



# The Maine Commons

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

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

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Issue 12 • May 2003

## Life After Layoff

### A Woman's Perspective

BY ROXANNE MUNKSGAARD

*If you've read my writing before, this is going to be a little different type of article than you're used to reading by me. But that's because it's about me personally. Sometimes that's not so easy to express publicly...*

I have spent most of my life working for economic and social justice. It was in my blood from an early age, as my parents were very involved in union and political activities in New York City. They were both schoolteachers and organized for workers rights. I went to lots of demonstrations, walked union picket lines, helped make signs and attended organizing rallies. It was only natural for me to want to continue that work as an adult. I am truly passionate about this work, and want to pass it on to my children (I am very happy to report that two of my three school-aged children are both politically active now).

For about three years I worked as the AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison for Central and Northern Maine. Working through five United Ways, I assisted workers from Augusta to Madawaska. If you know me, you know I love to listen and talk to people. Hear their stories. Share our secrets. Learn from one another. And offer a helping hand whenever possible. I loved that job. But full-time work was not possible, so I left in December of 2000 and started as a full-time Community Organizer for the Dirigo Alliance, a Portland-based coalition of 14 progressive organizations.

My work with the Dirigo Alliance included organizing a Living Wage Campaign in Bangor, fighting to get rid of the "double

**LAYOFF: CONTINUED ON PG. 22**



photo credit: Hillary Lister

A bakesale to benefit Veterans for Peace is held on tax day, outside of General Dynamics' Saco Defense Plant. It is a play on the oft seen bumpersticker, "It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they need and the navy has to hold a bake sale...!" General Dynamics received over \$7 billion in taxpayer money in 2002.

### Public Money for Private Profits: General Dynamics & Maine Jobs

BY HILLARY LISTER

It's the question coming from all parts of Maine - Where are the good jobs? The small farms are being driven out by corporate factory farms and government subsidies that give greatest benefit to the largest farms. Good work in the forests is fast disappearing due to mechanization and increasing use of bonded foreign laborers, who aren't afforded the same wages or protections as American workers. Fishermen are looking for other work as property taxes on the coast shoot up, and much of the fishing industry mechanizes or moves to aquaculture. The mills and factories continue to rush south and overseas thanks to free trade agreements that encourage corporations to seek out countries with few to no labor or

environmental protections, or they shift to use of prison labor. The newly unemployed workers who are able, frequently move into part-time, non-union, few-to-no benefits, low wage service jobs at the various chain stores popping up through Maine - but even these stores are cutting hours, not taking as many new hires, even working to mechanize their checkouts so they can cease such reliance on cashiers. Other have moved into non-unionized but usually more well-paying telemarketing jobs, but even the telemarketers are now rapidly making the move overseas. As people face unemployment, many get shuffled into government jobs, but with the recent budget cuts, those are fast disappearing as well. And as

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## Somali Activist Faces Deportation

BY AMY BROWNE

Omar Jamal, Executive Director of the Somali Justice Advocacy Center in Minnesota, and one of the Somali organizers and speakers at the Many and One Pro-Diversity Rally in Lewiston last January, has been arrested and charged with fraud and violation of immigration laws. He is being charged in criminal court as well as by the Department of "Homeland Security", which runs the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) with 6 counts of allegedly having fraudulent immigration

documents or making fraudulent statements. If convicted he faces jail time, fines and/or deportation. He has pled not guilty.

Jamal is a vocal and nationally prominent critic of the post-9/11 targeting of immigrants by INS/"Homeland Security." He received a call from that agency in March asking him to come to their Minnesota offices. As he and his attorney were going to get into their car to go to the INS office they were surrounded by police and Jamal was taken into custody. After spending several days in jail he was released on bail

raised by his supporters.

The following is excerpted from a post by the Somali Justice Advocacy Center, the organization Omar Jamal works with, on the Maine Indymedia website last January: "You sign for a package and the delivery man arrests you. You are driving a car for your rental company and are charged with stealing it. You are granted asylum by a judge but are thrown in jail instead. Your community center is targeted for arson. Your store is vandalized with hate speech. The government wants to fingerprint and interrogate you. You are attacked in the

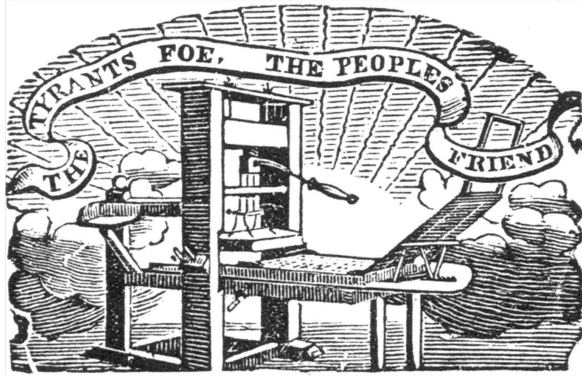
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alive -- pass it on when  
you're done with it.**

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



## The Maine Commons

<http://www.mainecommons.org>

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

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

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## Maine IMC Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

## Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

I saw your paper for the first time today, the articles spoke for themselves.

The one thing that was left out is the Logan Marr angle of what happens when government invades your life, and calls itself "Family Services."

Is Logan Marr the first child to die, or only one of many over the years?

...I know how this "Family Services" doesn't work, so when you have children do you lose your rights? Why when these child protection officers approach you, they don't tell you that you should have a lawyer present?

[When Family Services gets involved with your family,] a person's life becomes a nightmare, your child is God knows where, and there is no help for your kid or yourself.

...Family Services and all their agencies depend on someone's kid to keep their empire active, the sad part is, it's your kids, or your friends' or relatives' kids. Whoever the kids are, their lives are ripped apart, they are deprogrammed from everyone they ever knew, the word happiness is lost and forgotten...

If government is to help people - we are the ones who pay the taxes - why can this system be even allowed in America? It's time for this to be known.

...When you send your child to school, everyday you're at risk. If the school teacher says these are bad children and bad parents, or the dad is bad, or the mom is bad, then the DHS moves in your life, it's ruined forever. They take your child without a paper, no hope they will leave, for years, no hope of your kid ever coming home. And you're not supposed to tell anyone, or else. The last time I went to court, in one afternoon six children were being removed from their parents. The number is unreal, is the standard to be a parent changed in Maine?

Why should this government agency be so difficult? Or should they call themselves God over people and their kids lives? The judges in these cases are following their orders and cannot make a judgment. ...I believe they are not fully disempowered, but not by much. Only a change in the law that rules will change take place. And checks and balances. But I'm a nobody. I'm a non-person now.

Mr. Nobody  
From S.S. Maine

PS All I have is hope that what the government is supposed to do will change, [so it will] help people and not take their kids away, and make a way for these kids to come home, so family can be together. The social impact is yet to be known. The real issue is what is going to happen for our future. We can expect a number of things. Like juvenile crime, teen pregnancies, homeless teens. But it's not too late to save them. But only if we act now, not later. Family services is not the way life should be, it's too late for me, my family is lost. It's a terrible thing to be railroaded.

Dear Mr. Nobody,

*Thanks so much for writing to us; the issue of abuses by the Maine DHS keeps coming up repeatedly as an issue we need to cover. Award winning Maine journalist Terrilyn Simpson has made an amazing start of it, in publishing the new paper, the "Common Sense Independent." In the premiere issue of that paper she uses the Logan Marr case as a basis for a 28-page indictment of the Maine Department of Human Services child protective program. You can contact Simpson by mailing: PO Box 18, Winthrop, ME 04364. We also plan to focus on issues surrounding the Maine DHS in the upcoming issue of the Maine Commons. If you have experience in dealing with the Maine DHS (as a parent, a foster child, a social worker, or in some other way) and would like your experiences included in this next issue (written pieces or interviews can be done anonymously), please contact us at the Maine Commons.*

Note from one of the Editors: Hi there, it's Hillary. I spoke on a panel at a Public Interest Forum at the Norway Library on "Media and Democratic Purpose" in April. After the forum, a man approached me, telling me that he had sent in a subscription form with payment some months ago, but had never received his subscription. I, lacking common sense, took down his address on a piece of scrap paper, which I promptly lost. So - if you know or you are that man, would you please contact me so we can begin sending you your subscription. Also, if anyone else has had any problems with subscriptions, donations, merchandise orders, or volunteer forms that never received a reply, please let us know so we can correct the problem. We try to be as thorough as possible in replying to our readers, but as there are only a few of us volunteering our time to keep this paper active, sometimes things fall through the cracks. We're learning with time. Our apologies to anyone who may have fallen through the cracks, hopefully we can still rescue you. And if you have some extra time and good organizational skills, we could definitely use your help with processing orders, questions, and helping get new volunteers involved. Thanks for your understanding!

**Maine Commons  
Submissions Deadline**

**June 9th,  
2003**

**for the June-July Issue**

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



## Letters from the Editors

### An Appeal From IMC-Tech

In March of 2001 a group of us got together to try to have a go at making the Maine Independent Media Center a reality. The FTAA was rolling along full tilt, and media coverage of it was glowing. Sure, there were a few odd, green-haired kids causing problems, but there was little or no way to get much from the "Media" other than reports about a few violent protesters and how good "Free Trade" was for all.

However, there were others with a different opinion. In Jackman, Maine in April of that year 5 of us from Maine joined with the Maine Global Action Network to provide an Indymedia Center where people could upload their reports about what happened to THEM from a network set up in a house just miles from the MEGAN convergence center. For 4 Days people dropped by, exchanged information, posted stories to the internet, and generally come to realize that democratic media had come to Maine.

2 years ago when this happened, the server that the main website was going to be moved to was (and is still) a 400 MHz system with several additional drives and half a gig of RAM in it. In the ensuing time, as Maine Indymedia has grown, that system has become the most reliable way to distribute media.

However, we are ready for a new server. The old system is getting tired. Its time has

come. It needs to be replaced.

In April 03 we transferred 44 Gigs and had more than 209,000 hits on the media server ALONE. These numbers are only going to go up. When the new website goes online and we add other IMCs to the server, the load will be going up even more. Right now we will be hosting Maine and Vermont; we would like to be able to host New Hampshire when it starts up. In addition to that, we would like to be able to host one IMC server for a center on each continent that can't afford to deal with hosting or bandwidth issues. For all this we need to have a good system.

On the website ([www.maineindymedia.org](http://www.maineindymedia.org)) is a newswire article (a link to it will be in the upper right-hand "New Stuff" block on the main page) that outlines the 2 systems. One is a Mac using OSX and one an Intel Xeon running Linux. Both will have 1 Gig of RAM, one 120 Gig "Boot" drive and at least 1 120 gig RAID Drive, dual Gigabit Ethernet and a good UPS for backup power and conditioning. Each outline will contain pros and cons.

Now, how do we pay for this?

We need to allocate about \$4100 dollars for this. Since we have no limit on bandwidth (effectively) and pay no co-location fees, it is not really as big a number as it looks. A number of people have committed to make donations, and we know we can raise more.

**SERVER: CONTINUED ON PG. 22**

## 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 twelfth 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](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org)

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

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

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

### How can I get involved?

The Maine Commons is produced by the print team of the Maine Independent Media Center. To get involved with the print team, or other Maine Indymedia teams, use the volunteer form on pg.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](http://www.indymedia.org)). Many Maine Indymedia participants are members of other groups, and Maine IMC often collaborates with other groups on specific projects, but we do not have any formal allegiance to any other group.

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

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



# opinions / editorials

## Respect Your Enemies— The First Rule of Peace:

An Essay Addressed to the U. S.  
Anti-war Movement. Pt 3: Friendly  
Fire Is The Most Deadly

BY GEORGE CAFFENTZIS, MIDNIGHT NOTES

I finished the first draft of this essay in October 2002, before the major demonstrations that were called in an effort to stop the US invasion of Iraq. The editors of the Maine Commons decided to print it in three parts, so this last part of the essay is being printed more than half a year after the beginning of the project.

Part III was to be the “what is to be done” section, where I would present and argue for what I considered the best strategy to stop the war against Iraq. However, not only did the invasion begin in March 17 but, as of today, Easter Sunday, the immediate US military objectives have been accomplished, i.e., the major Iraqi oil fields have been occupied by British and US troops and the official Iraqi army has been defeated.

It makes no sense to continue on a task that has been nullified by the so-called “facts on the ground.” At this moment the antiwar movement must look for arguments and allies that do not deal with Iraq alone, and direct its attention to the Bush Administration’s policy as a whole. What are its weaknesses?

It is not clear how many regions of the world in the coming years will be in perpetual crisis, condemned to such a chronically low and unsustainable position that the people of those regions will be tempted to break the rules of the neoliberal game and exit from the system. To keep them in the neoliberal system, the cost of exit must be made very high.

The Bush Administration has been careful to reject any suggestion that the US is the military force of last resort for the preservation of neoliberalism. Instead of locating the rule-breakers in the vocabulary of neoliberal economics, they are presented as threats to the security of average US citizens! There are different types of enemies, according to the political criminology provided in the speeches of Bush and his advisors. First there are the “axis of evil” countries (Iraq, Iran, North Korea) and the “rogue states” (Cuba, Libya, Syria and, previously, Sudan). The “failed states” category (which includes Sierra Leone and Somalia) is very open, since much depends upon the definition of “failure.” For example, is either Haiti or Argentina now a “failed state”? Finally, there are the unspecified “forty or fifty countries” that might harbor (more or less actively) international terrorists. This articulation of the enemy in the endless war against both “terrorism” and states with the potential for creating weapons of mass destruction is open ended and can include more than a third of the nation states on the planet.

With Communism, it was relatively clear what constituted the enemy, i.e., states ruled by Communist parties, and one could plan for the financial requirements of the conflict. While the Bush administration project outlined in Part II necessitates a substantial increase in military investment, the uncertainties of the neoliberal order (i.e., the number of countries demanding to exit the system soon) make it impossible to predict the required size of the increase.

At the moment, the projected military budget allocation for 2003, before the Iraq invasion, is \$372 billion. This means that in real terms the US has returned to the ten-year average (1982-1991) of the Reagan-Bush years of \$370 billion. What will the 2007 budget allocation for defense be? At the beginning of 2003 it was slated to be \$406 billion (in constant 2002 dollars). But how can we take seriously a five-year projection that depends upon the vagaries of “failed states,” “rogue states,” “countries harboring terrorists,” etc. -- or, in our reading, those states and peoples who have broken with the rules of the neoliberal order and are exiting due to necessity or desire.

This uncertainty is a basic weakness of the Bush Administration’s policy. Undoubtedly the Bush Administration plans to pillage Iraq’s oil resources to defray the costs of the adventure. Perhaps this possibility of pillage has convinced many in the US that an invasion is acceptable. But pillage will not be possible in most future applications of the doctrine. Consequently, education, social security, Medicare, agriculture, and ecology will be held hostage to the open-ended demands of the hegemonic role the Bush Administration claims the US should play to save the US citizenry. There will be many in the US who do not want to have their lives and careers destroyed by the “friendly fire” of Bush’s campaign to save his neoliberal world from the terror of economic collapse.

The second weakness of the Bush Administration’s policy lies with its assumption that US soldiers will not be casualties in the coming wars of neoliberalism. This assumption is part of the social contract of contemporary US life - you are not going to die fighting on foreign soil in a war - and is often called the “Vietnam Syndrome.” It is one of the most peculiar victories of the US working class in the 20th century. Between 1989 and the present, only a small number of US troops have been killed by enemy fire in Panama, the Gulf War, Somalia, Haiti, Kosovo and Afghanistan, largely because very few were exposed to direct enemy fire. The fact that the government fulfilled its side of the bargain has made it possible to station more than a quarter million soldiers outside US territory since the end of the Cold War.

We are clearly in a time similar to the Era of Imperialism and the Scramble for Africa in the late 19th century when European armies equipped with machine guns, long-distance artillery, and gun boats that could penetrate rivers, attacked poorly

## Don't Beg For An Hour Democratize MPR Across The Board

BY DAVID KUBIAK

*David Kubiak has been active in a campaign to bring alternative news radio show Democracy Now! to Maine. This is a response to MPR's rejection of the show.*

Like the vast majority of people's movements, we appear temporarily stalled. Maine Public Radio's impotent Community Advisory Board was unmoved by our appeals last Saturday and their pledge drive met its goals. Their DN! refusal thus abides and that brings us to Stage IV.

When you reach stymie state but don't intend to give up, there are only two ways to go.

A) You can drop back and choose a more modest “realistic” goal. In our case, for example, this could be getting Democracy Now! on a few more public access stations around the state, and pressing ahead on one community channel at a time.

B) Alternatively you can consider that your first goal - i.e., getting just ONE non-establishment news out on the “people's airwaves” - is already too modest by half. That might inspire you to take the contest to an even higher level and demand not just an hour of Democracy Now! but democratization of Maine Public Broadcasting as whole.

Think about it. Every resident of the state of Maine, even if they are not an MPR member, already pays for the service two times - once with their federal tax dollars, once with their taxes from the state. Yet only if you pay a third time - in membership dues - are you considered worthy of an opinion on what it is you hear. So having paid three times you are finally awarded a “voice”. Not a vote, mind you, just a non-binding subordinate voice.

Consider the actual structure of public radio. At the top we have the ruling triumvirate of National Public Radio CEO Kevin Klose, Kenneth Stern (Executive VP) and John A. Herrmann, Jr., chairman of the NPR Foundation. Klose and Stern (like Corporation for Public Broadcasting CEO Robert T. Coonrod) are graduates of the US Information Service Agency's International Broadcasting Bureau (those wonderful folks who brought us Voice of America, Radio Marti and other citadels of government approved discourse). And Herrmann manages big league corporate takeovers for Morgan Chase's Global Investment Bank. (Another power player, CPB's Chief Operating Officer Fred DeMarco, is a General Electric/NBC veteran and former producer of rightwing curmudgeon John McLaughlin's TV shows.)

To many DN! fans these aren't the most reassuring populist credentials for managing the public's last bastion of free speech. These are not elected but appointed posts and reflect the interests of the rulers in government at the time. (This may help explain

their curious policy of welcoming shows sponsored by multinationals like General Electric, Archers Daniels Midland and ExxonMobil while refusing to air anything at all supported by labor union funds.)

In Maine too the structure is serenely autocratic and untroubled by democratic debate. The plenipotentiary Board of Trustees consists of the current presidents of Colby, Bates and Bowdoin as well as three senior regents from the University of Maine. These guys then sit down and hand pick the other trustees with whom they will supervise the network's staff and ultimately determine what we hear.

Academic CEOs are probably a step up from federal propaganda flacks and multinational merger pros, but the central point remains. No one in the entire command and control structure of Maine Public Radio is ever elected or even subject to public review. And though their organization is paid for with our taxes and chartered to serve our “interests and concerns”, there is no binding democratic input at all. And that even includes the ambiguously named Community Advisory Board. CAB members are unpaid volunteers who are intensively vetted by the executive staff and then personally selected by the trustees. This generates an admirably docile board that is more alacritous in advising their communities of the will and wants of the MPR board than the other way around.

When the deafening media of a land declare that the world is flat, the king is god, or insist that war is peace, shouldn't the people of a democratic realm be able to exact space and time on their own airwaves for another point of view?

Let's stop begging for an hour of Democracy Now! and demand rightful, even natural 24/7 democratization of public radio throughout the state. Getting airtime for a single show was not our ultimate end; it was to help start and nourish a truly democratic debate on our collective future in all the communities of Maine. In 1945 the Supreme Court ruled that the First Amendment “rests on the assumption that the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the public.” If public radio is now an obstacle to that vital (and very patriotic) goal, then it is broken and must be fixed.

In any event, we are soliciting ideas and background for this next stage of the campaign. If you know of any more representative models of public radio in other states, please inform us. If you have other ideas for democratizing our media, get in touch. If we ever hope to halt perpetual war, extract the Constitution from the “Homeland Security” shredder or rescue America from the corporate coup, we will need a free and fearless media (or at least one channel thereof). Let's start reclaiming it now.





**JAMAL: CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

streets. Racists hold rallies to call for your expulsion. What have you done? You are guilty of being a Somali-American during the 'War on Terrorism'”

Interacting with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is a fact of life for immigrant people. Since 9/11, however, Somalis have had good reasons to fear the INS. Last October, two Somali wire-transfer companies in Minneapolis were raided by the Customs Service and FBI, who claimed the businesses were being used to fund al-Qaida. No charges were ever brought, and the business owners were eventually cleared, although their assets are still frozen. This past fall, 30 Somalis were suddenly and illegally deported to Somalia, where one was soon murdered. At the Minneapolis airport, a Somali man working for a rental car company was charged with driving a stolen vehicle after police pulled him over while he ferried a rental car back to the lot. He found himself in INS detention. Abdul, a Kenyan man, was taken in to INS detention, where he was allowed to apply for asylum. A judge granted him asylum, but instead of setting him free, the state INS director sent him back to detention. “U.S. law allows deportations to nations that have a recognized government. Somalia, unfortunately, does not. Yet it took the judiciary to halt deportations to Somalia. In November, Judge Marsha Pechman of Seattle ordered a temporary restraining order against the INS, barring the deportation of five Somali men. In December, federal District Judge Robert James issued a temporary restraining order halting the deportation of eight Minnesota Somali men who had been sent to INS detention in Louisiana.” (Somali Justice Advocacy Center, MaineIndyMedia website, January 2003)

The criminal case is being tried in Tennessee where Jamal formerly resided, and the Homeland security charges are being brought in Minnesota, where he currently resides. The government charges that Jamal, himself a Somali immigrant, lied about where else he had lived in the past and used a false passport to get into this country five years ago. Government spokespeople were quick to deny that Jamal is being politically targeted. Tim Counts, a spokesperson for the Homeland Security office in Minnesota said that it is “absolutely not the case” that Jamal is being singled out because he has been such a vocal critic of that agency's policies. U.S. Attorney Tom Heffelfinger told Minnesota Public Radio that the allegations and the more than year-long investigation into Jamal's past are not related to his criticism of the government. “There is no relationship between Mr. Jamal's visibility and the charges he's facing in Tennessee,” says Heffelfinger.

