



# The Maine Commons

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

FREE

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

Be The Media! -- [www.mainecommons.org](http://www.mainecommons.org) & [www.maineindymedia.org](http://www.maineindymedia.org)

Issue 15 • Spring 2004

## MAINERS WALK 88 MILES TO FIGHT FOR DHS REFORM! BY: JOYCE WHITE

Peter Lenz of Norway joined the crowd on the State House steps in Augusta Monday December 8th. He was there filming the event for Public Access TV, but he was also there because he has suffered with friends through trauma meted out by the foster care system of DHS in removing a child.

Called the "Walk for Accountability" by organizers Mary Callahan of Lisbon and Rep. Ed Dugay, D-Cherryfield, the protest walk began on a wintry December 4th in Ellsworth and ended 88 miles and five snowy days later with the State House rally in Augusta on Monday, December 8. Governor Baldacci had agreed to meet and talk with the group and Lenz said they were all invited into the foyer for the meeting.

Callahan is a mother and foster mother as well as the author of a now well-known book, "Memoirs of a Baby Stealer", which uses true, in-depth examples of her experiences with Maine's foster care system under the Department of Human Services to make the moving case for the need for major change in the system.

**DHS CONTINUED ON PG. 10**

## The Global Economy Hits Home



Soon-to-be unemployed workers outside Kirschner meat packing in Augusta Maine hold signs "Tyson want world domination not family values" and "We are still number 1, if Tyson Doesn't Think So."

Every day it seems there are new reports of people across Maine losing their jobs, and communities disappearing as a result. This issue we focus on the reality of job loss, it's causes, corporate and government greed, and what folks across the state are doing to change the situation.

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by Patricia Ranzoni.....pg 15**

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## Will Fairwinds Blow Foul?

BY CATHERINE J. BRUNTON

Dubbed "Foulwinds" by opponents, the \$350 million Fairwinds project proposes to build a liquid natural gas (LNG) regasification facility on 70 acres of town-owned land in Harpswell, Maine ([www.harpswell.info](http://www.harpswell.info)). Fairwinds represents a joint venture by energy companies ConocoPhillips (Houston, Texas) and TransCanada (Calgary, Alberta, Canada).

The land Fairwinds seeks for its project was used for about fifty years by the U.S. Navy as a fuel depot for airplanes and ships until the operation ended around 1992. Now, Fairwinds seeks to obtain a lease on this land. "This lease if it goes through is a 30-

year lease, and then we could possibly go for I think up to 50 years," says Peter Micciche, ConocoPhillips' Stakeholder Relations Manager. Fairwinds is offering the town \$8 million per year in lease fees.

"There are certain problems in Harpswell that need to be addressed, and some people see this money as a means to address those problems. We don't agree," says Tom Allen, a Harpswell resident whose family owns a lobster wholesale and retail wharf in Harpswell. Allen is a member of the Fishing Families for Harpswell (FFFH) who oppose Fairwinds saying, "The Fairwinds proposal simply has too many unknowns!" FFFH lists these unknowns on its website ([www.fffh.org](http://www.fffh.org)) and discusses potential

impacts to Harpswell's resources and land. By protecting town land from Fairwinds, FFFH seeks to preserve Harpswell's fishing heritage for future generations.

According to Allen, "Our concerns go far beyond our fishing heritage. Recently there were 27 people killed in a LNG related explosion in Algeria. If 27 people from Harpswell were killed, we'd know every one of them, or their families. This isn't just a pocket-book issue."

Jim Merryman, Harpswell resident and FFFH co-president who has held a lobstering license since he was eight, says, "Bottom line for this company, it is about making money, and their money will be

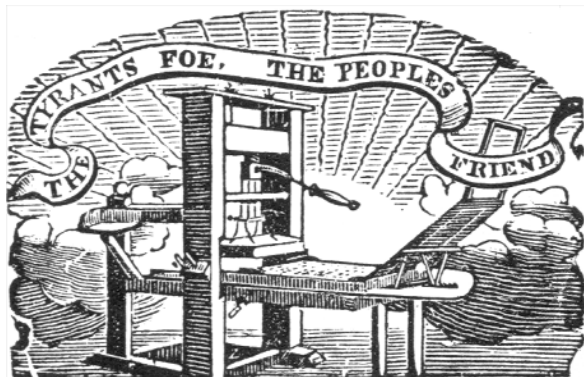
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alive -- pass it on when  
you're done with it.**

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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 PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903**

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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. Anyone can be involved with the Maine IMC! You are 'we.'

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 accepts submissions of articles, photography, letters to the editor, opinion pieces, poetry, and graphics from any person via mail or email. 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. 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. Submission does not guarantee publication. Current issues & Maine relevant stories are priority; ongoing projects may be held until the next publication if space is an issue.

Send hardcopy, floppy disks or CDs to

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

E-mail: [editor@maineindymedia.org](mailto:editor@maineindymedia.org)

Founded in 2001, 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. The intent is to particularly focus on viewpoints and stories that have been ignored or misrepresented by the mainstream media, and to expose the effects of corporate and government control of the media, in order to increase public consciousness and understanding of the events and issues at hand.

# Maine Commons Frequently Asked Questions ?

### 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)

### What is the Maine Independent Media Center?

The Maine Independent Media Center formed in Spring of 2001, in order to help provide coverage, and a network between the US and Canada, at the Jackman, Maine border center that was active during the Quebec City Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) protests. Maine IMC is a part of a network of Indymedia Centers around the world. The first Independent Media Center was established by various independent and alternative media organizations and activists in 1999 for the purpose of providing grassroots coverage of the World Trade Organization (WTO) protests in Seattle. There are currently about eighty Independent Media Centers around the world. Each IMC is an autonomous group that has its own mission statement, manages its own finances and makes its own decisions through its own processes. The Maine Independent Media Center formed around similar goals, and aims to cover issues relating to social and environmental justice and corporate control in Maine and beyond, not just at protests. It is a loosely-knit organization of people scattered around the state, with one common goal: to release the media from the hands of corporate and government elite and put it back in the hands of the people.

### Are you officially affiliated with any group?

The Maine Commons is the print publication of the Maine Independent Media Center. 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.

### How do you pay for it?

- \*Inserts from non-commercial groups
- \*Advertisements from locally-owned businesses and non-profits
- \*Individual donations
- \*A Haymarket Foundation grant
- \*Subscriptions.

### How can I advertise?

Ads are available for any locally-owned business or local non-profit organization.

**Ad & subscription forms: pg. 31**

### Where is it printed?

The Maine Commons is printed at by CWA-ITU Local 643 at the Kennebec Journal printing offices in Augusta. We are not, however, affiliated with the Kennebec Journal newspaper.

### Where is it distributed?

In all 16 counties!  
 Libraries, coffee shops, schools, gas stations, convenience stores, community centers, laundromats, and other businesses and organi-

zations that wish to carry the paper.

**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, laid out in Belgrade, and has a mailing address in Waterville, people involved with putting the paper together live very spread out 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.

### How often does the paper come out?

Every six weeks. We need a lot more help to make it monthly!

### 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 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 **See Volunteer form on pg. 31**.

### How do you decide what goes in the paper?

Anyone can get involved with writing for and editing the paper. Articles are chosen based on these priorities:

- Specifically Maine relevant
- News/viewpoint not being publicized in mainstream media
- Maine authors
- New writers/artists
- Diversity of writers/artists
- Articles covering a wide range of regions of Maine.
- In by deadline
- Space availability - generally between 200 and 1,000 words are a good length, though we obviously go over that.
- Time sensitive (if there's limited space, and the article isn't time sensitive it can wait till the next issue.)

### 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!**



## Letters from the Editors

In Loving Memory of our Friend.

Yareak



Thank you for being patient with us! Getting this paper out takes a lot of work, sometimes more than we can reasonably handle!

First, apologies to anyone who has tried to contact us and not heard back - we want you to be involved! Unfortunately, our voicemail has been malfunctioning, so we have lost some messages that folks have left - our apologies - we're working on finding a new voicemail system

Previously the job of handling all responses to new people did not have someone devoted to responding - as some of you may have noticed, you sent us letters, articles, or questions, and didn't hear back until it was too late if at all. Please don't take it personally - it was simply a matter of lack of people, lack of time, and disorganization. Now we have at least one person who has committed to reading and responding to your mail. Hopefully our communication will be more reliable now.

Right now we are in the middle of reorganizing the way we produce the paper. The layout gets done by different people from all over the place. In some cases there's hundreds of miles of distance between us.

Since it's volunteer based, most of the work gets done at night, after a full work day. In the past, the bulk of the layout work fell on a very small number of people. It's a tough job when you do it that way, and some of our best people got burnt out! Naturally, things fall through the cracks sometimes and we need to rework the system a little bit.

If you want to get involved please write to us.. We'll do our best to find a way to include you and your ideas, skills, stories etc. Don't be afraid to step forward and create your own thing!

This organization is young and budding- you never can tell what the flower will look like once it blooms. No matter what though- it's always beautiful.

### BAILEYVILLE!

THIS PAST WINTER WE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM A WOMAN IN BAILEYVILLE WHO WANTED TO GET INVOLVED.

WE CAN'T FIND YOUR LETTER! SORRY ABOUT OUR DISORGANIZATION.

IF YOU ARE THAT WOMAN PLEASE BE IN TOUCH WE WANT YOU TO GET INVOLVED!

**Live in Northern or Downeast Maine?**  
We want to hear from you! This paper is meant to give forum to voices and issues around the state - but we're lacking in writers and artists from much of Downeast and Northern Maine. If you live in either of these areas (or anywhere else for that matter) and want to get your news out, contact us!

**Like To Eat? Like To Write About Food & Drink?**  
We want to hear from you. "Enjoying yummy food" is in the Maine Commons mission statement, yet for some reason we don't have a food/recipe column. If this sounds like something you want to do, be in touch!

### Leaving No Child Behind

a fable by Herschel Sternlieb

All of America's children were lined up at the bus stop awaiting driver Bush and his beautiful new bus with cushioned seats and air conditioning. Photographers were present to record the event. The bus pulled up and out stepped Bush. "OK kids, it's time to board the bus for school. Remember, no child will be left behind." Everyone applauded and the cameras clicked away. Then all the children scampered aboard the bus and off they drove. They hadn't gone very far when the bus sputtered to a stop. "What's wrong?" asked the children. Bush tapped some gauges on the dash board. "Looks like we've run out of gas. OK kids, in order to get to school each one of you will have to cough up a buck to pay for some gas. Seems like I left my wallet at home." "What if we don't have any money?" asked the students. "Tough, you'll just have to walk."

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# March for truth: MAINE STILL SAYS NO TO WAR!

## March 20, 2004 - NOON Peace March and Rally Statehouse - Augusta First anniversary of the Iraq war.

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

### PROCLAMATION FOR THE SEPARATION OF SCHOOL AND STATE

*Whereas* more and more children are failing to grow into responsible, competent, caring adults, and *whereas* parents have the responsibility and the right to provide for an education for their children, and *whereas* independent schooling served Americans well from the 1620s to the 1840s, *it is time* to consider a return to the educational freedom from which the American Republic was born.

#### Reform Cannot Fix Government-run Schools

A "common school system"—even if it is well funded and staffed with talented, caring teachers—cannot address the differing hopes Americans hold for their children. In fact, government-run schools have divided communities into factions contending for control of school boards, textbooks, and teaching methods. When the strongest factions use schools to shape attitudes or control the content of children's minds, a society falls apart. How can young people build an academic foundation, a sense of purpose, and respect for teachers and parents in the midst of this turmoil? "Reform" of state schooling is not enough.

#### The Solution to the Education Crisis

To solve the education crisis, we need only copy America's experience with religious diversity. Americans enjoy a high degree of religious harmony because an earlier generation undid government compulsion in church funding and attendance. *Therefore*, in a pluralistic society, we must undo government compulsion in school funding and attendance. Then we can preserve our diversity, restore parental responsibility, and enable students and teachers to flourish in an environment of educational freedom.

By my signature below, I proclaim publicly that I favor the Separation of School and State.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  day  evening  
your short self-description \_\_\_\_\_

If you agree with the Proclamation, please sign and send this page (or photocopy) to The Separation Alliance at the address below. Our goal is 25,000,000 signatures—yours counts!

### Education Liberator

The Separation of School & State Alliance  
A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt project of the Advocates for Self-Government, Inc.  
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[www.sepschool.org](http://www.sepschool.org)



# Letters to the Editors

Dear Friends,  
I lived in Maine off and on from 1989 until my husband died in the year 2000. I am so proud of the protesters in Bangor who defied Susan Collins. I was living there when she was first elected and painted herself as a moderate. Having lived in the North, the "other" Maine, I know how people struggle to make ends meet. While food pantries go wanting and heat assistance is trimmed, while people hunt for jobs vainly and have to leave their hometowns to support their families, lemming Collins who presented herself as a moderate supports the ignorance of Bush's foreign policy.

She can wrap herself in patriotism all she wants it does not change the reality of the waste in lives, money and resources in a war that has no real purpose except to make Bush and his cronies rich. The \$87 billion dollars could have done a lot for the American people. Bush is dragging our country's reputation through the mud around the world. I know that true patriots will protest this violation of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Sincerely, Susan M

Dear Editors:

In his letter to the editor (Issue 14, Late Fall 2003), Mr. Joe Wilson of West Gardiner "was disturbed to hear that the Coast Guard" suspended a search for four Maine fishermen "after a few days of finding nothing." Mr. Wilson went on to say that he shouldn't be "shocked" because the "four men were just average people" and if their names had been "Kennedy," the search never would have been called off.

While I can't disagree with Mr. Wilson's contention that "money talks," I take issue with his implication that the Coast Guard would suspend a search prematurely because the missing men were - in his words - "average." Nothing could be further from the truth. Year after year, the young men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard risk their lives many times over while searching for "average" mariners. In fact, many Coast Guardsmen have lost their lives while performing SAR (Search and Rescue) operations searching for mariners in distress regardless of the mariners' bank statement and name recognition.

Suspending a search is one of the most difficult decisions a SAR coordinator makes, and I guarantee it is not a decision that is made lightly, nor in haste, nor while there is any chance that the missing mariners can be rescued.

In the case of the four missing Maine fishermen, Mr. Wilson characterized the Coast Guard's search

as "a few days of finding nothing." The facts show otherwise. The evening that the boat's emergency radio beacon was activated 50 miles southeast of Nantucket, Coast Guard searchers arrived at the scene to find the boat's radio beacon floating in the water among debris. The Coast Guard still saturated the area with air and surface units for more than 60 hours covering a 4,656-square-mile search area.

The Coast Guard is one of the most over-worked and under-funded organizations going. No, the Coast Guard isn't perfect. But to imply that these courageous young men and women might suspend a search early is wrong and is an insult to the young Coast Guard heroes who have died while attempting to rescue - in Mr. Wilson's words - "the average man."

P. A. "Barney" Turlo, Benton

Dear Editor:

Just finished reading your article, "Fighting the Fed ... (the ALD)" [on the American Liberty Dollar as an alternative to the regular Federal Reserve Notes that are normally used as American money] on-line.

Thanks for taking the time to produce the article. It was very well organized and was presented efficiently and clearly.

That article gives me hope, knowing that there are others, in this country, who are also concerned, and are doing something about the situation. (Even though we are about 3,000 miles apart).

A reader

Dear Editors:

I was some pleased Maine's penal system was brought forth in the limelight by Jinx (the penname of the inmate who authored the March/April 03 Article "Warren's \$73 Million Warehouse"). Contributing factors of resorting to a pen name, eventually diminishing prison staff any possible retaliation from revelation by prisoners who inform on masters who continentally practice felonious behavior, while turning the keys of creative imprisonment.

Although Maine's clearly out of the forefront in modern day correctional interests. Prison administrators surely rely on buffoonish self-interest of comforts by having tutelary chief advocate's office right in the same department as the Commissioner to the Maine Department of Corrections. How cunning and diabolic futile of preserving of our inmates' basic civil rights.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mickey Winger  
Waterville

Dear Editors:  
There's limited liability involved when DHS messes up your, and your children's lives. They are protected from their faults and misdeeds. These are silently swept under the rug and held accountable only to a bare minimum. This power and shielding has allowed them to psychologically, economically, socially, and legally ignore limits to which they will go to take our children and tear families apart. The whole DHS system is a tool to facilitate, legalise, and rationalise stealing children to make a profit. They hold out hope that you will get your kids back by a system of rewards, whereby you are knocked about psychologically and misled, pelted with all types of behavior modification. You will try and grasp the brass ring (your child's return) but its always yanked by slanted and even false reports from observation "specialists" and psychological "professionals" who tell you outright that they will use everything gleaned from these "evaluations" against you. This is to keep you and your children bringing in barrels of money in a sick never ending payday scheme for all types of "professionals." There's lawyers aplenty for all the key players, psychologists, councilors, doctors, DHS workers, so called "parenting specialists" and lets not forget the foster home which receives from our children about \$6400.00 per month and has seven foster kids in it. This is the same foster home where our children were exposed to head lice for the first time in their lives and where my grandson learned to call his dad an "idiot."

When a DHS worker did a "home study," I was asked to fill out papers with questions that were just off the wall, such as "How much pot do you smoke? How much alcohol do you drink? When did you start dating? Did you do much dating before getting married? On a scale of 1- 10, how would you rate your sexual relationship with your spouse?" And last but not least, "What changes would be needed to make your sex life better?!!" I showed these questions to my family and they couldn't believe it. The case worker would write me letters telling me I had to do this or that or "It would not bode well" for me and my reunification with my grandchildren. I looked up the archaic term "bode well" and its a

type of threat. The so called "team meeting" I had the displeasure to attend, brought all the "key players" together to mostly bash the parents and was not a positive thing. The foster father glared at the kids dad like he was a Satan. The DHS caseworker and parenting "specialist" jumped all over the kids mom for giving her son a small material reward as well as praise for his success in potty training. They said she was trying to "buy" the child's love! Both of the parents had attended and passed parenting classes at which they were taught from a book, "SOS Help for Parents": that said you should reinforce the child's positive achievement with praise, material reward or activity reward. She had to be humiliated and try to defend her reward against two so called "parenting specialists" who didn't even know what they were talking about. This was a hateful gathering, just to keep us trying to grasp the brass ring.

On another occasion my son went to an evaluation with a DHS psychologist (20 years with DHS) who asked him if he knew where the "Chuck the Homo" bridge was. My son answered that he didn't and he didn't know what he was getting at. The doctor told him that he was asked by the state to do the psychological evaluations on the teens who had thrown a gay person off a bridge in Bangor. He went on to say how his kids asked him not to do the evaluations because they were friends at school. So he said he didn't do them. When my son came back from this meeting he told me what the doctor had said and didn't know why the doctor was telling him this story. My son said he he didn't know how people could be friends with people who commit hate crimes and condone them.

We are so fed up and disgusted. I'm sorry to have to live in this state. It can happen to almost anyone. You will come to know someone close to you who has been affected by the greedy and cruel DHS of Maine system of justice.

Still Buried in Bull in Cornville

Don't Peek! Answers to the Acrostic on page 28 below.  
A. Kitty Hawkeye; B. In and out; C. Night light infantry; D. Shame on me; E. OHare Airport; F. Lucky strike out; G. Vermont; H. Error-free run; I. Reeketh; J. Tank tread; K. Hear hear; L. El; M. Penny ante bellum; N. Oh oh; O. In need; P. Sally Ride a cock horse; Q. One more; R. Nee Mao; S. Wee men; T. Oscar delarenta car; U. Old fashioned; V. Dog tag day; W. Box car lot; X. I need a; Y. Bandy legs diamond; Z. London fog horn; ZI. Ex-con carne.



