic. If you want to make a statement, just make a statement. Framing a statement as a long question with lots of information in it that requires little or no response, can sound pretentious.

Paraphrase and verify "So are you saying that _____?" Asking open-ended questions rather than those that can be answered "yes" or "no" keeps a person talking. Don't fear silences. Let the interviewee

pause and gather their thoughts when they need to. Sometimes our anxiety about silences leads us to jump in and try to "rescue" someone but the person just needs a second to think. It is also tempting to "rescue" someone who doesn't seem to know what they are talking about, but it should be done cautiously. We were once interviewing someone (in a WalMart parking lot) who started to say "those people over there, they're always fighting anyway". I asked who "those people over there" were and the woman had a hard time responding (which, I think kind of made a point about the depth of her analysis) the co-interviewer and I both found ourselves jumping in to help her after a few seconds ("Do you mean Israel and Palestine?" "Afghanistan?"). It's not that we wanted her to sound bad, but given the strong opinions she was expressing, it was interesting to hear the thought processes behind the opinions. We missed out on some of that by jumping in and providing information.

Depending on the type of interview and who it's with, there are some different things that can be important to keep in mind. I've broken these down into a few categories:

Vox pop: This means voice of the people. This is the "person on the street" type interview.

1. Ask permission to talk with people, tell them who you are, let them know if you're doing a taped interview (reassure them that it can be edited if they hate what they say) or live.

2. Seek out people who aren't typically sought out by the corporate media. Women, people of color, young people, old people, people in wheelchairs.

3. Because of legitimate security concerns, some people are going to feel much more comfortable talking to you if they can use an assumed name. Let them choose whether or not to identify themselves.

4. Reassure people that you really want to hear their thoughts and opinions and that you don't expect them to be an "expert", it's their voice that's important.

5. Try to minimize focus on the microphone, which can be intimidating, by making eye contact with the person.

6. If you are doing audio at a protest, ask the person to describe their costume if they are wearing one, or to read their sign or banner, or describe the scene.

7. It can be really hard to edit out your comments of agreement or encouragement. If you'd rather not have yourself saying "that's right!!!" in the background, practice non-verbally agreeing with nods, smiles, etc.

8. Get some background sounds (drumming, chanting, singing) to mix in, but be

respectful and careful about having recording equipment running anywhere that people might not want to be recorded. Also people can't tell if your equipment is running or not, so if you have it out it's best to avoid people who are obviously trying to talk privately.

The "expert": Someone who is being interviewed regarding a subject because they know a lot about it.

1. Establish the foundation of how they know what they know. (If you don't do this in the interview, be sure to get the info so you can add it to the introduction).

2. Sometimes these people have been interviewed so much that they become glossy and boring. Try to think of something you think the "audience" would really like to know that the "expert" may not have already talked about a million times. For example, how are their ideas relevant to people in this area?

3. Ask them for a call to action. Now that they have informed people, what do they think people should do? Why do they think that would help?

4. Ask them where people can get more information about this topic.

The "celebrity": Someone who is being interviewed because of who they are

1. Establish why they are being interviewed. If it's just because they are who they are, and not because they have anything of particular relevance to say, this can be a really tough interview. Good luck! (And please let us all know if you find a way to make this interesting.)

2. If they are a "celebrity" who also has decided to make a public statement about something, then interviewing them like anyone else seems to make most sense.

The "enemy": While some may object to the term "enemy", we all know what it means

The best example of this that I can think of is when Clinton accidentally stumbled onto WBAI while calling media outlets to promote Gore right before the elections a few years ago. His call was passed on to Amy Goodman who managed to keep him on the line by politely but firmly asking questions he couldn't resist answering even after he

realized what he'd gotten himself into. She did a great job because she was so knowledgeable and she was able to ask him questions on a number of different issues and confront him when he was trying to gloss things over. But Clinton probably only stayed on the line because he knew it was live and he didn't want to cause an incident by angrily and publicly hanging up on her. Obviously it isn't usually the case that the people we want to confront are "trapped" into answering our questions, so there are 2 other ways to consider approaching an opportunity to interview "the enemy":

1. Talk with them about relatively non-threatening issues until they warm up, while gradually working your way to the questions you really want to ask. Let them talk and give them "some rope" and hope for the best. Save the confrontational questions for the end so that if they terminate the interview nothing is lost, or

2. Ask the confrontational questions first and hope that you ask it in such a way that they feel compelled to respond. Paraphrase their position in a way that is truthful but not in keeping with their desired message, and see if it tempts them to respond. Example: "So you're saying that it doesn't matter how many people die as long as you make more money?"

Most of the people that I would place in this category either won't talk to us at all, have PR people who do their talking for them, or will only talk until they feel you are not buying it, then they terminate things. We all have to decide for ourselves whether or not we want to give more air/print/video/brain space and energy to them and their lies, and when and if it serves our purposes to talk to them.

Finally, just have fun with this and be creative and develop your own style. There are no rules and no corporate sponsors to please!!!!

Amy Brown is co-host of RadioActive. RadioActive is a grassroots environmental and social justice news journal with reporters/hosts Amy Brown and Meredith DeFrancesco. It can be heard Thursdays at 4p.m. on community radio WERU-FM, 89.9 Blue Hill & 102.9 Bangor, Maine (www.weru.org). Links to archived RadioActive programs are at www.freespeech.org/ran or www.maineindymedia.org --- be the media!

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Coming Soon: Resurgence of Klan-like Activity in Maine?

BY HILLARY LISTER

The past months have seen a surge in racist activity in the Lewiston area. Tensions have been growing surrounding the Somali community in Lewiston, and the town's Mayor Raymond took an action that brought outside attention to that issue. He wrote an open letter to Lewiston's Somali community which claimed that they were putting too much of a financial strain on the city and asking that they stop moving into Lewiston. Media ranging from CNN to the UK Guardian took note of this act. So did national white-supremacist groups.

In early November, the West Virginia-based neo-nazi organization National Alliance (NA) announced that it was "planting a flag" in Lewiston. It went on to do literature drives and set up a web-site at www.savelewiston.com. Soon afterward, Portland-based David Stearns of the Illinois-based white-supremacist group, World Church of the Creator (WCOC) applied for, and received, a permit for a rally in Lewiston on Saturday, January 11th, from 1 to 3pm, to be held at the Armory.