Jamal's supporters, however, do believe he is being targeted because he is an immigrant who dared speak out against government abuses. His lawyer, Peter Erlinder told Burt Berlowe of the “Pulse of the Twin Cities” (MN) newspaper (4.16.03) that he was stunned by the charges against his client. “In all of my 20 years of practice, I have never seen anything like this,” he said. “Nobody goes to jail for making a mistake on an asylum application. When I asked

why, after all this time, they had come after Jamal, they said it was because some Somalis had recently brought it to their attention. In fact, we found files that show that the government began targeting Jamal right after 9/11.” The article goes on to say “Erlinder is convinced that Jamal's arrest is the result of a witch-hunt.”

Many in Maine's Somali community agree. Somali immigrant Ali Abdiaziz, who works as a Case Manager for the Portland-Lewiston Refugee Collaborative says he “absolutely” believes that Jamal is being targeted because he is an activist and that that is the reason a paperwork error made years ago has been dredged up now. Abdiaziz says that immigration laws are not explained to refugees and that sometimes people make mistakes on forms but that in the post 9/11 climate a minor paperwork mistake could ultimately result in death for those deported by “Homeland Security”. He has heard of at least five people who were killed after being deported to Somalia and being “dropped off” in enemy clan territory. He also says that some immigrants are told they will receive only probation if they plead guilty in criminal court but then are deported by the INS “Homeland Security” in their parallel civil process. Asked about the reaction to Omar Jamal's arrest among members of the Maine Somali community, Abdiaziz responds “Ali, Omar, Jamal-those names are being hunted by the government and we don't know what we've done. We're under fire. They don't talk about it in public but people are scared, wondering ‘Who's next?’”

On April 30th Omar Jamal and his lawyer were back in court in Tennessee for the arraignment in the criminal case and they filed a motion to get that case moved to a Minnesota court, citing the financial burden of two cases being tried in two states. A decision in that matter was delayed until a new judge takes the case. It is unclear whether the recent lawsuits halting other deportations to Somalia would protect Jamal if he is convicted. There is no word yet on when the trial will be held.

To Contact the Somali Justice Advocacy Center: Call: (651)-999-7524 or email: [shabeelj@yahoo.com](mailto:shabeelj@yahoo.com)

**Invitation to Rethink!**

June 20-21 at Belfast Highschool.

Register for a place and get further info: 594-6453 or [Mamarinmaine@aol.com](mailto:Mamarinmaine@aol.com).

Re-think what? The fully stated theme is RE-THINK CORPORATIONS, RE-FRAME OUR WORK.

We have an opportunity to meet with leaders of an increasingly recognized national group who started a movement, who as they put it, specialize in: “instigating democratic conversations and actions contesting the authority of corporations to govern our nation, define our culture and plunder the earth.” The group is POCLAD, the Program on Corporations Law and Democracy ([www.poclad.org](http://www.poclad.org))

Workshops & Talks, including Keynote talk by Peter Kellman writer and labor activist from Portland.

After the workshops, discussion groups of Belfast and Rockland will seek to continue the work to action projects. Ideas for challenges to corporate power in Maine are welcome. Legal support from a national group is now available, and a new School of Democracy supports this work.

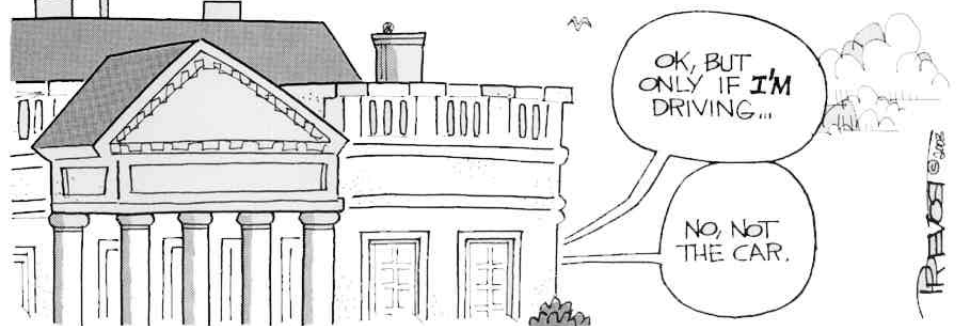
**Burdock! A Gathering For A Free and Sustainable Future**

July 22-29, 2003 Starks, Maine, for registration and more information write to RR1 box 1450 Anson, Maine 04911 or email [burdock@riseup.net](mailto:burdock@riseup.net), or call 207-649-5980

Last year, people came together for a week on a beautiful farm in Starks, Maine for the first annual Burdock gathering. People had such a good time sharing, eating, swimming, playing and learning together, that we have decided to organize Burdock again this year.

Burdock is a gathering for people of every walk of life to celebrate each other, the earth and a sense community on local and global levels. We want to nurture an environment for people to educate each other on practical everyday skills, life issues, ecology, political and social issues and ways to make the world a better place. At Burdock we want to build relationships and a sense of community with people from around Maine, through out the entire region and around the world. People from Maine are cooperatively organizing Burdock The gathering will be based on mutual aid and cooperation to encourage education, community building and a wicked good time.

We are looking for more people to get involved in organizing Burdock this year and in the future. To be informed about our next general meeting, contact [burdock@riseup.net](mailto:burdock@riseup.net).



Don't Peek! Answers to the Acrostic on page 20 below:  
A. Outwitting; B. Under the Elms; C. Ravish; D. Phi; E. Red, White and; F. Invective;  
G. Mud Bath; H. Idiosyncrasy; I. This is the house that; J. Insufferable; K. Via;  
L. Enchantment; M. Chilled; N. Ozark; O. Neath the; P. The Shah Of; Q. Egg Foo Yung;  
R. Mow; S. Pitt; T. Off the Wall; U. Rad!!!; V. Advise and Consent; W. Rut; X. If the shoe fits;  
Y. Einstein; Z. Seize the day

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S,  
If the sun refused to shine, I would still be loving you. When mountains crumble to the sea, there will still be you & me.  
I love you,  
K



# MAINE ANTI-WAR ROUNDUP

Mainers around the state took to the streets at the announcement of the US Invasion of Iraq. For full reports, please visit <http://maine.indymedia.org/archive/features/2003/03/2003-03.html>

As millions took to the streets around the world, protests, rallies, and actions of all sorts opposing the war took place in every corner of the Maine, from Portland to Presque Isle, Farmington to Ellsworth, Lewiston to Bangor. Over 75 people in Maine, of all ages and walks of life, were arrested for anti-war actions during that time. Some people intentionally took part in acts of civil disobedience, such as road-blockades and occupations of Senators' offices, and some of them had no intention of getting arrested, but they walked too slowly, or had a bike tire off the curb, or in the case of one Maine Commons reporter, took photos of three police tackling and arresting one person, and got charged with "failure to disperse". A good number of those arrested have requested jury trials, and many expect charges to be significantly lessened or dropped. In all of the actions and rallies, participants noted significant support from passersby (one of the largest contingents of supporters were those with American flags on their vehicles), and many people who had never participated in a protest of any sort, came out to show their opposition to this war, their call to bring the American troops home, their concern over rapidly eroding civil liberties, and their interest in having open informed discussion about alternatives to invading and attacking other countries by the US.



photo credit: Hillary Lister

ABOVE: "No Trespassing In Iraq" Protestors modified a sign put up by city officials around Monument Square in Portland.

LOWER RIGHT: Protesters locked down (using bike locks) and occupying Senator Snowe's office in Bangor on March 27th are interviewed by Channel 2 News.

## Reflections on the Beginning and End of the Portland Peace Park (aka Monument Square Autonomous Zone)

In Portland, protestors gathered in Monument Square beginning on March 19th as an ongoing show of opposition to the invasion of Iraq. The square was declared an "Autonomous Zone" and a diverse group of people, including veterans, local people, both homeless and with homes elsewhere in the city, students, office workers, and wanderers, occupied it 24 hours a day. A group of people slept in the park every night, even in the cold and rain, and during the day, distributed leaflets, and participants talked to passers-by and trying to explain why they are in opposition to this, distributed free meals, created art, played with kids, and danced and made music. Food was scavenged and in many cases, donated, such as the pizzas that were brought by a supportive office worker who had been observing the gathering from her office.

Then, on the evening of April 1st, Michael Nugent of Inspection Services, who only the day before had told Monument Square Peace Park participants that they were welcome to stay in the park as long as they did not erect any permanent structures, came into the Park with a number of Portland police, Ted Musgrave of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Public Works trucks. Michael told Monument Square occupants that they would have to remove all objects (other than themselves and anything they were holding that wasn't on the ground) in 20 minutes, or the DPW would take the objects in their trucks and bring them to the Department where their owners could claim them the next day. Participants argued that only the day before Michael had told them it was fine to have the objects there - he replied that he felt they had been antagonistic toward him the other day, there had been complaints about the park from businesses, he felt it had "evolved" in an undesirable way, and it basically didn't aesthetically look good, so he had been invited to a closed meeting this afternoon between Chitwood and other members of the

Portland Police, and the Department of Public Works, where they decided on this change. Protestors argued that 20 minutes was not enough time to remove everything, especially since many people had left for dinner and were not there at the time to claim their possessions. A policeman stated that decision had been made, and was not debatable.

At the end of the 20 minutes, protestors began banging on any drumlike objects they could find, and three people sat on one of the tables in the park. Police told them they had to get off the table or be arrested. The people continued sitting, and then all were pulled to the ground to be handcuffed. None of those who arrested appeared to be resisting or at all violent. Police knelt on top of the pile of people lying face ground on the ground, yanking one woman around quite violently while she screamed they were hurting her. In the next 15 minutes, she and three other people were arrested (one of whom was simply quietly sitting on a pillow on the ground) and brought to the Cumberland County jail where they were held for a day and a half (they refused to post bail, especially as one of the arrestee's bail had been set at over a thousand dollars - they were eventually all released on their own recognizance.) Following the arrests, people continued to return to the park, but on a much smaller scale and with fewer activities (though a dance party occurred about a week later.) The park occupation managed to last for almost two weeks, and served as an inspiration to many that this sort of action was quite possible in Maine, and has spurred discussion as to how future actions could become more sustainable and effective.

A video is currently being produced by Portland Public Access documenting the Monument Square occupation and bust, with interviews and reflections by participants.



photo credit: Josiah Dean

### Pre-invasion report from a young activist

**Cecelia, 11 years old, went to an anti-war rally in Portland on March 15th, the day after the US officially declared that it would begin invasion of Iraq - this is her account of the event:**

On Saturday March 15, 2003 in Portland Maine on a cloudy day, on Casco Bay Bridge at 12:30 in the afternoon, a rally against the war that is going to start in Iraq, against Saddam Hussein.

During this rally I gathered many opinions about why people were there. The first person I interviewed wished to remain unknown. He believed that Bush is a "jerk" and there's no reason for this war to start. To kill innocent people is ridiculous. The next person I interviewed was Carolyn Chute, who many of you know. When I asked her about the war, she said that the people controlling the war are evil, and that the lies are very nasty and we should not go to war.

The strongest spirit there was Janet Lynch who believed that bombing for peace is foolish and a poor excuse to bomb people.

The MOST interesting person there was Rebekah Yongo. She believed that the war is horrible and she didn't support it in any way. Her family are Assyrians who are a

Christian group who go and live with the Muslims. She wants to see them but with this war she has her doubts.

Right as I finished my interviews, we started marching up to Monument Square, where the cops were making sure no one got hurt. Once in Monument Square there were several speakers who came up to speak. We probably have some of this footage this on Maine Indymedia. The two people who I thought were really cool were the two singers. One rapped and the other sang a slow very pretty song.

The thing that surprised me was the amount of children who were there. I am so glad that the younger generations are beginning to learn about the government and the way it brainwashes most of the U.S.A.. One thing that struck me as interesting was a woman had a baby with her. When I was taking pictures I noticed that there were a lot of teenagers at the rally. I noticed a lot of children who were older than me and younger than me but not a lot of people my age.

At the end of the day there was about 400 people there. It warms my heart to know that so many people who want to know about what's happening in the world went to the rally in Portland on March 15th.



photo credit: Kelly Bellis



## Do We Really Have Free Speech?

BY CHARLOTTE ALDEBRON

The invasion of Afghanistan, and now Iraq, has given me a big lesson in freedom of speech -- or, should I say, the difference between the idea of free speech and the reality of free speech. Yes, I can speak. But what does it matter if I have no place to speak? Or if I am ostracized? Or no one listens?

In early March, my social studies teacher switched the class topic to Iraq. He said Saddam Hussein's time to disarm was up. We had to get rid of him -- he was a brutal dictator who gassed his own people. I raised my hand. I said that the U.S. gave Saddam Hussein chemical weapons, and the CIA helped him find the targets to use them on. My teacher snapped back, "Actually, Charlotte, you're wrong." Then he turned away and refused to call on me again.

After the invasion, our class focused on combat. It was like a game: we got a hand-out on the Persian Gulf countries, called "The Players," we were given photos with short bios of top Iraqis, the team we had to beat. We got a map of the Gulf region with the size and location of all the armies, and the weapons each possessed; we read an article about the threat of Iraq using chemical weapons against our troops.

My mother complained to the principal and the Commissioner of Education that we were being taught to glorify war, admire military strategy, and objectify the killing and maiming of human beings. The Commissioner responded that each school's curriculum was its own business. The principal answered that he thought the social studies lesson plan was "balanced and comprehensive." Yes, my mom was free to speak -- in fact, she could scream her head off for all they cared. It wouldn't change a thing.

Meanwhile, in science, we had to answer questions like, "what are the advantages of biological weapons?" I said there weren't any advantages because biological weapons kill people. How can death be an advantage? I was asked to give two examples of biological weapons. I said one was the

smallpox on blankets we gave to Native Americans to kill them. The other was E coli bacteria that have been found in McDonald's hamburgers. I said we could close the gap between the threat and the capability of biological weapons by signing the U.N. Chemical Weapons Convention, and by hiring more meat inspectors. Somehow, our assignments never got corrected.

I should tell you that I am famous in some countries. My anti-war speeches have been translated into French, Spanish, Norwegian, Danish, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Urdu, Bengali, and who knows what else. I have been featured in newspapers and on television and radio. A popular singer in Bombay read my speech at his sold-out concert. I've received over 3,000 emails.

But in my own community, I am invisible. The principal won't let me read my speeches in school. The local papers won't print them. When a Japanese TV crew came to do a story on me, the principal barred them from the school. When they interviewed my classmates on the street after school, the principal came running and angrily demanded that they not use the footage. Of course, they were filming when he did this and, of course, they used the footage. The Japanese know what a bad idea war is because they have suffered the horrible consequences of our nuclear bombs.

I get encouraging emails from around the world telling me not to despair even if my own town and teachers and friends ignore me. Many say that I am very brave to speak out "in a country like the United States!" One such email was from a Japanese man who, at age 9, saw the two friends he was walking with in Honshu, on July 20, 1945, buried beneath the rubble of a building bombed by a P-51 Mustang fighter. He and his mother were miraculously spared. And there was the email from the Jordanian mother duct taping her windows with plastic sheeting to protect her children from possible chemical attack. And the Greek man whose parents were scarred for life by the Nazi occupation. And the Canadian who cannot understand calling human beings "collateral damage." And the man from Calcutta who hopes the warriors will come to their senses and put away their weapons. And the South Korean student who thinks it is wrong to sit at his desk and study when there are terrible crimes taking place. And the Iranian who cannot sanction the harming of innocents, even if they are the people of an "enemy" nation.

Because I am free to speak, these people have heard my voice and we have been able to share our desire for peace. Some of them live in countries where protesting is against the law. In the U.S., we are more subtle, we are more sophisticated. In the U.S., we can allow people to talk freely. We don't need to stifle speech to stifle dissent. We just have to block our ears.

*Charlotte Aldebron is a 13-year-old student in Presque Isle, Maine. This is a transcript of a speech she made at a peace rally in Augusta, Maine, on April 19th, 2003*

# BoundTogether

## Race, Class & War

BY CLAIRE GÉLINAS

At the end of March my partner Deborah and I went to a peace demonstration in Boston. It was good to be around other people who don't like what the US government is doing. There was quite a mix of people and lots of very interesting homemade signs talking about the war, the US government, Iraq, etc. There was a mix of ages, and a bit more diversity of race and class than in Vietnam antiwar marches. Even though more blue-collar workers than professionals opposed the Vietnam War, and African-American churches in DC housed and fed many of the protesters during demonstrations, my memory is that many of the marchers themselves were "white" college students.

(I always put quotes around the word "white." For a while I didn't use the word to describe myself, because I didn't know for sure french-canadian was white till I was in junior high. Now I use the word "white" (as well as french-canadian) to describe myself because I want to remember that I benefit from "white" privilege; I use the quotes because I want to remember that "white" is a made up word that exists to sort out who gets the privilege and who doesn't.)

As we marched in Boston last month, every now and then we passed a small group of angry people on the sidewalk, some of them yelling, almost all of them "white," almost all of them men (almost all of them working class?), almost all of them with signs that said "I support President Bush and the troops."

After the march we found the church where Tim Wise, a "white" antiracist activist, was giving a talk about "racism and the peace movement." We heard some very interesting statistics about race and the level of support for a US war in the Middle East. I wasn't trying to remember the statistics at the time, so I didn't write them down, and when I checked the web afterward I couldn't find them. But here's what I remember: On some survey, over 70% of "white" people thought it was OK to invade, compared to only 25% of people of color. And if you asked people if it was ok to do that even if innocent people would be killed, support from "white" people dropped to a little over 50%, and support from people of color dropped all the way to 7%. That's 93% against. Of course. Things definitely look different depending on how you and your people have been treated by this government and the dominant culture.

So Tim Wise wonders: Who are "we" trying to reach when we talk about reaching "ordinary people" with information about the war? I got the definite impression he thinks too many people in the "peace

movement" are trying to reach people who are as "white" and "ordinary" and "regular" as George W. Bush pretends to be. That the peace movement itself is too "white," and therefore ineffective. And that the peace movement should be spending less time trying to reach people who are likely to think they have something in common with George W. and his kind.

I like what he said. Good stuff. Important stuff. I think he's right when he says that to be effective, a movement must be led primarily by people who know this government does not represent them, does not care about them, and will do them harm in order to keep power in the hands of a few folks. A good many of those 93% people of color Tim Wise talked about may fall into that category.

Which in Maine I realize would be 93% of 3.1%, according to the 2000 census, but that doesn't mean the agenda should be set by "white" people. Which I think it is. What do we do about this?

And here's something else that is bothering me. It's those guys yelling from the sidewalk. Someone has convinced these guys that they are as "white" and "ordinary" and "regular" as George W. He's on THEIR SIDE. And WE'RE NOT. Which is stupid, right? Many of these guys are probably one paycheck (one heart attack, one layoff, one corporate move overseas) from losing almost everything they have. So why is it so easy to convince them they've got more in common with George W. than with a peace movement that sometimes looks like mostly middle class people who went (or are going to) college? Could there be something else going on here? What do we do about this?

---

*If the world is going to change, people who are different from each other need to work together. How can we do that without repeating the patterns that got us into this mess in the first place?*

*Any opinions? Attitudes? Dreams? Ideas? You DON'T have to be a writer. You DON'T have to know all the answers. Send a letter or a sentence. Send a drawing or a cartoon. Send an essay or a story. We'll fix the spelling. We'll print as much as we can.*

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





# Vets Bite War

BY MICHAEL UHL

In recent weeks, segments of the peace movement earnestly debated throughout cyberspace the pros and cons of the slogan 'support our troops' - however it might be modified by an explicit tag line of opposition to the war. Could the public clearly grasp a principled antiwar stance when it appeared to accommodate the welfare or sensibilities of those who were doing the actual fighting? How could we ensure that the public would distinguish between our support for the troops and that of the war's promoters?

Wasn't the call to silence criticism of the war - even by some individuals, organizations, and institutions whose dissent quickly evaporated with the invasion - being justified by appeals expressed in those very same words? Yet, suddenly support for the troops was being translated by opinion polls into support for the war. How might the movement co-opt that mantra, and provide just enough cover for fellow citizens who occupy uncertain ground, doubting the war's merits, but unwilling to have their own patriotism subjected to challenge, to win them back to the forces of peace?

"Bring more vets to the forefront," proposed Leslie Cagan, an organizer with United For Peace and Justice in New York. "Let's march on the Pentagon," wrote one youth activist, "as long as the vets are in the lead."

Why the vets? "Because we have this credibility," explained Woody Powell, a Korean War veteran and Executive Director of Veterans For Peace (VFP). "Our words are no different from many others, but they seem to carry more weight." Since Vietnam, even for the most committed antiwar audiences, there's a certain comfort zone when a vet steps up to the podium and says, "if showing our support for the troops means silencing our public criticism of the war, that is not an option." Those words drew strong applause when David Cline, thrice wounded in Vietnam, and president of VFP, delivered them before an overflow teach-in at American University just days after the U.S. led coalition invaded Iraq. The teach-in had kicked off Operation Dire Distress, a weekend of protest and lobbying in the nation's capital (March 22-24), attended by hundreds of veterans who, repeatedly, in private comments and public displays, linked support for the troops in Iraq to a demand to stop the war and bring them home.

It is critical that veterans continue to communicate this message from the movement's national stages, even when the Bush Administration declares the war a victory and the occupation begun. But antiwar veterans, like GI resisters and military family members - what Chomsky calls "authentic groups" - are also uniquely effective over the long haul when addressing communities whose social origins are most similar to their own, where empathy, apart from fact-based or moral argumentation, is often the medium of persuasion. This, you might say, is the "identity politics" of the working

class. In such settings, the love of country or personal courage - core values in these communities - of these vets, in particular those who have tasted the bitter fruit of the battlefield, are seldom called into question. Minimally, veterans who oppose warfare are given a respectful hearing by their Middle American landsmen, and are treated with equanimity in local media, even by the most hidebound provincials of the fourth estate.