## Tourism

"The tourist is a pseudo-traveler, an unwitting sucker in servitude to a claque-trap of travel agents, businessmen, corporations, and government. On the one hand, who cares? Let everyone do as they will. Unfortunately, the tourist is also a human locust: merely a pest in small numbers, but all too often a pestilence that devours everything, leaving only a sticky plastic facade in place of whatever real thing existed before. Tourists corrupt the economy of the places they visit; they trample what is delicate, and deface what is monumental; they flout the traditions and insult the natives. Although they leave behind a bad taste, the natives put up with them because of the "prosperity" they bring, a prosperity that sacrifices public interest and private integrity. Tourism destroys what it embraces. Whatever it was that created the original traveler's interest is eventually gutted, turned into an imitation of itself that further trivializes our experience. In the lyrics of the Eagles: "You call someplace paradise / Kiss it goodbye." The damage also extends to the tourists themselves, whose frantic activity masks their sorrow at failing to find some soul-satisfying rewards for all the money they're spending.

The alternative is to acquire some measure of vagabonding consciousness. The goal of the vagabond is always to make more from less, to discover that anyplace can be magical. You don't disrupt anyone's economy, especially your own. You keep a low profile, living at the locals do or with them. You're interested in learning about the spirits of the places you go, and the stories and styles of the people who live there." - *Ed Bury, Vagabonding in the USA*

### FAIRWINDS: CONT'D FROM PG. 1

made on the backs of this community. There are many lobstermen that have expressed their concerns, but I can't say that we speak for everybody 'cause we don't"

Fairwinds looked at 37 other locations in Maine before selecting Harpswell, which Micciche says has the best access to deep water, and a proximity to existing pipeline in Westbrook, Maine. Deep water is a necessity for the LNG project because super tankers used in refueling such a facility require a minimum depth of 40 feet when fully loaded.

According to Allen, they want to bring them in every four to nine days, with a 24-hour offloading period. He says, "If they came every four days that would be a tanker in our waters every other day, since they have to go out again."

"That is what I would call heavy ship traffic, and that will be devastating to our lobster buoys and to our lobster gear," says Merryman.

Proposed on September 18th, 2003, Fairwinds plans to include 800-1,000 foot long tanker ships; two fuel tanks, 120 feet in height by 180 feet in diameter; a docking station; a regasification/vaporization plant; and about 20 miles of pipeline from Harpswell to Westbrook. Approximately eight miles of this pipe will cross the floor of Casco Bay.

Three Harpswell residents, John Lloyd, Walter Norton, and Diane McIntire-who toured ConocoPhillips' LNG facility in Nikiski, Alaska-did not like the idea of bringing LNG to their home town, but John Floccher, who is a Harpswell resident and 30-year lobsterman supports Fairwinds. He moved to the town in the early 1970's, and he remembers that the original Harpswell fuel depot was operating at the time.

Floccher lives on Orrs Island on the eastern peninsula. Many on that side think Fairwinds will have little or no negative effect on them personally and are therefore

supporting this project. But recent visitors from Marblehead, Mass, fishermen Susan and Jay Michaud, told the FFFH that when a pipeline went through their bottom they were forced to spread out and fish areas they had never fished before, which caused some tension in jealously guarded areas.

"They used to store 42 million gallons of JP5 [aviation turbine fuel] and aviation grade gasoline over there[Harpwell's defunct fuel depot] above ground in those tanks that used to be there," Floccher recalls. In reference to LNG he says, "I was a marine engineer years ago, and the technology, as far as safety issues and everything, it's probably the safest form of fossil fuel in its frozen state that there is."

According to Allen, "The comparison between the depot's previous use and its proposed use is false, in our opinion. Tankers came only three or four times a year. Other smaller supply ships and such came more often. Also, those ships did not require the kind of security that surround LNG tankers. There was also no pipeline across Middle Bay, as is proposed by Fairwinds. Each of the two proposed tanks holds as much as all fourteen of the previous tanks: about one million barrels."

Deb Levensailor, spokeswoman for the Friends of Fairwinds (FF), who support the project, says, "It would help provide a good, clean source of energy to all of us, not just our area, but the state of Maine and the northeastern part of the U.S."

However, LNG is primarily methane, and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) says, "As a contributor to climate change, methane is second only to carbon dioxide."

Yet, some say LNG is also relatively safe. For example, while gasoline is explosive, toxic, extremely flammable, and easily assessable to the public, LNG is not carcinogenic, toxic, or corrosive. By promoting the use of LNG, Fairwinds seeks to bring an environmentally friendly product to the Harpswell community. "In my heart I think this [Fairwinds] is the best thing for

this town," says Micciche.

However, there is legal resistance. Attorney Tim Riley of Oxnard Shores, California wrote a letter to Governor John Baldacci pointing out that he is aware of the LNG plan for Harpswell, Maine (www.harpwell.info). In his letter, Riley requests that Baldacci visit his website on the Risks and Danger of LNG.

On his website, Riley points out, "LNG has tried locating in the city of Oxnard, California, before, so we already know how massive its destruction can be. In 1977, Oxnard opposed an LNG project after the city's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) showed up to 70,000 casualties resulting from an offshore LNG tanker accident. (www.timriley.com).

Riley also refers to a disastrous malfunction of the first commercial LNG facility called "The Cleveland Disaster." In 1944, the facilities' LNG holding tanks leaked fuel into Cleveland, Ohio where it ignited. The event killed 128 people and extensively damaged the city.

Natural gas is certainly flammable, and therefore potentially dangerous. A natural gas fire can occur when the fuel is ignited within a five to 15 percent volume mixture with air. While this is a narrow range, it is still a potential risk.

Yet Levensailor says, "I think it's a wonderful opportunity for the town of Harpswell, and the revenues gained from that [Fairwinds] would provide great tax relief, which is something that we need."

"There is a small group here that is opposed to it, and they are located in Middle Bay, which is the area of the proposed facility," she adds.

If the FFFH are small in number, they are firm in their opposition to Fairwinds. They believe their livelihoods and quiet way of life are threatened. "In effect, what's gonna

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happen is they're gonna displace us from that fishing ground, at least where the tanker goes. We're gonna try to fish where we were as close as we can, but in effect we're gonna be displaced. They'll push our gear outta there," says Allen, who is an FFFH member.

Allen was present when Fairwinds representatives and Harpswell selectmen, Gordon Weil, Jim Knight, and Lee Theberte, announced the LNG project proposal. He says, "My personal response was, 'Wow! That's a lot of money.' " He adds, "It seemed coincidental to us that the amount they arrived at was just about the entire town budget."

Allen points out, "Out of that \$8 million, by the way, \$1 million of that is supposed to be set aside for the fishermen to offset losses to gear or perhaps even losses to income." The \$1 million is a mitigation fund for the lobstermen; however, Allen says, "The mitigation fund is absolutely unworkable in our point of view. How are we gonna make claims that we lost gear? Who's gonna verify that? [What's] the verification system gonna be?"

Allen adds, "Our fear is that the process is flawed. We do not feel that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) are going to be sufficiently motivated to make sure the right thing is done." According to FFFH, "Fairwinds and its supporters have again and again urged us to stop worrying about impacts to environment, safety, or security. Just give them the lease and the proper regulatory agencies will take care of you."

FAIRWINDS: CONT'D NEXT PAGE



## FAIRWINDS: CONT'D FROM PG. 5

On December 8th, 2003, approximately 180 people attended an FFFH rally to protest the project. Many FFFH core members are lobstermen, and the pipeline for the proposed Fairwinds project is a major concern to them.

Some Harpswell citizens are concerned that lobsters could be deterred by the pipe. Professor in the School of Marine Sciences at the Darling Marine Center, Dr. Bob Steneck, says, "If the pipeline is resting solidly on the sea floor, and if it extends up more than a foot or so, it will probably be a barrier to crawling lobsters."

"If efforts aren't made to allow them sloped sides to crawl over, then lobster migration—particularly reproductive lobsters—are probably going to be hampered. They'll funnel [lobsters] into different areas than their normal migration would take them," adds Steneck.

Micciche says, "We have something called armor rock that's piled on it. It gives something on either side for things like lobsters to use to get over the pipe if they had some sort of problem with that." However, Micciche also says, "There may be places from time to time where there's exposure on the surface of a couple of inches." Exactly how many inches of pipe will be exposed is uncertain.

Merryman, FFFH co-president, has fished the Broad Sound and Middle Bay area for 25 years. He says, "Nobody really knows the effect of this pipeline that will go through some of the finest fishing bottom there is in the whole coast of Maine. It will change the habitat. It will create a fence for the lobsters. They won't be able to pass, therefore it will change migration routes."

When asked about the potential LNG project impact on lobstering, Allen says, "I did an investigative report...I discovered this little port up in Nova Scotia where the Sable Island Project, natural gas project, had brought in a pipeline through a little harbor called Country Harbor. A dozen fishermen fished that harbor and they'd been fishing it for generations. They brought this pipeline five years ago now. They were immediately displaced because they could not catch lobsters in their harbor anymore."

"And this is what I think happened in Country Harbor, ...they disturbed such a great amount of silt that it ruined the lobster bottom in that bay," says Allen.

Would sediment in the water column effect lobsters? "Well," says Steneck, "if there's a lot of sediment, yeah. Unlike crabs, their

gills are actually rather exposed to sediment. Lobsters make pits or they make cohesive burrows, but they simply don't sit half buried in sand or unconsolidated mud because it would clog their gills."

Diane Cowan, research scientist and founder of the Lobster Conservancy, says, "If you do construction on the sea floor, you disrupt the sea floor, and anything that's in the path of the construction is no longer there."



Photo: Bob Anderson

Protester at Dec. 12 Fishing Families for Harpswell rally against Fairwinds LNG project

Regarding Fairwinds' response to concerns, Merryman says, "They generally have given us, 'Don't worry. Don't worry about that. We'll make it right. It'll be OK.'" So as far as I'm concerned, that's not a response that's valid."

In the Fairwinds LNG project, Merryman sees a threat to his livelihood. "August, September, October, I fish eighty percent of my traps in the path of this tanker," he says. In response to the offer of \$8 million, Merryman says, "This money will be spent so fast that it really won't be reflected on anybody's property taxes, as far as tax relief goes."

Fairwinds may have incentives, but for FFFH members and people against the project, the proposed LNG facility would be too close to home for comfort. In fact, it's predicted that it would be so close to a residential area that people would see the facility's perimeter fence from their windows when it was erected. "It's also, as my wife points out, three quarters of a mile from an elementary school where my child goes to school," says Allen. According to FFFH, "This is the only place we know of where a facility like this has been proposed for a residential area. Other companies, admittedly competitors of ConocoPhillips and TransCanada, say that they looked at this site and thought it was ridiculous to seriously consider it."

The properties of LNG raise a controversial issue. Levensailor says, "First of all, as I understand it, LNG does not explode. It can burn, but it does not explode." There are supporting documents. "Although portions

of an LNG vapor cloud may be flammable, the flame speed of an unconfined cloud is slow and it will not explode. In contrast, gasoline and fuel oil are extremely flammable and, in their liquid state, are toxic," according to El Paso, owners of North America's largest natural gas pipeline system ([www.elpaso.com](http://www.elpaso.com)). The California Energy Commission also stated in a July, 2003 report, "An LNG vapor cloud cannot explode in the open atmosphere, but it could burn ([www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov))." The US Dept. of Energy has recently decided to

regulate the LNG project. The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), has met with Fairwinds and discussed related fishing issues and also what might be needed for security. If the lease is voted for, the DMR would be primarily involved with permitting pipeline dredging and dock expansion. David Etner of the DMR says, "If for any reason it's not permitted by state and federal agencies, then it can't go forward, and just because the company has a lease with the town doesn't mean it can go forward." In other words, Fairwinds is taking a risk. But so are the people of Harpswell, including lobstermen, if the lease is approved. "They have admitted that there will be long term impacts to our community. Therefore, by proceeding forward with the project knowing that they could do irreversible damage, I think is irresponsible, and I think it's negligent," says Merryman.

Cowan says, "I don't believe that you can counteract the negative effects of taking away natural habitat. I look at this as taking habitat away from the lobsters and the lobster fishermen and that's what it is, face value."

Allen asks, "Are the lobster fishermen gonna stop fishing? Are they gonna fish fewer traps?" He says, "No. The fishermen are going to push east. They're gonna push west into grounds that they have not traditionally fished, and they're gonna be rubbin' shoulders and elbows with fishermen who have never seen them before. So, I think that it will effect all fishermen in Harpswell."

With controversy over the risks of natural gas creating tension between residents, the path ahead for Harpswell is not easy and the process of considering the Fairwinds project will take time. The land lease for the project was finalized at a Harpswell selectmen's meeting on January 23, 2004. It is now available online for public review ([www.fairwindslng.com](http://www.fairwindslng.com)). A town vote on the lease is scheduled for March 9th. If the lease is approved, permitting will begin, and an environmental impact study is expected during this phase. If the project is completed Micciche says it will be in operation by 2009.

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"greatly expand a LNG safety review that had previously failed to take into account several important studies on the issue,"—this according to the 1/24/04 edition of the Mobile Register.

"We know during the two-year permitting period they [Fairwinds] will be very strictly regulated," says Levensailor. But Merryman, who admits that his greatest fear is the unknown aspects of the project, says, "The venture, ConocoPhillips and TransCanada, will not give us any health and safety studies, no environmental impact studies, not until we give them a lease. By then that is too late."

The lack of an environmental impact study prior to legal agreement on land use has raised opposition to LNG, not only in Harpswell, but also in Alabama. The state's governor, Bob Riley, objected to a proposed LNG project, according to a press office article dated January 14, 2004 ([www.governorpress.state](http://www.governorpress.state)). ExxonMobile, an energy company, sought to obtain submerged state-owned land in Alabama, but governor Riley disapproved because no independent safety study had been conducted. Concern over the project included the possibility of a large tanker fire. Some scientists predicted that the complete loss of a tanker could produce a fire over a mile wide. FERC (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) also mentioned that a hull breach alone could produce a fire 470 feet across.

One thing about the LNG proposal is certain: If the lease passes, Harpswell control over the proposal will not be in town hands. Several state and federal agencies would

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# from the Domestic Liberation Front

BY: ROXANNE MUNKSGAARD

So it's been a few months since I've written...wonder where I've been? I spent the last three plus months on the Howard Dean for America campaign trail as the Northern Maine Regional Organizer, covering five counties from Bangor to Madawaska and over to Calais. And, right after the February 8th Democratic Caucuses, I closed up a storefront at 34 Main Street, the Bangor Dean Office, and filed for unemployment. This wasn't your idea of a small job, let me tell you. Here's an idea of what it was like on the campaign trail...

There were some rewards and some downfalls, but always the positive first....I got to meet lots and lots of great people. At the University of Maine, there were a group of students, organized as Generation Dean/Students for Dean. These young people rocked! A group of over 15 met every Wednesday; they held voter registration tables at the bookstore, planned a rally with live music, traveled down to NH in a van for a solid week, doing door-to-door canvass just before the primary in subzero temperatures, and planned for the Orono/Old Town caucuses. Two of the students, Morgan and Elizabeth, interned at the Dean Bangor Office. They were totally awesome! (sorry for the old wordings, but I AM from another generation). These two women were invaluable - endless phoning, taking on whatever needed to be done. They are both very smart and capable and fun and re-opened my eyes. There were lots of other students who basically gave up their classes and jumped right in to the campaign: Charlie, Willow, Heather, Lysa, Abe, Peter, Jesse, and everyone else. Thank you!

I also met people in the community who came out of their warm homes, gave up their daily routines, and were there helping in so many ways. Roberta, with her service dog, Jolene, made sure that we had what we needed, kept our spirits up; she walked the neighborhoods, talking to people. Jolene even had a little spot in the back of the storefront for her food and water. Anne, who just moved to Orono, came in and painted up huge banners for the office, "Give 'em hope Howard!" and "People Powered Forward" (we hung that at the Bangor caucus). Sandy, along with my two sons, Esben and Thor, and friend, Trevor, who schlepped big, heavy tables to the office on the coldest day of the year (35 degrees below zero with the wind-chill). Thor, who came in the office in the middle of the night to set up the first two computers. (I think we had eight during the last week!) Morgan, originally from Downeast Machias, who had the brilliant idea of hanging fabric and quilts on the storefront windows and door, as we sat there freezing with the wind-chill blowing right in, heat blasting, and temps below 55 degrees inside. The day of the "Ice Castle", and the Masonic Building was burning in downtown Bangor, I was evacuated in the early morning, taking

refuge and setting up a temporary office at Bagel Central. And there was all the Bangor street people, who came in looking for something hot to drink, free food, and the chance to talk politics. And lots of local supporters: Carl, was our "rules man," Holly was our "cyber Queen" and Jim was always checking for more to do. Freda walked in one day and never left; she was wonderful. Rev. Elaine, a Bangor Precinct Victory Captain, threw us a wonderful celebration party the night of the caucus and was there for whatever we needed through the duration. There were also several special people... Roger, who kept me sane and listened and made me laugh. And Gary, my constant companion and renewed-found friend. We knew each other about 12 years ago, lost touch, and found each other again one night copying for a Dean Meet Up in Staples. We dined, whined, bitched, strategized, planned and worked side-by-side through it all. I am very grateful for his friendship once again. And all the other wonderful volunteers who came through out doors...Thank you everyone for your generosity, your energy and your enthusiasm!

And then there were all those fabulous people I met from the surrounding counties. Too many to name actually...Dexter and Phil in Hancock County were our best-ever Victory Captains, organizing all kinds of video viewings, ongoing lists and phoning. Mount Desert Island rocked with Alice and Mary and all the other activists. Piscataquis County had the treasured Theresa and Washington County's Meet Up in Steuben was huge with Judith and so many others. Aroostook County took off on its own, with CJ, Dayna, Jackie, Ginette, Ross, and so many others. Thank you for all your hard work and per severance!

The downfalls will be kept short. The piles and boxes are everywhere, but are slowly being attacked. I went days without even seeing my children sometimes. I barked at my husband and my dog growled at me when I came home in the middle of the night. I gave up my household chores. I lacked sleep and lived to talk politics. My personal friends took me for lost, once again. I didn't strum one chord on the guitar. My new drum (a present from my husband for Christmas) has sat there untouched. My home office looked like a tornado hit. There were days I didn't take a shower, trying to get in 15 minutes more of sleep and rushing around like a frantic bird. I slipped two times on the ice downtown Bangor, always rushing, staying focused, always working. And so my family deserves a big thank you for their patience and for putting up with me; I don't think you have a clue what I was like!

And so it went. It's time to move forward. All-in-all it was the most exciting campaign I ever worked on, and I've worked on many. What I and so many others brought from it is invaluable. Despite constant attacks from the corporate media (and please note: WE LOVED THE SCREAM!) and other campaigns, the "out-of-the-mainstream" Democratic block is strong and we will forge forward. My mother has an expression, "Don't let the bastards get you down." And they won't. As far as we're concerned we won Maine because it won't ever be the same!

# Ability Maine

New Disability Literature and Culture Journal  
Launched by Ability Maine

AbilityMaine.org, the online newspaper providing news, resources, and activism information on disability in Maine, is branching out to promote literary writing by people with disabilities. On January 30, Ability-Maine launched *Breath & Shadow*, a monthly journal of disability culture and literature. *Breath & Shadow* is the only online literary journal with a focus on disability. It is also unique in being the sole cross-disability literature and culture magazine written and edited entirely by people with disabilities. *Breath & Shadow* publishes poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, drama, and other writing that examines the human experience of living with disability.

Originally the idea of AbilityMaine editor, Norman Meldrum, the cultural project is now being directed by Sharon Wachsler, whose humor columns have been a monthly fixture on AbilityMaine since February 2002. "Breath & Shadow is the realization of a dream," says Wachsler. "As a writer who has a disability, I know firsthand how frustrating it is to have my work turned down by editors who are confused or frightened by disability. A big part of my impetus for editing *Breath & Shadow* is to provide opportunities for other talented writers with disabilities to make their voices heard."