A key point in both the arguments of the NA and the WCOC, as well as numerous letters to the editor in local papers, is that Maine has not faced the "problem" of having to deal with racial diversity, that as the second "whitest" state in the country, these racial tensions and hate groups are a new occurrence in Maine. There's little that could be further from the truth - it's just a forgotten truth.

In the 1920's, at about 150,000 members, Maine had the largest, most active Ku Klux Klan outside of the deep south, especially relative to its population, exceeding the size of the Klans in many southern states, according to Ben Levine, a Maine filmmaker who documented the French-Canadians' loss of language in his 1980 film "Si Je Comprends Bien," and the Franco-American experience in Maine in his recently premiered "Waking Up French". Maine's Klan, however, was targeting not primarily African-Americans, but Franco-Americans. One out of every 7 to 10 English speaking Protestant people in Maine were Klan members. This Klan cannot be dismissed as somehow just "red-neck" activity either - Maine's clan was started and supported by English-speaking Protestant power brokers - businessmen, bankers, newspaper editors, ministers, and politicians. At the Maine Klan's height in 1925, its endorsement helped to elect Governor Ralph Owen Brewster (who incidentally had a house built for him - now the Brewster Inn - in Dexter, Maine, one of the then-centers for Klan activity.) The Klan in Maine also differed from the Southern Klan in its extreme openness. The first Klan march ever to be held in broad daylight was held in Milo, Maine - there were even commemorative postcards made. Klan leaders marched with their faces uncovered. In the

mid-1920's a Klan picnic in Portland drew 10 to 20,000 people. The Klan had its own buildings in Rockland and Portland. Klan social events, with bands and dancing, were reported as any other in local papers. The Maine Klan had an active women's auxiliary that organized the social events, made dolls, published manifestos, and also worked for women's equality and women's suffrage, while at the same time preaching racist doctrines.

In a recent interview, Ben explained that to understand the rise of Klan activity in Maine, one must understand three events that were occurring at the time.

First, in the early 1900s, industrialization in the northeast was running on waterpower, and with new sources for that waterpower mostly exhausted in southern New England, industry began to move north, into Maine.

Second, French Canadians in Quebec were facing a collapsed economic system and deep poverty. The completion of the Intercontinental Railroad in 1869 laid the path for early economic globalization. Wheat began being imported from Ontario and Manitoba, and the abundance of this product, which was cheaply produced in those areas, collapsed the price of wheat, the crop that Quebec farmers had been growing. As a result, many Quebec families began to head across the border into Maine to find factory and forestry jobs. In less than ten years, this new immigration at least doubled the population of many towns such as Waterville and Lewiston, and suddenly changed the cultural makeup of towns whose populations (particularly the businessmen and politicians) had previously been composed mostly of English-speaking Protestants. Being only a day's train-ride away from their former homes, and having a tradition of holding strongly to their culture, the new French Catholic immigrants resisted assimilation. In the early years, 50% of those immigrants re-migrated to Canada. Strong arguments were coming for assimilation of the French Catholics, however, in the form of editorials in the New York times discouraging the French Canadians from keeping their culture, and then, in the Compulsory Education Act of 1916 which ruled that French couldn't be spoken in school, except when taught as a foreign language in the form of Parisian French.

Ben theorizes that the third ingredient leading to the

Maine Klan formation was the strong granite industry in midcoast Maine. In addition to thousands of people working in the quarries, artisans, trained by skilled sculptors, were recruited from Italy, Finland, and Sweden. These artisans came from politically active cultures, and many were anarchists or socialists. They were outraged at the working conditions they observed in Maine, and some of them formed a very successful socialist workers party.

It is Ben's theory that the businessmen saw this threat to their power, were aware of the Bolshevik Revolution that took place in Russia in 1917, feared that Catholics were particularly susceptible to communism, and feared that these ideas of worker's rights and organizing would spread Maine's rapidly growing French Catholic worker population. Gardiner,

home to a great number of government workers and in close proximity to the large granite quarry in Hallowell, had one of the largest Klan organizations in the state.

This, in addition to a general fear that the French Catholic population would take over the towns' business and government, and frustration over their resistance to assimilation, led Maine's elites to introduce the Klan as a "wedge of terror" to discourage political organization of the French.

While the Klan in Maine was a publicly visible social organization like the Elks, it was also responsible for creating a culture of fear and violence. The businessmen and politicians who were Klan members kept their public activities focused on organizing rallies and parades, writing racist articles, supporting legislation and sympathetic politicians, and essentially creating an environment in which violence against non-English speaking Protestants was acceptable and encouraged. There were numerous cross burnings across the state, from reports of a burning on Mayflower Hill in Waterville to an entry in the published town history of Stockholm stating, "Klan cross burned in evening." 1924 saw 100 reported acts of violence toward French Catholics in Maine. Violence took the form of mobs attacking French, trying to burn down French communities, battles involving clubs and rocks on the little bridge near the Augusta police station, in the Greenville woods, and on the bridge to French Island in Old Town. Many French Catholic families began to hide their heritage, ceasing to speak French in public for fear of attacks (and as a result of the Compulsory Education Act, many children were ceasing to speak French at all). The Klan

was able to incite this hate so that even Irish Catholics were attacking French Catholics in Maine, despite the fact that the Irish Catholics had almost as much to fear from the Klan as the French. But the Klan was so successful in manipulating people's fears, especially people who were fighting for the same small crumbs of the pie, factory-worker against factory-worker, woods worker against woods worker, and evidence of the Klan's presence was so open, that realizations that the Klan might not be friend to any other than the businessman and politician were not widespread enough to stop this group from growing to 150,000 Maine members.

The new racist organizations moving into Maine are taking advantage of the economic struggles facing the town and residents of Lewiston, shifting the blame onto the Somali immigrants and blaming Jews for encouraging this immigration.

According to the Anti Defamation League (ADL), "The National Alliance is currently the largest and most active neo-Nazi organization in the nation. In the past several years, dozens of violent crimes, including murders, bombings and robberies, have been traced to NA members or appear to have been inspired by the group's propaganda. At the same time, the organization's membership base has experienced major growth, with its numbers more than doubling since 1992." The National Alliance was founded by *Turner Diaries* author William Pierce. On its website, the group laments, "Unfortunately, since the end of the Second World War no White government has been under the control of White men with our values and our ideology. White governments everywhere are ...led by collaborators with the Jews."