The U.S. march toward war with Iraq has certainly stimulated recruitment in the ranks of antiwar veterans. Over the past six months, Veterans for Peace, open to veterans of all service eras, has virtually doubled its membership to 3000 ex-servicemen and women. The organization has a national office in St. Louis, which tends to its website and some of the national press, and also aids in planning for its yearly convention (August 2004 in San Francisco). But VFP's ninety-six chapters, distributed over thirty states from Maine to California, operate autonomously, and set their own activist agendas, much in the spirit of the movement's overall grassroots orientation.

Veterans For Peace was founded in Maine in 1985 [superceding an earlier post-World War II entity of the same name], and quickly spread to other states at a time "when low intensity warfare was raging in Central America under Reagan," recalled Tom Sturtevant, who served in Korea. The Maine chapter, which Sturtevant heads, is one of the nation's most militant, providing contingents for all the latest national mobilizations, while, at home, engaging in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience that recently led to the arrests of five members. As part of their community outreach, Maine VFP is frequently asked to visit middle and high school classrooms, where they have distributed thousands of bookcovers with a nonviolence theme, and have collaborated with the American Friends Service Committee in offering alternatives to military service.

Minneapolis has likewise reported "phenomenal growth," writes Walt Wittman by email, ticking off in comma-less shorthand his chapter's varied and overloaded activist schedule: "What an impossible task: signs speaking engagements forums church meetings letters legislative contacts city council hearings rallies vigils canoe raffles and merchandising plus keeping our sanity." From Washtenaw County, Michigan, Bob Krzewinski reports that he'd "been thinking of starting a chapter, but there didn't seem to be too many of us around." That all changed after February 8th, when the Ann Arbor Coalition for Peace "wanted a few veterans up front to lead the march ...and we had an almost constant stream of veterans coming up... we had 16 people show up at our first meeting."

Roughly seventy percent of VFP's members served during the Vietnam era, and many, like Dave Cline of Jersey City, have also been active in Vietnam Veterans Against the War since VVAW's heyday during the early nineteen seventies. VVAW "has kept its flag flying," says Cline, maintaining a pres-

ence in the progressive communities of the New York metro area - with its original Clarence Fitch chapter - Milwaukee, and Chicago, home of the national office. A VVAW newspaper appears regularly, and its reunions during anniversary years have drawn enthusiastic attendance. Many of VVAW's old guard have surfaced from their other lives, and "re-up'd" since the Iraq war began, expanding the group's network to 800 members nationwide.

For years since their return, Gulf War vets have concerned themselves primarily with a struggle to gain scientific recognition for a weird syndrome of battlefield induced health problems that has led the Veterans Administration to provide compensation for nearly a third of the 600,000 men and women who fought in the '91 conflict. But some Gulf War vets, like Charles Sheehan-Miles, were politicized by the traumas of combat, and when a re-run of war in the Persian Gulf first threatened, he helped form Veterans For Common Sense (VCS). But, he stresses that VCS, which has been contacted by over 2000 veterans, "is not an antiwar organization, per se. A majority of Americans don't identify with that point of view. Our group wants to occupy a middle ground, to address audiences about war's hidden costs, the treatment of casualties and compensation for the disabled. Care for Gulf War vets has already cost the nation \$2 billion," he told me. "People should know what a war will cost, before they're called upon to support it."

Sheehan-Miles' group nonetheless joined with Vets For Peace and VVAW, along with Military Families Speak Out (MFSO), a support group for those with family members currently on active duty, in forming a coalition called Veterans Against Iraq War (VAIW) to organize Operation Dire Distress, strongly emphasizing the veteran character of the event. Of course, it's impossible to say what the turn-out would have been had the invasion not yet begun. And perhaps the presence of the several hundred vets who did attend, resplendent in remnants of their old service uniforms and bedecked with medals attesting to youthful valor, though receiving a decent amount of publicity, would have had an even greater impact if wedded to one of the movement's massive national demonstrations. But the reality is that, even overtly antiwar veterans covet a degree of independent action from the larger movement. The point, suggests VFP's Woody Powell, is to avoid being "discounted," especially in cases where the protest becomes "strident." It's a fine line, he argues, between "being seduced by our power and having it become diluted."

But it is the issue of their postwar entitlements, which Charles Sheehan-Miles recasts conceptually as a hidden cost of war, and Dave Cline frames in a demand for justice for all the war's victims, that unites all veterans across the spectrum of political views. During our rally in Washington, a number of speakers made bitter reference to the Congressional attacks spearheaded by Republican warmongers to cut billions from Veterans Administration health care over the next decade. The Veterans Against Iraq War website has collected the salty comments of scores of former service mem-

bers, a surprisingly large number of whom served in World War II, that ridicule these politicians as "chickenhawks," those who demand sacrifice of their fellow citizens, but who have never served, and refuse to put their own lives or those of their children on the line.

It's not quite clear exactly what these dismantlers of government intend with this budget slashing message for the Department of Veterans Affairs, a form of managed care perhaps that taps more deeply into Medicare. Another story, but something is afoot here in a system that has extended its eligibility since 1996, and increased its enrollment from 2.9 to 6.8 millions veterans.

Most veterans I know remain proud of their service, because they feel they owed it to their country. A remarkably candid article in the New York Times ("Military Mirrors Working Class," Mar. 30, 2003), reported that the demographics underlying such values place the actual burden of filling the ranks on blue collar communities, with men from backgrounds of affluence or other forms of privilege, routinely getting a pass. Clearly the formation of this belief in service is a social construction of some interest, another tangent of veteran culture worth exploring elsewhere. But the counterweight to reverence for service to one's nation is resistance, which in former days was aimed at conscription, and today at the so-called "poverty" or "economic" draft.

"Economic," is perhaps the better term since the U.S. armed forces now generally require all recruits to have a high school diploma, thus not only keeping many from the true underclass out of harm's way, as the cliché goes, but denying them access to the potential mobility of a stable military career - admittedly for a minority - with some of the perks that, among blue collar workers today, only civilian government employees and trade unionists typically enjoy. Many service veterans, on the other hand, have found that enticements offered them at the moment of recruitment, opportunities for a college education or skilled training transferable to the civilian job market, had been grossly exaggerated. Youth antiwar activists from communities of color, like Karim Lopez, with Uptown Youth for Peace and Justice in New York City, have found that a tactic of counter-recruitment around this pattern of misrepresentation is ideal, not just for warning potential service entrants of high school age about the inflated sales job by recruiters, but for "making a clear link between the cost of militarization, and an attack on young peoples' future," with the concomitant increases they will face in health care and higher education.

Resistance within the military also has it's honorable history, and, while only likely to become widespread in wars of long duration, like Vietnam, there have been some well publicized cases already during this period of militarization. Pacifist hotlines have been ringing off the hook with inquiries by active duty and reserve soldiers seeking information on how to apply for conscientious objector status. As recently as April 7th, one such applicant, Gabriel I. Johnson, was shipped out to Iraq from Ft.





Hood, Texas, even though his case is pending, "a clear violation of the Army's own rules," said his attorney Tod Ensign, director of Citizen Soldier in New York. There have been other rumblings at the front, with three British troopers reportedly sent home for opposing the indiscriminate killings of Iraqi civilians.

The veterans peace movement has grown steadily in this time of threatened and now real, war with Iraq. But can it be sustained with a reasonable level of visibility and consistency when this current episode in the endless series of little wars promised by the Bush Doctrine recedes from public view? Or will the vets' movement ebb and flow in sync with the geopolitical tide? Veterans For Peace was kept afloat barely following a precipitous decline in membership after 1991, David Cline believes, by its humanitarian work on postwar issues of reconciliation and healing, and projects like Friendship Village in Vietnam and the Iraq Water Project, which went beyond a strictly antiwar orientation. VVAW also kept it programmatic hand-in by working on readjustment issues and homelessness in the veteran community.

But another idea was broached and discussed by a number of veterans in Washington during Operation Dire Distress. And that was to explore the viability of engineering a certain breath and volume in the vets' movement by giving it a global profile, forging links as widely as possible with those whose involvement in veterans and GI resistance issues in their own countries is of long standing. This strategy would create a transnational infrastructure capable of mobilizing an occasionally somnolent membership in every corner of the world to oppose on quick notice the next U.S. inspired military adventure, and the one after that, and so on. To prevent this apparatus from becoming top heavy or think tanked within our own sphere there is no better model than the chapter structure of Veterans For Peace, with its practice of grassroots autonomy. For every doctrine.... an anti-doctrine..

*Michael Uhl is a writer living in Maine who served with the 11th Infantry in Vietnam.*

## Announcement: The Maine Peace Plate

Help the State of Maine make a statement in support of peace. The Maine Peace Plate is a movement is working to create a new license plate in the State of Maine. The plate would include the slogan "Work for Peace" and a graphic of a peace sign drawn by children. Of each year's registration, ten dollars would go to Maine groups working for peace. Register for your specialty auto tag today! Let your state legislators know that you want them to support this grassroots initiative.

Please visit our website at <http://www.mainepeaceplates.org> for the form and additional information. Contact [info@mainepeaceplates.org](mailto:info@mainepeaceplates.org) or call 581-3252 or 223-5517.

## The government and the mass media want YOU



**... to believe the war is over (but YOU know better)**

### Sundays

- Bar Harbor Peace Vigil**  
Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
Phone: 288-4365  
Location: Village Green, Bar Harbor
- Blue Hill Candlelight Vigil**  
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Email: [robbins@downeast.net](mailto:robbins@downeast.net)  
Location: Grounds of Town Hall, Main St. front lawn, Blue Hill
- Belfast Women In Black Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM  
Location: Southeast corner (Hayford Building) of High & Main St, Belfast
- Kennebunk Women in Black Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM  
Phone: 985-1459  
Location: Main and Water St, Kennebunk
- Rockland Peace Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
Phone: 273-3247  
Email: [tims@maine.greens.org](mailto:tims@maine.greens.org)  
Location: Park & Main St, Rockland
- Sanford Peace Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
Location: The park in the center of Sanford
- Skowhegan Vigil For Peace**  
Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Email: [ashahn@kynd.net](mailto:ashahn@kynd.net)  
Location: Downtown Skowhegan
- South Berwick Peace Vigil**  
Time: 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
Email: [renalasel@hotmail.com](mailto:renalasel@hotmail.com)  
Location: War Memorial, Rt 4, S. Berwick

### Mondays

- Portland Vigil For Peace**  
Time: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Location: Monument Square, Portland
- Deer Isle Peace Vigil**  
Time: 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
Phone: 348-2511  
Location: Rt 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 Bldg, Harlow St, Bangor  
Info: BYOC (Bring Your Own Candle)

### Wednesdays

- Newcastle Peace Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM - 12:15 PM  
Phone: 563-5416  
Location: Square Park, Newcastle
- Peace Action Maine Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM  
Phone: 772-0680  
Email: [jennifer@peaceactionme.org](mailto:jennifer@peaceactionme.org)  
Location: In front of Library, Portland
- Bucksport Peace Vigil**  
Time: 5:00 PM  
Phone: 469-3946  
Location: Municipal Bldg, Bucksport
- South Berwick Women In Black**  
Time: 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
Email: [tinuviel@lovenotwar.us](mailto:tinuviel@lovenotwar.us)  
Location: Salmon Falls bridge

### Thursdays

- Camden Women in Black Vigil**  
Time: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM  
Phone: 549-3061  
Location: Rt 1 & Atlantic Ave, Camden
- Augusta: Stand For Peace**  
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Location: State Street Rotary, Augusta

### Fridays

- Houlton "Stand for Peace" Silent Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM  
Phone: 532-4570  
Location: Monument Park (Near the Peace Pole), Houlton
- Farmington Women In Black**  
Time: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM  
Phone: 293-2580  
Location: Post Office, Farmington
- Augusta Peace Vigil**  
Time: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM  
Phone: 549-7516  
Location: Lithgow Library, Augusta
- Ellsworth Peace Vigil**  
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Phone: 667-0268  
Email: [eadams@downeast.net](mailto:eadams@downeast.net)  
Location: Bridge to Bucksport and Blue Hill, Ellsworth
- Brunswick Peace Vigil**  
Time: 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM  
Phone: 725-7675  
Location: Brunswick Mall, Brunswick

### Saturdays

- Norway Women in Black Vigil**  
Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Phone: 743-2183  
Email: [atwhit@megalink.net](mailto:atwhit@megalink.net)  
Location: Witherell Park, Norway
- Winthrop Peace Vigil**  
Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Phone: 685-9604  
Location: Post Office, Winthrop
- Houlton Peace Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM  
Phone: 532-3797  
Location: Monument Park (Near the Peace Pole), Houlton
- Eastport Peace Vigil**  
Time: 12:30 PM  
Email: [connoink@midmaine.com](mailto:connoink@midmaine.com)  
Location: Overlook Park, Eastport

### "Other"

- Downeast Vigil of Hope**  
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Phone: 546-2961  
Location: Steuben Green, Machias  
Info: Sponsored by Work for Peace. Occurs the 11th of each month. Call for exact locations

## Bridges for Peace

<http://www.peacebridges.org>  
Bridges on Sunday 12-1PM, unless otherwise specified.

- Augusta Bridges for Peace**  
Phone: 623-3761  
Location: Memorial Bridge
- Bath Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [rivers@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:rivers@lincoln.midcoast.com)  
Location: Sagadahoc
- Belfast Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [coverlock@hotmail.com](mailto:coverlock@hotmail.com)  
Location: Downtown
- Calais Bridges for Peace**  
Phone: 255-8635  
Location: Int'l Bridge
- Damariscotta Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [joebren@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:joebren@lincoln.midcoast.com)  
Location: Main St. Bridge
- Ellsworth Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [hcurran@downeast.net](mailto:hcurran@downeast.net)  
Location: Union River Bridge  
Time: 12-2 Sat & Sun, 5-6 Weekdays
- Falmouth Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [ladyofwoods@peoplepc.com](mailto:ladyofwoods@peoplepc.com)  
Location: Martin's Pt & Tukey's
- Farmington Bridges For Peace**  
Email: [rkimber@megalink.net](mailto:rkimber@megalink.net)  
Location: Center Bridge
- Lewiston Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [Reneec42@aol.com](mailto:Reneec42@aol.com)  
Location: Longley Memorial Bridge
- Lincolnton Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [cschool@cschool.acadia.net](mailto:cschool@cschool.acadia.net)  
Location: Ducktrap River Bridge
- Orono-Bangor Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [rivers@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:rivers@lincoln.midcoast.com)  
Location: Stillwater Bridge
- Portland Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [greg@peaceactionme.org](mailto:greg@peaceactionme.org)  
Location: Casco Bay Bridge
- Presque Isle Bridges for Peace**  
Phone: 563-8902  
Location: Aroostook River Bridge
- Rockland Bridges For Peace**  
Email: [sullboat@gwi.net](mailto:sullboat@gwi.net)  
Location: Main St.  
Time: 12-1 Sun, 5-6 Weekdays.
- Rockport Bridges For Peace**  
Email: [kathycan@kathycan.com](mailto:kathycan@kathycan.com)  
Location: Main St.
- Saco Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [gdumas@maine.rr.com](mailto:gdumas@maine.rr.com)  
Location: Elm St. Bridge
- Southport Bridges For Peace**  
Email: [goodwood@neonline.net](mailto:goodwood@neonline.net)  
Location: Drawbridge
- Thomaston Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [haviland@midcoast.com](mailto:haviland@midcoast.com)  
Location: St. George's River Bridge
- Topsham Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [frieden@gwi.net](mailto:frieden@gwi.net)  
Location: "Green" Bridge
- Vinalhaven Bridges for Peace**  
Phone: 563-8902  
Location: Mill Race Bridge  
Time: 11-12 Saturdays
- Waterville Bridges for Peace**  
Email: [rturcotte@midmaine.com](mailto:rturcotte@midmaine.com)  
Location: Bridge where KMD and Silver St. meet
- Westbrook Bridges For Peace**  
Email: [comingsgs@yahoo.com](mailto:comingsgs@yahoo.com)  
Location: Presumpscot River Bridge
- Wiscasset Bridges For Peace**  
Email: [adburt@wiscasset.net](mailto:adburt@wiscasset.net)  
Location: Davey Bridge



# D.I.Y. MEDIA

## HOW-TO GUIDES FOR MEDIA EDUCATION

### How To Create a Small Independent Newspaper

BY ALASDAIR POST-QUINN

*First, to dispel any illusions about why I am writing this piece, it is my hope that the Maine Commons will not be left by the wayside when I leave the state later this summer. It is clear that many people find it a valuable resource and opportunity for publication, but it also clear that many people see it as a resource to be consumed, not a project that needs help in order to continue. I would guess that the reason we have had so little serious response to our calls for help in the past few issues is that people are looking at the big picture and saying "I couldn't make time to do all that!" Rather, we would like people to look at the process as a series of smaller pieces that can easily be tackled individually, and put together by a team rather than a couple of overworked volunteers. But in order for the Maine Commons to make that transition, it is vital that people understand the work that goes into the paper.*

#### Make sure you have money to print

As long as we live in a capitalist society, you will be hard pressed to find a place that will print 10,000 copies of anything for free or trade, much less 10,000 copies of a 24-page newspaper. So it is of vital importance that before you waste a week or two of your time putting together a newspaper, you know that you have the money to print it, or will have it by the date you pick up the paper. Currently, the Maine Commons costs a little less than \$1,000 to print. With distribution and mailing costs, the total cost for each issue sometimes reaches as high as \$1,200 or \$1,300. If you use a larger format, better paper, color photos or more copies, check your price with the printer.

#### Find a printer and get a print date

We have been printing at the Kennebec Journal in Augusta since the beginning, despite numerous offers from other printers. The KJ is a union shop, prints on the highest-recycled-content paper they can get, and prints with soy-based ink. Their prices are also very reasonable for a small paper such as ours. This is not meant to be an "ad" for the KJ - by all means do your own research into prices and sizes and ethics. Print within your means, and don't pay more than you have to.

Printers generally appreciate you scheduling your print date well in advance. It's best to do it before starting the paper. If you have a deadline to meet, you should be able to work more efficiently because you have a known goal. Remember, however you deliver the final copy to the printer, you need to get it to them 2 or 3 days before the set print date so that their composing staff have time to troubleshoot, if needed, and render your copy to the acetates. Also, make sure that when you schedule the print date,

you specify how many pages and how many copies.

#### Start collecting content

This is often the most difficult part of the process because it is the one you have the least control over. A good thing to do is to set a firm deadline for collecting content. It may be best to set the deadline you publicize a little before you actually need the content, because nobody ever meets these sorts of deadlines. Nevertheless, you still need to meet yours with the printer.

It may be a good idea to set someone in charge of collecting articles and images, to take some of the burden off the actual Content Editor who is collecting and coordinating copy-editing of the received articles. One way the Maine Commons has relieved some of that pressure is by having other individuals who are responsible for finding or writing content for recurring columns, such as "BoundTogether," "Ability Maine Speaks," and "Prison Issues in Maine and Beyond." Rather than calling and emailing around to find suitable articles for those columns, the Content Editor needs only to be in touch with the coordinators of those columns for each issue. Ideally, an individual coordinator might be assigned to each area of the paper, such as the News Blurbs, the acrostics and Dear Revolutionary Abbys, the op/eds, the calendar, the DIY Media section, Feature articles, and the center pull-out section (when applicable). Then the Content Editor has a set group of people to contact, and a minimal amount of actual collecting to do, since that job has been distributed over a larger group.

Another important part of the content collection process is advertising. This issue has been a controversy since the beginning, but even though some people still think the Maine Commons shouldn't have to accept advertising for its funding, we have yet to find a better sustainable source of income. Up until now, the paper has not had large amounts of advertising because people have not been willing to solicit ads. I have no doubt that the paper would be able to sustain itself, and perhaps even make a profit to be used for other Maine Indymedia projects, if we could find some people who could find time (we are providing reimbursement for those who can give that time) to solicit ads. In order for the paper to merely sustain itself, it needs to have 10% of its pages used for advertising. We had decided that no more than 25% of the paper would ever be used for advertising, and at that capacity the paper would make a profit of \$1000 to \$2000 each issue, which could be put back into other projects. For those who say 25% is too much, keep in mind that many of the small independent papers - and even many of the large corporate papers - have ad coverage between 40% and 60%.

#### Proofread your content

Once you have all content in hand, it is vitally important that you have a number of people with a good grasp of the English language proofread your content. The more people who can proofread it, the less likely it is that a casual reader will spot a typo after the paper is printed and it's too late to do anything about it. Each proofreader should read and edit each article only once - it is too easy to gloss over the article while reading it a second time. For example, the Maine Commons' editors have had times when each has read all content twice, and typos still crop up. Reading out-loud helps.

#### Scan in and Edit your photos

Good, clear, visible photos are key to a readable newspaper. No matter how interesting the reading is, people have a hard time reading 120 square inches of 10-point type per page, so it's a good idea to have some graphical element or photograph to break up the visual monotony. If you receive hardcopy (not digital) photos, you'll need to scan them in. 300 dpi color scanning resolution is always recommended. No matter what the source, the photo will have to be converted to grayscale (unless you're printing in color, in which case it has to be CMYK), 180dpi, and the physical size of the box you're putting it into. It may be a good idea to leave the photo un-edited until you know exactly where it's going to go and what size box it's going to need. Because of ink saturation, it's also a good idea to bring up the brightness and contrast by about 20 or 30% before saving.