The journal is already succeeding with flying colors in attracting such talent. The first issue includes an essay by two-time Pushcart nominee, poet, and novelist, Tobias Seamon, as well as several poems by Peggy Munson. Munson, whose fiction and poetry have won her several awards and fellowships, recently saw her work honored by its inclusion in *Best American Poetry 2003*. "I'm thrilled with the quality of submissions that have come in," Wachsler acknowledges. "And the quantity. We've had over 100 submissions within a month. The community's enthusiasm for this venture has surpassed my expectations."

Each issue of *Breath & Shadow* touches on a theme. Appropriately, the theme for the inaugural issue is "Beginning." After Wachsler's introductory essay, "Beginning *Breath & Shadow*: Creating a Literary Community" readers will be treated to "The Book under the Chair," Seamon's moving memoir recounts his discovery of J. R. R. Tolkien's stories while recovering from a series of childhood surgeries. Visitors to the site should also be certain to check out Munson's poetry, "Immunity," "How I Wake Up," and "CAT Scan," which provide stunning imagery and heart-stopping honesty.

Future themes for the magazine include "Desire," "Visual Art Reflections," "Treatment," "Youth Speaks," and "Death." "We have some really powerful and beautiful pieces slated for upcoming issues," promises Wachsler. These artists include Edward McInnis, former "Naked City" columnist for *Boston Magazine*; Suzie Siegel, a newspaper reporter and editor whose 20-year career was halted by cancer; and Kenny Fries, the author of multiple books (of poetry and prose) and winner of the Gregory Kolvakos Award for AIDS Writing.

Fans of Wachsler's "Sick Humor" commentary need not be disappointed: she will be writing her columns on a bimonthly basis for *Breath & Shadow*. "Don't be turned off by themes like 'Death' and 'Treatment,'" Wachsler smiles mischievously, "I can promise plenty of laughter and joy for our readers. In fact, I'll even have a humor column in the 'Death' issue."

Startup funding for *Breath & Shadow* was provided by Maine's Resources for Organizing and Social Change (ROSC), the grassroots, nonprofit organization of which AbilityMaine is a part. "Norm, Larry Dansinger, and the other people at ROSC and AbilityMaine have been fantastically supportive," says Wachsler. "They've been an integral part of this project from day one. And because of their focus on Maine, we're particularly encouraging people with disabilities in Maine to send us their writing. We plan to have a profile, interview, or article by or about someone in Maine in almost every issue."

To read the first issue of *Breath & Shadow*, visit [www.abilitymaine.org/breath](http://www.abilitymaine.org/breath). Visitors to the site can also learn about submission guidelines, sponsorship opportunities, and the history and staff of the project. To receive a free e-mail subscription, contact [breathandshadow@aol.com](mailto:breathandshadow@aol.com) and put "subscribe" in the subject line. Wachsler asks those who wish to support people with disabilities in the arts to make a tax-deductible contribution to *Breath & Shadow* by sending a check to ROSC, PO Box 776, Monroe, ME 04951. Checks should be made out to "ROSC" but include a note that the donation is for *Breath & Shadow*.





# opinions / editorials

## One Nation, Under...Who?

BY: DAVID DESCHESNE

[www.mainemediaresources.com/citizen\\_reporter.htm](http://www.mainemediaresources.com/citizen_reporter.htm)

It is now agreed by most that the war in Iraq is, indeed, a manufactured war in order to benefit the wealthy few who run it, but the problem is far greater than most people understand. Some have asked why do we have the same problems regardless of which party is in power? After careful research into the matter, I am prepared to offer my thesis on the geopolitical power structures, which govern not only the United States, but the world as well.

The United States government is now run by a group of individuals called, to borrow a term from Georgetown University history professor, Carroll Quigley, the Quartet." (Professor Quigley described a Quartet as the ruling power structure in Germany in the period prior to WWII). Within this power structure the position of president is that of mid-level figure-head and Congress a rubber stamp.

The US Quartet, similar to that one in Germany decades ago, is made up of four dominant groups all working in concert with each other. Those groups are: 1.) Military, 2.) Bureaucracy, 3.) Corporations, and 4.) Media.

1.) Military: This group consists of the armed forces, local police, state police (who, incidentally, share military rank and insignia with full time armed forces) and most County sheriffs. These are the armed loyal enforcers who do the bidding of the group in charge.

2.) Bureaucracy: This group consists of the President, Congress, Judiciary, and all of the alphabet soup agencies". The education system of our country has also been brought under the control of the Quartet through the bureaucracy of the National Education Association, which is why public school students will never learn of its existence.

3.) Corporations: Like the former plutocratic system of government in England, it takes a lot of money to elect willing servants. We the People have been strip-mined of our money through taxes and regulations. Corporations, however, enjoy free reign in the economic sector to do what they will - all at the behest of loyal political party candidates - again from both sides of the aisle. The Federal Reserve Bank is, perhaps, the largest and most influential corporation (it being private and not a branch of the Federal government) in directing the affairs of the United States. This foreign-owned bank has been given the exclusive monopoly power of counterfeiting money for the use of the U.S. government since 1913, as well as collecting taxes via its sub-corporation - the I.R.S.

4.) Media: Perhaps the most influential group of all in the Quartet, the media exercises a discreet method of policy-making by reporting manufactured" news which is psychologically crafted to benefit the aims and goals of the Quartet. While the news media may currently appear to be critical of President Bush, they will never deal with issues, which may have an

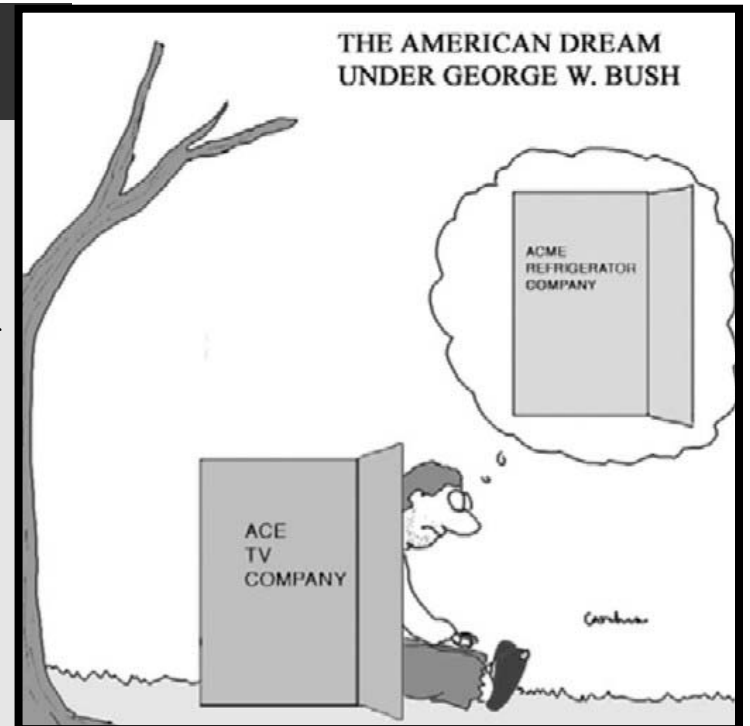
adverse effect on the power structure of the Quartet. Those issues being:

1.) The illegality of the Federal Income Tax, 2.) The government's involvement, and subsequent cover-up, of the 9-11 disaster, 3.) The legalized counterfeiting of money by the Federal Reserve and all affiliated banks, and 4.) the adoption of various planks of Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto such as: driver's license, vehicle registration, a strong central bank, and free public school education, to name a few. There is one controlling group which threads the four groups of said Quartet together - the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Formed in 1921 as an offshoot of Britain's Royal Institute for International Affairs, the people who formed the CFR envisioned a world empire federated under England with the belief that they could, with the proper spirit and guidance bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth." They established their base of operations here in the U.S. 80+ years ago and have been instrumental in placing their members in all four sections of the above-listed Quartet. The CFR has quietly recruited politicians and bureaucrats as well as top editors from all branches of media - television, newspaper, and radio. While these members don't openly advertise the aims of their club, they mold, craft and edit the presentation of relevant stories in an effort to prop up, defend and promote their ideology. Much of the time this crafting is done under the guidance of a U.S. Army Psychological Warfare Operations (PSYOPS) team, using the guerilla warfare tactic of presenting authentic" news media to indigenous populations in order to affect a desired outcome (this tactic is detailed in US Army Field Manual FM 31-21, Guerrilla Warfare and Special Forces Operations, ?? 150-151) - though this is usually done at the national level.

The CFR, being a British innovation, operates under the old British guidelines of business etiquette: where most duties, powers, and actions were controlled by customary procedures and conventions, not by explicit rules and regulations, and were often carried out by casual remarks between old friends. No record perpetuates most of CFR members' remarks, and they are generally regarded as private affairs which are no concern of others, even when they involve billions of dollars of the public's money.

In 1945, the CFR designed and built the United Nations from the wreckage of the League of Nations treaty, which our Senate wisely rejected in 1918. While CFR members in his cabinet surround President G.W. Bush, it should be noted that he and his Republican cohorts are not alone. Former President Bill Clinton was/is a member of the CFR (which could explain why President Bush has dropped all investigations into his wrongdoings) as were most of the advisors, cabinets and bureaucrats surrounding our Presidents, Senators, and Representatives for the past 80 years.

The CFR currently has a membership in excess of 3,000 highly influential people among those being: Maine Senator Olympia Snowe and US Supreme Court Justices; Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Ginsberg, and Steven Breyer. Other members of the



CFR are: Bill Cohen, Jesse Jackson, Newt Gingrich, Colin Powell, Catherine Harris, Senators John Kerry, Christopher Dodd, Bob Graham, and Joe Lieberman. Among corporate members you will find; American Express, General Electric, Johnson & Johnson, Shell Oil, Royal Bank of Canada, IBM, and Procter & Gamble, just to name a few. Because the major networks; ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN and FOX, as well as the print media giants: AP, UPI, Wall Street Journal, etc. are all affiliated with the CFR, and these entities are the ones in charge of counting our votes at the national level, they effectively get to choose our leaders for us - due to no oversight of their vote counting by an unbiased third party. This practice of allowing the CFR-friendly news media to tally votes began just after the death of President John F. Kennedy, with the creation of the private corporation Voter News Service.

In summary, it matters not who is sitting in the White House, or who has control of the House of Representatives, or the Senate. Those positions of power are merely cogs in a much larger machine - the Quartet. When one cog gets worn out (e.g.: public opinion drops) it is replaced by another, with the machine still trudging along in the same direction. We must view all politicians, newscasts, and military affairs through the spectacles of the Quartet. That is the only way we will understand why things happen the way they do, the will of the people notwithstanding.

A Fable by Herschel Sternlieb

### COUNTING CASUALTIES

During its war in Iraq, the American military rarely reported how many Iraqis they killed, but they always counted their own casualties.

Thirty years after the end of hostilities, Houston, Texas evaporated in a mushroom cloud. The person responsible was an Iraqi who was apprehended trying to escape into Canada.

During his interrogation, he was informed that his bomb had slaughtered 700,000 innocent Americans.

"I don't count American casualties," he replied.  
"The only casualty I ever counted was my father."





## opinions/editorials...opinions/editorials...opinions/editorials...

## The Poverty of Politics in the Second District: Why I Didn't Run on Empty

BY: PHIL WORDEN

As a kind of thanks to those who gave me feedback when I "tested the waters" for running against Congressman Mike Michaud, I want to explain why I decided to challenge Mike and why I dropped out.

### Mike Michaud: Darling of the Christian Right

Mike's labor credentials do not change the fact that his anti-choice politics make him the darling of the Christian Right. See, for instance,

[www.christianpatriot.com/06\\_05\\_2003.htm](http://www.christianpatriot.com/06_05_2003.htm). His election is such a disaster for reproductive rights that I felt compelled to challenge him. The anti-abortion movement is not only the most militant right-wing movement nationally, it is the most vicious reactionary movement in northern Maine. In the mid-nineties, it attacked the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center - one of only a few totally independent, grass-roots feminist health centers in the country. They smashed the Center's windows, threatened to murder Ruth Lockhart, the Center's Director, and tar geted our doctors in their homes. In a gross Orwellian word-play, they justify their reduction of women to reproductive containers by personifying fetuses, which they then call being "pro life!" We responded to the attack on the Center by forming "Communities United for Reproductive Safety" (CURES), a broad based, grass roots coalition in northern Maine that both isolated and discredited the anti-abortion movement. I have been going around the state condemning the PATRIOT Act. How could I justify condemning the expansion of government power in the PATRIOT Act but look the other way when my Congressman votes to use government power to force young women to have babies they are not ready to have? Condemning the PATRIOT Act as a threat to individual liberties while advocating the use of criminal law to prevent doctors from helping women control their bodies is the height of hypocrisy. But that's Mike's record. Nor could I forget the contributions the women's movement made to the left. While the traditional Left focuses only on the relations of production, the women's movement - with its slogan that the "personal is political" - opened our eyes to the politics of reproduction in the domestic sphere. Their insight into how socialization reproduces hierarchical social relationships strikes me as more profound than the Old Left anarchist view that emphasizes the role of the state. Finally, in the mid-seventies I watched other progressive movements die as I saw the women's movement expand and change us all. Although I reject the model that reduces history to economics - (I've seen first hand the damage "economism" does to the movement) - even if one narrows the perspective exclusively to economics, Mike's politics make no sense. One cannot oppose poverty but ignore the "feminization of poverty." According to the census, single mothers head the vast majority of poor families in northern Maine. You cannot talk about poor people in northern Maine without talking about the plight of single mothers. Offering a pro-choice, pro-labor alternative to Mike's pro-labor but anti-choice politics seemed necessary.

### Uniting the Many to Defeat the Few

The strangest - and most frustrating - response to my candidacy was the charge that my candidacy would be divisive. Stressing the need for unity against Bush, a surprising number of progressives argued that challenging Mike's "pro life" position would divide the movement. Mike's supporters (most of whom claim to be pro-choice) argue that his pro-labor position is more important than his anti-choice position and we therefore need to put off one part of the movement to promote the more important part. Strangely, this is not considered "divisive" but "unifying!" The Left, of course, has a long history of selling-out the oppressed in the name of "unity." But, as I see it, the only lasting basis for real unity is political principle. The idea is

to develop a "consciousness" of our common interests so we can build a movement that will stick together. The excuses for dropping reproductive rights - especially by those who claim to be progressive and pro-choice - turn these principles on their head and have as much to do with promoting "unity" as the anti-choice movement has to do with being "pro-life." Those who eagerly jump on this train ought to turn around as it leaves the station and look in the faces of those they leave behind. Mike's supporters have rubbed salt into an old wound and delivered a painful blow to the unity of the progressive movement in northern Maine. It reminds me of those a generation before mine who overlooked segregation, not because they supported it, but because they didn't want to divide the unity of southern workers.

### The AFL-CIO and the Empire

Mike and I both oppose NAFTA, the FTAA and similar "free trade" agreements. But we do so from very different perspectives. Mike - following the AFL-CIO line - focuses on the loss of manufacturing jobs, especially the recent mill closings where he worked, and blames "unfair" foreign competition for America's loss of manufacturing jobs. He wants to protect "our" (!) mills from "their" mills. This reaction to the loss of manufacturing jobs looks backward to the "good old days" when American workers manufactured resources taken from around the world. This line is inherently nationalistic, appeals to insecurities about a perceived loss of "sovereignty," and takes as a given that Americans should, of course, put the interests of American workers first. One problem with this line is that it is not true. America's shift from manufacturing in the mother country began about half a century ago, and mill closings in Maine were already a fact of life when I arrived here in 1971. Trade agreements (like NAFTA, the FTAA etc) are part of what radicals call the "superstructure" and reflect rather than cause the underlying reality. The Summit of the Americas, after all, is not a meeting of multi-national corporations plotting to penetrate the Third World, but a meeting of governments negotiating new rules for an economic reality that already exists. It is not as though multi-nationals will penetrate the Americas if the FTAA passes; that capital penetration has already taken place. Trade agreements set rules that allow this capital penetration to run more smoothly. They accelerate the job loss but they do not cause the loss; they are more like the final nail in the coffin than the beginning of a disease. I oppose these agreements but I could never look a displaced shoe worker in the face and pretend that if we could only repeal NAFTA she'd get her job back. I believe we owe workers a minimal amount of honesty about how the system works. Perhaps more important is my critique of the AFL-CIO's approach to economic injustice. The AFL, of course, was always elitist; the CIO had radical roots but purged all their radicals well before the 1955 merger with the AFL. America is a vast Empire and our actual mode of production crosses national lines. Income disparities create disunifying stratifications in a class but do not create classes. Rather, the radical view defines class as a social relationship to the means of production and requires an analysis of our actual mode of production uncolored by nationalistic biases. We should focus on the entire Empire, not just on the injustice in the mother country. The Empire stratifies the working class unequally along national lines. Any movement for "social justice" must be based on the needs of the most oppressed regardless of their "nationality;" anything less would merely result in a more equal distribution in the mother country of the spoils of imperialism. But such a perspective opposes America hogging a grossly disproportionate share of the world's resources, an issue the AFL-CIO won't touch.

### Ever-Expanding American Pie?

Although the AFL-CIO and the neo-cons disagree on how to divide the pie, they both want to expand the pie through continual "economic development." I, however, question the whole pie. So, if we aren't going to promise to deliver the bacon, how can we expect to attract the rank and file? The problem of how to build a popular and principled movement in the mother country plagues the left. Curiously, the answers to difficult questions often lie right in front of us. Most radicals live in a counter-culture whose alternative life-style emphasizes values other than the consumption of commodities. If the shift from production to consumption in the mother country provides the key to the loss of manufacturing jobs, then a shift away from consumption - epitomized on the left by the crass politics of economism - provides the key to attracting the rank and file without protecting American supremacy against the rest of the world. But will this really work? Consider this: the Empire must waste billions of dollars each year on advertising to get people to buy things they don't really want. If we produced and consumed according to human need rather than human greed, we could have a more humane society that could sustain itself. As the consumption of wasteful commodities goes down, the quality of life goes up. From this perspective the Green Party - with its emphasis on "sustainability" and "thinking globally" - offers a real alternative to the rank opportunism of the Democrats. Although many warned me I would have to carry extra baggage if I ran as a Green, the Green platform is basically sound and I was proud to join them, baggage and all.

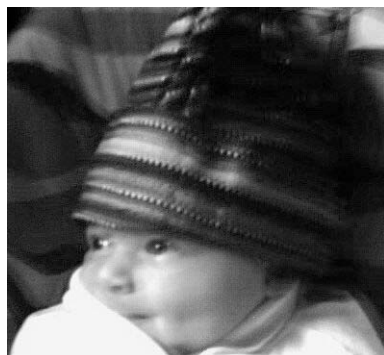
### Running on Empty

Ultimately, I dropped out. I "tested the waters" and tried to listen as honestly as possible to what others were trying to tell me. The overwhelming majority - including many people for whom I have a profound respect - thought it was a bad idea. So I yielded. I don't really have the stamina and personality for an electoral campaign anyway. One part of these discussions, however, brought back old memories. In the spring of 1968 in Paris, the Communist labor union (CGT) denounced our violent manifestations as "the children of the bourgeoisie playing in the streets." Within weeks, however, younger workers joined us as the barricades went up. The CGT found itself playing catch-up and called a general strike to regain control. By then, however, the younger workers, instead of striking, began seizing their factories. It opened my eyes to the fact that another world is possible. The significance of Seattle is not just the reintroduction of militance into the movement but that groups who had never worked together - labor, anarchists and environmentalists - united around a common goal. In Quebec, the AFL-CIO led workers in a legal march with slogans based on their own narrow economic interests. Younger anti-capitalists led an illegal march that attacked the security fence. The slogan they shouted was "Solidarity!" with all the oppressed. The two groups worked together against a common enemy but marched separately with different tactics. There's a gap in this uneasy alliance that needs to be bridged. I think people were trying to tell me that playing the spoiler against Mike is not the way to bridge that gap.

I can't count how many people assured me that they are so strongly pro-choice they will not let Mike be the disaster for reproductive rights I think he is. I hope they mean it and will pressure him openly because the politics in the second district currently stink.