The World Church Of The Creator has the creed of "RAHOWA " or Racial Holy War. According to WCOC's writings, "In this one word we sum up the total goal and program of not only the Church of the Creator, but of the total White Race, and it is this: We take up the challenge. We gird for total war against the Jews and the rest of the goddamned mud races of the world - politically, militantly, financially, morally and religiously. In fact we regard it as the heart of our religious creed, and as the most sacred credo of all. We regard it as a holy war to the finish - a racial holy war." According to the ADL, WCOC has been connected to at least one Florida murder, two conspiracies to commit hate crimes on the West Coast, a planned secret police action against the African National Congress conducted in the waning years of South African apartheid, and the vicious attack on an African-American boy and his father in Florida.

The NA and WCOC may seem so extreme that most people will dismiss them out of hand. However, the poor economic situation in Lewiston combined with increased fear and hatred by many Americans toward Muslims after September 11th would seem to have created fertile recruiting grounds. The National



NOT-SO-INVISIBLE EMPIRE

The vintage Maine Klan patch above was worn as identification to other members.

**RACISM : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

Alliance and the World Church of the Creator, unlike the Klan in Maine, are coming in from outside, and do not have the explicit political and business support that the Klan did. Yet, their threat is still quite real, since they are tapping into people's already existing fears and struggles, and giving support to the idea of placing the blame onto another struggling group of people, the Somali community.

Many people are watching to see what comes of the WCOG January 11th rally to (according to their press release) "unite the White people of Lewiston against the 'Somali invasion' of that city." A number of local organizations are planning diversity celebrations and education to counter the sentiments of the rally. Others are working to bring a "Confronting Racism" workshop into the city later in the winter. Another person has set up a website called "Stop Hate In Maine" (www.geocities.com/stophateinmaine). Others are organizing anti-racist concerts for that day.

All of these efforts are greatly needed and will hopefully contribute to creating a welcoming and safe environment that will counter the hate and fear being promoted by the NA and WCOG. However, the sentiments that lead to the hate and fear will only partially be addressed if responses are limited to diversity celebrations, calls to "Stop Hate," and active opposition to these extremist hate groups. These groups find the most fertile recruiting grounds when people are living in the most desperate situations -- lacking an income, housing, healthcare, safety, and freedom. If these problems are addressed at the same time people are tackling issues of racism, if connections are being made between the issues, then maybe some progress can be made. If the people working to stop racism are actively listening to both the targets and perpetrators of racism, and not simply dismissing the perpetrators as "ignorant hicks" -- if they remember that the people who brought the Klan to Maine were the educated, the urbane, the powerful - if people working to stop racism are looking at themselves and honestly thinking about their own role in perpetuating and being affected by racism - then we might see some change.

never did it again.

"I am glad that I grew up here. I had to fight to get respect in this town but for the most part people have been good to me. There were families in town that you did not trust. Hate groups and the KKK have always been here hiding in the woodwork. This state needs to make it a priority to accept people of different races and cultures from all over the world."

This interview is the first of a series that I have done with Pal. There are a number of different topics that we would like to work on. I want to encourage anyone reading this to do the same. Choose a friend, preferably an older one, and just ask a few questions about what they think and how they feel. Then write about it. Nothing fancy. Just do it, our voices (and theirs) need to be heard.

We encourage you to go forth and interview your friends, family, and neighbors, -- they have seen alot that is not written down anywhere, and if we do not listen and record, the past may leave when they leave. Don't let that happen -- write for the Maine Lost History Project! Plus, it's a great way to get to know the people in your community whom you might otherwise not have talked with. Get in touch with us at editor@maineindymedia.org or PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903

SPEECH GIVEN AT AUGUSTA PEACE RALLY, OCT. 26, 2002

BY CHARLOTTE ALDEBRON, AGE 12

I've been speaking up a lot since September 11. On February 12, I wrote an essay for school saying that we care more about the American flag than about living up to what it stands for. On March 22, I told Senator Snowe's staff in Presque Isle that you grown ups were hypocrites because you tell kids to solve problems with words, while you kill people in Afghanistan. On March 28, I said the same thing to Senator Collins in person. She told me that because we invaded Afghanistan, little girls can go to school and learn to read. Some choice: learn to read, or have a mom and a dad.

On April 3, the CommonDreams website posted my flag essay. It got lots of attention and was reprinted and read on the radio. I got 800 emails. I was surprised to get such a response because I'd started to believe that solving problems by talking was something only kids had to do, but that grownups could fight all they wanted like they get to drink and swear, but kids can't. On May 12, I spoke at the Peace Rally in Bath. On May 20, I talked to Chellie Pingree and Tom Daschle. I suspected that Tom Daschle was not paying attention because, with a glazed look in his eyes, he stuffed my flag essay in his pocket, unread. On June 22, I spoke at the Maine Green Independent Party Convention. Now here it is October 26, and I am giving another speech. That's a really bad sign because it means we still don't have peace. In fact, we're about to go and kill even more people. Well, I'm getting a little sick of hearing my own voice! HELLO is anyone out there listening????!!

I guess my own voice is too small to make a difference. So this time, I'll add the voices of other children, and maybe

together we'll be loud enough. Children like Ali, who was three when we killed his father in the Gulf War. Ali scraped at the dirt covering his father's grave every day for three years calling out to him, "It's all right Daddy, you can come out now, the men who put you here have gone away." And Luay who was 11 at the time and was glad he didn't have to go to school or do homework. He went to bed and got up whenever he felt like it. But today he has no education and still hears the explosions in his head.

And the children in Basra, southern Iraq, who today play in the dust while air raid sirens scream around them because we keep dropping bombs. And all the children in Iraq who will never grow up because they have leukemia and cancers from the depleted uranium in our missiles, and they can't get any drugs or radiation treatment because we won't let their country have them. I don't know the names of all these children.

Can you hear our voices yet? I'll add 10-year-old Mohibollah in Afghanistan, who was out collecting firewood for his family when he found one of those bright yellow soda-can-sized cluster bomblets with parachutes. What child could resist? He ended up with mangled flesh where his left hand used to be.

President Bush asked each American child to give a dollar to help Afghani children. Here is my dollar's worth: it is the voice of 6-year-old Paliko who was carried to the hospital still wearing her party dress from the wedding that we bombed for two hours, killing her whole family by mistake.

And 2-year-old Alia, who was dug out of the rubble where her family was crushed when we blew up their village again, by

mistake. Afterward, our soldiers said they were sorry. Among themselves, they called the Afghans rag heads. Like I said in my flag essay, we are better at caring about symbols than real people.