#### Make a dummy sheet

Once you have all content in hand, and everything is proofread and ready to lay out, begin to visualize the final outcome by sketching a small image of each page of the paper with boxes for the articles and the photos in the places where you'd like to see them. Remember to keep the length of the articles in mind as you draw your boxes, and don't be afraid to jump an article to another page. 2 jumps in an article is generally a no-no, but it can be done in extreme circumstances. If you notate the boxes with letters or numbers corresponding to the articles and photos, be sure you have a key made up on a separate page. If only one person is making the dummy sheet, have another person read it over before handing it to the Layout Editor to make sure it's not too confusing.

#### Begin layout

At the Maine Commons, we use Quark Xpress for layout, Adobe Photoshop for photo editing, and Adobe Acrobat for PDF rendering, but there are a number of other programs on the market that can be used. As of right now, there aren't any free programs that come close to the capabilities needed for this project, but there are some cheap ones. PageStream is a worthy inexpensive layout program that is out for all major platforms (including Linux); Paint Shop Pro is an excellent replacement for Photoshop, and there are some third-party PDF engines available.

I am not going to go into the detail of laying out the paper here - this would take a very long time. If you're not thoroughly comfortable with your layout program of choice, have a manual on hand, or have a teacher or mentor help you through the rough parts. If all content is available immediately and there is a comprehensive dummy sheet, a competent layout editor should be able to put together an entire 24-page paper in only a few hours. But this is not an ideal world, and the Layout Editor is rarely given all the material on time, and, in the case of the Maine Commons, the layout editor works without a dummy sheet to save paper.

#### Read-through!

Just when you thought all the proof-reading was over ... it comes back to haunt you. When the paper is entirely laid out, at least one or two people should read over the whole thing from start to finish. This is time-consuming work, and it helps if the people have not already been involved in proofing before this step, again because it is very easy to begin "skimming" if you've already read an article. This is also a good time to check and make sure all the "jumps" (i.e. where an article jumps from one page to another) are notated correctly.

#### Render to PDF

We generally do two PDF versions of the Maine Commons - one high-quality render to be sent to the printer, and one lower-quality render only to be viewed on the web. Using the Acrobat PDFWriter as a virtual printer, set the DPI as high as it goes (generally 600dpi), embed all fonts, and set images to low compression. Save, and "print" again, this time using 300dpi and high compression for the images. The two files will be radically different sizes - the larger one is to send to the printer, and the smaller one for uploading to the web.

#### Double-check your PDF

Open your PDF file in Acrobat, skim through and make sure all the images came out correctly, all the fonts are as they were intended, and that the paper in general looks the way it should. This is your last chance to correct any mistakes. It is not unusual to have to render the PDF files two or three times before sending them to the printer. In order to check the text, activate the Text Touch-up tool in Acrobat and click once on each font. Make sure that the "Embed" box is checked for all fonts. Some fonts can't be embedded, so you may have to find another font in some rare situations.

#### Send the PDF to the printer

Get info from your printer on how to send them the PDF file, or, if you have a printer that doesn't take digital files, figure out with the printer how to get the final copy to them. Most printers these days take digital copy because most independent newspapers don't have the capability to print full-size sheets, and very few are still being laid out by hand. It is a good idea to call someone in the composing room to let them know the PDF is sent, and ask them to call you if there are any problems.



At this point, the paper is out of your hands, and you can sit back and wait for a call from the printer on your print date. If you don't get a call, don't hesitate to call the printer and find out an estimated time of day for pickup.

#### Pick up your paper

This generally requires some large vehicles or several trips. 10,000 papers is doable for a large station wagon or small pickup, but make sure your rear shocks are in good shape and that the papers won't get soaked if it rains/snows. Try to minimize the number of people who pick up the paper - it gets confusing for the printer and for you. Get all the stacks to a single reliable storage place and make sure you know how many are being taken by whom and to where.

#### Distribution

This is a whole other can of worms. Distribution of the Maine Commons is done by a loosely-knit network of volunteers across the state. Depending on who has the time to do what areas, some areas that are well covered with one issue may be less well covered with the next. Distributors may change from issue to issue, and communication between "old" distributors and "new" ones often ranges from lax to nonexistent. Clearly, this is not a good situation. A good distribution network has an active central coordinator who can keep track of where stacks are going from the central storage area. The only people who come and retrieve stacks from this area should be the regional coordinators, or people couriering for them. The regional distribution coordinators should redistribute their stacks to local distributors who have set routes that take issues of the paper into places where they are both wanted and most accessible to the widest variety of people. Distributors who drop papers in places where they are not welcome are only harming the paper's chances of survival since valuable copies only end up in the trash. Of course, it's OK to use small numbers of papers to infiltrate unlikely places like Wal-Mart magazine racks and government office waiting rooms.

Papers also must be sent to subscribers, which requires plenty of work in and of itself - the usual labeling, stamping, stuffing and licking large envelopes. You can also send full or partial stacks by mail to remote areas where you have distributors but nobody to shuttle the papers to those distributors. The mailing costs will add to the final cost of the paper.

Currently, because of the human factor, this whole process takes a couple of weeks, at least, from start to finish. We believe that the process could be cut down to a week if we could get enough people to tackle the individual parts. Once the process becomes fluid, and we have more advertising revenue, perhaps we can think about going fully monthly. Maine Indymedia is based on initiative -- don't just wait for someone to tell you what to do. If you want to become part of this whole process, email [editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org) or call us at (207) 649-5980. (While I'm leaving at the end of the summer, Hillary and other folks will be around to help you get involved.)

## A Complete list of Farmers' Markets in Maine

please call for exact location, food stamp acceptance, and other info  
If this "complete" listing is in any way incomplete or incorrect, please email [editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org)

#### Athens Open Farmers Market

Open: Saturdays - 9-5  
starting 3rd Saturday in May thru the fall

#### Auburn Mall Farmers' Market

Open: Thurs 9AM - 3PM; Sat 9AM - 3PM  
Phone: 336-2411

#### Augusta Farmers' Market

Open: Wed 9 am - noon; Sat 9 am - noon  
Phone: 549-5112

#### Augusta River Market

Open: Saturday: 9:00-2:00 starting end of May; Tuesday: 2:00-6:00 starting in June  
Phone: 626-0514

#### Bangor: European Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Phone: 326-4741

#### Bar Harbor Eden Farmers' Market

Open: Sunday 10:00 - 1:00  
Phone: 223-2293

#### Bath Farmers' Market

Open: Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.;  
Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Phone: 586-5067

#### Belfast Farmers' Market

Open: Tuesday 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Phone: 342-2723

#### Belfast New Farmers' Market

Open: Tuesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Phone: 722-3303

#### Bethel Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon  
Phone: 824-0634

#### Blue Hill Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Phone: 359-4487

#### Boothbay Farmers' Market

Open: Thursday 9 am - Noon  
Phone: 737-8834

#### Bowdoinham Farmers' Market

Open: Fridays 3 pm - 7 pm  
Phone: 737-7557

#### Brewer Farmers' Market

Open: Tuesday-Friday 8 am to 1 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am to 3 pm  
Phone: 948-5724

#### Bridgton Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Phone: 642-5161

#### Brunswick Farmers' Market

Open: Tues 8 am - 3 pm at Brunswick Mall; Fri 8 am - 3 pm at Brunswick Mall; Sat 9 am - 12:30 pm Crystal Springs Farm  
Phone: 666-3116

#### Calais Farmers' Market

Open: Tuesday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Phone: 853-4750

#### Camden Farmers' Market

Open: Wed 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Mid June-Sept; Sat 9 a.m. - noon mid May - end Oct  
Phone: 549-7070

#### Camden Winter Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday 9 am - noon  
Phone: 563-1076

#### Caribou Farmers' Market

Open: 7 Days a week. (Saturdays only in early June and September)  
Email: [info@cariboumaine.net](mailto:info@cariboumaine.net)

#### Corinna Farmers' Market

Open: Fridays 2 pm to 6 pm.  
Phone: 683-2466

#### Cumberland Farmers' Market

Open: Sat 8:30 am-12:30 pm, Cumberland Center; Wed 3:00 pm- 6:00 pm, Falmouth  
Phone: 829-5588

#### Damariscotta Area Farmers' Market

Open: Mon 9 am-Noon, June 23 thru Aug. 25; Fri 9 am-Noon, May 16 to Oct. 31  
Phone: 549-5112

#### Deer Isle/Stonington Farmers' Market

Open: Friday 10-noon  
Phone: 326-4741

#### Dexter Farmers' Market

Open: Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Phone: 924-7900

#### Eastport Farmers' Market

Open: Thursday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Phone: 853-4750

#### Ellsworth Farmers' Market

Open: Mon 2 pm - 5:30 pm; Thurs 2 pm - 5:30 pm; Sat 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Phone: 667-9212

#### Fairfield Farmers' Market

Open: Wed 2 pm - 6 pm; Sat 9 am - Noon  
Phone: 948-5724

#### Falmouth Farmers' Market

Open: Wednesday 3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Phone: 846-4405

#### Fort Fairfield Farmers' Market

Open: Monday - Friday, 11 am - 4 pm  
Phone: 473-7786

#### Fort Kent Farmers' Market

Open: Tues & Thurs all day;  
Sat 6 am - sell out  
Phone: 834-6399

#### Hallowell Sunday Market

Open: Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm  
Phone: 622-6582

#### Hampden Farmers' Market

Open: Sat 10:00 am-1:00 p.m. (May 24-Oct); Thurs 5:15 pm-7:30 pm (June 28-Aug 22)  
Phone: 862-4075

#### Houlton Farmers' Market

Open: Daily from before noon till items gone  
Phone: 794-8306

#### Houlton Mkt Square Farmers' Market

Open: Thurs 8:30 - 6:00 or until sold out.  
Phone: 448-2037

#### Islesboro Cooperative Farmers' Market

Open: Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Phone: 722-3303

#### Jonesport Area Farmers' Market

Open: Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (start June 12); Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Phone: 497-3431

#### Kennebunk Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Phone: 646-5926

#### Machias Valley Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon; Other days by chance, in height of season.  
Phone: 638-2664

#### Milbridge Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday: 9:00 - 12:00  
Phone: 546-2395

#### Naples Farmers' Market

Open: Thursday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Phone: 642-5161

#### Northeast Harbor Farmers' Market

Open: Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Phone: 223-2293

#### Norway Farmers' Market

Open: Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Phone: 539-4848

#### Orono Farmers' Market

Open: Tues 2:00 pm. - 5:30 pm, July 9-Oct 29; Sat 8 am - 1 pm, May 11-Nov 16  
Phone: 285-3581

#### Palermo Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday: 9:00 to 1:00  
Phone: 993-6277

#### Perry Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Phone: 853-4750

#### Pittsfield Farmers' Market

Open: Mon 2 pm-6 pm; Thurs 2 pm-6 pm  
Phone: 487-5056

#### Pittsfield Winter Farmers' Market

Open: Thursdays: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Phone: 487-5056

#### Portland Farmers' Market

Open: Wednesday 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Saturday 7 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Phone: 883-5750

#### Portland: Maine Mall Farmers' Market

Open: Fridays 2 pm - 6 pm  
Phone: 929-3248

#### Portsmouth Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Phone: 603-659-3902

#### Presque Isle Farmer's Market

Open: Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Phone: 896-5860

#### Rockland Farmers' Market

Open: Thursday 9 am - 1 pm  
Phone: 785-3810

#### Saco Farmers' and Artisans' Market

Open: Wed 7 a.m.-Noon; Sat 7 a.m.-Noon  
Phone: 929-5318

#### Sandy River Farmers' Market

Open: Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Phone: 778-3115

#### Searsport Farmers' Market

Open: Friday  
Phone: 323-3249

#### Skowhegan All Natural Farmers' Market

Open: Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Phone: 938-3906

#### Springvale/Sanford Farmers' Market

Open: Wed 8 a.m.-Noon; Sat 8 a.m.-Noon  
Phone: 324-0331

#### Turner: Nezinscot Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday 10 am - 2 pm  
Phone: 225-3231

#### Unity Market Day Farmers' Market

Open: Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Phone: 948-9005

#### Warren Farmers' Market

Open: Friday: 2:30 to 5:30  
Phone: 832-5789

#### Westbrook Farmers' Market

Open: Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Phone: 854-9105

#### Winslow Farmers' Market

Open: Thursday 2:00 to 6 p.m.  
Phone: 861-3900

#### Winthrop Farmers' Market

Open: Tuesday (starting in June) 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Phone: 395-4244



# Maine Solidarity Calendar

May 15 - July 22nd, 2003 (updated and with more info at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>)

## Thursday, May 15th

### Health Care Rally

Time: 12:00 PM  
Phone: 1-866-626-7059  
Location: Between Cross Office Building and Capitol Building, Augusta  
Info: Rally for affordable health care. Followed by a Public Hearing at 1PM.

### "Good Kurds, Bad Kurds"

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Phone: 623-0427  
Location: Unitarian-Universalist Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta.  
Info: Video on struggle of Kurds for freedom and maintaining their culture.

## Friday, May 16th

### Brazil Delegation Presentation / Potluck

Time: 6:00PM  
Phone: 946-4478  
Location: Androscoggin Grange, Greene  
Info: Presentation by the Maine solidarity-delegation to Brazil, read more pg 15. Potluck dinner. Contradance at 8:00 with Snapdragon.

### "Depleted Uranium: What You Don't Know Will Kill You!"

Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 667-7112  
Email: [eadams@downeast.net](mailto:eadams@downeast.net)  
Location: Unitarian Universalist Church, Ellsworth  
Info: Free presentation.

## Saturday, May 17th

### Peace Action Maine Annual Meeting

Phone: 772-0680  
Email: [peaceactionme@peaceactionme.org](mailto:peaceactionme@peaceactionme.org)  
Location: United Methodist Church, 320 Church Rd., Brunswick  
Info: Peace Action Maine annual meeting w/potluck and panel, "Where Do We Go from Here?"

### No Diet! Day Clothing Swap

Time: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Phone: 989-3306  
Location: 31 Fern St., Bangor  
Info: Greater Bangor National Organization for Women International No Diet! Day clothing Swap for all large sizes.

### WERU Anniversary Party

Time: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Phone: 469-6600  
Email: [info@weru.org](mailto:info@weru.org)  
Web: [www.weru.org](http://www.weru.org)  
Location: WERU, Rt. 1, East Orland  
Info: Open House Potluck Live Music! Free!

### Reading by Disability Rights Author, Sharon Wachslar

Time: 7:00 PM  
Contact: Ability Maine  
Phone: 207-645-2162, or 207-832-4754  
Web: [www.abilitymaine.org](http://www.abilitymaine.org)  
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 209 Eastern Ave., Augusta  
Info: Sliding scale donation requested.

## Sunday, May 18th

### K'Port 9/11 Chautauqua

Time: 1:00PM - 7:30 PM  
Phone: 967-2390  
Email: [kubiak@nancho.net](mailto:kubiak@nancho.net)  
Web: [www.countercoup.us](http://www.countercoup.us)  
Location: Atlantic Hall, Main crossroads next to the church, Cape Porpoise, Kennebunkport  
Info: A Citizens' Inquiry into September 11th, the Corporate Coup and the Restoration of Democracy. With: Kyle



200 workers and supporters gather at the Central Labor Council's Solidarity Benefit Dinner for Great Northern Workers, March 8th in Brewer.

Hence, Doris "Granny D" Haddock, Ethan Miller, Lawrence Britt & Catherine Austin Fitts.

### Good Jobs for Maine: A Justice Issue

Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 942-6781  
Email: [ironan@bts.edu](mailto:ironan@bts.edu)  
Location: Bangor Theological Seminary  
Info: Panel Discussion with Rep. Sean Faircloth and Lisa Pohlmann of the Maine Center for Economic Policy. Free.

### "Palestine is Still the Issue"

Time: 7:00 PM  
Email: [MamarinMaine@aol.com](mailto:MamarinMaine@aol.com)  
Location: Skidompha Library, Damariscotta  
Info: Free Film

### PISSED OFF FEST!

Time: 3:00 PM  
Email: [loveandstrife@cbgb.net](mailto:loveandstrife@cbgb.net)  
Location: Someone's House, Box 8049 Warren Rd, Pittston  
Info: 11 punk bands. \$5, \$4 with a book for Maine Books to Prisoners.

## Wednesday, May 21st

### "The Allagash"

Time: 6:00 PM  
Phone: 338-4920  
Location: Belfast Library, Belfast  
Info: Slide show about Allagash wilderness issues.

## Friday, May 23rd

### Wildgathering!

Phone: 654-2879  
Location: Athens Fairgrounds, Athens  
Information: A celebration in honor of the Wild Earth. Lasts through May 25th.

### "Unprecedented"

Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 942-9343  
Location: Peace and Justice Center, 170 Park St., Bangor  
Info: Video on the 2000 presidential election and the undermining of democracy.

## Saturday, May 24th

### Aegis Destroyer Launch Protest Planning Meeting

Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Email: [JAFABUSSELL@aol.com](mailto:JAFABUSSELL@aol.com)  
Location: Conference Room, Library, 45 Winthrop St, Augusta  
Info: Actions are being planned to protest

the launch of the new Aegis Destroyer by General Dynamics-owned Bath Iron Works on (probably, but could change) Aug 9th.

## Tuesday, May 27th

### USA PATRIOT Act Forum

Time: 6:00PM  
Phone: 594-1478  
Email: [athearn2@earthlink.net](mailto:athearn2@earthlink.net)  
Location: Rockland Public Library  
Info: Forum on civil liberties and the USA PATRIOT Act.

## Saturday, May 31st

### Green Futures Fair

Phone: 338-0579  
Location: Waterfront Park, Belfast  
Info: Free, all day.

## Saturday, June 7th

### HERB FEST 2003

Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Phone: (207) 639-2005  
Web: <http://www.entwoodnursery.com>  
Location: MOFGA Fairgrounds, Unity  
Info: Admission: \$6 (12 and under free)

## Saturday, June 14th

### The Maine Fiber Frolic

Phone: 698-4878  
Email: [info@fiberfrolic.com](mailto:info@fiberfrolic.com)  
Web: <http://www.fiberfrolic.com>  
Location: Windsor Fairgrounds  
Info: Fleece/Fiber, Marketplace, Workshops, Speakers, Kids Area. June 14th and 15th.

## Friday, June 20th

### Rethinking Corporations

Phone: 594-6453  
Email: [mamarinmaine@aol.com](mailto:mamarinmaine@aol.com)  
Location: High School, Belfast  
Info: Call or email to register. Runs thru Sat. June 21st. See pg. 5 for more info.

### Suzanne Westenhoefer Lesbian Comedian Performance

Time: 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
Phone: 338-6935  
Email: [mlgpa@rcn.com](mailto:mlgpa@rcn.com)  
Location: Troy Howard Middle School, Belfast  
Info: Benefit for the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance Foundation.

## Saturday, June 21st

### Annual Maine Outright Youth Summit

Phone: 621-6393  
Email: [centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com](mailto:centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com)  
Web: [maineaidnetwork.com/outright/youth1.htm](http://maineaidnetwork.com/outright/youth1.htm)  
Location: Unity College, Unity  
Info: Weekend-long over night event attended by GLBTQ people 22 and under from Maine. Dances, Contests, Talent shows. Workshops on Drag, Transgender, Safe Sex, Relationships, Culture, free time, food and games. Lasts through June 22nd.

## Sunday, June 22nd

### Women's Ride for Heart Health

Phone: 623-4511  
Email: [bcm@bikemaine.org](mailto:bcm@bikemaine.org)  
Web: [www.bikemaine.org](http://www.bikemaine.org)  
Location: Skowhegan, ME  
Info: Call to preregister. 5, 10, and 20 mile rides.

### Brazil Delegation Presentation

Time: 2:00PM  
Phone: 946-4478  
Location: Rote Farm, 1326 Rt 129, South Bristol  
Info: Presentation by the Maine solidarity delegation to Brazil. Read more pg.15.

## Thursday, June 26th

### National HIV Testing Day (June 26)

Phone: 207-990-3626, 1-800-429-1481  
Email: [Aidsntwkeduc1@aol.com](mailto:Aidsntwkeduc1@aol.com)  
Web: <http://www.nhtd.org>  
Info: The Eastern Maine AIDS Network will be offering HIV Antibody Testing at 60% off of the normal fee for the month of June 2003 as well as many FREE HIV tests and needle-free tests.

## Friday, July 4th

### Central Labor Council Fourth of July Celebration

Phone: 947-4203  
Location: GBA-CLC Union Hall 20 Ayer Street, Brewer  
Info: Free celebration with music, food, crafts, and more!

### In Spite of Life Players Fourth of July

Time: Late Morning  
Location: Gravel Pit, West Athens  
Info: Annual parade and play by In Spite of Life Players

## Friday, July 11th

### Maine International Film Festival

Phone: 207.861.8138  
Email: [info@miff.org](mailto:info@miff.org)  
Web: <http://www.miff.org>  
Location: Railroad Square Cinema 10 Railroad Square, Waterville  
Info: The 6th Annual Maine International Film Festival. Through July 20th

## Tuesday, July 22nd

### Burdock!

Phone: 649-5980  
Email: [burdock@riseup.net](mailto:burdock@riseup.net)  
Location: Starks  
Info: A (free) Gathering For A Free and Sustainable Future. Workshops, Camping, Food, Music, Childcare, Swimming, More! Lasts through July 29th.

### Open Farm Day

Phone: 287-3871  
Email: [getrealmaine@state.me.us](mailto:getrealmaine@state.me.us)  
Web: <http://www.getrealmaine.com/fairs>  
Location: All Over the State





# Maine Solidarity Calendar

## Saturday, August 9th

### Aegis Destroyer Launch & Protest Actions

Date Could Likely Change.  
For more info, see page 18

## Monthly Repeating Events

### Mondays

#### Maine Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty

Phone: 884-7407  
Location: Canterbury House, Orono  
Info: Meets 1st Monday of each month.