**ANNOUNCING**  
*The Birth of a New Democracy !!!*



**Sophia Eileen Democracy**  
**December 8, 2003**

Born at home in Portland, Maine

Her Mother is Heather Curtis. Her Father is Ed Democracy.

**DHS CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

Dugay, a member of the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee, has been a long-standing advocate for change in the system, a persistent spokesman for the need for more oversight and new leadership.

As people crowded into the warmth of the State House foyer, Lenz said it was an encouraging and hopeful sign that so many every-day, salt-of-the-earth people had come together to work for change. There weren't many professionals, he commented, the majority being women and children.

Many carried personalized signs: THEY TOOK MY CHILD; THEY WON'T GIVE ME A HEARING; HAS ANYONE SEEN OUR DAD?; DHS KIDNAPPED MY CHILD. Both birth and foster mothers carried these placards with the poignant stories and pictures detailing their pain and loss, he said.

Lenz said, "It reminded me of the aftermath of the 9-11 disaster when desperately devastated people were out looking for their loved ones. Only here, they were trying to bring people's attention to the imposed, forceful, devastating break-up of their families."

"We were introduced to these wonderful-looking people by the speakers," he continued. The speakers gave their names and anecdotal accounts. Some had walked the whole way, some had walked part of the way, some had used laptops in accompanying vans to take down people's painful stories.

"One 12-year-old girl had walked every single step of the way. She was pleading for her siblings."

There were other kids, too, protesting for their siblings, he said, and quite a few teens and pre-teens pleading for DHS accountability.

Governor Baldacci, Dugay, Callahan and others spoke, Lenz said. Of the governor's talk, he said, "It was typical, the usual, political double-talk, affable but non-substantive. He worked 'accountability' to death, stretched it out for 10 minutes." "Non-committal babble", Lenz called it. "Baldacci said they'll make changes but nothing specific, no heartfelt commitment to change." "Still," Lenz said, "it wasn't so bad that you left feeling betrayed but you left empty-handed, nonetheless. There was no feeling that he's really committed to taking direct action and that's what needs to be done."

"But when Mary (Callahan) spoke," Lenz said, "it was from the heart, compelling. Everything she said was clear and specific with a positive thrust for making changes."

After the formal gathering around the mike with spoken presentations, Lenz said people stayed on and heard more individual stories. He commented that he has known some of the travesties visited upon families by DHS, and one foster parent in particular who has received "horrendous, spiteful treatment-doctoring of the records, inserting false information into the official document-they should have been sued, but they can't be."

**JOINT STATEMENT FROM**  
**MAINE ALLIANCE FOR DHS ACCOUNTABILITY & REFORM**  
**(MADAR)**  
**PORTLAND ORGANIZING TO WIN ECONOMIC RIGHTS**  
**(POWER)**

Out of all the injustices and indignities created by poverty, the unnecessary destruction of families by DHS is the cruelest. We are not talking about cases of serious neglect and abuse where intervention is legitimate. We are talking about the thousands of families all across the country broken up due to borderline incidents, false allegations, or conditions of poverty mistaken for neglect.

In recent months, many of these cases have affected our members and thus compelled us to speak out and get involved. Federal and State governments have created perverse financial incentives that reward social service agencies for destroying families. Families are not informed of their rights, and when they do try to defend themselves against DHS, a lack of finances further stacks the deck against them. The checks and balances that exist in almost any other area of law do not exist here, with confidentiality laws and complete immunity from prosecution protecting one side - the DHS - and little or nothing protecting the other side - the families.

Furthermore, families with children in the system are terrified by reports of ongoing abuse in foster care. There is a disturbing tendency to cover up these issues rather than expose and correct them. Academic studies and lawsuit "case readings" around the country show that official statistics concerning abuse in foster care vastly underestimate the problem. Those who step forward to report abuse in foster care face retaliation.

We are aware of and support recent efforts to improve the system with family team meetings, but we believe this to be too small an effort and one that will prove to be short-lived without more basic, fundamental changes. The system will not return to its original intent, that of protecting children, unless and until financial incentives stop rewarding the patent destruction of families. Moreover, we must create a system that is as fair to the poor as it is to the rich. Checks and balances insuring due process for families, transparent decision making, and consistent standards are just some of the necessary elements required of such a system. We commit ourselves to join in this process.

**WE CALL FOR:**

- \* Removal of the perverse financial incentives that rewards breaking up families.
- \* Real citizens review boards to oversee DHS agencies and hold officials accountable for wrong-doing.
- \* Review of all cases where un-abused children have been removed from families.
- \* Due process, including access to independent experts for all families who are faced with termination of parental rights.
- \* Unstacking the legal deck by developing an institutional provider of legal help for families, and opening all court hearings.

**BECAUSE UNTIL JUSTICE WORKS FOR ALL OF US, WE ALL GOTTA WORK FOR JUSTICE!**  
**CONTACT P.O.W.E.R. - PORTLAND ORGANIZING TO WIN ECONOMIC RIGHTS**  
**681-0035 / POWER@RISEUP.NET / PO Box 4281, PORTLAND, MAINE 04101**

**P.O.W.E.R. MEETS AT 4:30PM ON THE LAST MONDAY OF**  
**EVERY MONTH**  
**CHESTNUT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**17 CHESTNUT STREET IN PORTLAND (LOCATED RIGHT BEHIND CITY HALL)**

**PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN: LET'S DO IT TOGETHER!****Child Protective Services:  
Waging War on the Poor**

BY MARY CALLAHAN + JESSE LEAH VEAR

**If child abuse crosses class lines,  
why doesn't foster care?****Ask the top officials at Department of Human Services how many of the kids in state custody have doctors for fathers or lawyers for mothers. Ask how many come from even middle income families. The answer will be in the single digits.****Join Us! On March 8th, International Women's Day, for a march around Portland, a rally in the DHS parking lot.****March to support  
THE MOTHERS OF THE DISAPPEARED:  
mothers who have lost their kids permanently to the system in spite of never having hurt those children.****At the rally, volunteers from  
POWER and MADAR will  
present DHS with a joint  
statement outlining their demands for fundamental  
changes in the Child Protection System to make it as fair  
to the poor as it is to the wealthy.****While the Child Protective System targets the poor,  
we hope that the march will bring out women of all class levels  
to support each other. One doesn't have to be poor to under-  
stand the pain of losing a child. Likewise, kids are just as lost to  
the fathers and grandfathers as they are to the mothers and  
grandmothers on this International Women's Day. We welcome  
the attendance of any and all who want to see a system that  
truly cares for the welfare of children, a system that truly pro-  
tects them and keeps them in a safe family: their own family.****"MOTHERS OF THE DISAPPEARED"  
MARCH & RALLY  
MONDAY MARCH 8TH  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY****"TAKE POVERTY AWAY FROM MAINE FAMILIES, NOT CHILDREN!"****JOIN US AT 11:30AM AT CHESTNUT ST CHURCH IN PORTLAND, PROCEEDING TO THE DHS  
PARKING LOT ON MARGINAL WAY FOR A RALLY & 12:30PM PRESS CONFERENCE.****Then Gather indoors at the  
UNFAIR FAIR  
Chestnut Street Church, Portland  
3PM to 6PM****The Frontline Documentary  
THE TAKING OF LOGAN MARR  
will be shown at 4PM.****Informational booths will show certain practices that bias the system  
against the poor.****Want to know more? Want to get involved but can't  
make it to Portland on the 8th? Get in touch!****CALL: 681-0035,  
power@riseup.net  
www.babystealer.com  
SPONSORED BY POWER AND MADAR.  
PO BOX 4281 PORTLAND, MAINE 04101****MARY CALLAHAN, OF MAINE ALLIANCE FOR DHS ACCOUNTABILITY & REFORM,  
IS AN AUTHOR AND FOSTER PARENT FROM LISBON, MAINE****JESSE LEAH VEAR, OF PORTLAND ORGANIZING TO WIN ECONOMIC RIGHTS, IS A  
LOW-INCOME ACTIVIST & ORGANIZER FROM PORTLAND, MAINE.****News Fails To Carry Word Of Governmental  
Abuse of Power Against the Poor**

BY JAN LIGHTFOOT

From its pages the mainstream media still purposely omits the full truth, of official governmental "Abuse of Power" against poor. Even when the Waterville Morning Sentinel printed some of the demands of five protesters who held picket signs against the Sentinel, on Friday Feb 6th 2004, the full truth was not covered.

The reason for the demonstration was given -- stating in the daily newspaper coverage in their two articles on the poor; the newspaper reinforced words of hate. Blame for being poor was assigned to the poor in the poverty articles which started two weeks ago. This was achieved by inserting a half truth against those who are underpaid.

Even the Feb 7th article on the protest in the local news failed to tell the other side of poverty. Being kind, at best the editors do not realize just how broken the system is and that those in need *who qualify* for aid are wrongfully turned away. At worst, the local news, the national news broadcasts and the print media do not want to infuriate its advertisers by breaking the *illusion* that all one needs to do is sneeze and all the help they need is there. The truth is that 2/3 of those who apply for aid are refused help. Many are wrongfully denied based upon non-existing, made-up laws.

What Hospitality House Inc. and a couple of other Maine groups alleged with their protest is, government officials *abuse their power* against the poor, and every American by transforming written duly enacted law, into bad law. They also explain that ending poverty will save taxpayer funds. Such can be accomplished by a simple change of attitude. An attitude that "We Need To Give To The Poor According To Their Needs." Not enough to keep them barely alive. But by giving joyously to the poor, poverty will end society and will be uplifted to the human promise, we expect or children to somehow discover. Since the dawn of person-kind, society has expected our children to be better than us. Yet we train them to fear, and not question authority. How can they be better when change is glacier and they are addressing *myths* as if they were facts?

A vague comment that "the system is broken" was all that appeared from the Feb. 7th detailed account of Governmental *abuse of Power*, which I, Jan Lightfoot Lane, gave the reporter, describing how society is wasting their tax dollars on flawed by design or in the application of social services programs, along with the application of other than enacted law, did not appear in the article.

Stories of how people who qualify for welfare, called General Assistance in Maine, being turned away were deemed non-essential to the story of that day's action. For a decade and a half this type of story of a form of government corruption, has been considered non-news. Dispensing anything other than duly enacted law, and turning away those

who qualify for assistance upon *whim* is what governments of *dictators* do. Americans are currently fighting, and dying on foreign soil to protect the human rights of the Iraq's. But a story on this form of corruption is too much and has for 15 years been too much for the news to carry.

It seems the Waterville Sentinel, and other media, feel justified in not reporting stories as the man in Lincoln County with four or five children. He could not work, because he had cancer. He and his family were denied SSI. Then the town penalized him, by claiming if he was not eligible for SSI he was not eligible for GA (General Assistance). The law says all one needs to do is to give a good faith attempt to utilize the resources out there. Not that the resources need to assist before the town assists in paying the rent. This sick guy lacked the energy to fight; he know if he was out of the picture so he shot himself a few days after Christmas.

Most stories I come in contact with rarely end in physical death as the one above. But I can recall ample time "Trusted Officials" intentionally and repeatedly gave *misinformation* resulting in harm to the family.

As the women who called the Homeless Crisis Hotline, saying she needed one time help of \$120 to help pay the rent of her apartment. Instead welfare denied her request & she relocated into an apt. costing \$150 a month more, after being homeless for a few weeks. Tax payers paid thousands of dollars for her daughter's hospitalization for emotional problems. The added stress of homelessness, placed her teenager daughter into the unhandlable zone of her emotions.

Yearly there are thousands of narratives of people who should of been assisted by duly enacted General Assistance Laws, who are *not* being aided. This *abuse of power* costs all taxpayers, including those hitting a hard time, more money for the *illusion of aid*, then if they were indeed aided according to their needs.

So the protest of Feb. 6th did nothing more than serve as making the Sentinel gallant, for covering a protest on them, while failing to address whose fault is that the system is broke? It did make activists aware that efforts were made to have the entire truth be told.

Where do we go from here? With contributions, Hospitality House Inc. can insert a paid ad in newspapers. Even if it says simply: Jan Lightfoot Lane of the Homeless Crisis Hotline service of Hospitality House Inc., alleges "most municipalities ABUSE their POWER against the poor." So we will need people and groups to back us emotionally and financially. Write to PO Box 62 Hinckley ME. 04944 to ILearn more about ending poverty or to donate.

If the Sentinel or some other mainstream media refuses to carry the ad, my work will still be next to impossible. I personally could sue them - without the benefit of a lawyer.



# Economics for Everyone

## Lewiston Area Time Dollars

BY RYAN CONRAD

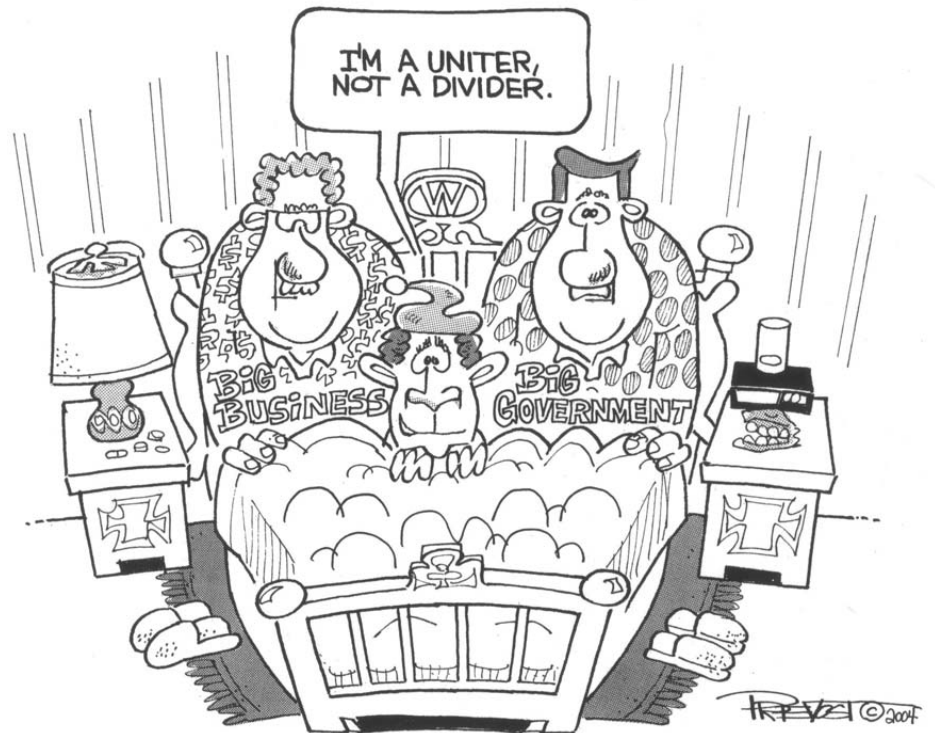
The Lewiston Area Time Dollars new facility held an open house/house warming party at our new building at 2 Howe Street in Lewiston. This marked the opening and kick off event of the seventh Time Dollar Exchange program in Maine!

This new building includes a community kitchen and café that runs on time dollars, a community architecture firm, a community bike shop, lots to gardens offices, and of course the Lewiston area time dollar network office! This is also the most extensive Time Dollars space to date in the state of Maine, and soon we hope to offer after school art programs for kids that can be paid for with time dollars!

If you aren't familiar with the Time Dollars Network, it is a group of neighbors and community members that barter their skills and services with one another through a computerized network. This model of one time dollar for every hour of service

values all people's skills as equally important and transcends the idea of traditional market values. This model most importantly allows for neighbors to help neighbors without having to shell out the cash. And don't forget, time dollars are tax free!

Interested residents that would like more information or to join the network please visit our website at [www.latimedollars.org](http://www.latimedollars.org) or contact us by phone at 207-782-4204. Or of course you can stop by any time Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-5pm or Tuesday, Thursday 3pm-8pm and enjoy a fresh cup of coffee!



## CO-OP SAVES MAINE'S WORKING WATERFRONT

BY JANE LIVINGSTON

Last Spring, when the old boat yard on the north end of Westport Island in Maine went up for sale, 16 independent fishermen formed the North End Lobster Co-op. In September, they bought the nearly 4-acre property, which includes a 40-foot float and access ramp, parking, bait, dockage, and opportunity for boat storage.

This is not the hard-hit northern coast of the region's poorest state, where tourists seldom go, where forests have been cleared and factories are shutting down. It's the much more affluent southern coast of L.L. Bean, Bowdoin College, and Boothbay Harbor, where escalating property values and cost of living threaten to drive the old-timers inland.

Many residents view with alarm the fact that in spite of Maine's 7,000 miles of coastline, only 25 miles of it are working waterfront. The loss of access affects whole communities whose economies are based on the jobs and income from traditional fishing enterprises. A recent report on the state's working waterfront produced

by Wiscasset-based Coastal Enterprises, Inc. found that 64 percent of the towns studied see the problem as urgent right now, and 80 percent of the others say it will become so, unless commercial fishing access issues are dealt with.

CEI's Fisheries Project Director Elizabeth Sheehan applauds the creative enterprise of the new co-op. "This is a great model reviving an old tradition of forming cooperatives to respond to a contemporary real estate market challenge. With leadership like this, we may start to see a new trend." The co-op received technical and financial assistance from CEI, a nonprofit community development corporation, and from Farm Credit of Maine which specializes in lending to the state's agricultural, fishing, and forest products industries.

The co-op's loan will help 16 families build their assets, preserve their working way of life, and avoid destabilizing local economies that depend on a working waterfront.

The fishermen sell their catch to the co-op, which pays someone to pick it up daily and

deliver it to the wholesaler in South Portland. Co-op president Dana Faulkingham calls this a win-win situation. He and others had been looking and talking for years about how to preserve their industry. "As fishermen, you often think 'I wish we could do this,'" he says. "Well, we learned that if you are determined and you put your minds together, you can." On a Sunday afternoon recently, the co-op celebrated their new venture with a lobster bake at the North End location.

Dozens of neighbors showed up to celebrate with them, one more true life story proving that cooperative enterprise can turn dreams into realities.

FMI: [www.ceimaine.org](http://www.ceimaine.org)

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*From Cooperative Life Leader Issue #18*

To receive the free, monthly e-letter about cooperatives of all types in the Northeast, email: [info@cooplife.com](mailto:info@cooplife.com) and request a subscription to Cooperative Life Leader.



BY MIKE REYNOLDS

## Film Review: "Maine vs. the FTAA"

It is hard after seeing (and being involved in producing) films on activism, protests and anything where a large number of people are organized against something, to see a film that takes a refreshing view, a better way of telling the story, or footage that is extremely compelling, yet not sensationalized. Ryan Conrad, a junior at Bates College, has produced an amazing 40-minute piece on the "Massacre in Miami", a phrase everyone will agree with AFTER seeing this video.

The video starts out with a nod to MTV's "The Real World". It documents several students making their way from Maine To Miami to participate in the anti-FTAA protests held last November. While many media reports described this protest as excessively violent, Conrad's video lays it out first hand that the protesters were walking into a police state. His video shows some of the footage of police intimidation and harassment, which begins when the group is trying to go to their hotel.

The footage of the other events surrounding the FTAA protests ranges from a piñata filled with seedlings being broken to a performance by Maine-based folk musician Ethan



Filmmakers Hannah and Ryan on the front lines in Miami

Miller in a park in Miami. This footage gives the viewer a sense that this was not a violent protest and that the violence instead came from an excessively aggressive police force, heeding the need to implement the

new police tactic dubbed and marketed as the Miami model.

The video also has some footage that is extremely difficult yet vital to watch. The film captures the exact moment when Conrad was hit by a Miami Police officer, his desperate run for help, with a final fade out of a huge bloody gash on Conrad's head. Far from sensationalizing the incident, it just seems almost par for the course in this twisted police state that greeted the protesters.

The video also documents the infamous crackdown that happened on the final day at the solidarity action

across from the jailhouse where hundreds of people, including several noted journalists, were arrested. The group from Maine tried, valiantly and unsuccessfully, to escape the ridiculous police crackdown. All were brought to jail, and were released after a day or so.