Can you hear us yet? Our government is paying for educational theater in Afghanistan that teaches kids to fight with pen and paper, not guns, and tells them to "join the educated cultures of the world." They call it the Mobile Mini Circus for Children. The performers are orphans who live just north of Kabul, in an orphanage filled with 2,000 victims of our air strikes, our greed, our comfort. When are we going to join the educated cultures of the world?

Maybe you'll hear the voices of Palestinian children: Sami, shot in the head by an Israeli soldier the day before his 12th birthday; 10-year-old Riham, killed in her schoolyard by an Israeli tank shell; and 14-year-old Faris, who told his 8-year-old brother Abdel to go home when he followed him out to buy groceries. Abdel refused, so he got to see the tank shoot his brother dead in the street. And the six Matar children, ages 2 months to 17 years all killed when an Israeli pilot flying an American-made jet dropped a one-ton bomb on their home. The pilot was sent by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who our president calls a man of peace.

Can you hear us yet? How about the voices of Israeli children? Like 14-year-old Raaya and 2-year-old Hemda, killed with their parents by a Palestinian suicide bomber when they went out to eat pizza; 9-month-old Avia, killed by Palestinians who shot and threw grenades at cars; and the 12 teenagers killed by a suicide bomber at a nightclub. Can you hear us now?

How many more children must suffer or die before you hear us? No offense, but I really don't want to have to make another peace speech ever again!

Update On Anti-War Organizing In Maine

As the Bush administration's calls for war on Iraq grow more frequent and intense, so has opposition in Maine and around the world. When George Bush arrived in Bangor on October 23rd, about 150 people gathered in the cold wind to protest his pro-war policies and his administration's attacks on civil liberties. Later, in what one veteran activist estimated was the largest protest in Augusta since Spiro Agnew came to town in 1972, nearly 3,000 people gathered in the cold rain on October 26th in Augusta to march and call for No War in Iraq. Over 150 people also participated in a breakaway anti-war march that traveled up Western Avenue and in through Shaws and Burger King, being greeted with a few middle fingers, but many more waves and peace signs of support from passersby. That same day, others from Maine were in Washington DC at an anti-war march that drew between one and two hundred thousand participants. Two weeks later, nearly 200 people gathered in Portland and participated in a non-permitted march throughout the city. Though it has not occurred at the time of this writing, a major march is planned for Rockland on November 30th. On December 7th a "Walk for Real Security in Eastern Maine" is occurring in the Bangor area. And numerous vigils, rallies, and talks are occurring around the state.

To find out more, see calendar (page 10) for listings.

Posted to the www.maineindymedia.org newswire: Excerpted from an anonymous report from the October 26th Augusta breakaway march: "Just after the rotary, I saw the most moving thing. Stuck in the traffic caused by our standoff was a van from a Veteran's hospital. Inside were several older men. One gave us the peace sign. One of our group ran up to the van (risking arrest) and held out his hand to the window, showing he wanted to shake hands. The door opened and from within and an old man reached out his hand and the two shook. 'Thank yous' were exchanged."



ACROSTIC #285

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, turn to page 5.

- A. Kitchen tools for preparing flat cakes (2 wds) 193 123 18 69 24 74 56 206 38 115 240 183 251
- B. Type of rafting. (2 wds) 220 243 187 28 120 231 82 174 227 258
- C. Without quiet or repose. 83 182 128 92 208 253 9 50 153 176 98 76
- D. 13th Century British King. (3 wds) 192 254 70 165 196 88 49 215 161 132 26 112 91 143
- E. Gave silent approval 157 169 185 22 233 101
- F. ___and the living is easy. Gershwain lyric. 246 199 46 23 6 122 102 151 171 236
- G. Great ____. Dickens classic. 149 64 249 189 16 175 79 45 72 51 229 27
- H. ___Tune. Old radio and TV show. (2 wds) 61 21 142 39 65 108 162 10
- I. Pertaining to events in a person's life. 66 197 109 235 168 43 11 226 222 214
- J. Name for Tibet of Nepal. (4 wds) 29 217 209 139 68 52 73 103 131 136 205 97 20 81
- K. Ninth letter of the Greek alphabet. 85 255 62 30
- L. He turned down Echo. 48 94 245 126 59 15 252 201 167
- M. Percussion Instruments. (2 wds) 113 63 190 14 164 173 124 130 55 179 34
- N. The character for and. 250 93 42 90 134 213 211 80 160
- O. What swimmers in training do. 223 129 121 77
- P. Something mislaid of gone. 232 237 105 184
- Q. Called upon for Heavenly assistance. 247 25 188 104 95 145 234
- R. Appellations 100 57 110 152 35
- S. Too eager 2 256 47 33 86 146 135 200 216 125 166
- T. Female theater workers. 194 158 144 155 207 87 89 36 53 219
- U. Marciano or Balboa 140 170 198 228 138
- V. Arousing pity 148 111 58 5 244 127 156 210
- W. Nightly advice in a dangerous neighborhood. (3 wds) 218 37 31 163 221 225 117 114 84 67 8 150

1	Z	1	S	3	Y		4	X	5	V	6	F		7	Y	8	W	9	C	10	H		11	I	12	Z	13	Z				
14	M					15	L	16	G	17	X	18	A	19	Y	20	J		21	H	22	E	23	F	24	A	25	Q	26	D	27	G
28	B	29	J	30	K	31	W	32	Y	33	S	34	M		35	R	36	T	37	W	38	A	39	H		40	Y	41	Z			
42	N	43	I	44	Z	45	G	46	F	47	S	48	L	49	D	50	C		51	G	52	J		53	T	54	Z	55	M			
56	A	57	R	58	V	59	L	60	Z	61	H		62	K	63	M	64	G	65	H		66	I	67	W	68	J	69	A			
		70	D	71	Z	72	G	73	J	74	A	75	Y	76	C		77	O	78	Z	79	G	80	N	81	J	82	B	83	C		
84	W	85	K	86	S	87	T	88	D		89	T	90	N	91	D	92	C		93	N	94	L	95	Q	96	Z	97	J			
98	C			99	Z	100	R	101	E		102	F	103	J	104	Q	105	P	106	Y		107	X	108	H	109	I					
110	R	111	V	112	D	113	M	114	W	115	A		116	Z	117	W	118	Y	119	X	120	B		121	O	122	F	123	A			
124	M	125	S	126	L	127	V	128	C		129	O	130	M	131	J		132	D	133	X	134	N		135	S	136	J				
137	X	138	U			139	J	140	U	141	Y	142	H		143	D	144	T	145	Q		146	S	147	Z	148	V	149	G			
150	W	151	F	152	R	153	C	154	Y	155	T		156	V	157	E	158	T	159	Z	160	N	161	D		162	H					
163	W	164	M	165	D	166	S	167	L	168	I	169	E	170	U	171	F		172	Y	173	M	174	B		175	G	176	C			
177	Z	178	Z			179	M	180	Z	181	X	182	C	183	A	184	P		185	E	186	Y	187	B	188	Q	189	G				
190	M	191	Z	192	D			193	A	194	T	195	Z	196	D	197	I	198	U	199	F	200	S	201	L	202	Z			203	Z	
204	X			205	J	206	A	207	T		208	C	209	J	210	V	211	N	212	Z		213	N	214	I	215	D	216	S			
217	J	218	W	219	T			220	B	221	W	222	I	223	O	224	Z		225	W	226	I	227	B		228	U	229	G			
230	X	231	B	232	P	233	E	234	Q	235	I	236	F		237	P	238	Y		239	X	240	A	241	Z	242	Z	243	B			
244	V	245	L	246	F			247	Q	248	Y		249	G	250	N	251	A	252	L	253	C	254	D		255	K	256	S			
257	Z	258	B																													