#### Free Space Free School

Time: 5:30 PM  
Email: [peoplesfreespace@riseup.net](mailto:peoplesfreespace@riseup.net)  
Web: <http://pfs.dod.net>  
Location: Portland West, 181 Brackett St., Portland  
Info: 1st Mondays. Potluck starts at 5:30, Workshops begin at 6:30. Contact us if you want to offer a workshop.

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:s_lauchlan@hotmail.com)  
Location: UU Church, 37 Miller St, Belfast  
Info: Meets 1st Tuesday each month.

### Wednesdays

#### REEL Men Gathering

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

### People's Free Space Meeting

Time: 7:30 PM  
Location: Portland West, 181 Brackett St, Portland  
Info: We are organizing a community space in Portland. Come to get involved & offer input. Every 1st Wednesday is Movie Night. Every 3rd Wednesday is a film and discussion night.

### Thursdays

#### MAIN Statewide Monthly Meeting

Time: 9:00AM - Noon  
Phone: 947-4371  
Location: MEJP Office, Sewall St, Augusta  
Info: Low-income rights group. No meetings in July & August.

#### Peninsula P & J potluck supper

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

#### Northern Lambda Nord Meeting

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

#### Ellsworth Area Peace & Justice Meeting

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

### Saturdays

#### SisterSpace

Time: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Phone: 878-2152  
Email: [sisterspace@yahoo.com](mailto:sisterspace@yahoo.com)  
Location: Williston-West Church, 32 Thomas St, Portland  
Info: A Lesbian Social Group in Southern Maine. Last Saturday of the month. Call to confirm.

#### Northern Regional MAIN Meeting

Phone: 947-4371  
Location: Methodist Church, Orono  
Info: Low-income rights group. Call to check when meeting is taking place.

## Weekly Repeating Events

### Sundays

#### Food Not Bombs Meal

Time: 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM  
Email: [wynken\\_blinken@hotmail.com](mailto:wynken_blinken@hotmail.com)  
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 lookout for more members!

#### GLBTQ Congregation Services

Time: 4:00 PM  
Phone: 621-2658  
Web: [www.northernlightsmcc.com](http://www.northernlightsmcc.com)  
Location: Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church, Riverside Drive, Vassalboro  
Info: An all-inclusive church meaning that all religions are represented in the congregation, including Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish.

### 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.

#### Bangor Outright Meeting

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

#### Women's Writing Group

Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 761-0114  
Email: [personalpolitical@hotmail.com](mailto:personalpolitical@hotmail.com)  
Location: Portland Yacht, 58 Fore Street, Bldg #6, 2nd Floor, Portland  
Info: Meets every 2nd and 4th Monday. Women of all ages, backgrounds and abilities get together to share their ideas, stories and talent in a relaxed, supportive environment. Bring paper and pen. Free to the public.

### Tuesdays

#### Portland Outright Meeting

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

#### Rt. 1 Advocacy Group

Time: 7:00 PM  
Email: [stevbee@midcoast.com](mailto:stevbee@midcoast.com)  
Location: Historical Society, 225 Main St., Warren  
Info: Group dedicated to protesting & researching alternatives to the DOT's Rt. 1 widening project. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays.

#### Gay Men's Support Group Meeting

Time: 7:00 PM  
Email: [centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com](mailto:centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com)  
Location: UU Church, Augusta

### Wednesdays

#### Farmington Gay/Straight Alliance

Time: 6:00 PM  
Phone: 778-7379  
Location: 119B Psychology Building (the old white church) Main St., Farmington  
Info: Meetings are open to all ages, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and allies.

#### Let Cuba Live Meetings

Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 273-3247  
Email: [stevbee@midcoast.com](mailto:stevbee@midcoast.com)  
Web: <http://www.letcubalive.org>  
Info: Usually takes place at the 55 Plus Center in Brunswick, but people should call or email first. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.

#### UMPI Rainbow Alliance

Time: 7:00 PM  
Email: [rolloffd@polaris.umpi.maine.edu](mailto:rolloffd@polaris.umpi.maine.edu)  
Location: First Floor Lounge, Normal Hall UMaine Presque Isle  
Info: Healthy, open, & safe social and informational environment to the gay community in and around UMPI.

### Thursdays

#### MDI United For Peace

Time: 7:00 PM  
Contact: Jeff or Kyla  
Phone: 288-8199  
Email: [mdiaagainsthewar@hotmail.com](mailto:mdiaagainsthewar@hotmail.com)  
Web: [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/mdiunitedforpeace](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/mdiunitedforpeace)  
Location: Bar Harbor YWCA, Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor

#### Central Maine Outright Meeting

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

### Fridays

#### Portland Q&A

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

#### Lewiston/Auburn Outright

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

#### Portland Outright Meeting

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

#### Downeast Outright Meeting

Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Phone: 667-3506  
Email: [dean@downeast.net](mailto:dean@downeast.net)  
Location: 25A Pine St, Ellsworth  
Info: Every 1st and 3rd Friday. Safe drop-in space and meeting for GLBTQ youth ages 22 and under.

#### Coastal Outright Meeting

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

### Saturdays

#### PORTLAND COMMONS: Common Issues for the Common Good

Time: 11:00AM & 7:00 PM  
Phone: 831-1402  
Email: [edemocracy@hotmail.com](mailto:edemocracy@hotmail.com)  
Web: <http://www.portlandcommons.org>  
Location: CHANNEL 2 - Portland Public Access Center, 100 Oak Street, Portland  
Info: Monthly social justice public access cable TV show on Channel 2 in Portland. Portland Commons airs a NEW LIVE! show the 1st SAT each month and the taped show airs every SAT @ 11am & 7pm.



## MEDIA ACTION ALERT!

On June 2, the Federal Communications Commission plans to vote on whether to relax the rules for owning American news media.

If the FCC relaxes the rules for media ownership, one company in a community would be able to own the local newspaper, several TV and radio stations, and the cable TV system. There would be fewer owners of networks, stations, and newspapers nationwide. The public's ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints would be compromised. It would likely result in higher costs for businesses that advertise in local media, and those costs would likely be passed onto consumers.

A healthy democracy is best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. When the folks at media action organizations have talked to Congresspeople about this issue, the response is usually the same: "We only hear from media lobbyists on this. It seems like my constituents aren't very concerned with this issue." A few hundred phone calls help permanently change that perception. Tell Congress and the FCC to preserve current media ownership rules for the sake of competition and diversity.

Call:  
Rep Mike Michaud (2nd District) (207) 942-6935  
Rep Tom Allen (1st District) (207) 774-5019  
FCC 1-888-225-5322  
Find out more: Consumers Union (914) 378-2000, [www.consumersunion.org](http://www.consumersunion.org)

## A Listing of Maine's Agricultural Fairs

### Thursday, July 3rd

**Houlton Fair**  
Contact: 532 - 4315  
Web: [www.houltonfair.com](http://www.houltonfair.com)  
Location: 25 Chandler St, Houlton  
Info: Runs thru Sun. July 6th

### Sunday, July 6th

**Cornish Fair**  
Contact: Joan Bettencourt, P.O. Box 158, Cornish, Maine 04020

### Thursday, July 10th

**Ossipee Valley Fair (Hiram)**  
Contact: Kathleen Haley, Box 20, Limington, Maine 04049  
Info: Runs thru Sun. July 13th

### Thursday, July 17th

**Pittston Fair**  
Contact: Hope Ricker, RR 4 Box 7705, Gardiner, Maine 04345-0351  
Info: Runs thru Sun, July 20th

### Friday, July 25th

**World's Fair (No. Waterford)**  
Contact: Tim Cote, P.O. Box 44, Minot, Maine 04258-0044  
Info: Runs thru Sun., July 27th

**Bangor State Fair**  
Contact: Mike Dyer, 100 Dutton St., Bangor, Maine, 04401  
Web: [www.bangorstatefair.com](http://www.bangorstatefair.com)  
Info: Runs thru Sun., Aug. 3rd

**Northern Maine Fair (Presque Isle)**  
Contact: John Churchill, PO Box 804, Presque Isle, Maine 04769  
Info: Runs thru Sat. Aug 2nd.

### Wednesday, July 30th

**Monmouth Fair**  
Contact: Rhonda Smith, 309 Cobboosee Road, Monmouth, Maine 04259  
Info: Runs thru Sat. Aug. 2nd.

### Friday, August 1st

**Athens Fair**  
Contact: Sylvia Judd, PO Box 100, Athens, Maine 04912  
Info: Runs thru Sun. Aug. 3rd.

### Sunday, August 3rd

**Topsham Fair**  
Contact: Helen Galloway, Rhoades Lane, Topsham, Maine 04086  
Info: Runs thru Sat. Aug. 9th.

### Thursday, August 7th

**Skowhegan State Fair**  
Contact: Lorraine Nunn, P.O. Box 39, Skowhegan, Maine 04976-0039  
Web: [www.skowheganstatefair.com](http://www.skowheganstatefair.com)  
Info: Runs thru Sat. Aug. 16th.

### Saturday, August 9th

**WERU Full Circle Summer Fair**  
Phone: 469-6600  
Web: <http://www.weru.org/events.html>  
Location: Fairgrounds, Blue Hill  
Info: Runs thru Sun. Aug. 10th.

### Sunday, August 17th

**Union Fair**  
Contact: Ralph Miller, 25 Miller Farm, Rockport, ME 04856  
Web: [www.unionfair.org](http://www.unionfair.org)  
Info: Runs thru Sat. Aug. 23rd.

### Thursday, August 21st

**Piscataquis Valley Fair (Dover-Foxcroft)**  
Contact: Scott Taylor, P.O. Box 197, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426  
Info: Runs thru Sun. Aug. 24th.

**Acton Fair**  
Contact: Lista Staples, 178 Nason Rd., Shapleigh, Maine 04076  
Info: Runs thru Sun. Aug. 24th.

### Sunday, August 24th

**Windsor Fair**  
Contact: Lincoln Orff, P.O. Box 971, Jefferson, Maine 04348-0971  
Web: [www.windsorfair.com](http://www.windsorfair.com)  
Info: Runs thru Mon. Sept. 1st.

### Thursday, August 28th

**Blue Hill Fair**  
Contact: Robert Eaton, P.O. Box 390, Blue Hill, Maine 04614-0390.  
Web: [www.geocities.com/bluehill\\_fair](http://www.geocities.com/bluehill_fair)  
Info: Runs thru Mon. Sept 1st.

**Springfield Fair**  
Contact: Kevin Ritchie, RFD # 1 Box 430, Lee, Maine 04455  
Info: Runs thru Mon. Sept. 1st.

### Saturday, August 30th

**Harmony Fair**  
Contact: Mel Chadbourne, 177 Chadbourne Rd, Harmony, ME 04942  
Info: Runs thru Tues. Sept. 2nd.

### Thursday, Sept 4th

**Clinton Lions Fair**  
Contact: Jon Whitten, Sr, RFD # 2, Box 3750, Clinton, Maine 04927  
Info: Runs thru Sun. Sept. 7th.

### Friday, Sept 5th

**Litchfield Fair**  
Contact: G. David Byras, 127 Dennis Hill Road, Litchfield, ME 04350  
Info: Runs thru Sun. Sept. 7th.

### Sunday, Sept 7th

**Oxford County Fair**  
Contact: Elaine Emery, Box 231, West Paris, Maine 04276-0231  
Web: [www.oxfordcountyfair.com](http://www.oxfordcountyfair.com)  
Info: Runs thru Sat. Sept. 13th.

### Thursday, Sept 11th

**New Portland Lions Fair**  
Contact: John Duff, 6 Winter Drive, Embden, ME 04958  
Info: Runs thru Sun. Sept. 14th.

### Sunday, Sept 14th

**Farmington Fair**  
Contact: Neal Yeaton, 229 So. Strong Road, Farmington, ME 04938-5103.  
Info: Runs thru Sat. Sept. 20th.

### Friday, Sept 19th

**Common Ground Country Fair (Unity)**  
Contact: MOFGA 568-4142  
Web: [www.mofga.org](http://www.mofga.org)  
Info: Runs thru Sun. Sept. 21st.

### Sunday, Sept 21st

**Cumberland Fair**  
Contact: Francis Small, 6 Crossing Brook Rd., Cumberland, Me. 04021  
Web: [www.cumberlandfair.com](http://www.cumberlandfair.com)  
Info: Runs thru Sat. Sept. 27th.

### Sunday, Sept 28th

**Fryeburg Fair**  
Contact: June Hammond, Box 78, Fryeburg, Maine 04037  
Web: [www.fryeburgfair.com](http://www.fryeburgfair.com)  
Info: Runs thru Sun. Oct. 5th.

## Wal-Mart Update

From BACORD

### BEP VOTES TO REJECT WIDEWATERS LAST-MINUTE ATTEMPT TO WITHDRAW THEIR APPLICATION.

### IN FINAL DENIAL VOTE, THE BEP REAFFIRMS ITS MARCH 20 DECISION TO DENY THE WIDEWATERS APPLICATION FOR A WAL-MART SUPERSTORE.

In a tremendous victory for BACORD and for co-intervenor Maine Audubon Society, the Maine Board of Environmental Protection voted 6-2 yesterday (5/8/03) to reject an attempt by Widewaters, a New York-based developer, to withdraw their Wal-Mart superstore site application just before a scheduled final vote on the BEP's denial order. This precedent-setting vote was then followed by a 5-3 vote ratifying and approving the BEP denial order which outlines the history of the project, articulates its major issues, and explains the detailed reasons for the BEP's denial of the proposed Wal-Mart superstore project, located near the Penjajawoc Marsh in Bangor. The board had earlier voted (5-3) on March 20, 2003, to deny the project, and had directed the BEP staff to draft a denial order.

Widewaters sent a letter earlier this week to the BEP announcing that it was withdrawing its application. This was a clear and stunning attempt to circumvent the BEP's decision-making processes, and to avoid having formal criteria established regarding development near natural resource wildlife areas and near the Penjajawoc Marsh in particular. Widewaters also apparently hoped to resubmit the application to the newly constituted BEP within a few weeks in hopes of getting a better decision. Assistant Attorney General Peggy McCloskey advised the Board that they did have the necessary discretion and authority to reject a withdrawal attempt under the circumstances. Given that both intervenors (BACORD and Maine Audubon) were opposing the withdrawal, and given that months of public hearings and testimony had already taken place, the Board agreed that they should vote on the denial order and that Widewaters could not short-circuit the process of final determination by a last-minute withdrawal. Since there have been no specific rules in place addressing this issue, the Maine Attorney General's office advised that a comparable legal case in Vermont could be used as a basis of legal guidance. The Board's vote to assert their own control over their decision making processes was hence setting an important precedent in Maine.

While it is still possible that Widewaters may appeal this decision, it is a major and significant step in developing adequate protection for critical natural resources such as the Penjajawoc Marsh, and it puts developers on notice that they must take the site application review process seriously.

BACORD will be exploring next steps over the next few weeks and months, as we also continue to work on paying outstanding legal bills. Our attorney, Edward Gould (of the Bangor law firm, Gross, Minsky and Mogul, P.A.) has been an invaluable resource and advocate in this process. There has also been an outpouring of support from people and households throughout the Bangor area and across the state for BACORD's (and Maine Audubon's) efforts over the past two and a half years to protect the Penjajawoc Marsh. We are in the process of developing and exploring longer-term goals and strategies concerning responsible development in the Bangor area.

For more information, and to support our efforts with much-needed donations, please contact BACORD, 43 Columbia St., Suite 32, Bangor ME, 04401. Tax-deductible contributions can be made out to "ROSC" (a 501-c tax-exempt organization, Resources for Organizing & Social Change), with "BACORD" on the memo line.



## From Maine To Brazil: The MST & Jacir's Story

BY HEATHER BLANCHARD

When the Maine Global Solidarity Delegation to Brazil arrived in the picturesque collective MST farmland of Dionoso Cerqueira, in the state of Santa Catarina, violent conflicts seemed a distant worry. Bumping through rolling green pastures, we chattered excitedly in the light of the brilliant Brazilian sun, pointing out banana trees, sugarcane, and tall araucaria pines to each other.

Our driver stopped in front of the boarding house where we would be staying and helped us out of the back of the truck. He showed us inside to a large common room and we sat chatting with our hosts Marcos and Maria, sipping mate [an energizing tea made from herbs grown on the settlement] and spending a pleasant afternoon.

It wasn't until well after supper and an evening of conversation that the thought of danger occurred to me. As he and Maria bid us goodnight, Marcos said, "It is better not to wander much at night. There are guards keeping watch with rifles." I contemplated this as I dropped off to sleep. In my mind's eye I could see young men standing in the darkness, listening, and I admired them. I thought about how brave all these people were, and how they had spent three years camped together, surrounded by hostility and plagued by hunger. They had struggled together in solidarity, and finally been given title to a parched, lifeless piece of land.

Hundreds of thousands of landless peasants in Brazil are members of the "Movimento Dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra", or "Movement of Rural Workers Without Land" (MST), making it the largest grass-roots movement in Latin America.

The Brazilian constitution states that land has a "social function", such as housing and feeding the Brazilian people. In reality however, 40,000 Brazilians die every year from hunger and malnutrition-related diseases, while 60% of Brazil's farmland lies idle. The culprit is unequal land distribution, stemming from Brazil's colonial past, and maintained by a succession of oppressive regimes. To save themselves and their families from starvation, the peasants of the MST have banded together and moved on to some of the vast expanses of idle farmland. Of course, they have met with violent opposition from police and from gunmen hired by wealthy land owners. In the past ten years more than 1,000 people have been killed as a result of land conflicts in Brazil.

The MST has resisted the repression. I had the privilege of meeting Jacir, a leader of the MST, and asked if he would tell his personal story. "The people that are here, including myself," he told us, "came from two original land occupations in the municipalities of San Miguel D'oeste and Aberlardo Luz. Originally, we were living on a fazenda owned by a doctor. This doc-

tor had taken land from peasants in exchange for services they couldn't otherwise afford. We knew, however, that he had lost his fazenda here in the municipality of Dionisio Cerqueira to the bank, during an economic crisis. So we negotiated with the government to get us this land from the bank."

The government wanted to give each individual or family a small piece of land, instead of giving the entire fazenda to the collective as a whole. "But we had spent three hungry years talking together. We had talked about why we thought we had become landless and we had decided that even after we gained the title to land that we would stay organized," Jacir explained, "So against the government's wishes, we stayed organized."

Even with their solidarity, and the title to their new land, all was not green pastures. "Our first year here was very difficult", Jacir told us, "maybe even harder than when we were in the encampments. The doctor had destroyed much of the soil, leaving it completely devoid of minerals. So some of us did work outside the settlement to get money for necessities, while others started to cultivate the land."

Aside from the hard work and the parched and lifeless soil, members of the new settlement were repressed and treated with suspicion. "In the beginning we could never go out alone because of the police," Jacir remembered, "and the local people were both discriminatory and scared of us. It took a lot of work to convince the local people that we were just ordinary people trying to feed our families."

Jacir, however, is not the kind of guy I would describe as ordinary. A tall, thin, unassuming man in a red MST baseball cap, jeans and a t-shirt, Jacir might appear average on the surface, but this is hardly the case. He had seemed a little surprised when I asked for his personal story, but it turned out to be extraordinary.

*Heather Blanchard is a member of the Consumer Advocacy Project at The Preble Street Resource Center in Portland.*

**Members of the Maine Delegation are available to do presentations about various aspects of the trip, and connections we can make between issues & activism in Maine and Brazil, in your area. Contact us to set up a presentation by calling 946-4656. See calendar on page 12, for info on upcoming presentations, on May 16th in Greene, and June 22nd in South Bristol.**



## IndyConcert Review: Ani DiFranco

BY MIKE REYNOLDS

There are few artists who can rest on their independent values as much as Ani DiFranco. A prolific folk singer, she played to a sold out audience at Merrill Auditorium in Portland on March 14th.

DiFranco is no stranger to Maine. She has played in the state nearly a dozen times, touring for the over twenty releases she has released on her own label since 1990. The Portland show was days after her new album release. "Evolve," a document of her latest recordings with the band she has toured with for the past few years, is a stunning collection of songs. "Evolve" is an intense record, and draws you in to listen actively to the music, rather than just leave

it on as background atmospherics. The same can be said for many of DiFranco's albums.

The Portland show was unique as it was the first time she played solo in Maine. The opening act was a guy called Hammell on Trial, who is also on Righteous Babe, DiFranco's label. Onstage, Hammel was hyperspastic, playing a great deal of politically inspired music, strumming his acoustic guitar with the passion and technique of a speed metal band. One of the highlights of his set was his cover of the "London Calling."

DiFranco took the stage soon afterward and commandeered the entire auditorium through a lush musical experience opening

with "Back Back Back" and several tracks from her newly released album.

Unlike many artists, who spend the first week of a tour highlighting their newest album, DiFranco spent much of her set playing unreleased new songs that she has just written. Surprisingly, many in the audience knew the words from bootlegged recordings and various fan websites. DiFranco did not disappoint people who came to hear the old songs. "Anticipate," "Independence Day" and "Swan Dive" got rave reviews from the audience. DiFranco also took the time to say it was good to see people in America mobilizing for peace, and during "Independence Day" loud applause engulfed the auditorium when she sang "I don't think war is noble."

The highlight of the show had to be the 10 minute anti-military dirge guitar drenched song known as "Serpentine." The song dominates her latest CD, and is by far her most political, personal reflection on current world affairs. Written at least a year ago, the song was a highlight of DiFranco's appearance on Democracy Now. As she worked through the song at the Portland show, the mood in the auditorium was of reverence. When she came back for an encore with "Both Hands," at least half the audience sang along.

DiFranco has not been without controversy. A week after her Portland show, a venue in New Jersey refused to allow an Not in Our Name, an anti war group, from boothing at her show, and initially refused the group time to address the crowd before the concert. DiFranco threatened not to play, and members of Not in our Name, along with Amy Goodman addressed the crowd, possibly with more acknowledgement than if the venue offered a table.

DiFranco will continue her tour through the summer, coming to Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Newport, RI in mid-August.