The rest of the film reflects on what the students learned and their experiences. It is by no means a fluff piece. Portions of the film, such as when the group is stuck in Overland, a part of Miami referred to as a dangerous ghetto, Conrad shows, that in his case, the people of Overland played a critical role in the group's safety.

All members of the group are facing charges in Miami, and after a screening in January at Bates, it is apparent these charges are ridiculous, and a hassle for the students. Conrad produced the film over his holiday break using basic software on a Mac. Far from being a "student project", this documentary will stand up to videos with far bigger budgets. Conrad's film is available for a donation, with proceeds going to the legal defense fund for all the Miami activists, and the film has been screened several places already. This film is an excellent addition to any activist or video library.

## STOP!

Before you plunk down your hard-earned cash in some mega-store from far away...

Ask yourself: Isn't there some close by family-owned small business in my community with what I want, that could sure use my business?

## Do you work for DHS?

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM? WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE? IF YOU WOULD CHANGE THE SYSTEM, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

-THE PEOPLE OF MAINE HAVE CALLED FOR REFORM.

-WHAT CAN WE DO TO PUT "HUMAN SERVICES" BACK INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES?



## Why Events Need to Be Priced on a Sliding Scale (Based on Ability to Pay)

BY LARRY DANSINGER

In our country, most people work equally hard but don't get paid the same amount, sometimes several or tens of times more (and even more!) for the same amount of work. (It is not the same work, but the value of any work varies subjectively and is not correlated with the amount it is paid.)

Yet, all are expected to pay the same amount of money for the same things they buy despite often huge differences in their ability to pay.

Sometimes producers must be paid a certain minimum cost for items because of the cost of raw materials and for labor, but there are many expenses, especially services and events, where a wide variety of prices can be paid by buyers while still allowing an appropriate and livable rate of return to sellers, whether they are individuals, businesses, or non-profit organizations.

People experience economic discrimination when they receive very different amounts of pay despite working equally hard. It prevents them from

taking advantage of some benefits our society offers. Something must be done to counterbalance this discrimination; offering services and goods on a sliding scale based on the ability to pay is one way to do this.

There are various ways to price goods, services, or events to make them accessible to many more people. Often, a range of prices are offered, from a low price for those with lower incomes to a high price, often more than what might be charged in a one-price system. Some organizations raise extra funds (for example, through grants) to cover the difference in cost between what a service or event costs and what attendees can pay. In some cases, part of a service or event is free while other parts cost money, so at least some things are available at no cost. Sometimes cost-cutting measures allows a business or group to offer a sliding scale without threatening the "bottom line." Sellers (individuals, businesses, or groups) may appeal to a vendor they purchase materials or other items from to give them a financial break which can be used to sell their product or service on a sliding scale basis.

Whatever methods are used, economic discrimination is only ended if all people, whatever their economic status and ability to pay, are treated the same. Asking people with low incomes to apply for scholarships or work exchanges or to finance purchases over time at interest is asking them to jump through extra hoops; they are not being treated the same as everyone else!

Charging on a sliding scale may seem like a risk, but more people will feel welcomed to buy items and services and attend events; they will support the sellers more and urge friends, family, and co-workers to give their support as well. Sellers' reputations, and the amount they sell, will improve.

It is also one of the most direct and effective ways to challenge economic discrimination, which is one of the most damaging aspects of our society.



# Maine Solidarity Calendar

Feb. 28 - Apr 25, 2004 (updated and with more info at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>)

## Saturday, February 28th

### What a Girl Wants

Location: Railroad Square Cinema, Waterville  
Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Info: Film features girls' voices about how they see themselves portrayed in the media and what it means to them. \$5 for adults and free for teens to age 18.

### Maine Rural Workers Coalition Annual Meeting and Lunch

Contact: Dena Wade, 783-4208

### Peace Action Maine's 13th annual Peace Supper

Time: 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM  
Contact: 772-0680  
Email: [peaceactionme@peaceactionme.org](mailto:peaceactionme@peaceactionme.org)  
Info: 13th annual Peace Supper w/speaker William Rivers Pitt of [www.truthout.org](http://www.truthout.org) with food, award, and music.

### Annual Meeting and Workshop Maine War Tax Resisters & Supporters

Location: UU Church, Belfast  
Time: 10 AM-3 PM  
Contact: Larry Dansinger, 525-7776  
Email: [invert@acadia.net](mailto:invert@acadia.net)  
Info: Free and open to all. Potluck lunch.

## Monday, March 1st

### John Marvin Memorial Reception

Location: Augusta Civic Center  
Time: 4:30 PM  
Contact: Neena Quirion, 800-452-8794  
Information: Award Recipient US Rep Tom Allen, Sponsored by Maine Council Senior Citizens-ARA

### Mediation: Its Premises, Practices, and Policies

Contact: Peace Studies Program, 581-2609  
Information: Class and training for mediators. Continues through March 5th.

### Peace Action Maine Disarmament Com Mtg

Location: 4th Floor, Peace and Justice Center, Portland  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Phone: 772-0680

## Tuesday, March 2nd

### Resisting Empire

Time: 7:00 PM  
Info: Understanding the Role of Space in US Global Domination w/Bruce Gagnon, Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space.

## Thursday, March 4th

### "Weather Underground & Timoney Tales"

Location: Portland Area  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Contact: [freeschool@peoplesfreespace.org](mailto:freeschool@peoplesfreespace.org)  
Info: Puppet show & documentary w/ discussion from Weather Underground members, Bernadine Dorn and Bill Ayers. The Providence Puppet Posse of Rhode Island present a show the Republican National Convention in 2000.

### Uncovered: The Whole Truth About the Iraq War

Location: Memorial Library, Main St., Norway  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Contact: Tom, 743-2183/ Jane, 743-9545.  
Info: Free documentary.

## Saturday, March 6th

### Sudanese Community Annual Dinner & Fundraiser

Location: Immaculate Conception Church, Cumberland St. & Franklin Art., Portland.  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Contact: Wells, 774-1110 or 409-0778.  
Info: ASERELA (Sudanese community organization) annual dinner & fundraiser for Sudanese refugee projects in Africa.

## Sunday, March 7th

### Bruce Gagnon: "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised"

Location: Chestnut Street UM Church, 17 Chestnut St., Portland  
Time: 4:00 PM  
Contact: Tom Whitney, 743-2183  
Email: [atwhit@megalink.net](mailto:atwhit@megalink.net)  
Info: film and talk by Bruce Gagnon to benefit Global Network and People's Weekly World.



Photo: Jessica Hasslen

Over 200 people marched through the snowy streets of Portland protesting the dangerous Immigrant "Sweep" that happened the prior week. See Pages 26 & 29 for more info.

## Monday, March 8th

### March/Rally "Mothers of the Disappeared"

Location: Chestnut St Church, Portland  
More Info Page 10.

## Wednesday, March 10th

### War Tax Resistance Workshop

Location: Peace & Justice Center of So. Maine, 1 Pleasant St, 4th floor, Portland.  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Contact: Deb Atwood, 772-0680

### Sustainability Discussion

Location: Chestnut St. Church, Portland  
Time: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
Info: There will be a slideshow, puppet show, a history of oil and empire and space for discussion of creating sustainable alternatives.

## Friday, March 12th

### Potluck & Multimedia slide show

Location: Rockland Unitarian Universalist Church  
Time: 6:00 PM potluck/7:00 PM show  
Contact: Andy Burt, 882-6848  
Info: Maine author Marina Schaffler of her book, "Turning to Earth," a review of various writers' spiritual connections to the earth.

## Saturday, March 13th

### Let's Keep Growing Workshop

Location: MOFGA Education Ctr, Unity  
Contact: MOFGA, 568-4142  
Info: Creating school gardens

### Maine Jewish Film Festival

Location: Various locations, Portland  
Phone: 831-7495  
Email: [filmfest@mjff.org](mailto:filmfest@mjff.org)  
Web: [www.mjff.org](http://www.mjff.org)  
Info: Continues to Thursday, March 18th.

### Legal Observer Training for 3/20 Rally

Location: SEIU/MSEA, 65 State Street Augusta  
Time: 1:00 PM  
Contact: Lynne Williams, 236-8485  
Email: [neregion1@nlg.org](mailto:neregion1@nlg.org)  
Info: Maine Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild is sponsoring this training for legal observers. Legal observers are needed for the March 20, 2003 March and Rally in Augusta.

## Wednesday, March 17th

### Peace concert w/Ethan Miller and Kate Boverman

Location: St. Lawrence Center for the Arts  
76 Congress St., Portland  
Contact: Debbie Atwood, 772-0680  
Information: Benefit for Peace Action Maine

### Workshop: "Transferring the Farm"

Location: Maine State Grange Building  
Time: 8:45 AM - 3:00 PM  
Contact: Deb Heleba  
Phone: 802-656-0233

## Thursday, March 18th

### Plan Colombia: Cashing in on the Drug War Failure

Location: Memorial Library, Main St., Norway  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Contact: Tom, 743-2183/ Jane, 743-9545.  
Info: 2002 documentary film on US Military Funded Drug War in Columbia.

### Annual dinner of Physicians for Social Responsibility/Maine

Location: Harraseeket Inn, Freeport  
Phone: 772-6714

## Friday, March 19th

### Bangor Area Citizens Organized for Responsible Development

Art Auction and Social Event  
Time/location TBA  
Contact: Suzanne Kelly, 945-6147

### "No More Victims" Vigil

Location: Market Square, Portsmouth, NH  
Time: 5:00 PM  
Contact: Amy Antonucci, (603) 750-7506  
Info: Event to commemorate last year's bombing of Iraq

### "14 Years Under Occupation: Iraq 1990-2004"

Location: Chestnut St. Church, Portland  
Time: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
Info: Teach-In to examine the history, wars, UN sanctions, politics of oil and continuing resistance to the US war machine.

## Saturday, March 20th

### "March for Truth: Maine Still Says No to War"

Location: Capitol, Augusta  
Time: 12:00 PM  
Phone: 326-9574  
Info: See pg 3 for more info.

### Women's Cultural Festival

Location: Guild Hall/Cathedral, Portland  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Phone: 671-6520

### Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance 20th Anniversary Gala

Location: Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland  
Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Info: Honoring 20 leaders from the past and young leaders for the future.

## Sunday, March 21st

### "Divided We Fall"

Location: Skidompha Library, Damariscotta  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 529-5300  
Info: Documentary on Czechoslovakia featured for CONA at the Movies

## Thursday, March 25th

### Reading the Forested Landscape

Location: Pineland  
Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Contact: Sarah Hunt  
Phone: 926-3914 ext101  
Info: A Natural History of New England author Tom Wessels (Director, Environmental Biology, Antioch College New England Graduate School) sharing slide show and discussion. Tickets: \$12 advance, \$14 door.

## Friday, March 26th

### "Rich World, Poor Women"

Location: Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park St, Bangor  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 942-9343  
Info: Bill Moyers program on capitalism and global corporations.

## Saturday, March 27th

### Magical Maple Weekend

Location: Skowhegan  
Contact: 474-3621  
Email: [skowcham@airlink.net](mailto:skowcham@airlink.net)  
Info: Celebrate Maine Maple Sunday all weekend Long In Skowhegan, visit Maple Houses and enjoy Maple dishes at local restaurants. Saturday 7:30 pm Boreal Tordu plays Acadian Music. Through Sunday, March 28th.

### Gala Dessert Party

Location: University College, Bangor  
Phone: 945-5102  
Info: Spruce Run domestic violence hotline annual benefit

### ACT VI

Location: 100 Neville Hall, UMaine Orono  
Time: 1:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
Contact: Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine  
Phone: 942-9343  
Info: Active Community Teach-in on "War, the Economy, and the University"

### Rock for Choice

Location: H.E. Sargent School, Bennoch Rd, Old Town  
Time: 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM  
Contact: JoAnne Dauphinee  
Phone: 989-3306  
Info: Dance to benefit April 25 March for Choice in Washington, DC

## Wednesday, March 31st

### Telling Our Stories: Increasing Philanthropy in Maine

Location: Samoset Resort, Rockport  
Contact: Maine Philanthropy Center  
Phone: 780-5039  
Info: Conference on foundation giving

### Video: "We Interrupt This Empire..."

Location: People's Free Space, 181 Brackett St, Portland  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Info: A collaborative work by many of the Bay Area's independent video activists which documents the direct actions that shut down the financial district of San Francisco in the weeks following the United States' invasion of Iraq.

## Thursday, April 1st

### The Revolution Will Not be Televised

Location: Memorial Library, Main St, Norway  
Contact: Tom, 743-218/ Jane, 743-9545. Info: Documentary film not readily available in the United States, but has gained acclaim and viewers galore elsewhere in the world. An Irish documentary team was on hand in Caracas, Venezuela in April, 2002 when Hugo Chavez was undone for two days by a coup facilitated by the U.S. government.

### International Stick It To THE MAN Day

Time: 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Listings continue on page 19



# THE MAINE WORK REPORT

SPRING 2004

THE LOCAL IMPACT OF FREE TRADE

## NAFTA in Maine

**Planning Decisions of South Portland issued a report, ordered by the Maine Legislature, on the effects of NAFTA in Maine.**

**The study explains:**

**"It is easy to point to a factory that closes because of lower cost imports and say, 'Trade is bad' or to a factory that expands because of sales to a foreign market and say, 'Trade is good.' It is harder to find the extra cup of coffee someone buys because his morning newspaper is less expensive because the publisher bought lower cost Canadian newsprint, It is harder to find the extra miniature golf game a tourist played because his family's lobster dinner was cheaper because of the added supply from Canada."**

**The explanation fails to note that:**

- 1) Free trade agreements like NAFTA have little to do with actual free trade**
- 2) It's also harder for the study producers to find the cup of coffee someone didn't buy because the mill in her town went out of business, so the general store had to close, and there's nowhere to get a good cup of coffee in town anymore.**
- 3) It is harder to find the needed health insurance the fisherman's family couldn't afford because of the extra supply of fish from Canada and the mortgage they took out on their house because property taxes skyrocketed as their town became a retirement or bedroom community after the canneries went out of business.**

**Reports like this seem to ignore the fact that real people and communities are what are being manipulated and destroyed by these "free" trade agreements.**

## THE PROFESSIONAL CLASS FEELS THE HEAT

Jeanie Coltart of Monmouth spoke in February before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor in Support of LD 1815, the Maine Jobs, Trade and Democracy Act. Her husband, who holds a bachelor's degree in engineering and a master's in management, has been downsized 9 times within 18 years, mostly due directly and indirectly to NAFTA and GATS. She explained:

The federal job retraining program is a joke. The idea behind federal job retraining is that people who have been laid off due to NAFTA and GATS can get the education and training needed to make switches into new careers.

It is assumed that laid off American workers could simply "run to the nearest Career Center and sign up for job retraining, get trained, and PRESTO!, they're in new careers." It simply doesn't work that way. Out of all unemployed and underemployed individuals who qualify to go through the federal job retraining after job losses due to globalization, only 1/3 of those people can actually do so. ...the federal job retraining program is under-funded and inefficient, with stringent and inflexible rules that make it impossible for many people to have the opportunity to go through the program. ....My husband worked in an interim call center job and found many of his co-workers there were, like him, professionals with advanced degrees, who had been laid off from their professional jobs and were unable to find another professional position, simply because

THE JOBS ARE NOT THERE.

Professionals with college degrees often find themselves educationally OVERQUALIFIED in the current job market for the jobs that remain. Given all this, would Governor Baldacci and President Bush please explain how, exactly, churning out MORE college graduates is going to help relieve the downward spiral of employment that so many of us are experiencing?

WHAT PART OF "NO JOBS" DON'T THESE TWO PEOPLE UNDERSTAND?

INCENDIARY  
for my papermill overtime working father

She took them to be consultants  
When they sat beside her  
On the Bangor to Boston flight  
Discussing "the lesson from Bucksport."  
You know,  
"dialoguing the situation," as they say.  
As they said.

"So what!" one said.  
"It was only five thousand  
and it was extra anyway."  
"Only a perceived loss." One said.  
You know, "values" they said.

She strained under her seatbelt  
Against their sickening tone. Them.  
She was a child in the frigid dark carrying  
finger biting pails from the well  
to the cows, trip after slippery  
mitten soaking trip; because  
a barge was in and had to be  
loaded and  
it was her father's "value" to work  
all the overtime he could get  
to make ends meet, and  
the ends didn't. Meet.

"I hesitate to call it sabotage,"  
one said, "but we expected morale  
to be improved by now."  
"Problem is," one said, "they're reminded  
of the cut every week on payday."  
"The solution to that is to pay them  
once a month," one said.  
One smiled and said.

She was a teenager being berated  
for wanting to accept a party invitation  
from friends. Management families.  
"Who do you think you are?" her  
bitter father instructed.  
She hadn't understood.

When the pilot announced  
changed landing plans,  
(out of his hands, he said.)  
they jostled him through their  
textbook talk. Wouldn't want him  
working for them, they said.

"Asses!" she wanted to answer,  
her smoldering anger threatening  
to take them down.  
And they didn't think it possible  
that union people ever travel  
twenty miles upriver, or fly anywhere,  
or didn't they care how disgusting  
their "dialogue" was in a labor  
sympathetic state, or didn't they care  
or didn't they care or didn't they care?

Should she call the union? Call  
the company? Write letters to the News?  
She wrote and remembered,  
(She'd know where. She'd know  
when.) And understood her father  
a little better, she said.

BY: PATRICIA RANZONI

## "Tyson - It's What Your Family Deserves!" - Kirschner Families Beg To Differ

In 2001 Tyson Foods, the worlds largest meat processor, bought the 87-year old Augusta Kirschner meat packing plant. In January 2003 it shut down Augusta's last remaining factory, closing the Kirschner plant's doors and leaving 173 people out of work.

Tyson pays an average \$7 to \$8 an hour in its other (mostly all non-union) plants, while employees at Kirshner's had been unionized and making about \$11.50 and hour.

According to Tyson's corporate website, it tends to locate its plants in areas of low unemployment (obviously, Augusta failed at meeting that criteria), which allows them to bring in a large amount of foreign workers (who receive lower wages than the local workers, receive few if any benefits since they are short term workers, and are not unionized.)

Tyson is able to make even more profits off exploiting its workers by bringing in illegal foreign workers, who are guaranteed none of the basic protections that even legal foreign workers receive - a practice Tyson executives were caught doing in 2001. When employees went on strike in protest of Tyson's cuts in wages and benefits a year ago in Jefferson, WI, Tyson has simply ignored their demands and contracted temp agencies to supply scabs (paying the scab workers more than the strikers were demanding.) Yet while it couldn't afford to maintain basic fair wages and benefits



Photo: Roger Leisner

to its workers and their families, Tyson was spending \$40 million on an ad campaign to promote Tyson's "family friendly" image with touching family scenes pushing the slogan "Tyson. It's what your family deserves."

According to Kirschner cook, Nathan Shaw of Vassalboro, in a Kennebec Journal article, Tyson won't sell the plant to another company or the workers because it could become competition.