- X. ___Your country can do for you. (3 wds) Kennedy quote. 133 119 181 204 230 239 107 17 137 4
- Y. Shakespeare play with A. (3 wds) 154 32 7 118 40 172 141 238 106 186 3 19 75 248
- Z. Located outside specific borders. 257 147 116 44 180 78 96 71 13 203 178 60 195 159 241 212
- ZI. Guilty, bashful 177 191 99 202 41 1 12 242 224 54

Navy Sonar Gets A Run For Its Money

BY ALASDAIR POST-QUINN

The US military has never been known for its outstanding commitment to environmental concerns. As far as they are concerned, all other forms of life must take a back seat to the unique problems of humans.

Case in point: Navy Active Sonar systems currently in development and testing stages - and slated for deployment in 80% of the world's oceans by 2004 - are killing off whales, dolphins, and certain species of seals, and the Navy is working like mad to cover it up rather than deal with the problem. The NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service), which administers the Marine Mammal Protection act, has been doing its best to uncover the situation.

Active sonar has been in use since World War II to detect enemy submarines, and passive sonar even longer than that. Passive sonar consists of a floating array of hypersensitive underwater microphones (hydrophones) which detect the smallest noises and help pinpoint the positions of enemy vessels. However, if an enemy vessel is lying dormant and not making noise, or (as is the case recently) enemy submarines have been designed with very quiet engines (think "Hunt for Red October"), it is often missed by conventional passive sonar. Enter active sonar -- taking a queue from the very whales and dolphins that are dying because of its use -- which broadcasts a sound signal underwater and uses the reflected sound picked up by the passive array to map the surroundings. The major drawback to this system, and the reason many people are confused about why the Navy wants to continue using it in the first

place, is this: If a sound is broadcast from a stationary -- or even slow-moving -- ship, then by the time the reflected data has been analyzed, the enemy submarine can also pinpoint the location of the sound source. With passive sonar, no noise is made and the enemy submarine cannot know when they are being listened to.

However, technology has been advancing steadily since the 1940s, and we can trust the military to find a use for any new technology, regardless of the consequences. During WW2, the passive sonar was less sensitive, and the active sonar was not as loud nor as low-frequency. But this was fitting, since enemy submarines were less stealthy. Now, the submarines the US wants to track require newer detection technology.

Instead of building more high-definition hydrophones, the Navy has commissioned the development of the Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System/Low-

Frequency-Active (SURTASS/LFA) passive/active sonar system. The SURTASS (passive) array alone could probably be used to detect most moving submarines at great distances, but to detect any foreign objects at a distance of about 100 miles, moving or still, the Navy needs the LFA (active) array. The active array consists of a string of bathtub-sized loudspeakers dangling under the same ship that is towing the SURTASS array. The combined intensity of these speakers is about 215-270 dB (decibels - a logarithmic scale that doubles in volume with each 10-point increase) -- equivalent to standing next to a twin-engine F-15 during takeoff -- and the frequency is very low, between 100 and 500 Hz. The "beam" of sound can be distributed evenly around the ship, or pointed in a single direction for greater range. As a hypothetical listener gets further from the ship, the perceived intensity diminishes. 100 miles from the sound source, the intensity is 180 dB;



NEWS BLURBS

short attention span news compiled by sterren

A \$5,000 grant has been given to three UMaine Machias professors to research the history of Atusville, a community that used to exist off Route 1A, on the west side of Machias. This community was settled by black families when slavery was abolished in Maine after the Revolutionary War. The community was named for London Atus, a man who came to the area as a servant of Rev. James Lyon in 1771, and then served in the Revolutionary War and became a free man in 1783, when slavery was abolished in Maine. The community lasted until the late 1950's when the remaining families apparently either died or moved away. The research will look to discover more about how and why the community disappeared, how many families were a part of the community, and the history of this community of which very little is currently known.

Some short election results of note: Troy Jackson, running as an independent, won the District 151 seat in the Maine House of Representatives, winning with about 65% of the district's votes. Troy is an Allagash native, and a logger who several years ago organized a border blockade that brought loggers and environmental activists together to protest the Department of Labor's lack of support for Maine labor. He has been a vocal critic of Maine's largest landowner, the Canada-based Irving company. Meanwhile, Green Independent Party candidate John Eder became the highest ranking elected Green in the United States of America, being elected with about 70% of the vote to Portland's District 31 seat.

The Maine Commons has been following the progress of several ordinances and referendums as well. One of them, a curfew that bans people under the age of 18 of being on the streets of Madison between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., was passed by Madison's (aged 18 and older) voters by a margin of 4-to-1. Meanwhile, in Westbrook, voters upheld a recently passed law outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. A referendum to repeal that law was barely defeated, with 49% voting for, and 51% against the referendum. And finally, voters voted down a bond issue that would have provided funds to build a new prison in Machias by a margin of 2-to-1. The Bangor Daily news showed little respect for the wishes of the public, pushing for lawmakers to find ways to put more money into the Maine prison system without voter support, opining "All the rest of the massive corrections overhaul - more than \$150 million to build a new state prison, plus facilities for women and juvenile offenders - was done without bond referendums. The same imaginative lease-purchase arrangements and borrowing through the Government Facilities Improvement Authority that made the previous improvements possible without referendums could be used again. If, however, lawmakers feel obligated to go to referendum, ...[they should] bundle this with other, more popular projects."