*Read Reynolds' review of Henry Rollins' Maine performance online at: [http://maine.indymedia.org/front.php3?article\\_id=5621&group=webcast](http://maine.indymedia.org/front.php3?article_id=5621&group=webcast)*



# "Peter Holmes, Presente!"

BY JULIAN HOLMES

Two Maine men, Steve Burke and Peter Holmes have been honored for their leadership in challenging Maine and Federal Government policy that fails to protect citizen rights in Maine, in the United States, and abroad.

On February 8, at the Woodfords Congregational Church, the Portland Peace and Justice Center presented to Steve Burke its 2003 Peace and Justice Award.

Burke, of Warren, was introduced by fellow human rights activist Barbara West as a man whose humble demeanor belies his energetic and charismatic leadership when faced with hidebound officialdom. West herself is an activist of no small acclaim. She introduced Burke as possessing talent for "almost anything the movement for justice and peace requires. On the east leg of the Pastors' for Peace Caravan of aid to Cuba, driving from Maine to Texas every year, Steve is one of the shade-tree mechanics who keeps the odd assortment of vehicles on the road," she said. "For anti-war demonstrations in January and again this month, he's one of the bus meisters, reserving and quickly filling every bus that can be located in the State of Maine.

"His menu of activist work is as broad as his heart is huge. Anyone resisting injustice can count on Steve to join in with energy, good humor, and creative ideas. His resistance to widening Route 1 through Warren, right by his dooryard, developed into a feisty area-wide movement connecting longtime activists and Main Street neighbors not really experienced in opposing the Government. Steve's low-key 'aw shucks' manner did not at first tip off the

Department of Transportation as to what a talented opponent they faced -but they learned (applause).

"Eleven years ago when three of us founded 'LET CUBA LIVE,' to educate people and to change U.S. policy toward Cuba, even activists asked, 'Cuba? -- why Cuba?' And Steve found ways to relate the 40 years of the U.S. blockade of Cuba to issues people could relate to -- and he hasn't stopped since.

"That profound optimism and personal commitment for which we honor Steve tonight define him as a truly Statewide leader for justice and peace."

In accepting this award, Burke insisted on sharing the credit with activist colleagues and, in that spirit, honored in expansive and affectionate recollections his close friend and fellow Let-Cuba-Live member Peter Holmes of Litchfield. Just days earlier, on January 24, Holmes died unexpectedly following surgery.

STEVE BURKE -- "Barbara West, Compañera, thank you. It feels kind of strange to me to stand up here alone where there are so many, many stakeholders in this recognition -- people in my own community, people from around the State of Maine, people throughout the northeast and into Canada, a lot of people right here in this room are stakeholders in this recognition.

"So I accept this on behalf of all the people who traveled to DC, to New York, to Jackman; on behalf of all the people arrested when they strapped themselves to trees in Warren to defend the trees from the chainsaws of the Department of Transportation (applause); I accept for all

the people who traveled to places like Highgate Springs, Coburn Gore, and took considerable risk by challenging the U.S. blockade of Cuba (applause).

"And I'd like to pause for a moment to remember one person; Peter Holmes. Because of Peter's rugged individualism and strength of character, he will be remembered for many reasons by an eclectic community of family, friends, colleagues, students, and acquaintances.

"Peter was a generous man. He was one of an important handful of people who seem to know just the right time to reach for their checkbooks to help fund the endless stream of actions and activities many of us find ourselves passionately engaged in. Peter was a long-time Let Cuba Live member, independent thinker, and true-blue radical (applause).

"Peter was a stealth giver. To many recipients of his quiet generosity, when Peter wrote a check it was like watching a blackjack dealer palm a card from the bottom of the deck. It would happen so fast and so unpretentiously, you could miss the whole thing. His hand would slip to his left shirt pocket to retrieve his checkbook, and the check would be brusquely written and slid across the table to whoever was minding the money. It was easy to miss this quick and quiet transaction. Recipients of his repeated generosity learned the first time around that Peter wasn't into gratitude.; any attempt to thank him too profusely was likely to be met with stony silence.

"But when Peter embraced a cause, he brought a lot more to the occasion than just his checkbook. A lifetime teacher, Professor Holmes continued to teach long after his retirement from the University of Southern Maine. He loved to flesh out a topic that was under discussion with experience from

his own rich and colorful life, especially from the time he spent in Nicaragua during the Sandinista years. I learned from Peter by osmosis or example, rather than by exchanged words. I learned from him because of the kind of man he was and the way he lived his life. My admiration for Peter made it easier to understand the value of personal honor and dignity. These qualities trailed behind him in a wake, like smoke from his pipe. I also learned that only people like Peter, who are capable of independent thought, could enjoy intense strength of conviction.

"Peter was a hunter and an outdoorsman. He was finely tuned to the natural world such as the ebb and flow of the seasons. In the radical, progressive, and left circles we both traveled, it was not easy to find someone who could talk about how the amount of spring rain could affect the partridge population in the fall. I will always remember these conversations.

"I will remember Peter, as many others will, as a prolific letter writer.

"His letters to the editor were classics that could be both bitingly sarcastic and outrageously funny at the same time. He took no hostages and always, always hit the nail squarely on the head (applause).

"In Nicaragua and Cuba there is a time-honored tradition that often takes place when a crowd of two or more is assembled. Someone will call out the name of a fallen or departed comrade and the crowd will respond by echoing that name followed by the Spanish word 'Presente,' meaning, in this sense, not only present and accounted for, but ever present and forever with us. Let us remember Peter in this tradition."

"Peter Holmes, Presente!"

This letter was written to "Dear Revolutionary Abby" in May of 2002. Revolutionary Abby often receives multiple letters on a subject and paraphrases them all into a single question which she then poses a letter in response to. This letter is one of the few she kept in its original form. It is from Peter Holmes.

*Dear Revolutionary Abby,  
The TV mostly shows us stuff to eat and stuff to lose weight,  
and stuff to buy and stuff to get out of debt. If I got all this stuff,  
wouldn't I be back where I started?*

**Confused in Litchfield**

**Dear CL-**

Go out in your backyard and plant a garden from some seeds your uncles and old neighbors saved. Eventually you harvest. Next comes a big celebration with the relatives and neighbors. And a great picnic. Sing-a-longs. Story-telling. Visitors come with lectures and news from THE OUTSIDE WORLD. Now all together, you dig some holes and you bury all the TV's and mega-corporate-owned magazines and newspapers. This is a grave. But no memorial stone is advised. Best to forget about it.

**Yours, Forever in Truth, Revolutionary Abby**

## Compromise May Preserve Bigelow

BY HILLARY LISTER

Twenty-six years ago the people of Maine were presented with a citizen's referendum, sponsored by the Friends of Bigelow (FoB), that called for the state of Maine to purchase 37,000 acres of the Bigelow Mountain range. The referendum was prompted by the news that a Massachusetts development corporation was planning to turn Bigelow into one of the world's largest ski resorts. The referendum was a success, the "Aspen of the East," as it was referred to, never came to be. Bigelow, which is traversed by the Appalachian trail, is still today preserved as wilderness area, which is enjoyed by the public in the forms of hiking, fishing, swimming, camping, hunting and trapping, and snowmobiling and cross country skiing on over 20 miles of trails.

Friends of Bigelow became more visible again in the past year, when they received word of some new legislation. Western Mountains Foundation (WMF), headed by former Sugarloaf/USA President Larry Warren, introduced a piece of legislation (LD 926, being sponsored by Representative Monica McGlocklin of

Embden), that would alter the wording of the voter-initiated Preserve Act and thus allow some significant changes to the nature of the Preserve. WMF is in the process of creating a 180-mile recreational hut and trail system running from Newry to Rockwood, and is looking to connect two of its "huts" (actually 35-40 person, \$45 a night lodges) by cutting a new trail through backcountry areas of the Bigelow preserve. This new trail would be a mechanically groomed trail. Currently mechanical groomers are not allowed on the preserve, and all trails are maintained by people. The trail would be used for cross country skiing (currently allowed in the preserve on pre-existing trails) and as a service corridor for WMF's proposed Flagstaff Lake lodge, for transporting laundry, trash, food and other supplies. The act also currently prohibits "publicizing" the preserve, so as to limit use, and allow maintenance to be maintained by hand - the hut and trail system would bring much more publicity to the Bigelow preserve, and opponents fear it could lead to commercialization of a wilderness area. FoB are also concerned that this amendment would set dangerous precedents, both opening the door to other





# Ability Maine Speaks

## The ADA and Me

BY NORM MELDRUM

It was just another business meeting. Of course, in the life of a small business person no meeting is "just another." Every client is important. Actually, it's more than that, with my cash flow problems, every client is critical. I popped the trunk, went around to the back of the car and pulled out my folding wheelchair.

I plopped myself down, hung my briefcase on the back of the chair, and rolled off to the restaurant steps. Oops, steps. I got out of my chair and struggled to pull it up the three steps to the door. As I stood on the top step, balancing my chair with one hand and trying to pull the door open with the other, a man with a managers name tag on approached from inside. He pushed the door open, stuck his head out and remarked disdainfully, "Sir, will you please remove that wheelchair immediately, you're blocking the entrance." I stared at him in disbelief and sat back down in my chair at the bottom of the steps.

"You've picked on the wrong motherfucker," I said as I slowly unbuttoned my suit coat and reached inside to my shoulder holster. I whipped out my cell phone and dialed 1-555-ADA-COPS. Within five minutes I could hear the sirens in the background as the manager quaked. "I didn't really mean it," he said, "I'm so sorry." "Save it for the judge," I replied as he was handcuffed and dragged away.

Wow, just like Clint Eastwood! Well, actually more like Walter Mitty. The story

developers in Bigelow, and essentially nullifying the strength of a voter initiated referendums. One of the Friends of Bigelow commented, "The people passed the Bigelow Act and only the people should amend the Bigelow Act." FoB Chair Richard Fecteau is not aware of any citizen initiated bill being changed in this way, commenting "There have been citizen initiated referendums that have been modified, but only with consent of parties that initiated bill." This amendment would go around that process.

As of this writing, the work sessions of the amendment have been stalled while members of FoB and WMF, with the cooperation of the Conservation Department and Bureau of Parks and Lands, negotiate to reach a compromise agreement on the trail system. The Penobscot Indian Nation has ownership of much of the land to the south of Bigelow. According to FoB's Lance Tapley, members of the Penobscot Indian Nation have indicated that they might look favorably on WMF using of some of their land for his proposed trail (and possibly for building the hut intended for Flagstaff Lake there as well.) According to Warren, the agreement would place the proposed trail substantially outside the preserve on Penobscot land to the south and move some of the hut and trail system to some private

above is just another of my vindictive day-dreams. In actuality, the ADA provides no immediate relief for this type discrimination. My choices are to: a) leave, b) make a fuss and then leave, c) put my wheelchair back in the car, take many pain meds and sit in the restaurant chair, d) leave and file a complaint under the ADA.

Let's say I choose d) file a complaint under the ADA. Now my choices are to either hire a lawyer, or figure out how to file the complaint myself. Let's say that my pocketbook says to figure it out myself. Where, I ask you, do I go to find out how to file a complaint? Don't know, do you? And you're asking ME, a tired, poor, wheelchair bound\* gimp, to do this? Feel embarrassed yet? Ok, I'll give you a break, I do know where to go and I'll share it with you. The Maine Human Rights Commission would be a place to start. Their website is: <http://www.state.me.us/mhrc/index.shtml>. Their other contact information is: MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, 51 STATE HOUSE STATION, AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0051, PHONE: 207-624-6050, TTY/TTD: 207-624-6064, FAX: 207-624-6063. There is also information about the various laws and agencies at: [www.abilitymaine.org/guides/access.html](http://www.abilitymaine.org/guides/access.html)

\* Wheelchair bound - A term used by the general public to denote a person who uses a wheelchair. In the disability community this term is used to describe certain sexual antics that include ropes, whips, people, and wheelchairs.

land to the east as well. All of this is dependent on approval by the landowners for sale of land in these area, but according to Warren, if FoB signs the compromise agreement, WMF will ask the committee chairs of for an "ought not to pass" vote, thus removing the proposed amendment to the Preserve Act.

If negotiations fail, Tapley is unsure of how the amendment will be received in the Legislature. When asked what he felt the current sentiments in the Maine legislature are around this amendment, he replied, "Hard to tell. There's some friends in the legislature, but it's also been difficult to convince some people that a referendum bill shouldn't be monkeyed with. [Some legislators] don't like referendums because [they are] a way of going around the legislature." He did feel the legislators are very amenable to the compromise, but if none results from the negotiations, Tapley thinks that FoB will need to fundraise for an ad campaign, and step up the public education. This information will likely be changing at the time of printing, so please visit [maine.indymedia.org](http://maine.indymedia.org) for breaking news on this issue.

For more information on Friends of Bigelow, you can write to: 284 Ramsdell Road Farmington, ME 04938

## PRISON ISSUES FROM MAINE AND BEYOND

# Stealing Patience

BY TIFFANY SANKARY

It feels like stealing.

The first gate. A guard holds out his hand for my ID. Is your name on the list? Yes, there. He hands me a clip board. Time in: 6:05. I walk slowly to the next checkpoint. The sea to my left, big sky, loud shore. I am alive here in this place where life persists despite all the odds against it.

I wait in line behind other teachers and teaching assistants. One by one each person files through the metal detector. Beep! A belt. Beep! Shoes. Then its my turn. Silence. I hand the guard my ID. She stamps lime green on my left wrist. Her smile makes me smile.

Through a door I can see bars. And bars behind bars. I hold a pen attached to a twisted cord and sign a large, worn book. Name: Patricia Song. City: Oakland. Program: Education. Time in: 6:15. A guard takes our ID's, makes a stack of them in his thick pink hand. Another stamp, lime green, smells like if the ink were poured on a green plant, its leaves would quickly turn brown. The guard says it's so they know the right folks are coming out. "The stamp should be good for up to 10 hours, so if there's a riot and you're held hostage, we know it's you who comes out. And we have to stamp the women too. You'd be surprised by these guys. You know I got a love letter once..." Another metal detector, this time a wand, up and down the body. The ID's are returned. One by one he checks our stamped wrists under a black light before he lets us through the gate.

That gate shuts. Another swings open. We enter an outdoor yard with concrete paths separating small patches of green. Here we are "escorted" to the education building. We are told not to walk ahead of the escort and not to run, otherwise we will be shot by the tower guard. To our right are the chapel and religious buildings. To our left is the adjustment center. This is where inmates are sent if they commit a crime while in prison. Through the windows I see bars and bright fluorescent lights. We reach the education building. Name: Patricia Song. Class: Eng 99. Time in: 6:22.

I'm going to do my close reading of "All Quiet on the Western Front" about the similarities between the experience of being in a war and the experience of being in prison. I feel like I really understand what the narrator is talking about even though I've never been in that kind of war. But this kind of war is not that different. You've always got to watch your back. You never know when a bomb's going to explode. I think it's in our minds too. I can also see how what he's writing about is that we've got war going on in our minds.

At this one moment the guys are sitting around talking about what would happen if the war just all of a sudden stopped and there was peace. What would they do? I think about that all the time. I am going to get out one day. What am I going to do? I can't go back and live with my family. I have a lot of skills but what if someone finds out that I'm an ex-con?

I'm writing my paper about a boy who got made fun of as a kid and how he ends up going to prison. He pulls himself together to participate in an education program and works a job stuffing mattresses. Then he finally gets out of prison. Soon after that he dies from a sickness caused from the mattress fibers he breathed in all those years.

I want to write about how being in prison has made me realize how my life isn't just about me. I've been in here for twenty-seven years, since I was eighteen. I was just a kid then. I killed someone. My cellmate was in for the same thing but he's out now. They let white guys off easier. The racism that exists out there is magnified in here. It's produced. It doesn't just exist. They MAKE it. And we live the lives they want us to live. They keep their power that way. It's much more clear to me now. They try to get you to think that it's just about you so that we don't help each other out. I hope that by sharing some of the clarity I've found, others won't have to come to it the way I did.

Cars drive up to the gate on their way out of the prison with their lights off, so they don't blind the guard. They pop their trunks and the guard peeks inside to make sure there's no stow aways. He turns to me after letting a car go through and I can feel he is proud. His authority. He feels he's protecting society. I am kind to him, smiling and listening. He tells me he's doing this as overtime. He likes it. It's a break from what he usually does: stand guard on death row. "Would you like some chocolate? or how about an apple?" No thanks.

A van full of parolees drives up to the gate. He waves them through without any scrutiny. He says to me, "You know some of these guys leave here, they go out, get angry and kill 2 or 3 people, then they just come right back in." We look out to were the van has disappeared on the road. "Saw one guy who didn't last 24 hours."

I distill what he is telling tell me. WE, the good people, need to keep THEM in here, no use in letting them out, they just come right back. Little did he know that I am one of them. That I have come here to steal. Right under their noses I am breaking their laws. The laws of punishment. The laws of US and THEM.

I am stealing human moments. I am stealing hope and intimacy. I am stealing giving and receiving. I am stealing patience.

**GD: CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

the larger industries disappear, the smaller businesses dependent upon them, such as stores, trucking companies, mechanics, to name only a few, move out as well. When I was in Houlton this March delivering the Maine Commons, it appeared that Main Street was rapidly disappearing - I inquired with a store owner, who confirmed in the past week alone, Main St. had lost three separate businesses - but he was optimistic - there was news of the recently closed up furniture factory possibly being reopened as a Humvee maintenance and repair shop for the US military. And he commented that more people were moving to the area to join the increasing staff of border patrol, as part of efforts to step up "homeland security." And these jobs are likely to be jobs with good pay and benefits. These jobs are also almost entirely dependent on one thing - public funding through the one section of the government budgets that's seeing only increases - military spending. And one of the largest employers in Maine, not incidentally also dependent on local, state, and federal tax dollars for its operations, is General Dynamics.

General Dynamics (GD) produces warships and nuclear submarines, jets, command and control systems, tanks, amphibious assault vehicles, weaponry, and ammunition. Especially in times of war, these products are purchased largely by US taxpayer provided military dollars. To help supplement US sales, General Dynamics also regularly makes sales to the militaries of other governments, including, in the past years, Bahrain, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, and Venezuela. In Maine, about 6,500 people work for GD producing the AEGIS guided missile destroyer ship at Bath Iron Works, and about 240 people work making MK 19 machine guns, Striker 40 grenade launching machine guns, and 20 mm Gatling gun systems for fighter jets at Saco Defense.

In a time of (what appears to be perpetual) war, these jobs seem guaranteed to stay. Yet when the Cold War (that also appeared equally perpetual) ended, whole communities found out the hard way about what occurs when large amounts of jobs are dependent on military money. The late 80's through mid-90's saw major military base closures - among them, Loring Air Force base in northern Aroostook County. When the base closed, about 5,000 military personnel left the area, and another estimated 1,000 civilian jobs were lost. While BIW and Saco defense don't have military personnel who will simply be transferred if military spending is cut, they have what is perhaps even more fragile - nearly 7,000 civilian Maine employees, as well as numerous businesses whose profits depend on business from those companies and their employees. Too many towns in Maine have seen what happens when one industry is the source of most of the townspeople's income - the paper mills or textile mills up and disappear, often leaving behind an environmental mess, and workers who find little if any work of similar income and benefits in their communities. The lack of job diversity is beneficial to the (almost always absentee) owners and shareholders of those corporate industries - they have a reliable, dependent source of employees who are unlikely to strike or complain too much,

and a town that will give them all forms of tax breaks/incentives/straight-out dollars, all because the employees and the town are entirely dependent on the company for their well being, and can't afford to lose that company's jobs, business, and (sometimes) local taxes - there's no visible alternative.

General Dynamics has been no different from the other corporations that have control of a community. When Loring was closing, BIW, finding itself in similar financial straights, was making in an effort to no longer be reliant on military money for production. It was doing this by shifting its focus to commercial cargo and refrigerated ship building, organized through an agreement between the production and administrative employees that established joint decision-making at every level. When General Dynamics purchased BIW in 1995 it stopped those conversion efforts and refocused BIW on military-dependent naval shipbuilding. It also used its power of having control of so many jobs, and in 1998 told the Maine State Legislature and the city of Bath that it required massive tax breaks and incentives if it were to keep BIW open, make improvements, and keep its employees working. GD's demands were met in the form of a \$60 million tax cut from the state of Maine, in addition to \$53 million in business and equipment tax reimbursements and \$85 million in credits from the city of Bath, for a total financial aid package of almost \$200 million. That same year, GD had received \$3.7 Billion in Department of Defense contracts, its earnings were up 14.4% from the prior year, it's stock was up 35%, and its CEO was making over \$12 million a year. In return for the state money, GD agreed that BIW would keep at least 5,000 employees working (at the time it employed about 7,200 workers, and currently it employs about 6,500 workers) or it would have its state credit reduced or revoked.

Maine's workers have seen that these tax incentives do not always guarantee job preservation. The City of Rockland made an agreement in 1994 with Nautica, one of the town's largest employers, agreeing to reimburse the company for all taxes paid to the town for the following 15 years, in return for Nautica agreeing to expand its operations. Nautica did expand operations, and then closed it's Rockland operations in 2002, putting 300 people out of work, and moving down to Virginia, where it was offered an even better tax incentives - and it is even now asking the town or its \$250,000 taxes paid for 2002 to be returned.