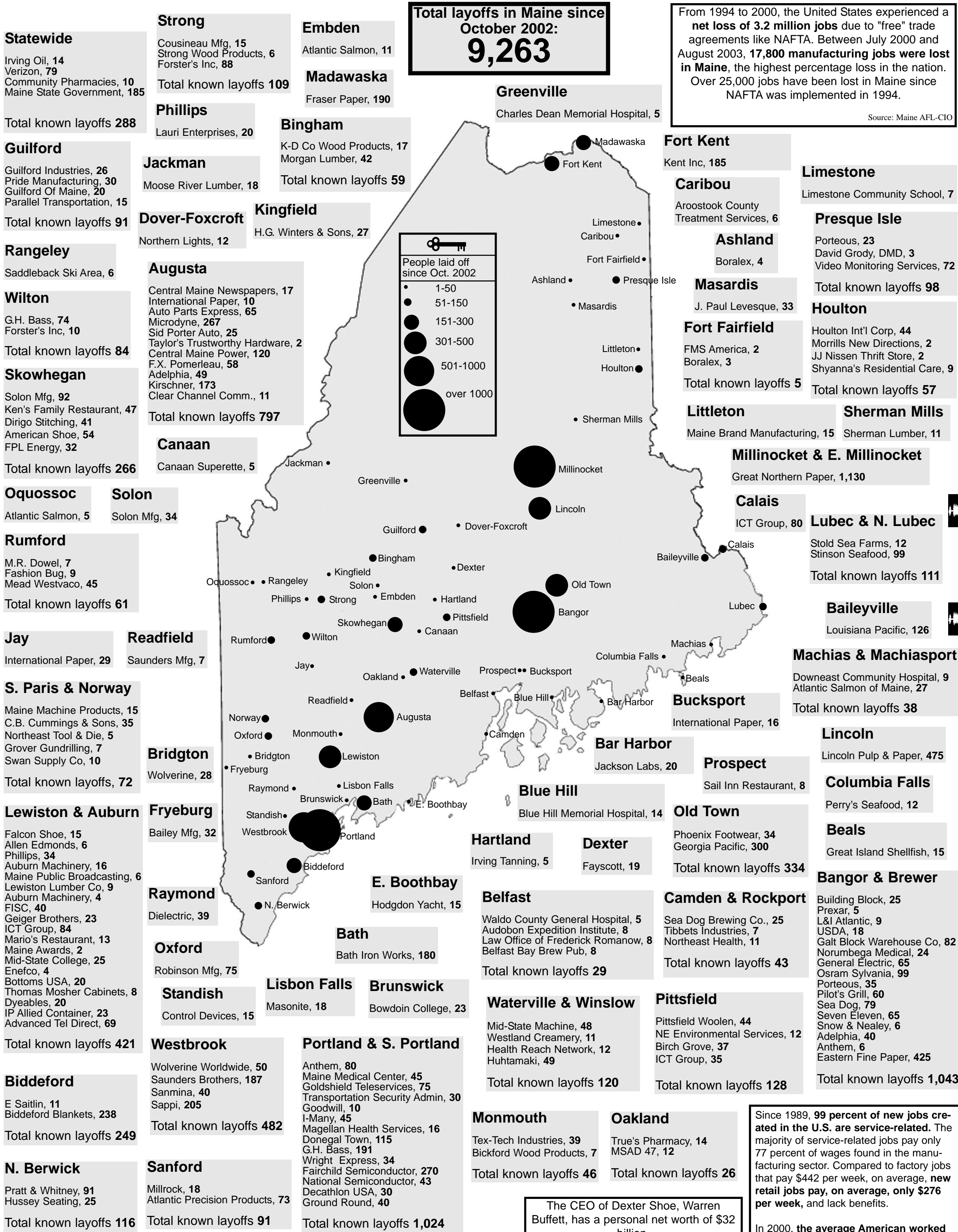
This follows the pattern of a number of corporations, such as Georgia Pacific, who shut down plants in Maine, (and express supposed regret for doing it), but who ensure that the workers stay without those jobs by refusing even to consider the option of selling the plant to another company or workers.

Tyson representative John Lea says the plant closing was "necessary ...to meet our responsibilities to all of our stakeholders." The stakeholders he refers to would definitely not appear to be the workers and communities Tyson makes it's profits from. Tyson's shareholder's shareholders definitely weren't hurting - Tyson's first-quarter 2004 earnings were \$6.5 billion, \$800 million more than last year. Maybe it's the responsibility to Tyson CEO Jon Tyson, who doubled his total pay in 2002 to nearly \$4.5 million plus stock options, while laying-off 1500 workers - maybe he wants another raise.

- HILLARY LISTEER

In the October 2002 issue of the Commons we published a layoff map (see page 31 to order back issues) illustrating the over 10,000 layoffs in the state in that past year. With companies continuing to cut costs and increase stockholder profit by laying off workers in Maine, it became clear we needed to create an updated map. This map covers layoffs from October 2002 to the printing of this paper, late February 2004. As with the 2002 map, it was found that only a portion of these layoffs were reported in the major Maine daily newspapers. This map is incomplete, as there is no available record for every one of the numerous small closings and layoffs that result from larger ones; for example the gas stations, restaurants, and general stores that close, and the school districts that cut staff due to the ailing local economy resulting from the layoffs. Also unrepresented are the numerous farms that have shut down, and folks who, due to corporate and government practices, are no longer able to afford to work in the lumber or fishing industries.

# MAINE LAYOFF INDEX 2003



Maine workers aren't just losing their jobs to folks working for extremely low wages, unable to unionize, in sweatshop conditions in other countries. They are also losing them to folks working in those conditions in this country. The now-closed Hathaway shirt factory in Waterville lost its last major hope of staying open when it lost an \$18-\$20 million US Navy shirt-making contract to a shirt plant in Macon, Georgia. This shirt plant is owned by Federal Prison Industries (FPI), a US government-owned corporation that has over 20,000 incarcerated employees. The plant employs federal prisoners, who are required to work if they are able to. Workers in FPI facilities are paid between 23 cents and \$1.15 an hour, and US government agencies in need of a product are required by law to purchase that product from FPI unless those agencies ask for an exception from FPI's monopoly.





## A SHORT DICTIONARY OF JOB LOSS

**FAST TRACK** : Legislation granting the US president authority to negotiate trade agreements, and preventing Congress from amending any trade deal submitted by the executive branch. Fast track effectively restricts Congress to voting yes or no on an agreement.

**FTAA**: (Free Trade Area of the Americas) A trade agreement under negotiation since 1994 by North and South American governments, as well as those of Central America and the Caribbean. It would be like NAFTA for the entire Western hemisphere with the exception of Cuba.

**GATS** (General Agreement on Trade & Services): An international agreement within the WTO that seeks to privatize public services potentially including water, education, & health care. GATS would currently lead to the elimination of about a dozen Maine state laws.

**NAFTA** (North American Free Trade Agreement) - Passed in 1994 under Clinton, a trade agreement between the US, Mexico, and Canada that removes tariffs on goods and services, deregulates investment, reduces travel restrictions for entrepreneurs and white-collar workers, and protects intellectual property rights (which often includes such things as patenting native seeds).

**Privatization** - The sale of publicly owned goods and services (such as water and energy) to private companies.

**WTO** (World Trade Organization) Its main purposes are to promote "free" trade agreement and settle trade disputes. WTO member countries must make national, state, and local laws conform with WTO rules, or face sanctions. In the WTO, decisions are reached behind closed doors without public input.

### Bureau of Labor Education

5713 Chadbourne Hall, UMO  
Orono, ME 04469  
581-4124 / labored@maine.edu  
Provides educational opportunities and conducts research on topics of special interest to Maine workers; sponsors special seminars, programs, and institutes about labor-related issues.

### Downtown Neighborhood Association

145 Lisbon St., PO Box 7223  
Lewiston, ME 04243  
784-2380; 786-4810  
Seeks to empower residents of downtown Lewiston to become active in the affairs of our community and reverse the trends of poverty, unemployment, and neglect that we live with everyday.

### Food AND Medicine

20 Ayer St.  
Brewer, ME 04412  
989-4141 / foodmedicine@workfam.com  
Works with laid-off workers in Eastern Maine to insure that workers don't have to choose between eating and health care, that they have job opportunities providing a living wage and adequate income and that they have social benefits such as affordable health care.

### But wait... Aren't Companies leaving because Maine's tax-codes just aren't business friendly?

While this may be true in some cases (especially for small locally-owned businesses), it ignores the tens of millions of dollars of tax-breaks and straight taxpayer money that towns and the state are giving to large corporations to convince them to stay. For example, taxpayers in Madison are giving millions of dollars to Madison paper - money which Madison paper has used to purchase new equipment and expand in Germany. Taxpayers in Rockland and the state of Maine footed most of the bill for over \$28 million that Nautica received in the forms of tax incentives, loans, and grants - despite this, Nautica laid off its over 300 Maine workers and moved south to Virginia. To top it all off, Nautica is now acting to get \$500,000 from the city of Rockland, which it claims it is owed through the prior business-friendly tax packages the city had given it to encourage the business to stay in town.

### Did you know that...?

Shaw's grocery stores across the state have been installing self-service checkouts that eliminate the need for a person to work as a cashier or bagger at each terminal. Home Depot has also been installing these terminals, with the announced purpose of shifting more of its employees from full-time to part-time (which usually means a decrease in benefits and responsibility of the company to the workers.) So even the promise of big retail chains bringing many new jobs, however bad, could be a myth in a few years - they'll hardly need employees at all.

### Well...Isn't more college education the solution?

The jobless rate among college graduates reached its highest in a decade in August 2003. The Labor Department says that unemployment among professional workers is the highest it has ever been, nearly 9%. Many of these jobs are also moving overseas to countries such as India, China, Bangladesh, Russia, and Vietnam, which have college-educated English-fluent workers, along with lower wages and lack of unions. For example a mechanical engineer in India averages \$5,900 a year, compared with an American worker's \$55,600. Wages are even lower in other countries like China and Bangladesh.

## Find Out More! Get Involved! Meet People!

### Maine Fair Trade Campaign

947-4203 (Bangor), 777-6387 (Lewiston) / jack@pica.ws or mschlobo@justice.com  
www.pica.ws/mftc

The Maine Fair Trade Campaign is sponsoring LD 1815, the Maine Jobs, Trade and Democracy Act

What this Legislation Will Do:

Given the profound impacts of trade agreements on Maine's laws, economy, and environment we need a mechanism for greater public input and better oversight of the impacts on Maine. We need to be well positioned and prepared to proactively respond to rapid changes in the global economy. This legislation will help do so by:

- An inclusive citizen-legislator commission with representatives from the business, labor, public health, agricultural and human rights community
- A commission which will gather information, solicit public input, assess impacts, publish results, educate the public, advise policy makers, and recommend legislation that would strengthen Maine's economy and uphold Maine's laws.

### Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)

PO Box 3343  
Lewiston, ME 04243  
623-1210, 442-7779  
www.iww.org  
The IWW is a union for all workers and is dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries, and in our communities both to win better conditions today and to build a world without bosses, where production and distribution are organized by workers and for workers.

### Maine AFL-CIO

PO Box 2669  
Bangor, ME 04402  
947-0006 / MEAFLCIO@aol.com  
www.mainepage.com/maineafl-cio  
Statewide federation of local affiliated unions in Maine. Our primary mission is to act as the "people's lobby" at the state legislature, working for legislation favorable to working people, and opposing harmful legislation. Also provides assistance to groups seeking to form labor unions.

### Maine Clean Clothes Alliance (MECCA)

170 Park St.  
Bangor, ME 04401  
947-4203 / info@pica.ws  
MECCA is a statewide network of organizations opposing sweatshop labor by promoting fair labor purchasing standards in communities.

### Maine Labor News

PO Box 3472  
Portland, ME 04104  
773-5760 / mln@maine.rr.com  
Burt Wartell  
Abi-monthly publication featuring union reports, local and national labor news, upcoming events, legislative and electoral information, and just about anything of interest to working people in Maine.

### Maine Rural Workers Coalition

145 Lisbon St., 2nd floor  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
753-1922 / mrwc@ime.net  
www.ime.net/~mrwc  
Works to organize the migrant workers in Maine to stand up for their rights in their workplaces and communities. Also provides multicultural activities designed to break down the cultural barriers that exist in Maine.

### Maine Workers Alliance

99-A Larrabee Road  
Westbrook, ME 04092  
877-822-1996  
Alliance of organized and unorganized workers and environmentalists supporting the rights of workers to decent pay and working conditions and opposing exploitation by contractors and corporations.

### Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods (MAIN)

PO Box 2711  
Bangor, ME 04402  
947-4371 / krjguay@myexcel.com  
Coalition of low income groups and persons working together to get involved in decision-making that affects our lives. Focus on issues such as welfare, health care, living wage.

### POWER (Portland Organizing to Win Economic Rights)

PO Box 4281  
Portland, ME 04101  
681-0035 / power@riseup.net  
Southern Maine organization working to gain economic rights and power for low income and other oppressed groups. Economic rights are human rights.

### Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy

449 Maple St.  
North Berwick, ME 03906  
676-3356 / pkellman@cybertours.com  
www.poclاد.org  
Focuses on the question: "Can we have a democracy if the power to determine the direction of our economy, culture, and the governing of our communities, state and nation is directed by a wealthy class of people hiding behind the legally protected facade of transnational corporations?"



continued from page 14

### Sunday, April 4th

**Concert w/Gordon Bok and Carol Rohl**  
Location: Chestnut St. Church, 17 Chestnut St, Portland  
Time: 3:00 PM  
Contact: Spiral Arts, 775-1474  
Info: Benefit concert for Spiral Arts

### Friday, April 9th

**Good Friday "Earth Stations"**  
Location: Damariscotta River Association  
Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
Contact: Andy Burt, 882-6848  
Info: Event celebrating "the stations of the earth" to commemorate Good Friday. Volunteers needed to read selections from the Bible and other sources.

### Thursday, April 15th

**Voting Rocks - Voter Registration Drive**  
Location: All 8 Bull Moose Stores  
Time: 1-6pm  
Info: Bull Moose Music will hold a non-partisan voter registration drive. Maine residents who will be 18 or older on Election Day, Nov. 2, are eligible to register. Local and national bands will be playing live at the stores. Participating Maine stores are: Bangor, Maine Square Mall; Brunswick, 151 Maine St.; Lewiston, Lewiston Mall; North Windham, North Windham Shopping Center; Portland, 151 Middle St.; Sanford, Center for Shopping; Scarborough, 456 Payne Road; and Waterville, Elm Plaza.

**Tax Day Actions**  
Location: Statewide  
Contact: Larry Dansinger, 525-7776  
Information: Sponsored by Maine War Tax Resistance Resource Center

### Saturday, April 17th

**HOPE Festival**  
Location: Brewer Auditorium, Brewer  
Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Contact: Peace & Justice Center, 942-9343  
Info: 10th annual HOPE (Help Organize Peace Earthwide) Festival to celebrate Earth Day with music, organizational fair, children's program, displays, more.

**Maine Green Independent Party 2004 Convention**  
Location: Lewiston  
Phone: 623-1919  
Email: [info@mainegreens.org](mailto:info@mainegreens.org)  
Web: <http://www.mainegreens.org>  
Info: Continues to Sunday, April 18th

### Monday, April 19th

**Youth Activism Gathering**  
Location: Evergreen School, Hallowell  
Contact: Breanna, 487-3554  
Email: [breaannaerbc@justice.com](mailto:breaannaerbc@justice.com)  
Info: Through April 21st; fourth annual event with workshops, food, music.  
Cost: \$5-10/day (or whatever you can pay) includes food and overnights

### Friday, April 23rd

**Global Network Convention**  
Location: Woodfords Church, Portland  
Contact: Bruce Gagnon, 729-0517  
Info: Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space international convention on "Resisting Empire". Through April 25th.

### Sunday, April 25th

**Maine Delegation to Washington March for Choice**  
Contact: Laura  
Phone: 781-2201  
Web: [www.marchforchoice.org](http://www.marchforchoice.org)  
Info: Public Demonstration in Washington, DC to support women's reproductive freedom. Call or write to find out about joining the Maine delegation to DC.

**Want your event included? See something wrong on the calendar? Let us know! Or add it online at [calendar.maineindymedia.org](http://calendar.maineindymedia.org)**

# Maine Solidarity Calendar

## Monthly Repeating Events

### Mondays

**Maine Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty Meetings**  
Phone: 884-7407  
Location: Canterbury House, Orono  
Info: Meets 1st Monday of each month.

**Free Space Free School**  
Contact: [freeschool@peoplesfreespace.org](mailto:freeschool@peoplesfreespace.org)  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Web: <http://pfs.dod.net>  
Location: Portland West, 181 Brackett St., Portland

**Clean Clothes Campaign Meetings**  
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Phone: 947-4203  
Location: Peace & Justice Center, Bangor

**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.

### Tuesdays

**Maine Time Dollar Network Gathering**  
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
Phone: 874-9868  
Web: [www.mtdn.org](http://www.mtdn.org)  
Location: The Family Workshop, 215 Congress Street, Portland

**Waldo County Peace and Justice Group**  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 338-0406  
Location: UU Church, 37 Miller St, Belfast  
Info: Meets 1st Tuesday each month.

### Wednesdays

**Free Space Video Showings & Meetings**  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Web: <http://pfs.dod.net>  
Location: Portland West, 181 Brackett St., Portland input.  
Meet every 1st Wednesday is Movie Night. Every 3rd Wednesday is a film and discussion night.

### Thursdays

**Peninsula P & J Potluck supper**  
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Phone: 326-4405  
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  
Info: 2nd Thursday of the month.

### Saturdays

**SisterSpace**  
Time: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Phone: 878-2152  
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.

**Downeast Vigil of Hope**

### "Other"

Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Phone: 546-2961  
Locations: Steuben Green & Machias  
Info: Occurs on the 11th of each month. Call for exact locations.

## Weekly Repeating Events

### Sundays

**Bridges for Peace**  
Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
Web: [www.peacebridges.org](http://www.peacebridges.org)  
Location: Bridges throughout the state.

**Bar Harbor Peace Vigil**  
Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
Phone: 288-4365  
Location: Village Green, Bar Harbor

**Belfast Women in Black Vigil**

Time: Noon  
Location: Southeast corner (Hayford Building) of High & Main St., Belfast

**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

**Kennebunk Women in Black Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
Phone: 985-1459  
Location: Main & Water St., Kennebunk

**Sanford Peace Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 - 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 noon  
Email: [renalasel@hotmail.com](mailto:renalasel@hotmail.com)  
Location: War Memorial, Rt. 4, S. Berwick

### Mondays

**Youth Adelantando Meeting**  
Time: 5:15 PM - 7:30 PM  
Phone: 947-4203  
Location: Peace & Justice Center, Bangor

**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: [personalispolitical@hotmail.com](mailto:personalispolitical@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.

**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

**Portland Vigil for Peace**  
Time: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
Location: Monument Square, Portland

### Tuesdays

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

**Gay Men's Support Group Meeting**  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Email: [centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com](mailto:centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com)  
Location: UU Church, Augusta

**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

**Farmington Gay/Straight Alliance**  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Phone: 778-7379  
Location: 119B Psychology Building (the old white church) Main St., Farmington  
Info: Open to all ages, GLBTQA.

**Let Cuba Live Meetings**  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 273-3247  
Web: [www.letcubalive.org](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: [rolloftd@polaris.umpi.maine.edu](mailto:rolloftd@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.

**Bucksport Peace Vigil**  
Time: 5:00 PM  
Phone: 469-3946  
Location: Municipal Building, Bucksport

**Newcastle Peace Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 noon  
Phone: 563-5416  
Location: Square Park, Newcastle

**Peace Action Maine Vigil**

Time: 12:00 noon  
Phone: 772-0680  
Location: in front of Library, Portland

**South Berwick Women in Black**  
Time: 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
Email: [tuviviel@lovenotwar.us](mailto:tuviviel@lovenotwar.us)  
Location: Salmon Falls Bridge

**MDI United For Peace**  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 288-8199  
Location: Bar Harbor YWCA, Mount Desert Street

**Camden Women in Black Vigil**  
Time: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM  
Phone: 549-3061  
Location: Rt. 1 & Atlantic Ave., Camden

### Thursdays

**Central Maine Outright Meeting**  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Phone: 621-6393  
Location: 11 King Street, Augusta  
Info: A weekly safe drop-in program for GLBTQ and allied youth ages 22 and under

**Portland Q&A**  
Time: 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
Phone: 828-6560 / (888) 567-7600  
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.

### Fridays

**Lewiston/Auburn Outright**  
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
Phone: 786-2717  
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  
Location: 25A Pine St, Ellsworth  
Info: Every 1st and 3rd Friday.