Cony High School is continuing to work on turning itself into a police-state. Apparently not content with new dress codes, installing surveillance cameras in the hallways, and requiring that students submit to being frisked and searched if they are suspected of possessing drugs or alcohol, the school is planning to spend \$30,000 to add an armed police officer to patrol the hallways.

In last issue of the Commons we included a layoff map showing layoffs in the state in the past year. Soon after publication we were made aware of a major layoff we missed. In July, Stold Sea Farms salmon processing in North Lubec closed, leaving about 12 people without jobs. Only days later, Stinson Seafood of Lubec closed up, leaving 99 people without jobs. This eliminated almost 25% of the town's total jobs. This sardine-processing plant was the last of about 50 which had operated in the town since the early 1900's. One of the newly unemployed workers commented in a Bangor Daily article that Lubec now is "pretty much a retirement community."

The layoffs, unfortunately but unsurprisingly, are continuing to occur throughout Maine. 35 workers were laid off from Pride manufacturing in Burnham in mid-October. At the time, company officials announced that no future layoffs were planned, but that is looking less likely, with about 100 Pride workers having to take a week off without pay in late November, with a similar temporary layoff planned for Christmas week. 51 people will be left without jobs when the 81 year old furniture company Houlton International Corp, goes out of business at the end of the year. Several companies that supply the company with hardwood logs will also be affected. International Paper has announced that it will cut 80 jobs from its Bucksport mill by the end of the year and another 100 jobs at its Androscoggin Mill in Jay. Dick's Market, a 35 year old family-owned grocery store in Skowhegan,

closed on November 22nd. The Porteous clothing store in the Bangor mall is closing at the end of the year, laying off 35 people. This summer Porteous closed its Auburn store, and last year it closed its Brunswick store. 60 people found themselves without jobs when Sea Dog Brewery Co.'s Bangor location closed in early November. It is probable that the company's other locations in Camden and Topsham will close as well, leaving another 40 people out of work. The 14 year old locally-owned Portland alternative paper Casco Bay Weekly abruptly ended production on November 22nd, leaving the Boston-owned Portland Phoenix as the only major alternative weekly in town.

Things have been strange for the now-closed Hathaway shirt factory in Waterville. First, the factory lost its last major hope of staying open when it lost an \$18 to \$20 million US Navy shirt-making contract to a shirt plant in Macon, Georgia. This shirt plant is owned by Federal Prison Industries (FPI), a US government-owned corporation that has over 20,000 incarcerated employees. The plant employs federal prisoners, who are required to work if they are able to. Workers in FPI facilities are paid between 23 cents and \$1.15 an hour, and US government agencies in need of a product are required by law to purchase that product from FPI unless those agencies ask for an exception from FPI's monopoly. Currently there is a bill before Congress, HR 1577, that would reform or eliminate this government corporation. In a second twist, Hathaway workers found that in order to receive their severance packages, they had to sign a form waiving their rights to challenge the company for wrongful dismissal, discrimination, perceived violations of the collective bargaining agreement, lack of worker retraining and notification of shut down. And finally, an Arizona developer named Michael Peloquin is putting up the money to purchase and reopen the Hathaway factory. Apparently, according to the Morning Sentinel, despite speculation, this is not the same Michael Peloquin who is the son of Robert Peloquin, founder of CIA-connected Intertel and player in the Keating S&L scandal. Even if this isn't the same Michael Peloquin, he still has a history of lawsuits against his development company, and the details of his interest in a shirt-making factory in Maine remain scant.

Workers at the Old Town Georgia-Pacific paper mill voted to reject the company's final contract offer for the next six years. The new contract cuts vacation time, eliminates double-time pay on Sundays, and increases the health insurance deductibles. However, as the unionized workers also voted not to strike, according to both the Bangor News and G-P spokespeople, it means that they essentially voted the contract into effect. The Old Town G-P plant is the last G-P plant in New England.

Wal-Mart has announced plans to add as many as 165 stores, and to expand or relocate about 170 U.S. stores in 2003. According to a Maine Public Radio report, Wal-Mart plans for 15 of those new stores, expansions, or relocations, to happen in Maine.

Mitch Lansky, author of *Beyond the Beauty Strip* and *Low Impact Forestry* has been documenting the forestry practices of Maine's largest landowner, J.D. Irving, in a report containing a great deal of evidence that the "green certification" process that granted Irving green certification, is seriously flawed. This 40-page report, available to the public through the Sierra Club (761-5616), outlines how Irving has: one of the highest herbicide-use rates in Maine; one of the highest clear-cutting rates in Maine; a practice of squeezing contractors leading to low wages for loggers and truckers; policies that pressure truckers to drive overloaded trucks and loggers to work excessive hours; mismanaged stream-side zones; and has placed an over-reliance on high-impact logging equipment.

Mutant frogs are being found in Unity and Troy. This summer, a Unity College aquaculture major, Heather Giddings, came upon deformed bullfrogs while walking around Sandy Stream, which feeds into Unity Pond. Since then, she has found a number of frogs have been found in the area with missing toes, bloating, tumors, and abnormally short legs. Giddings currently has four theories as to the cause of the mutations: a fungus that has been killing amphibians around the world; ultraviolet radiation which has increased in Maine in the past years; a flatworm, ribeiroia, though it is unlikely this worm is in Maine; or insecticides, which are a possibility as there is a farm upstream. Giddings is doing more research into the cause of these mutations.


ABBY : CONTINUED FROM PG. 24

Maybe YOU are going to shoot YOURSELF! Or just jump out a window or maybe just DIE of a heart attack.

Oh, you didn't hear about Martial Law? Did I see that look of bliss sort of quiver on your face for a minute? You say you never heard about Martial Law on the Boob Tube?

Did you really believe the critters on Capitol Hill were going to ANNOUNCE Martial Law?!!!! Get with it!!! Did they ANNOUNCE that they were helping Al Qaeda hijack the planes? Did they ANNOUNCE that they threw away ballots in Florida of people who had traffic violations in Texas once? Did they over the last few years, ANNOUNCE that the OIL MOB and various other MOBS skulking around the lobbies and putting on sneaky seminars in hidden mountain villas, were the only ones who could pick candidates and would decide who could debate on the IDIOT BOX? Did they ANNOUNCE ... I mean, did they Constitutionally DECLARE any of these wars? In fact, have they been up front with you about your so-called right to firearms, while pretending to be PROTECTING that so-called RIGHT in DC, then sending \$\$\$\$ to the Million-dollar-Moms to go deal with your guns in the STATE legislatures! ...and, driving us all to distraction so we (more and more) break laws ... and meanwhile, building a prison (a concentration camp, if you will) a day! You going to be a LAW ABIDING GUN OWNER AFTER THAT?