GD has not pulled something this blatant in Maine yet, but it has shown elsewhere that it is quite capable of moving easily with the economic winds, with no concern for the communities that produce its profits. In 1991, GD adopted a new management plan designed to create shareholder wealth, which tied executive pay to shareholder returns. The chosen way to produce shareholder wealth was through restructuring and massive layoffs. Between 1991 and 1992 GD laid off almost 24,000 employees. Shareholder returns shot up, and GD's executives were rewarded with over \$17 million in bonuses. GD also has a history of offering job incentives to foreign countries in exchange for their purchases. In 1987, GD made a \$4 billion sale of 160 F-16s to Turkey. In exchange, GD moved

1,500 jobs overseas to Turkey. Then, in 1992, GD made a similar incentive deal, winning a contract to sell F-16's to South Korea. In exchange, GD brought 400 new Korean workers to its Fort Worth, Texas plant for training, right after laying off 10,000 of its US workers in the prior two years. And while many were encouraged when GD purchased the Saco defense plant in 2000 and added assembly of fighter-jet gun systems to its line of production, this addition came only at the loss of other jobs. The fighter-jet gun assembly in Saco was made possible through GD cutting over 300 (mostly union) manufacturing jobs from its Burlington, Vermont General Dynamics Armament Systems operation and shifting the former Burlington production to various subcontractors, such as Saco Defense. Few, if any, new jobs appear to have been gained at Saco as a result - the new product to assemble appears to be the only addition.

Last year GD received \$7 billion of taxpayer money through Department of Defense contracts alone, not to mention many millions in public money through federal, state, and town tax incentive programs. (Some of those taxpayers are probably veterans, who just saw a \$6.2 billion cut in their benefits.) The fact that Gordon R. England, former Executive Vice President of GD - with no prior military experience - is now Secretary of the Navy under the Bush administration, or that Charles McQueary, former president of General Dynamics Advanced Technology Systems, is now the undersecretary for science and technology in the Department of Homeland Security, probably don't hurt GD's chances of gaining access to this public money. Neither does it hurt that GD donated close to half a million dollars for the 2002 election cycle and spends an average of \$4.1 million a year on lobbying expenditures. Yet, reliance on government money in return for jobs is a slippery proposition. While military spending has been shooting up under the Bush administration - which spent \$396 billion in taxpayer money on military spending last year alone - reliance on perpetual war is far from a sustainable or ideal economy (and it can well be argued that it encourages more warring, when war becomes an economic necessity.) Additionally, the money to finance military purchases is not infinite - currently it is mostly coming from debt, low and middle income tax payers' money, cuts in other programs, and rapidly printed dollars with no solid backing. Towns like Loring have already seen what happens when that money starts to dry up. As General Dynamics has proven in Texas and Vermont, and as corporations such as Nautica, Great Northern, and Hathaway continue to prove in Maine, the fact that a corporation gets it's current labor force from a community in no way means it feels any commitment or concern for that community. If the people of this state are serious about creating good and reliable jobs, they'd do well to make sure the jobs are not dependent on taxpayers' money, keep employers local and accountable, and not depend on any one industry that has the ability to just up and ship away.

-by Hillary Lister

**In related news:**

On Tuesday, April 15th, Tax Day, a group of about 40 protesters from across Maine gathered at the General Dynamics Saco Defense plant. Fifteen of the protesters blocked the driveway to Saco Defense by locking down in PVC lockboxes and steel drums, designed to look like crayons with the message, "Money for Education, Not for Militarization!" The group successfully stayed locked down in the entranceway from 6:45AM to about 11:00 AM. Other protesters strung banners across the street and on the lawn of GD, and set up a "Military Bake sale", making a play on the often-seen bumper sticker "It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they need and the navy has to hold a bake sale to buy a battleship!" Local and state police worked to cut through the lock boxes, eventually moving all of the locked down protestors onto a Saco School Bus (police had taped over the "Saco Schools" identification on the side) they used for arrestee transportation. While the lock boxes were being cut, other folks on the sidewalk chanted, sung, held signs, and danced in support. The arrestees were taken to the Saco Police Department where they were all processed, charged with criminal trespass, and released for free on personal recognizance.

## More Actions Targeting General Dynamics Planned For August

On August 9th, General Dynamics-owned Bath Iron Works will launch a new Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer, the USS Momsen, DDG 92. This is the Aegis Weapons System, a weapon of mass destruction. The ship carries 56 Tomahawk nuclear capable missiles. They can carry a 200 kiloton warhead. The bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were in the 13 to 15 KT range. Thus each missile can carry 15 Hiroshimas, an Aegis Destroyer can carry 840 Hiroshimas. The ship used to carry the MK-1 one KT depth charge (the latest edition of Jane's Fighting Ships does not list this weapon, although earlier editions did). Both Harpoon and ASROC missiles are carried (Harpoon is surface to air and the ASROC is surface to sub-surface); the ASROC is also nuclear capable. More



Left: "Let's storm the governor's office!" After the living wage rally, Dot Treadwell is joined by a dozen other folks who enter the governor's office. Dot holds a giant check reading, "I.O.U. - Pay To the Order of: Maine Workers. Amt: A Living Wage. For: Overtime & Unjust Wages."

**"Sound bites" of what people had to say at the Living Wage rally in Augusta on May 2nd:**

*Leslie Manning, representative from Maine State Employees/SEIU:*

110 years ago Samuel Gomers, who was founder of the Federation of Labor was asked, "What does Labor want?" He answered, "MORE! We want more schoolhouses and less jails, more books and less arsenals, more learning and less vice, more justice and less greed, more justice and less revenge" Now, when there are more Mainers in jail than ever before, more Mainers out of work than since the Great Depression, when Mainers cannot afford to live in the communities where they grew up because there are no opportunities or because the property values have soared or the taxes too high or services too low it is time to ask ourselves, WHAT DO MAINERS WANT? 8 hours for work, 8 hours for rest, 8 hours for what WE will. We do not want low wage, no benefit dead end jobs that are dependent on the vagaries of the rich or the leftovers of a crumbling economy. To the single parent, to the laid off worker, to the second or third career grandparent the answer is not 3 jobs providing them with less than what one job can and should provide. We want a living wage!

*Dot Treadwell, organizer with Downtown Neighborhood Association, Lewiston:*

Lots of applause, hooting and hollering. I must be popular! I just want to tell everybody that I am disabled and I am also homeless and I do volunteer work for the Downtown Neighborhood Association, the Maine Rural Workers Coalition, a lot of other places. I don't get paid because I'm afraid if I get paid I'll lose my medical card. So therefore I can't afford to get a real job. I get sick a lot so I can't afford to lose my medical card. I have to go to the doctor's once a week and I know that if I had a real job, insurance wouldn't cover that, and I wouldn't be able to eat and afford an apartment too, so I have to be stuck on welfare. Dependent on the system. And it sucks having to stay in the system because they keep you there. People on AFDC, Disability and all that, if you go out and make a little bit of money they take it away from you, they take away food stamps, you lose your medical card and a lot of people stay on disability and AFDC just to keep that medical card. So we've gotta do something different!

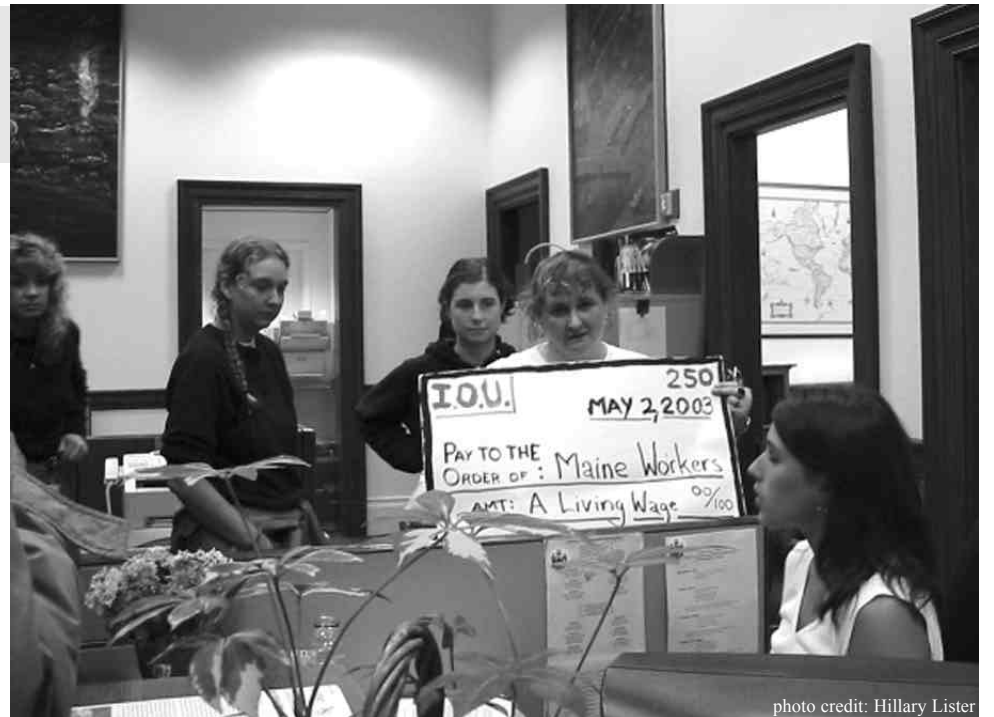


photo credit: Hillary Lister

**Announcement:**

**Introducing PWD CHIME: People With Disabilities Center for Housing Information in Maine**

Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) in Wiscasset, Maine announces that a Quality Choices Grant has been received through the Muskie Institute at the University of Southern Maine to start this Center for Housing Information in Maine, which will serve people with disabilities throughout the state. The Center will provide housing information specifically geared toward people with disabilities and the agencies that serve them, as well as providing one on one counseling on housing matters, as budget allows.

The Center will also be training housing advocates who will serve in their individual communities. These advocates will represent various special populations and they will have extensive training in housing and advocacy strategies. This project stems from a year of research conducted to determine how the housing needs of people with disabilities in Maine could best be served. This research, found that information about program availability, individual needs and rights and understanding of credit, insurance and program eligibility where housing is concerned was often not easily accessed by those individuals and agencies that needed it. Research also showed a desire in communities to do "the right thing" where housing is concerned, but a real lack of awareness in these communities of the needs of people with disabilities.

CEI is a statewide HUD Housing Counseling agency and operates many housing programs. People with disabilities have been successfully served with many of CEI's housing programs, and this newest project is a further extension, reaching out toward the unmet needs of people with disabilities and their communities in Maine.

If you are interested in further information, or have resources to share, please contact Steve Hoad at CEI. If you need counseling or would like information on becoming a community advocate you can also contact Mr. Hoad at CEI. Phone: (207) 882.7552 or toll free at 1.877.340.2649. The mailing address is: Steve Hoad, Coastal Enterprises Inc., P.O. Box 268, Wiscasset, ME 04578. Email: [psh@ceimaine.org](mailto:psh@ceimaine.org).

insidious is the twin-barreled 20mm Phalanx system, firing 3,000 rounds a minute, it carries a Depleted Uranium penetrator -- with all that implies (for more info on the effects of Depleted Uranium, visit [www.csmonitor.com/atcsmonitor/specials/uranium](http://www.csmonitor.com/atcsmonitor/specials/uranium) or contact National Gulf War Resource Center, Inc. 8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910).

According to UN and International Law, these are technically illegal weapons because of the DU and nuclear capable missiles. They were some of the principal weapons used in Gulf Wars I and II. The launched Tomahawk missiles created devastation in Iraqi cities with widespread death of innocent civilians. The Navy fact sheet on these ship costs them out at about \$650 million; actual finished costs are in the \$900 million to \$1 billion range. What organizers hope to accomplish with this action is to say "Not in our name, not

any more" and to communicate that they are sick at heart to see needed funds taken from social areas to pay for an obscenely bloated military defense budget. They have invited all regional Veterans For Peace groups (New England & Upstate New York), every Maine peace & social justice group, and extend the invitation to all who are interested and concerned to get involved with the planning and the convergence (a planning meeting will take place on May 24th; see calendar page 12 for details).

The convergence at Bath will consist of many aspects including music, talk, street theater, poetry, folk singers and actions. Participants can gather in Library Park in Bath one hour prior to walking to BIW, arriving there two hours prior to launch time (gates open to allow spectators at that time). It will last until 30 minutes after the launch, have a closing circle, thoughts and prayers.

This gathering will also be a dedicated protest and witness. Firstly, it will be dedicated to Phil Berrigan who disarmed two of these destroyer ships (first in 1991 and again 1997). It was the Prince of Peace Plowshares in 1997 that turned Maine's peace community's head, eyes and hearts to the weapons of mass destruction being built in Bath. The six plowshare activists who participated in this action spent a total of 8 years in prison for it. They were Phil Berrigan (Jonah House), Susan Crane (Jonah House), Tom Lewis (poet and artist from Worcester who, incidentally, participated with Phil Berrigan in one of the first anti-war protests against the Vietnam war at the Catonsville Nine action), Steve Kelly (Jesus Priest), Steve Baggerly (Norfolk VA Catholic Worker) and Mark Colville (New Haven CT Catholic Worker).

Secondly it will be dedicated to the three Dominican nuns, Ardeth Platte, Carol

Gilbert and Jackie Hudson, currently awaiting sentencing for the disarming of an ICBM in a missile field in Colorado. Ardeth, Carol (both from Jonah House) and Jackie face up to 8 years each for this action, which, incidentally, ties in with these Aegis Weapon Systems, built in Bath. The Aegis system will be part of the Theater Missile Defense aspect of the Star Wars System (check out Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space's web site for info on this aspect)

Organizers hope to launch their own ship, the USS Philip Berrigan, filled with medical supplies, which will eventually be sent to Iraq via Voices in the Wilderness.

*BIW Convergence Info provided by: Jack Bussell, Maine Veterans For Peace.*



# ACROSTIC #261

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. Fooling, deceiving. 200 68 115 65 83 101 109 127 2 167
- B. Desire \_\_\_\_\_.  
(3 wds) O'Neill play. 7 93 184 204 159 57 46 174 36 190 137 67
- C. Violate, carry away by force. 169 99 51 197 223 13
- D. \_\_\_Beta Kappa. 32 98 152
- E. \_\_\_Blue.  
Ubiquitous colors. (3 wds)
- F. Vituperation. 135 31 89 82 19 54 71 219 205 225 104  
113 128 91 138 148 129 76 42 181
- G. Messy specialty of some spas. (2 wds).
- H. Peculiarity of an individual. 77 26 201 182 150 100 124  
47 210 166 141 153 96 10 110 33 221 134 56
- I. \_\_\_Jack Built. (5 wds) 40 111 50 48 72 78 218 23 227 180 20 147 18 163 12 130 66 143
- J. Intolerable. 217 73 35 108 195 178 156 112 136 189 16 63
- K. By way of 173 213 117
- L. Rapture. 43 126 64 87 133 5 207 27 131 53 171
- M. Cooled. 209 144 1 216 80 103 193
- N. Mountains of Arkansas. 192 206 170 151 162
- O. \_\_\_spreading chestnut tree, (2 wds) (poetic license)
- P. \_\_\_Iran. Late Pahlevi. (3 wds)
- Q. Chinese restaurant staple. (3 wds)
- R. Cut down as grass. 79 199 74 165 4 194 185 107 118 11  
8 44 97
- S. —Palace. Florence Museum. 157 116 140 202 9
- T. Strange, unusual. (3 wds)
- U. Plural for half a diameter. 191 15 81 86 58 34 123 158 222 175  
30 60 119 70 52
- V. Drury novel. (3 wds) 28 212 106 94 198 59 161 214 188 3 183 69 132 88 37 84

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

- W. Large groove. 220 168 154
- X. \_\_\_\_\_wear it. (4 wds) 90 45 55 203 145 114 149 120 125 21 211 38 226
- Y. Albert the brain. 121 172 139 164 62 24 92 187
- Z. Opportunists slogan. ( 3 wds) 122 14 41 61 146 179 102 224 49 215 176

## NEWS BLURBS

short attention span news compiled by sterren

**In Township 15 Range 15, aka St. Pamphile**, a small settlement on the Maine-Quebec border, the locals' way of life has become strictly regulated by the new Homeland Security border-control measures. While it used to be that people could get preapproved through the Form 1 program to cross the border when the stations are closed, that program was eliminated on May 1st. Many residents of the settlement, which has no stores, church, or medical facility, have relatives living less than two miles down the road, and frequently travel for shopping or events on the other side of the border in Quebec. Since the border station closes at 2pm on Fridays and is locked the whole weekend, residents are trapped on one side of the gate or the other, until it reopens on Monday morning. If they attempt to cross when it is closed they can face significant fines or arrest, and the border station is monitored by cameras and sensors. According to an article in the Bangor Daily, one of the settlement's residents, Rod Sirois, commented that people of the settlement "will do whatever is necessary to protect their families' happiness and way of life," that they are discussing filing suit against the Customs department, and he feels that residents could be willing to break the law if necessary to make their point.

**In Calais, librarian Marilyn Sotirelis is taking a stand** against what she sees as an attack on civil liberties by the U.S. Department of Justice. Along with restricting or removing many other civil liberties, Section 215 of the Patriot Act allows an FBI

agent to obtain a search warrant for "any tangible thing" which can include books, and records of books borrowed from a library. This section, although it does not specify bookstores and libraries, allows the FBI to require a bookstore owner or librarian to produce records of any patron's buying or borrowing history, internet use, or registration information that is stored in any way, and does not require the agent to demonstrate "probable cause." The bookseller or librarian, under penalty of law, cannot mention to anyone else the fact that the agent came in and issued the warrant, or that any records were produced as a result of the warrant. Marilyn has displayed a copy of Section 215 of the Patriot Act in the library, along with information about contacting Maine State representatives Allen and Michaud to call for them to sign on to a bill sponsored by Rep. Bernie Sanders of Vermont called the "Freedom to Read Protection Act," which would exempt libraries and book-sellers from section 215 of the Patriot Act. Marilyn has challenged the DoJ, which issued a statement saying that it would hold public meetings to debate the issue, to hold its first meeting in Calais.

**It's that part of the newblurbs again - layoffs - and they're not letting up.**

**Telemarketer ICT, which closed its Calais call center** earlier this year, is now closing its Lewiston call center, putting another 84 people out of work. ICT, like many other telemarketing companies, is moving most of its operations out of the US and moving to countries (particularly India) where they are able to pay workers significantly lower wages, with fewer worker protections. In the UK, call center workers formed the Communication Workers' Union, and through becoming union-ized, last year successfully organized and prevented telecom giant BT from out-sourcing jobs to call centers in India, even receiving a pledge from BT that it would not outsource in the future. Workers at ICT's other facilities in Pittsfield, Oxford,





and Wilton, Sitel workers in Limestone, and workers at the numerous MBNA call centers across the state might do well to learn from the Communication Workers' Union, and keep updated on their employers' plans.

**Blethen Maine Papers, owned by the Seattle Times Company** and publisher of the Portland Press Herald, Morning Sentinel, & Kennebec Journal, recently laid off about 28 workers. These layoffs are connected to layoffs in other industries - they resulted from the fact that revenues for 'help wanted' ads dropped by 60 to 70% in the past year. Antenna-maker Dielectric in Raymond has announced it will cut 30 jobs. Blue Hill Memorial Hospital is cutting 14 jobs, and Northeast Health in Rockport cut 11 jobs and is raising fees due to cuts in Medicare and Medicaid funding. Trucking company Parallel Transportation in Guilford has laid off 15 drivers in late February. In April, 20 more people in Guilford lost their jobs, this time at the textile company Guilford of Maine. About 100 people recently lost their jobs at Dirigo Stitching in Skowhegan. Dirigo makes awnings, slipcovers, and American flags. The most recent job losses resulted from the loss of a contract to make slipcovers for Sure-Fit, Inc., now that Sure-Fit is moving all of its manufacturing to factories in China, where good wages and labor protections are all but nonexistent. Dirigo has also recently been seriously hurt by the fact that corporations like Target and Wal-Mart have made the move to cease doing business with distributors that then contract with companies such as Dirigo, and instead buy their products directly from the factories in China. Moose River Lumber, northern Somerset County's largest employer, laid off 18 of its 85 employees. According to sales manager Steve Banahan, the company is losing money because, as a result of recently imposed duties on Canadian lumber, lumber companies in Western Canada are simply ramping up production to offset the cost of duties, resulting in a serious oversupply of lumber in the market.

**Maine's paper mills are seeing little improvement.** The Sappi paper mill in Westbrook recently cut 24 jobs. The former Great Northern Mills in Millinocket and East Millinocket have been sold to the Toronto-based Brascan Corporation. When the mills reopen, they are expected to employ between 300 and 500 people, down from more than 1,100 people employed before the shutdown. Brascan already owns Great Northern's electricity generators, as well as Fraser Paper. The Fraser Paper mill in Madawaska recently announced 190 job cuts for the next year. Eastern Pulp and Paper Co., which owns Eastern Fine Paper Co. in Brewer and Lincoln Pulp and Paper Co. in Lincoln is under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. In April, Georgia-Pacific in Old Town first announced it would be shutting down two of its tissue machines, putting about 300 of its 600 employees out of work. Now, the state has worked out a deal with G-P, through which the state will purchase G-P's landfill, help reduce the mill's energy costs, and has made a commitment to "completing meaningful transportation benefits," in Baldacci's vague words. In return for the state's offers, G-P will restart one of its machines, and rehire 140 employees. That still leaves 160 people out of work, and after announcing the initial closure of its tissue machine mills, Georgia-Pacific was clear that it had no intention to sell either of them, something that might have allowed laid-off workers to get their jobs back. In response to the fact that some people might feel baffled that G-P wouldn't sell the mills and offer the laid-off workers this chance, mill manager Ralph Feck commented in a Bangor Daily article, "It's hard for the average person to grasp," continuing that selling the mill would be like "cutting off an arm" for G-P, because if the mill was purchased and reopened it could offer direct competition to G-P. As a result of the G-P cut, Galt Block Warehouse Co. in Bangor has cut its workforce by about a third, putting 22 people out of work. A large portion of the Galt's business comes from shipping and receiving materials for G-P.

**One job gain will be when Ruby Tuesday opens** in Brewer, expected to employ at least 120 people - though like most new employers, it is non-local, non-union, and mostly part-time work. Unfortunately, the opening of the business will result in other job losses, since a carpet shop and Marie's Flower's in Brewer are being forced out of their spaces so that the buildings in which they are located can be sold and demolished to make way for the new restaurant.