**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: Meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

**Brunswick Peace Vigil**  
Time: 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM  
Phone: 725-7675  
Location: Brunswick Mall, Brunswick

**Ellsworth Peace Vigil**  
Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Phone: 667-0268  
Location: Bridge to Bucksport & Blue Hill

**Farmington Women in Black**  
Time: 12:00 noon - 12:30 PM  
Phone: 293-2580  
Location: Post Office, Farmington

**Houlton "Stand for Peace" Silent Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 noon  
Phone: 532-4570  
Location: Monument Park (Near the Peace Pole), Houlton

**Rockland Peace Vigil**  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Phone: 594-9575  
Location: corner of Main & Park Streets, Rockland

**Waterville Women in Black Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 noon - 12:30 PM  
Location: Old Post Office, Waterville  
Info: Our message is: Women in Black stand silently against violence.

**Eastport Peace Vigil**

### Saturdays

Time: 12:30 PM  
Email: [connoink@midmaine.com](mailto:connoink@midmaine.com)  
Location: Overlook Park, Eastport

**Houlton Peace Vigil**  
Time: 12:00 noon - 12:30 PM  
Phone: 532-3797  
Location: Monument Park (near the Peace Pole)

**Norway Women in Black Vigil**  
Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Phone: 743-2183  
Location: Witherell Park, Norway

**Winthrop Peace Vigil**  
Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 noon  
Phone: 685-9604



# LOCKED UP

## AN OFFERING

BY JEREMY STEVENS

Together we are awakening the minds of many people to a struggle of strangle hold that the state of Maine and this country has put on its people for some years now. It is said that this country is the youngest in its making but the history of its people lies in the heart and spirit of its people and it is very important that all people understand that it is the way that has saved a people that once was thought to be abolished.

Understand now that it is all people of this sacred land that have become a target of the United States Government. Where as the governments plan of power has failed many times, its one primary force has not. This is being control, power and capitalism by any means necessary.

Unfortunately the incarceration of the people who have made homes on this land and who have been forced into laws, rules and under dictatorship that has no face have become victim of false imprisonment for political and non-violent crimes.

State and private owned prisons make a profit by boarding those with short term and long term sentences. Of course this has again returned to a primary force within the government. Fortunately but sadly as a people, families as well as volunteers and many who have awaken themselves to the destruction of the governments war to keep us oppressed are only herd amongst each other. To a much larger world our cries are shallow and it is our lifetime to work hard enough to force this country and the rest of this world to hear us.

This being my war cry to a people who are listening and awakening to Maine's own people who are incarcerated, and those willing and working hard together. I ask that we come to a circle. I see that we are already beginning this circle and it is growing stronger and bigger.

We who are incarcerated are in many ways powerless and can only give a voice and writing but this is a strong conscious itself and can also be very powerful.

It is understood that something

older than this government and incarceration crisis is the primary power itself, which is the power of the people, which must be given to all of Maine, and this countries people. In Maine an offering needs to be made to the four tribes of Maine. The Abenaki confederacy known as - Passamaquady, Penobscott, Maliseet and MicMac. These four tribes are to be made an offering and asked for its councils and all of their people to gather around a circle along with other Maines peoples alike.

These problems with drugs, violence, incarceration as well as much more need to be talked about. This gathering will be the strongest and will be the beginning of a council that will reach across and over this whole country. With out this, little will change and the peoples efforts will drain and again the Governments primary force will continue in its strangle hold of power on Maines people.

Here at the Maine State Prison with help from the Sacred Feathers Council we have already started to take a stronger step forward towards this circle of gathering that I am talking of. I am Passamaquady and have committed myself to help the people of Maine and Maine's tribes. As of now I can only give my voice and writings, so I ask that all other people walk forward with what you have now read. In 6 years and 11 months I will join in a much stronger and powerful way but it must be together and this offering should already be made to Maine four tribes.

I can be contacted by writing to me personally. With this I say Woliwon\* to all people and ask for you help and support.

Jeremy Stevens #18861  
807 Cushing Rd.  
Warren, Me 04684-4600

\* Editors note: In the Passamaquady language Woliwon means "thank you".

## Violence in the Maine State Prison: An Inmate's Perspective

A recipe for an environment of violence: mix poorly trained guards with ridiculous prison rule, add violent and non-violent offenders, mental health patients, delinquent kids and confine them in a small space. Over the course of this article I am hoping to show a connection between prison violence and not being able to do what I call "jailing."

First, please let me explain "jailing." Jailing simply means being able to settle and do time peacefully. Jailing is very important to the prisoners serving long sentences (I am one of these individuals). I have come to realize, as do the majority of inmates serving long sentences, that we are in prison as part of a punishment. Also, we accept the rules, which help the prison run smoothly. However, it is not the corrections officers' responsibility to punish inmates for the crimes which put them in prison. Simply put, individuals are here in prison as punishment, not for punishment.

When we came to the new prison in Warren from the old prison in Thomaston, it was a big shock to many of us. The move brought together two different prison populations -- inmates with long sentences and prisoners sentenced for one or two years. Prisoners from Windham, who usually were younger and serving short sentences, and prisoners from Thomaston had completely different ideas of doing time. When these different groups of people -- the old timers and young kids -- were forced to live together in a pod, it made for lots of fights. Another cause of conflict was that sometimes these younger prisoners' misdeeds brought punishment to the older prisoners. Further, many of our privileges were taken away or severely reduced, visiting hours were cut back, means to earn money severely limited and many new vague and ridiculous rules were implemented and enforced.

As time went on and we became acclimated to the new facility, prison staff decided to enforce some rules they had earlier neglected. According to them, we were getting too "comfortable." When we got here, we were given some leeway in the way we maintained our cells. I had pictures of my family members on the table along with books and correspondence from friends and relatives. Then, one day out of the blue, we were ordered to put everything in a footlocker. Our footlockers must be placed under our beds. Everything we own not only has to

fit in the footlocker, but must also be kept there. No pictures of family can be anywhere but in a photo album kept in the footlocker. Their excuse -- correspondence, books, magazines, newspapers and pictures are fire hazards (By the way, if an item is not a fire hazard, then it is a security threat).

This is a new \$77-million-dollar prison with top-of-the-line fire sprinklers in each cell, along with the latest fire sensors and smoke detectors. The prison in Thomaston was more than one hundred years old and had none of these fire detection gadgets. Yet in the old prison, we had a space on the wall for pictures of our loved ones, posters, calendars, drawings from our kids, nieces, nephews and grandkids--our memories. Not here. Nothing on the walls. Nothing to remind us of our loved ones. Just bare concrete, a concrete jungle.

However, visit some of the offices here and you will find proud displays of calendars, pictures of family members, sports stars, team memorabilia, posters, plants, etc. No fire hazard? If officers, who are only here for eight or nine hours a day have a need to personalize their offices, make them feel like home, feel human and comfortable in a place of hate and violence, why shouldn't we be allowed to feel the same way? We live here 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and some of us are never getting out.

These things may seem trivial for people who are free or those serving smaller sentences, but it is very important for us lifers. You can't expect people to live out of a box. These cells are our homes and these pods are our neighborhoods. We should be given some freedom to create a place to rest our heads and calm our hearts. Each of us has a need of a place, no matter how small or how humble, that can offer us sanctuary, where we may replenish our body and soul.

Poorly-trained guards and their hotheaded supervisors are another factor that has led to an increase in violence. Officers are encouraged to take the responsibility of punishing inmates for their sentenced crimes. They believe that by making prisons difficult, frustrating, and inhumane place, inmates won't come back. They treat inmates, older and younger ones alike, as punks (a very derogatory term used in prison vocabulary). The officers perceive treating prisoners humanely is not part of their job description. They seem to harbor a secret fear of losing their authority and overcompensate for it by being irrational and arrogant. This problem is further compounded by the fact that some inmates do know their rights and therefore are victimized repeatedly. Left, unchallenged, these

### Maine Native Prison Project

Website and Project to help Native American Prisoners & their families residing in Maine. Donations are appreciated.

[www.mnpp.homestead.com](http://www.mnpp.homestead.com)  
mnpp@nativeweb.net  
Maine Native Prison Project  
P.O. Box 6765  
Portland, ME 04103-6765



# MAINE & BEYOND

## Maine Inmates Await Trial In Fight Against Mail Restrictions

BY MAINE BOOKS TO PRISONERS

Members of the Longtimers Group, a non-profit prisoners group in the Maine State Prison and Boldou Correctional Facility in Warren, await a trial date in their battle against new mail restrictions imposed by the Department of Corrections last August.

Department of Corrections Policy 21.2, signed into effect by Commissioner Martin Magnusson on August 4, 2003 prohibits inmates from receiving by mail the following: photocopies, computer-generated materials (including print-outs from the internet and letters typed on a word processor), and sexually explicit materials. The new policy also restricts prisoners from receiving used books, or other books that are not mailed directly from the publisher or an "approved distributor". A lawsuit initiated by the Longtimers Group, and attorney Andrews Campbell of Waldoboro, seeks to overturn Policy 21.2 on the grounds that it violates constitutionally protected rights of expression (1st amendment), freedom from unreasonable search and seizure (4th amendment), and the right to due process and equal protection (14th amendment).

guards, in turn, believe that they can get away with anything on anyone. To top it all, some guards not only victimize inmates but they encourage or allow inmates to abuse one another. Victims are turned into victimizers.

To grow we need to feel safe, secure and comfortable in our environment. To have a certain stability in our lives, we need some structure and order so that chaos and stress do not overwhelm us. This chaos and stress in our environment plays havoc on our day-to-day life and leads to anger, which may in turn lead to violence. Allowing prisoners to create a little comfortable, relaxing, safe space for themselves, especially in their cell, gives them some sense of dignity and control over their own lives. They feel human, and in short, this is jailing.

-Anonymous, Maine State Prison, Warren, Maine

In November, Judge Alexander of Knox County granted a temporary injunction against Policy 21.2, which temporarily nullifies the restrictions pending a trial, of which a date has yet to be set. The state of Maine has, in turn, issued a motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

Since the granting of the temporary injunction, Maine Books to Prisoners has mailed several packages of books and copies of the Maine Commons to prisoners in the Maine State prison in Warren, and as far as we know, they have been received. Maine Books to Prisoners supports the Longtimer's Groups lawsuit, because DOC policy 21.2 restricts our ability to send free books and other educational materials to inmates warehoused by the Maine Department of Corrections.

Maine Books to Prisoners is asking supporters of prisoner rights on the outside to write Gov. John Baldacci (#1 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333), Commissioner Martin Magnusson (Maine DOC, 111 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333) and local state representatives and senators, asking them to overturn this policy. Please send a copy of your letters to Maine Books to Prisoners, PO Box 2178, Waterville, ME 04901, or email [mainebookstoprisoners@justice.com](mailto:mainebookstoprisoners@justice.com).

### Fight For Freedom

BY JEREMY STEVENS

**It has casted upon us as a Notion and given the key Brought us all to its gate For us to set it free**

**For we must be its strength, Eyes and ears This journey as we walk to Conquer all of our fears**

**Lay down and rest for it Will make you tired and weak. Your strength and knowledge Deepens this courage it will seek.**

**Have you the courage to believe In who you are The courage will see you through, This journey brings you far.**

**This goodness shall set us free For life we love best A freedom to be fought for And given to the rest...**

## PEN PALS

Open to All, In and Out of Prison

Free for prisoners, \$5 all others, for 50 wds or less, \$1 each extra 20 wds.

39 year old Blk Male looking for men and women who have an open mind for pen pals. I am into social change and homeless issues. I seek enlightenment and understanding. Each day I work to lessen my ignorance and understand life.  
*Rayshaun Smith #12372316*  
*SRCI P.O Box 777 Stanton BLVD.*  
*Ontario, OR. 97914*

\*\*\*\*\*

41 year old male looking for a person to correspond with. Socially aware of our world and poetically (?) fluent to express my ideals. Open minded to all cultural individuals who also wish to write.  
*Gerald Person # 5616018*  
*777 stanton BLVD*  
*Ontario Ore. 97914*

\*\*\*\*\*

I love sports, football is my game. I enjoy fishing and camping. I am Native American and I love nature walks and even spirtuallity walks. And the reason I am in here is for fighting. I have 2 years. I am 30 years old.  
*Shawn Biddle #4673*  
*PO Box 250*  
*S. Windham ME 04082*

\*\*\*\*\*

I will be 40 years old April 1st. I have 4 kids. 20,17,10 and 9 are the ages. I love my children very much! I am serving a four and a half year sentence for a 1989 probation violation for operating after a suspension charge. I used to have dirty blonde hair but now it is mostly gray and white. hahaha. I would like to find a penpal/ friend and maybe someone to visit me at times. (Probably soon I will be at DCF in the Machias area.) I am a decent mechanic auto body work and welding. I am good at landscaping. I am certified for mobile air conditioning and can repair anything on a tractor trailer, and I am familiar with repairing

most farm equipment. I could use a friend.  
*Dwight Norwood MDOC # 041634*  
*Po Box 250*  
*S. Windham ME 04082-0250*

\*\*\*\*\*

My name is Scott Dewar. I am 35 years old. I have children and I am divorced. I am in for OUI and OAS. I have another 16 months of this 2 year sentence. I like to fish, hunt and workout and sit back and watch a good movie. Thank you.  
*Scott Dewar #14717*  
*P.O Box 250*  
*South Windham, ME 04082-0250*



**To people placing ads: This is not meant to be a personal ads section. Please no "hook up" ads -- you know what we mean. And to all: Keep in mind when writing to anyone that you don't know them. You don't have to give your real name or location or other personal information. Get to know someone first. That said, please write because people need human contact!**



# .....Indy Arts & Entertainment.....

## If I was a Bird

by R.S. Lewis

I'd have better things to do than hang out with my crew-  
The pink skinned swans and golden colored doves, the little sphinx moths,  
Hummingbirds, and swift falcons.  
On darker days, I'll slice through rain clouds and make a bright clear day.

Flutter through eons of old  
I'll tale luxurious baths in lush blue  
My thirst with  
I'll wing way way out on solo  
Soar high along the  
And fly back across  
Glide slowly over  
Pause mid



folk's agony and pain.  
steams and quench  
sugar water.  
missions of honor.  
California coast  
the shores of Maine.  
poor towns.  
flight

Swoop down low and drop food into  
I'll beat my beak into the ground one  
the mouths of starving babies.  
thousand times so broken hearted

Girls could bury their sorrow.

I'll wheel through the prisons and release all my comrades

Locked down in cages.

Yeah. Hang up side down.

Take in the injustices around the entire world through these small, beady eyes.

I'll be a witness for truth.

And you'd never even know I was there.

*Reginald S. Lewis is the author of the poetry books Leaving Death Row and Inside my Head. Both \*are poetry\* can be ordered online. He is an African-American poet, essayist, and playwright on Pennsylvania's Death Row. can be reached at the following address: Reginald S. Lewis # AY2902 175 Progress Drive Waynesburg, Pennsylvania 5370-8089*

## OUTBACK WOMAN

sometimes I urge to back up out more back more  
where a woman can put tarpaper on a shed  
and not be less

carry pails from untested springs  
squat where she wants and not break codes

dress nothing like the ads and not worry  
some domesticated souls'll drive in not knowing  
where in hell they're at

eat from the rough follow rhythms signs  
primal sense my clock

in the shock of wild juice remember everything  
about how I've been there before

- Patricia Ranzoni, Bucksport

**why people  
don't grow**

9-5/6-10/7-3

coffee stop 6am  
dunkin' doughnuts  
styrofoam tranquility

toasted bagel  
lite cream cheese  
an iced tea  
for later

kids at sitters  
laundry done  
drive to work  
talk radio

red lights, left  
turns against traffic  
late again  
phone ringing

computer glitch  
hot-dog lunches  
smoke break  
vending machines

candy bar  
hidden in desk  
drawer, photocopier  
collate and staple

no personal calls  
email  
punch out, charge  
mobile phone

stop and go traffic  
meat and potatoes  
evening news  
heartburn

mylanta  
doctor visits  
co-payments  
countless prescriptions

pasturized milk  
high fructose corn syrup  
sterile seeds  
warm gingerale

Parenting is one of those tasks that most people come to with incomplete information. For most, raising children is something that is learned "on the job". Basing their skills on part parental model, part myth and possibly, part instruction book or manual, most parents develop their parenting style based on a hodge-podge of ideas.

Zoe Weil, a humane educator as well as a parent, has written a book that will be of real value to many struggling parents. Weil uses the goal of humaneness to develop her ideas about parenting. She also gives a number of real life examples of parenting.

When first given the book for review, I was somewhat reluctant to review it, only because my son is now a sophomore in college, and I feel that most of my heavy parenting duties have passed. However, as I began to read the book, I found myself drawn into many of the ideas and concepts that Ms. Weil was endeavoring to put across.

I think most parents want some goal that they are working towards in their parenting. Maybe it is raising healthy children, who are emotionally stable. For too many parents however, raising their child to be a passive consumer is too often the end result. Weil identifies ten key characteristics of living a humane life. She then shows them a plan for seeding and nurturing this plan in their children. Parents are shown the four core elements that their parenting will be based upon: providing information, teaching critical thinking, instilling the 3 R's (respect, reverence and responsibility), and offering positive choices.

## Book Review of "Above All, Be Kind"

Book by Surry author, Zoe Weil  
Published by New Society Publishers, 2003

and help to solidify the author's points. There was one story that I found particularly poignant. It was the story of Marcus and Joseph. Marcus, an inner city dad, knew he had to find a way to involve his 11 year old son in the natural rhythms of life. Marcus ingeniously began to use Saturday as a day to take Joseph to the large park outside the city of Philadelphia. It was through these visits that a special bond is forged between the two. Marcus used these visits to instill the 3 R's in his son.

There were a few parts of the book that I found somewhat moralistic for my own tastes. There were some examples of behaviors that the author found problematic that I thought had more to do with a strict moral viewpoint on the author's part. However, these were minor compared to the overall benefit that her ideas can bring to one's parenting.

Overall, this is an excellent book for anyone that finds themselves working with children. Parents, teachers, counselors, and others would find the concepts helpful in dealing with children of all ages. Ideally, I think that parents of pre-adolescents would benefit most from it, as they would be able to enact this philosophy and see it take solid root. However, even those parents with adolescents can make positive changes in their parenting style and see it yield fruit. I would certainly recommend this book to anybody who has children. It should have a prominent place on every parent's bookshelf.

Ms. Weil uses a number of stories to illustrate her ideas and concepts. All of the stories are excellent

-BY JIM BAUMER

-Silvana Costa, Thorndike



# .....Indy Arts & Entertainment.....

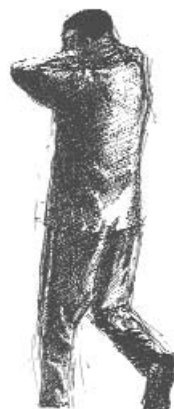
## INTERVIEW WITH ARTIST/ACTIVIST JESSE GROSS

An Interview with Jesse Cross on Art & Activism - Part 2

Jesse Cross is an artist and activist who grew up in Appleton. She's taught art to children at an orphanage in Thailand, taught drawing classes and initiated a community mural project at H.O.M.E. co-op in Orland, created a recently unveiled mural for the Greater Bangor Area Central Labor Council in Brewer which details the history of the labor movement with a special focus on Maine Labor. Jesse graduated from the Maine College of Art (MECA) in 2000 with a degree in printmaking. She is 26, and moved to Santa Fe in September. This summer Becca Glaser spoke about her decision to become an artist, growing up poor in Maine, and political art.

Becca Glaser: What do you see going on in the art world today?

Jesse Cross: The art world today just seems empty of real passion, and real inspiration. The people who make the art that is now [popular], according to the magazines at least, may very well be inspired-they are so loaded, I mean financially. So many of the people who are well-known today-like Jeff Koons-he was a millionaire already, and he just decided he could make a profit off of being an artist. I've heard that he hires people to come up with his ideas, like he is 'Jeff Koons: The Art Firm.' It's an interesting statement about today, or the American culture, but



it's sick that that's what's also celebrated.