You chuckle and say you are not going to get in trouble with the law.

My dear blissful SIS. There is no earthly evidence that the stock market, based on GROWTH, can stay up much longer, without the continuous wars, but even IN SPITE of these wars, when our taxes triple, the dollar loses value further, and more jobs are sent to China, and more Welfare Mums are cut off from their eensie welfare checks and flooding the job "market", which causes all USA wages to drop. The stock market is just air and a funny smell. Are you telling me that when your grandchildren or children are starving or just tired of eating nothing but dried potatoes, and you are tired of living in the homeless shelter, that you are not going to do something rash?

Well, actually, they do not allow guns in the homeless shelter.

Meanwhile, yeah, WAR IS EXPENSIVE. You can't have PEACE, my friend, while your government makes WAR. Not with sixty damn countries!!!! You can't have sixty wars without paying the bill.

Of course, the Megamammoneers are not going to pay any of that bill. No way!!!! They are the ones sending YOU the bill. You pay THEM!!!! See why they love war!!!!

Yep, War will take the umf! out of your paycheck and that funny look of bliss off your jowls.

There probably will be a TV in the homeless shelter though, so THEY can keep telling you stuff to keep you in BLISS.

Anyway, back to the MARTIAL LAW. Yep, it is in effect. The so-called "Patriot" Act and the so-called "Homeland Security" Act are Martial Law. No doubt about it. Have you read these Acts? No? You thought they were about security? Holy Bolony on a Rolling Donut, SIS, these ARE about security, yes. Security for the MOB-STERS and Megamammoneers who run things through their puppet government in DC. They are safe from you and me now.

This is not a Democrat versus Republican issue. Not an Iraqi person versus American person issue. Not a Peace Person versus War person issue. This is the issue of the fact that this is NOT America! There are no more nation states. There are only faceless investors and oil deals and war construction deals and war stuff deals and prison building.

This is an uh oh issue.

You and I and the average Iraqi person and the average Afghan person and the average North Korean person and the average Colombian and the average Cuban and the average Filipino ARE NOT AN ISSUE to the MOB. Only as future slaves. It's coming down, SIS. It really is. You are either with us or not. You can't be with them, the Megamammoneers. I know you have always admired them, but you can't stand united with them. You can only serve them. Oh yes.

But when you are retirement age, you better keep serving. When you are elderly, well ... scary, huh?

Sooooo, you see? This is why I am out there protesting and why I am a dissident in all my writings, and why I am essentially a traitor, because I refuse to stand united with the OIL MOB or any of those slimes crusty pieces of garbage who have the gall to TELL ME WHAT TO THINK and to LIE to ME!!!! And to STEAL from ME! And to MURDER and tell ME it is for ME and even at some point, draft my grandkids to KILL for the MOB, and be killed, all in a state of some weird patriotic bliss!

Yours Forever in Truth, Revolutionary Abby

LFA : CONTINUED FROM PG. 20

300 miles away the intensity is 140 dB. The threshold of pain for a human is approximately 125 dB.

The distance the sound travels is the reason sound is the best method of navigation underwater. Water is an acoustic medium with the capability to transmit sound 5 times faster and many times further than through air. That range is extended by lower frequencies and higher intensities, both of which the Navy's LFA uses. But the ocean is not empty, and between the source and the target there are many things that get in the way of the sound waves, many of which are adversely affected by the noise.

Cetaceans (a class of marine mammals including whales and dolphins) use sound very heavily to navigate the dark ocean depths, to locate food, in mating rituals, and to keep track of their young ones and the rest of the pod (each pod has a unique sound signature that helps its members identify each other). When the sounds they make are disrupted by outside influences, their entire lives are disrupted - in some cases, only temporarily, but in others, permanently. Humans have been disrupting the lives of whales for centuries - by the time whaling was outlawed, there were massive supertankers that crossed the ocean constantly, and made a constant low engine rumble at about 190dB. This intensity has been shown to disturb ocean mammals at close range, but they can easily keep their distance from the tankers.

The Navy says that, according to their studies, whales and dolphins are not harmed by sound wave intensities below 180dB. However, independent tests concluded that even large whales with the capacity to vocalize at 150dB would steer clear of a sound source above 120dB. Perhaps the Navy's definition of "harm" should be revised. Indeed, sounds lower than 180dB may not kill all marine mammals in the vicinity, but is it any better to cripple their ability to survive and communicate? "A deaf whale," says one marine biologist, "is a dead whale." One cannot deny that exposure to very loud sounds for even very short amounts of time can lead to deafness. The vibration, if the sound is loud and low enough, can even rupture internal organs or blood vessels due to the resonant frequency of the human body. Cetaceans' bodies are larger and the sound must be even louder and even lower for these effects to take place, but the LFA is easily up to the task.

In almost every instance of mass whale beachings, there have been Navy sonar tests going on in the vicinity. In the Mediterranean in 1996, 12 Cuvier's beaked whales, a deep-sea-dwelling species, beached themselves while a NATO vessel was conducting LFA tests in the area. In 1998, two whale calves and one dolphin calf were found abandoned in a Navy sonar testing area. They were extremely agitated and confused, and their pods had left the area without them. In 2000, 17 animals of various species beached themselves in the Bahamas, some with internal bleeding and hemorrhaging consistent with sonic damage. The Navy was testing a new mid-frequency, high-intensity sonar in that area at

the time. For those who don't care about whales, human divers accidentally exposed to Navy sonar have had to be hospitalized for acute trauma, seizures and other longer-term health effects. These incidents have all happened quite close to the shore - hence the beachings - but Navy sonar testing is happening all over the ocean, not just in coastal waters. In deeper waters, where whales and dolphins are too far from land to get to a beach, the confusion and internal bleeding may eventually kill them, and they are eaten by sharks or simply sink to the bottom. The numbers of animals killed further out at sea is unknown, and will likely remain as such. But rest assured it is not a small number.

There is some evidence that sonar testing may be taking its toll on other species as well - certain species of seal and turtle are affected, as well as some species of fish and crustaceans such as lobsters. If the NMFS could prove that the testing was harming animals lower on the food chain, the Navy would have much less of a chance of being able to continue their testing.