**On the upside, when Atlantic Precision Products' former owner Robert Martin** heard that the Sanford plant closed in February, leaving 72 people out of work, he was concerned for the former workers. His father had started the business in 1962, and he felt that he owed it to the former workers to try and reopen the shop, so he came out of retirement in Florida, and worked to reopen the plant. Upon reopening, the plant had eight employees, is currently working with 15 employees and plans to be able to have 30 employees by the fall.

**A new state law will help the state have a bit more credibility** when it says it supports Maine business. The new law requires the state to follow anti-sweatshop rules in contracting for all footwear, clothes, and textiles it spends taxpayer money to buy. While this does not necessarily mean the products will be from Maine, it does give support to businesses that the likely cause of Maine job loss, since most Maine textile production is being moved overseas to factories with sweatshop conditions. According to Bangor-based Peace through Interamerican Community

Action (PICA), at least 7,500 textile jobs have been lost from Maine in the past 10 years due to companies moving production to sweatshop factories paying less than 10% of the wages paid in Maine for the same work.

**Plum Creek Timber** (which has been the focus of a three-part series in the Commons, part three to be in the next issue) has received a \$9,000 penalty for a 157-acre clear-cut done without prior approval from the Maine Forest Service in West Middlesex Canal Grant, west of Moosehead Lake. Perhaps this will cause others to pay closer attention to Plum Creek's unsustainable logging practices. Or, perhaps Plum Creek, like other timber companies, will just consider it a necessary and affordable fee for continuing to make its profits in Maine.

**Last summer we devoted a whole issue to "Mainers vs the DOT,"** and it appears this summer could warrant just as much news on the issue of Mainers clashing with the Department of Transportation. Members of the Legislature and some of the business community are continuing to push for an east-west highway that would slice across the center of the state. Current efforts are going toward an attempt to get approval to construct a 10-mile Interstate-395 to Route 9 highway connector cutting through Brewer, Holden and Eddington. This connector would be the area's segment of the proposed East-West highway. Originally DOT officials claimed they would hold public meetings to discuss this proposal, but now, after two inconclusive public meetings, it appears they may plan to bypass the public and move directly to getting an environmental assessment for the project by the end of the summer. This assessment would be the first step in getting federal funding for the new road. Meanwhile, residents of Sheepscot Village, Alna and Newcastle are fighting a DOT effort to replace the 24-foot wide Sheepscot village bridge with a 28-foot wide modern bridge. Some residents have expressed concern that the reason for the proposed widening is to create a Route 1 bypass, though DOT bridge project manager Gene Uhuad denies that is the case. The DOT claims the new wider bridge is needed for pedestrians and bicycles, although the Bicycle Coalition of Maine does not claim the widening is needed, and according to Belva Ann Prycl, a spokeswoman for the Sheepscot Village Steering Committee, even the DOT's own traffic studies don't support a wider bridge. Support for preserving the current bridge, and the slower pace of life that comes with it, has come from a wide range of people in the area, including truckers who use the bridge.

**The news is not good for people who like to breathe,** in much of Maine. The American Lung Association released its air quality report cards for the US. It gathers data for these report cards through ozone monitors in counties across the state. This year, Cumberland County's grade dropped from a D to an F. There was insufficient data for the period to grade Sagadahoc County, it has previously received consistent F's. Hancock and York received F's for the fourth year in a row. Knox dropped from a C to a D, Kennebec stayed at a C, Penobscot dropped from a B to a C, Piscataquis stayed at a B, and Oxford was the sole Maine county to receive an "A." Counties in Maine not listed in the grading do not have ozone monitors. Maine has the highest rate of adult asthma in the nation. The high ozone levels pose the greatest harm to people under 14 years old, over 65 and over, and anyone with chronic bronchitis, emphysema or asthma.

**People who like to breathe on Mount Desert Island,** in Hancock County (Grade: F), may get a small bit of relief due to the fact that the propane-powered Island Explorer bus fleet recently received a private grant that will allow it to extend its service into the fall months. The bus fleet is designed to encourage local residents and visitors to get out of cars and (if not onto bikes or their feet) onto the free, 28-person busses, thus helping to reduce congestion and pollution on the Island. According to the nonprofit group "Friends of Acadia," since the Island Explorer's inception, an estimated 316,000 vehicle trips have been eliminated, which means an estimated eight tons of smog-causing pollutants have been prevented from going into the air and into people's lungs.

**Meanwhile, an increasing number of vehicles across the state** are using biodiesel (diesel produced from vegetable oil, and designed to be burned in any conventional diesel engine), and biodiesel/petroleum blends. Frontier Energy in South China has emerged as the state's largest supplier of biodiesel, with smaller suppliers such as the Solar Market in Arundel selling biodiesel retail to individual diesel vehicle owners, and biodiesel co-ops such as one in Blue Hill, in their early stages of development. Frontier sells 1,000 gallons of biodiesel/petroleum blend a month to L.L. Bean for use in some of its tractor-trailer fleet. While biodiesel is currently more expensive than petroleum diesel (currently about \$0.14 a gallon more expensive) that will likely change as it becomes more popular and is able to be produced more efficiently in larger quantities, is bought in bulk, and, as many biodiesel-supporters are proposing to state and federal government, if the tax on biodiesel becomes less than that on petroleum, since it is a renewable and clean-burning fuel. Biodiesel also does not have the major government subsidies behind its production and sale - if those subsidies were removed for petroleum diesel, its price would likely greatly increase to better reflect its actual costs of production.



**RESPECT: CONTINUED FROM PG. 4**

armed peoples in Africa, Oceania and Asia, slaughtering and conquering them with almost no losses. It was only after World War II that the colonized rebels could hold some technological and strategic "parity" with the colonial power, as can be seen in the two Vietnam Wars of independence (first from the French, then from the US). The gap has grown again in the thirty years since the end of the Vietnam war. The US military now is so superior technologically to its opponents that it can carry on its activities without a loss from enemy fire, just so long as it does not have to occupy a particular territory. But this is exactly what US troops will have to do in order to bring about the "regime changes" US foreign policy requires. The Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation should make quite clear that the most sophisticated of armies will suffer a regular flow of casualties when occupying a country with a hostile population. Moreover, while the Israeli government can call on the US to finance its occupation, what country will finance the many US military occupations?

The fate of thousands of Gulf War veterans made chronically ill by their own army speaks to another aspect of the issue of war casualties: A military machine that takes no casualties from the enemy inevitably inflicts casualties on its own personnel. The reason for this is very simple. Protecting against aggression requires: (1) to anticipate it or (2) to respond to it in an extremely short period of time. Both options, when taken to extremes, lead to self-inflicted casualties.

Preparation for anticipated threats requires the acceptance of a small risk of self-inflicted casualties in order to counter an enemy threat, for example, the risk that vaccinations designed to prevent the consequences of biological attacks will them-

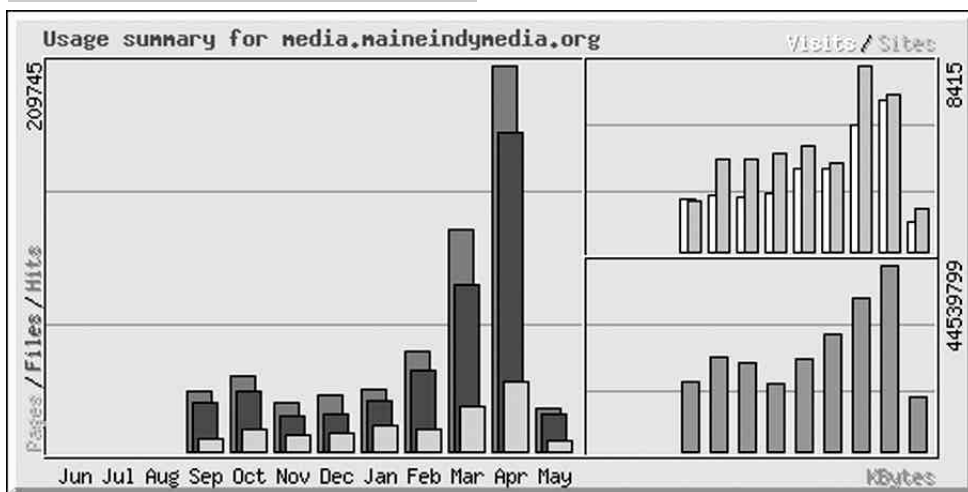
selves kill some soldiers. But the effort of anticipating possible threats causes the anticipations themselves to multiply. Consequently, the small risks of self-inflicted casualties will multiply until they become a certainties. Similarly, if reaction speed to an enemy threat must be reduced to a minimum, the ability to detect the true identity or source of the perceived threat is reduced as well. This invariably leads to friendly fire incidents. As the drive for adding new threats and reducing reaction time intensifies, the US military machine becomes the greatest enemy to its own constituents.

Therefore, a casualty-free US military will be challenged by the new US hegemonic role in the war for the preservation of neoliberalism and globalization. For example, the US military will have to occupy Iraq for a long period of time in order to guarantee that the oil fields will be privatized and that a "regime change" would lead to a dissolution or transformation of OPEC. Further, the action of a military machine operating under the Powell Doctrine of "overwhelming force" can become its own troops' worse enemy. These factors will lead to a substantial loss of US soldiers' lives and a violation of the "no casualties" social contract.

The antiwar movement needs to warn US workers of the danger of "friendly fire" both economic and military, and it needs to do so clearly and distinctly.

*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.*

**SERVER: CONTINUED FROM PG. 3**



However, we do not believe that we can wait to raise this money.

We propose that an escrow account be established dedicated to the purchase of the new server. This can be set up with some portion of the cost (perhaps 1/3 is a good place to start to talk about it) coming from Maine Indymedia plus a \$750 donation that has been committed to. The balance should be raised as specifically for the purchase of the new system. Reductions in cost due to donated hardware will be noted and the "target" number reduced.

If you would like to help with a direct donation, either cash or in-kind, please contact either [editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org) or [ecolink@maineindymedia.org](mailto:ecolink@maineindymedia.org). Please limit in-kind donations to specified hardware listed in the above mentioned newswire post. Part of the reason it has been selected is to limit factors such as age, hardware incompatibility and manufacturers support (or lack of it)

-- Rob Waite - Maine Indymedia Tech Coordinator - Be The Media!

**LAYOFF: CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

dip," fighting corporate greed, and lobbying at the State House for bills to support workers. My passion for workers' rights was reflected in my work, and I truly loved this job. But the ripple effect of this devastating economy dried up funding for my work in December 2002. Two weeks before Christmas, I was told there was no money to pay me anymore. I was laid off with two weeks notice. My husband, a union carpenter and millwright, was also laid off for most of the fall, winter and spring.

This was not my first time getting laid off and I sort of knew what to expect, what I would have to deal with. First began the unemployment paperwork and dealing with the endless bureaucracy. I found out that some things had changed though. Now there are "Career Centers." There are no unemployment offices to go to: no face-to-face people to talk to, no other unemployed folks to commiserate with. Just a long wait on the phone and a faceless person on the other end. Or a recording: "You have reached an unusually busy time at the unemployment office. All the lines are busy; please call back later in the week." It's enough to make you want to scream (and I have!). It was better when there was a place to go to. It really helped to have other people to talk to, to hear about their struggles, their "findings" (how to deal with the system), their feelings about waiting, wondering and worrying.

Because of a miscommunication with my former employer over my last "official" day of work, as well as both of us agreeing to the "lack of work" reason for layoff, the unemployment checks were delayed for a few weeks. I began to rediscover where the food pantries were. Calling around to my friends, I found out how you sign up, what you need for "proof of income" etc. And now I go to food pantries at least once or twice a week. On Monday mornings my friend and I drive out together to the Bread for Life pantry in Hermon, sometimes picking up a rider. There's lots of fresh food, vegetables and fruit, and lots of out-of-date bakery items from Shop 'n' Save and Shaw's. We bring boxes and plastic bags. I help unload the truck, sort and stack the food. Sometimes I help the "egg lady" go through the crates, remove the broken eggs, clean them off, repack and stack them. (Did you know that eggshells and water are great for houseplants? It's always good to recycle things, as I well know). Sometimes if I'm lucky I get first choice of the pickings. Sometimes, while the mother "shops," I get the chance to hold a new baby or play with a toddler, keeping him distracted with a Fisher Price farmhouse. It can be precious time. It really reminds you of how simple life used to be, before the children were teenagers! And sometimes I think it helps keep my blood pressure down. Are you laughing yet? I hope so. It's funny, but it's not. It's all about survival.

My three children have been through layoffs before. We've lived on unemployment, or no money coming in. They have known what it is to be poor and not poor. And they may whine from time to time, but they always have what they need.

Somehow, you just figure it all out. Make trades with people. Barter for services. If the children need something, especially with all the things that they need for school, and I can't afford it, I let people know. This isn't easy - it took me a while - but it gets easier. And you learn that so many are in the same boat. Lots of people have helped us out, and I've helped them out. It can make for good sleeping at night.

So here's what I've rediscovered: When you are laid off, you need to be smart. You need to stay sharp, alert and always stand up for what is rightfully yours. You need to be more patient than ever, especially when someone on the other end of the phone line puts you on hold for 48 minutes! When you get laid off, you need to call the bill companies, let them know of your financial situation, and offer to pay something each month. Don't just ignore them, especially the credit card vultures! They will swallow you up and start threatening, and they can come after you with the huge interest piling up.

So, people have been telling me that my face is clear from adult acne, that I look and sound more relaxed. Can you believe that? I have been taking time to enjoy my children and have even been a little more domestic, once in a while. What could be more important? Sure, it's a struggle to pay all the endless bills and deal with the stress of trying to make do with a much smaller amount of money. But the children understand. We always talk about it. We've all been through this before. We all know that things will get better. We will all stay very close to one another. And I will continue to hold solidarity and union work as one of the most important and crucial parts of my life. There IS life after layoff.

*Roxanne Munksgaard is currently the Vice President of the Greater Bangor Area Central Labor Council and a member of Food AND Medicine. The former AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison for Central and Northern Maine and Community Organizer for Dirigo Alliance, Roxanne is unemployed as of May 2003. She lives in Bangor with her two school-aged children (the third and oldest child goes lives up at UME). Roxanne writes, sings and performs music of social and economic justice and enjoys rebel rousing! She can be contacted at 947-0998 or [r.munksgaard@verizon.net](mailto:r.munksgaard@verizon.net)*

ANNOUNCEMENT

Food  
↓

**Send Recipes for "The Maine Anarchist Cookbook" to:**

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[stffuyaysb@hotmail.com](mailto:stffuyaysb@hotmail.com)  
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**The Maine Commons is now accepting ads and inserts! Take advantage of our statewide volunteer-powered circulation to promote your non-profit group or local business!**

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

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

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

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

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

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YES, Sign Me Up to Volunteer for the Maine Independent Media Center!

The Maine Independent Media Center is entirely volunteer powered. Please fill out the form below to volunteer your time and skills to this project.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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I can help cover events within (circle one):  
10 miles   20 miles   50 miles   100 miles of my location.

I want to join the:

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

I can help with:

- Artistic work:** Graphic design and visual art both for the web site and the publication. We are especially looking for political cartoonists.
- Languages:** Translation, interpretation.
- Legal defense:** I am an attorney, paralegal, law student, trained legal observer.

**Other Skills/Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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*Turn over for Donation Form!*

**Maine Commons / Maine Indymedia Order Form**

**CDs (contact us if TAPES are needed):**

- Ethan Miller Live at Colby College 9.12.02 - \$11
- Ethan Miller Live at Unity College 4.17.02 w/CDROM tracks. - \$11
- Ethan Miller Studio Recording "In Times Of War" - \$15
- Dave Rovics Live at Colby College 9.12.02 - \$11
- Dave Rovics Live at Unity College 4.17.02 2CD set w/CDROM tracks - \$15
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- \*NEW\*** Maine Indymedia 2003 Sampler - Exclusive Tracks and more - \$11

**In the coming weeks, Maine Indymedia will process and release CDs from recent Amy Goodman talks, interviews with women in the MST settlements, and World Social Forum speakers. Contact us if interested.**

**Videos (master for copying / budget for viewing only):**

- Quebec City April 01, Kennebunk Anti-War Rally Nov 17 01 (85 min) - \$10 / \$5
- Jello Biaffra Live at Democracy Rising 06-29-02 - \$10 / \$5
- New Chautauqua 09-22-01 (119 min) - \$10 / \$5
- Food And Medicine (28 mins) - \$5

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- Issue 1 (Maine Free Press "Sept 11 / Jim Hightower Interview") - \$5
- Issue 2 (Nov-Dec 2001, "War or War? / Crisis Profiteering") - \$5
- Issue 3 (Jan-Feb 2002, "New Media/Civil Liberties" w/Countercoup Times 1) - \$3
- Issue 4 (March 2002, "Truck Fines/Belgrade Pines" w/Wormtown) - \$3
- Issue 5 (Apr-May 2002, "Lobstermen / Hathaway" w/Youth & CCTimes 3) - \$2
- Issue 6 (Jun-July 2002, "Community Ag / Liberty Money / Public Access") - \$3
- Issue 7 (July-Aug 2002, "Maine vs DOT / TV Prison Visitation") - \$5
- Issue 8 (Sept-Oct 2002, "Freedom Of Assembly / Liberty Dollar Times") - \$3
- Issue 9 (Nov-Dec 2002, "Who Owns Maine/Layoff Index 2002") - \$3
- Issue 10 (December 2002, "Something In The Air/Economic Human Rights") - \$3
- Issue 11 (Mar-Apr 2003, "Maine's Anti-War Movement/Warren's Warehouse") - \$5

**Tapes:**

- Granny D & Rev. Billy at New Chautauqua, 9.22.01 - \$6

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Feel free to use a separate sheet if your order is longer than this form

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

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

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

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

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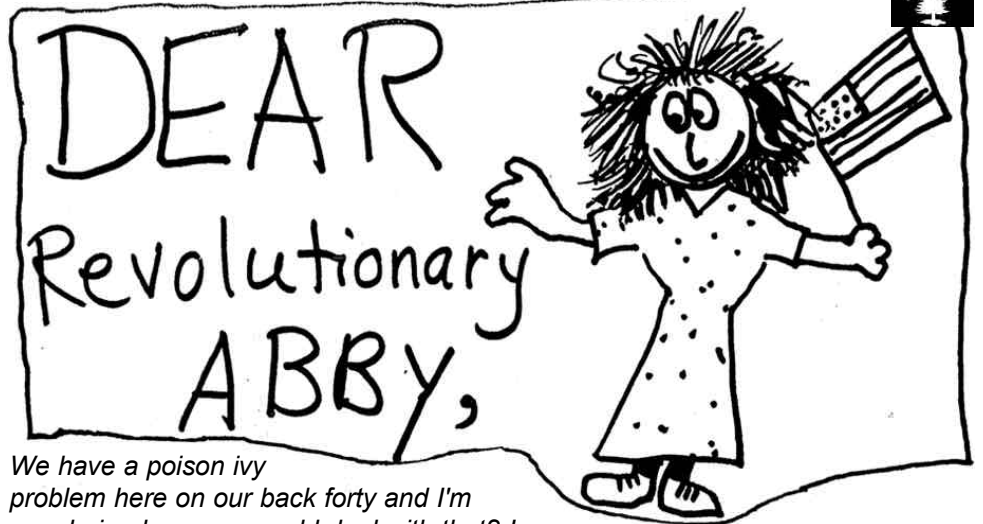
\*In order to take a tax deduction for a donation, you must have a significant portion (approx. 10%) of your year's income sent toward donations to nonprofit groups. If you want to make a tax deductible donation, please make checks out to our fiscal sponsor ROSC (Resources for Organizing and Social Change).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

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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Turn over for Volunteer Form



We have a poison ivy problem here on our back forty and I'm wondering how you would deal with that? I understand that there isn't much clean water left and I understand that chemical companies tell a LOT OF MEGA FIBS about what their crap does to us people and all the vegetation and critters (flora and fauna, as the old timey poets liked to say).

As a no-wing libertarian, do you have any advice about what to do?

Yours, Itching in Island Falls

Dear I.I.

Hey! Howzit going over there? First let me say I really think your Giant Sculptures at the gas station and store there are AWESOME! The one with the rocket landed into the outhouse and the dinosaur.

Okay, about poison ivy.

Here at militia headquarters in the foothills of the White Mountains, we PLANT poison ivy all around the perimeters.

But for those of you who don't like it, here's the word from some Yarmouth libertarians (coast) who we talked with last week.

You know the two greatest inventions known to mankind? Duck tape and blue tarps, right?

Well, you take the second invention for this problem. You lay it over the poison ivy. The sooner the better. You put rocks around or cord wood or something heavy. Tires maybe. And you leave it for the rest of the summer. Not only does it not contribute to poisoning our water, not only does it give a message to the great fibbing chemical companies (the same ones who are destroying family farms all over America), but blue tarps with tires give a message to yuppies\* that we Mainers are going to decorate our dooryards, driveways and back forty any way we damn well please.

You could even add some duck tape for extra effect, extra beauty.

Actually, I heard tires are bad for water, too, so maybe rocks are best or cinder blocks or car parts like a rear end or front axle ... maybe a driveshaft or two.

In absence of a blue (or green) tarp, an old rug will do perhaps, although blue tarp is how I heard it from one satisfied customer.

Good luck!!!

\*Many yuppies are very nice people, but many, many, many yuppies have a fetish about unrealistic dooryards... which is okay if that's what they want but they make OUR yards into a federal case! Time to save two birds with one prayer! Blue tarps to the rescue ... or old rugs. Actually the very best solution might be canvas made from industrial hemp. But that's worth another story.

Yours Forever in Truth, Revolutionary Abby

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