The NMFS and other groups fighting the LFA have gotten results in some of their endeavors. Following the Bahamas incident, the Navy had to stop testing of its mid-frequency sonar system. Congressional pressure from certain coastal states, such as Maine and California, has stopped Navy sonar testing in the waters owned by those states. Representative Baldacci was one of the major dissenters against the Navy's testing, and now that he has been elected Governor of Maine, we should expect that he will continue the fight against the Navy's deployment of these devices.

For more info on LFA, visit www.oceanmammalinst.org, or contact C.O.A.S.T. (Citizens Opposing Active Sonar Threats), PO Box 32, Sullivan, ME 04664 (207-422-8273)

!! NEWS FLASH !!
Time bought for environmentalists and activists

For the time being, the Navy's LFA sonar has been retired. On October 31st, Federal judges ruled that the Navy's use of their high-intensity active sonars is not environmentally sound. On November 11th, the Navy concurred, and curtailed their testing to less than 1/10th of the original ocean area they had originally meant to use. The issue is not over, however. The Navy is not used to taking "no" for an answer, and will likely be back again with a new loophole or battle plan. Environmental activists should pat themselves on the back for a job well done, but keep a watchful eye on the Navy.

In a recent MSNBC poll of people who are inclined to read about environmental news, **44%** thought the LFA sonar should be retired altogether; **24%** thought it should be used but restricted, and **28%** thought it should be used due to national security concerns.



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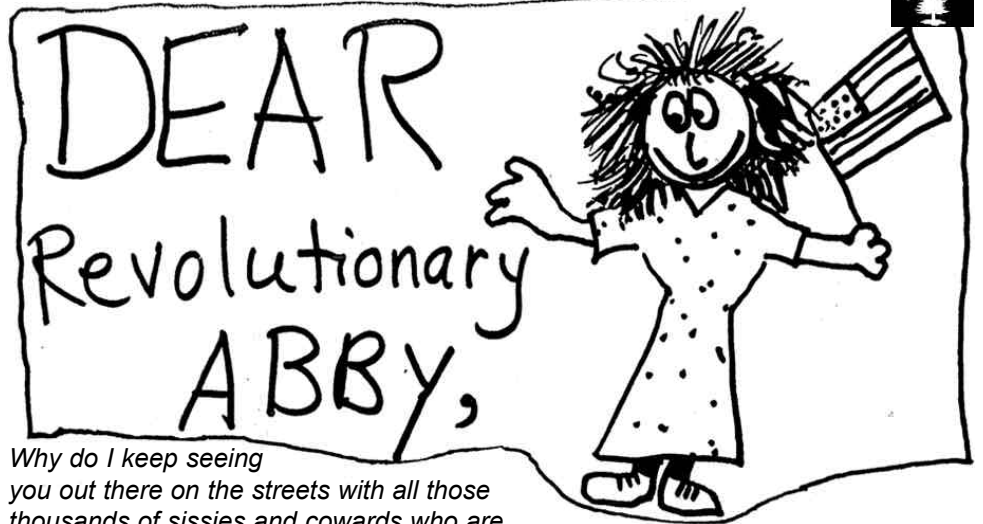
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Turn over for Volunteer Form



Why do I keep seeing you out there on the streets with all those thousands of sissies and cowards who are protesting the wars? What side are you on? The sissy peacy side or the side of strength?

Yours, Strong in Strong (Strong, Maine)

Dear SIS,

I am not a pacifist. I am a gunowner and a believer in defense. If someone were attacking me or another person in my range of protection, threatening injury, death, or rape, I would point my gun. Hopefully they go away. If they keep coming, I would shoot. I also believe in a national defense, perhaps a well-armed well-trained citizenry would do it. Maybe we'd need a little more to defend our borders and shores. But, like Jefferson, Madison and Adams, I am no fan of a standing army or allowing corporations to be anything but subservient pieces of paper.

I am not a duck. I don't follow a bunch following another bunch blindly. You see, Washinton D.C. (controlled by the International Oil Mob, which is headed by US. Oil thugs (like UNOCAL and EXXON and AMOCO etc) is starting wars which need to be studied.

When you educate yourself to the FACTS, beyond, outside, and above the cartoon-like big-money-controlled mainstream media, when you stare at the complexities of the aforementioned USA-led Oil Mob and the War Construction & War Stuff Mob's aggression, it's enough to make even a tough-headed but decent American adult cry.

Yeah, they say ignorance is bliss but your bliss will only last as long as it takes the world to strike back (as it did, with the help of the USA government, on Sept. 11, 2002) (yes, it is fully documented that the USA government, including the President knew about the exact details of the hijackings long before they happened, but wouldn't let anybody stop them because the USA government wanted your bliss and blind support of the 60 wars it already had planned LONG before that fateful day in New York and DC). So this government now has your uneducated mainstream media-dazed support and it is on a roll to brutally attack the residents of SIXTY or more friggin countries.

Yes, it is the RESIDENTS of these countries they want - to bash, not Saddam Hussein, not Bin Laden, these guys are PART of the Oil Mob. Especially Bin Laden ... and that whole Royal Nest in Saudi Arabia from which he sprung. FRIENDZZZZ, yes, FRIENDZZZZ with George Bush and all the OIL FOLK from prior administrations as well. (No, Clinton was no angel, nor those before him). And by the way Bin Laden and Saddam H. are not friends. They hate each other. US Government tells you that to cover its own ass.

Again, let me say this in the USA government's own words, it is the "will of the people" of these countries which must be destroyed in order for the USA-led Oil Mob and War Construction-War-Stuff Mob to TAKE OVER RUSSIA, CHINA, EUROPE and the MIDDLE EAST.

The MOBSTERS are, yes, crazy. They are addicts on power.

You really believe you are going to sit here real cozy in Maine and watch the show?

Well, sweetheart, those TV watchin' wars are over. As of December last year, a military draft bill was put before the House in DC. Meanwhile, several cells of USA CIA-protected Al Qaeda are still living here in USA. Not to mention all the angry steaming Yugoslavia people. And PLENTY of pushed-beyond-their-limits-pale-white-types all over USA, especially in Maine.

And when our next two or three taxbills come, including town and state, which are affected in a ripply way by DC, a lot of flipping out here in Maine is gonna happen, Mr. Man. These wars and their propaganda and their enforcement of their Martial Law which has already been declared, and their just short of cash-in-envelope giveaways to the HUGEST corps, are going to sting your ass, baby boy.

Gift Subscription Form on pg.3!!

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