BG: What about the artist Sue Coe?

JC: Yeah. Sue Coe is a good example of a really powerful artist who is doing activist-related art. Her art is activism. I'm sure there are a lot of really good artists working today.

BG: Isn't the art world in general, not Republican, for instance? Because art in the past century, which is what I'm most aware of is full of revolutionary artists who did become quite well-known. They still seem like esteemed people within the establishment

of art...I can never get a handle on what the art world is. Growing up in Maine I always thought it was in NYC, or maybe in California somewhere.

JC: Yeah, I would say it's [not Republican]...I think of it still based in New York, and still in some areas of California, and some in Chicago. I think all these artists-they're not totally stupid, extravagant people-I mean they're making a social commentary (most of them are) and it seems to be about how empty American culture is. The thing is, it's commentary that at the same time kind of revels in and glorifies it and becomes part of that same culture that they're trying to comment on.

BG: Do you believe art can change the world?

JC: I think it always has and it probably always will. I mean it changes small worlds within the world and so in terms of a ripple effect, it will change an even broader area than its little world...cuz art is powerful. I think any type of media is very powerful, and that's where we get our information from, and I think visual art isn't as present as it could be, and I hope that as our world gets smaller with the internet that we do have more access to information. Especially in the US we do, and I don't live in Iraq right now, but I think art definitely changes the world. I think it definitely did

**JESSE: CONTINUED ON PG. 24**

## Book Review: Snow Waste by Michael E. Bemis

BY KEN ANDERSON

Meet Joe Littlefield, the chief of snow-making for the White Woods Ski Resort. Joe is a competent supervisor; honest, perhaps a little naive, yet loyal and devoted to his work. With eyes on a promotion to Mountain Operations Manager, he nevertheless proves capable of heroic resolve, showing a determination to do the right thing, even when it conflicts with personal aspirations. His boss, Warren Ainsworth, the owner of White Woods, has a drinking problem and an obsession for developing Carter Peak, which would make White Wood one of the largest ski resorts in the East.

Doug Andrews, an environmental activist with a past, had moved with his wife from Massachusetts to Cannon, Maine five years earlier. In search of a simpler life, the couple runs an antique shop, yet Doug has not abandoned his fervor for protecting the environment, nor has he quite given up on his aspirations of a seat on the Natural Environmental Council, of which he is a member.

Told through the perspective of these three very different individuals, Snow

Waste is a story of ethical values, greed, and personal motivation, coming together in a setting that could exist many places throughout the state of Maine. Cannon, Maine - a fictitious town, economically dependent upon the White Woods Ski Resort, but located near the real towns of Clifton and Dixfield, has always accommodated the resort, sometimes by looking the other way.

Snow Waste plays upon the forces that unite the townspeople, the resort, and even the nearby mill, once owned but now operated by Victor, a friend who has much in common with Warren Ainsworth. The author does a remarkable job of building the characters of the novel, making them real, and even familiar to anyone who has lived in rural Maine; and he does so in the context of an intriguing story, one that acknowledges the hardships of life in Maine, as well as the small and the subtle victories that so often remain hidden to the larger world. Along the way, and as an added plus, the reader learns an awful lot about snowmaking.

The short of it is that I loved the story, and I don't even ski.

The author, Michael E. Bemis, is a career law enforcement officer, educator, lifelong skier, and ski resort buff. He lives in Maine.

Reprinted from Millinockett Region, Magic City Morning Star, [magic-city-news.com](http://magic-city-news.com)

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Harrington Author, Frankie Simons, has published two books of motivational inspirational writings. The first, titled "Get Back to the Garden! An Outlaw's Guild to Living Happy, Joyous, and Free" is an easy-to-read, comically illustrated book of anecdotal stories of Simons own road back (both by motorcycle and through personal transformation) from homelessness to his own personal "paradise." Simon's second book, "Land of the Free, Home of the Brave (So where are all you free, brave people at?)" has attracted the attention of Twelve-Step programs, support groups for people in crisis, and prison inmates and their families, who are finding the writings very relevant. Simons is making his books available for free to institutions, crisis support groups, prisoners, and other interested individuals who would otherwise be unable to afford the books (for those who can afford the books, contact Simons for prices.) To request copies of the books, contact Frankie Simons at 1-877-547-7195 or by writing: SIMCOR, RR1, Box 378-B, Harrington, ME 04643.


**JESSE: CONTINUED FROM PG. 23**

more before we had television. I think it was a major form of communication- posters and paintings, but it could come back more powerfully than it is now--it's like there's art everywhere, but there's not enough art, especially public art.

Art today has changed because it used to be a language we used to communicate more everyday ideas to find out what's going on--it used to be more of a language...where when I think of the 'arts' in a more traditional sense--there's writing, there's literature, there's music, there's dance, there's visual arts, there's theater, there's everything that kind of spans all of them- it seems to me like words and writing has a real dual purpose of relaying to us both everyday information, and we communicate in an everyday fashion with words, but also we use words to communicate more of higher consciousness kind of stuff that is less utilitarian, it's more--you can use words to really talk about broader ideas that reach past your everyday living. I think theater and music and art and dance used to just be part of everyday life more--I think we've really lost the artfulness that used to be part of living, with so many reasons---with the kind of professionalism where if you need to build onto your house, a professional who builds come and does it for you, and it's a certain kind of cookie cutter idea, and even your clothes--people used to make their own clothes, and now you go and you buy clothes...all those kinds of things that when you're not so personally involved in your everyday needs you just go out and buy them--which is really what capitalism has done to kind of crush some of this creativity in our lives--in the whole system of buying. I think we've gained from it, in some ways; we can focus in some ways more on certain things. But I think it's pushed art and music and all that into certain places, instead of being in our lives, it's like art is in galleries and museums, and music is on cds which you can buy and bring into your house, but you don't make it--how many people sit around and make music together now?

BX: But at the same time in the 'old days', a lot of visual art was just aristocratic. Also throughout a lot of history artists were forced to paint Christ to make money.

JC: Yeah, you were so codependent on the patrons---The Medici family in Florence--they were the ones who hired all these great artists to do paintings in their house, or sculptures in their gardens or whatever. And there was a church--so many artists did art for the church!

BG: In the book that I've been reading, (Derrick Jensen's *A Language Older Than Words*) he just calls it 'our culture'--what he means is basically the history of imperialistic, patriarchal, authoritarian, religious-centered cul-

tures, and he says that they can all be titled 'our culture.' So while we can talk about how art at some point might have been better, it probably wasn't that much different in the kind of society that we have--I mean, yes, now we have TV and the movies that have replaced theater in a lot of ways--and maybe you would have gone before as a group to the galleries when the art came through town, but I think we've still been suffering for a long time from the way money imbalances has made who had access to art. I don't think we can just go back 100 years and somehow things were great.

JC: (laughs) Oh no--not at all...Yeah, it's so easy to romanticize whatever isn't right now, but it just seems there must have been more creativity in everyday life then.

I asked Jesse what she considers 'propaganda art' and where its place is.

JC: The abortion signs are a perfect example to me of why I am not into really graphic shock value art, for myself, because when I see those, it just makes me so angry that people are using those images in that way. I understand that if I had a bunch of pictures of dying Iraqis, that could make someone react in an almost identical way to the--I mean I get pretty upset--cuz when I see those pictures of the abortion--those fetuses--and I'm not the biggest pro-choice person in the world--you know, I think it's a personal choice, but still when I see those signs, I get so upset because I think of all the people I know who have had abortions, and it was not easy, because it's never easy. It's a painful thing, and to have it presented that way I just think is cruel. And I can see that if someone drives by, and their son is over in Iraq, they're maybe not proud that their son is killing people, but they're proud that he's doing something for their country that they think needs to be done, just like I thought that for this person, abortion needed to be done, and it's kind of very similar in some ways--maybe it's not, but I think it is...there's so much emotion that comes out of it.

BG: I think it's a question of tactics. If you think people aren't seeing people who've been killed in Iraq, and that they should because we're so distanced from death, but at the same time you think that showing the death is going to backfire your tactic of convincing more people to either stand with you at a protest, write letters, or to tell their children not to join the military, you try to make a tactical decision.

JC: I mean I would never say that 'No one should do that', because I think the more slant, the more variation of messages that we have going out there--'We' (laughs)--me and the liberals--all the ways that we try to communicate with each other--the more variations on the actual means of that communication the better. The human mind is capable of so much, and when we

keep talking to each other in the same language, we're really limiting our own thought processes. And I guess that when I think about myself wanting to do more political art, I do like to do stuff that kind of leaves room for people to think a little bit--where it might be a more ambiguous thing.

For me, everything shifts when I think about who my audience is going to be, or about having an audience at all. As long as it stays kind of internal for me it's more free; as soon as I start showing it to people and then, 'Oh you should show this to other people'...it really changes it, and can kill it...it doesn't always, sometimes it can actually make it develop more, and you start to look at it from other perspectives, by thinking about your audience, trying to do something that you want a lot of people to be able to look at, and try to glean something from, then I think it gives me the ability to look from ever more angles at what I'm doing. And it can really enrich it, but it can also kill it...Unless you're doing it exclusively for yourself, and you've really committed to that--and I've thought about doing that before, but I have it too programmed in the way I was brought up that I'm here to save the world...So I'm always thinking about, 'I'm here for the world, what do I do for the world?', and so I don't think I could ever just make art in a hole.

BG: I'm curious how your meditation practice has influenced your art and your art process.

JC: One thing I've noticed is it takes me a lot longer to finish a painting or drawing than it used to...In meditation, the Vipassana meditation that I was doing...it became kind of oppressive--I can take self-discipline to such an extreme that it was kind of dangerous...but in the time that I was doing it, almost two years, I almost found an immediate change, actually, in my art-making. When I was in Thailand I started doing these animal people, and they were more like drawing--dreamings. And it was funny because when I was in art school, I was known as this certain type of drawer, and this one woman who was in the major with me--she saw some old structural drawings I had done...and she said, 'Oh my god, Jesse, I didn't know you could draw!' (laughs) and I thought, 'Funny, I've been drawing ever since you've known me, and you've seen hundreds of my drawings, and only after you see this representational drawing do you think I can draw.' As soon as I started meditating I found myself wanting to do lots of detail, and when I found myself drawing it was all from my imagination--these people and these elephants and these half-bird people, they reminded me more of what I did when I was 12 or 13...Those paintings I consider probably my most spiritually based paintings cuz a lot of the imagery was in response to what I was learning through the meditation, and because my meditation was so focused and detailed, these paintings were

really similar.

BG: Do you think Maine is a supportive place for artists, and how could it improve to keep its artists here?

JC: From what I've heard, from what other people have said, it seems like Maine is actually more supportive than other states. I think Maine is a pretty great place in a lot of ways. I think it's progressively developing more of a community.

BG: What's pulling you elsewhere?

JC: I want to be in a place with a broader range of cultures than Maine, somewhere like New Mexico, which has more dominant Chicano/Mexican-American and Native American cultures along with white culture. For the culture, and the landscape, for a change, and to experience different life. And if it weren't for feeling an obligation for staying here in the US, being a person minded as I am...(I think it's important to have people of varied mindsets who are willing to speak their minds, and speak them rationally)...I would be very much drawn to go to a whole different part of the world and to stay there for a long time, but I feel like its so important to be here in this country right now, saying your piece--whatever that is, especially if it's not the mainstream--whether its far right or far left or far out, it needs to be being said. We need much more variety in what people are hearing in the US, so the more people speaking out the better, and so I feel good about staying here now that I've made the decision to stay in this country.

I could easily see myself coming back here [to Maine] someday, cuz I have such deep roots here, and I admire Maine. I think it's gonna grow to be ever more interesting, but at the same time there's a lot you could say against Maine.

I've heard people say they think that the regionalism that has been the art movement in Maine is changing, and that more artists--maybe it's as the suburban spread from Boston creeps up into Southern Maine--sprawl I guess--maybe that will bring with it also a larger culture--is what I've heard some artists are hoping, and might actually be bringing artists who cater to the Boston area to live in Maine, and those artists aren't going to be painting seascapes or whatever is considered general Maine art...But then who knows? Maine may be known for its political art someday!



BY B. NORRIS

# Backyard Healing

## White Pine: *Pinus Strobes*

My first memory of White Pine is when I was 4 or 5 years old playing under this one particular pine tree that kids that my mom baby-sat and me played under fairly often. The tree was on the edge of the hayfield behind our home in Pittsfield. The other kids and I would pick red clovers and eat them under this tree. We'd make mud pies and mix in pine cones and needles and some flowers. We'd pick "snake berries" and someone would pretend to eat them. Quickly someone else would have to find an antidote, if not we would have mock funerals under the tree. All of us would rake up the dried reddish brown pine needles that laid under the white pine, mix in some hay and make beds for ourselves.

Three winters ago I was living in Montville, alone in a small cabin. I would go to work before the sun rose and come home as it was setting. I would take walks in the dark woods with my dog. I had the winter blues. I was missing fresh food and sunlight. The stuff you really miss at the end of February. There were a few white pines in the woods near the cabin (though mostly the woods were people and maple). I knew pine was not poisonous. I read about people eating it and heard from other people about using it medicinally. For a long time I have chewed on the resin but for no particular reason, I just like it.

So I started chewing on the needles, then I started making tea with the needles and the bark. I loved it. Friends were drinking the tea when they came over and they loved it too. I was just happy to have something green again.

This year I started to feel the same winter blues come on so I went back to white pine. Here are some ideas/facts that you maybe interested in:

**How to identify white pine**  
If you don't know what a pine tree looks like (I hope you do if you live in Maine) ask someone to show you. Look at the needles (leaves). You'll see that they grow in clumps. On a white pine there will be five per clump. When I was little I was taught to remember it by the first word in the name W-H-I-T-E, five letters for five needles. White Pine is the only native pine tree east of the

Rocky Mountains that has five needles per clump. That's easy to remember, right? The needles are usually around three to four inches long with a bluish green tint or white tint on the underside. The needles tend to not break if you bend them, like some other pine needles will, such as red pine. The cone is long and skinny compared to other pine cones. They are usually about four to seven inches long. This time of year you probably will not find many cones on the tree (this is just my observation, but not sure why) and because many animals, like squirrels, like to eat the seeds you may not find many under the tree either. There are many tree identification/field guidebooks that you could use, but I suggest having someone that knows this tree already to show it to you.

What do people use white pine for? Many books that I have looked at and various people have told me white pine needles has five times as much Vitamin C as there is in a lemon (I am guessing this would be by weight but no one can tell me for sure). Maybe you remember in school being taught that the way the colonist's warded off scurvy was by being taught by native people to eat a pine tree? I do.

The needles are also very high in Vitamin A.

Pine tea made out of fresh needles or inner bark is very useful for coughs and colds. It is a demulcent\* and expectorant\*. I think it tastes really good, really crisp, very earthy. If you have a sore throat you can drink the tea or chew on the resin, which will be found oozing out of the tree or in little bubbles under the bark. If a tree has been trimmed or cut down, near the wound is where a lot of resin will be found. A friend of mine carries a tin with him around full of pine resin. He smokes cigarettes and when his throat is dry or sore he chews on some of it.

There are lots of ways to use pine. Euell Gibbons in his book "Stalking the wild Asparagus" has a cough syrup recipe that has white pine along with red clover, mullein and wild cherry bark in the list of ingredients. Some cough syrup recipes

just simply call for white pine bark.

People use white pine for coughs and respiratory problems like asthma and bronchitis. Others use the resin externally to draw out splinters and on insect bites or various wounds. Heating it up seems to make the resin work stronger. One woman told me that she makes pine vinegar\*, for taste and the vitamin C and A. Another told me that she mixes the resin into her salves\* and balms and another person told me she makes infused oil\* with pine needles and uses it for massage and to make a salve out of it. I, like others just like to chew on the inner bark.

There are lots of uses for pine. I hope that you get to know this plant and discover your own ways to use it.

If you have comments or questions about white pine or other herbs/trees feel free to contact me: Breanna Norris @ PO box 652 Pittsfield, ME 04967 or [breannannaerb@justice.com](mailto:breannannaerb@justice.com). This may be an ongoing column for The Maine Commons if enough people are interested.

*Some Terms I Used:*

*\*Expectorant - encourages and can stimulate removal of phlegm from the respiratory tract.*

*\*Demulcent- soothing relives irritation*

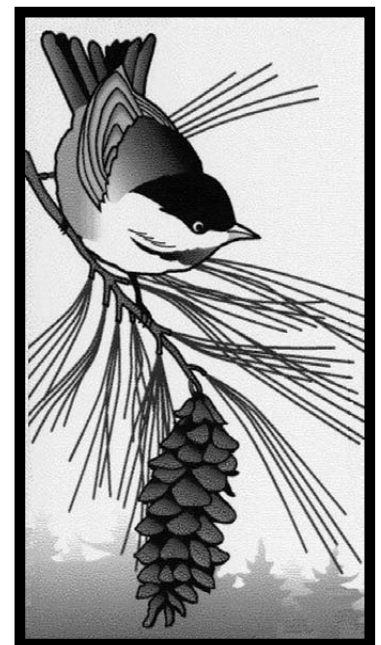
*\*This is infused vinegar. Most likely a base of apple cider vinegar. Making infused vinegar entails stuffing a (widemouth) jar with the plant material, in this case pine needles and then filling the rest of the jar with vinegar. Mostly people use apple cider vinegar if it is going to be eaten. Make sure that there are no air bubbles in the jar and that the jar is full with no plant material sticking out. Then let it sit. Different people have different theories on this, in the dark or in the light and also for different time periods. I would suggest at least a month in the dark. Then strain out the plant material and use for salads or whatever you use vinegar for.*

*\*Salves - simply salve is oil and beeswax mixed together to make a thicker consistency.*

*Lard and other things can be used in replace of the beeswax. A common way to make or buy this is as lip balm. Various people have various recipes. You can find different techniques on how to do this or what to put in it in lots of herbal books. Ask around or see what your local herbalist makes.*

*\*Infused oils- is the same thing that you do with the vinegar except now use oil.*

*These are not directions on how to do this, just an oversimplified definition. If you are interested in making infused oil, salves, vinegar etc please ask someone in your community to show you how.*



**Editors' Note: Please consult your own doctor/healer and/or friends before using any plant or drug. The Maine Commons and the Author are not responsible for adverse effects resulting for using this or other plants. Readers should obtain enough knowledge to feel comfortable making their own decisions, which may mean talking with many people and reading many books (like the author has), to feel comfortable with ingesting any plant. People can have allergies to anything. Please be conscious and responsible when ingesting or identifying any plant. Thank you.**





## Let Every Man and Woman Bear Testimony: Another "Peculiar Institution" in America Today

BY JESSE LEAH VEAR

The following is a transcript of a speech given at the Feb 7th Human Rights Rally to protest recent incursions of the US Border Patrol in Portland, Maine.

I'm going to begin my remarks today with the beginning of Langston Hughes's poem, Let America be America Again.

Let America be America again.  
Let it be the dream it used to be.  
Let it be the pioneer on the plain  
Seeking a home where he himself is free

(America never was America to me.)

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed -  
Let it be that great strong land of love  
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme  
That any man be crushed by one above.

(It never was America to me.)

O, let my land be a land where Liberty  
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,  
But opportunity is real, and life is free,  
Equality is the air we breathe.

(There's never been equality for me,  
Nor freedom in this "homeland of the free")

Slavery, what is now recognized as a devastating and inexcusable crime against humanity, was once known as America's peculiar institution. A pesky contradiction, a distasteful hypocrisy, a moral dilemma, a necessary evil. Here, in a nation whose founding documents proclaimed life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all men, in a nation founded by the defiant refusal to be exploited by the Aristocracy of the British Empire, here in this same nation were gentlemen and gentle ladies of high standing and dignified repute, arguing, over decades, the pros and cons of the wholesale enslavement and dehumanization of millions of human beings; for it was this slave labor that fed the engines of this nation's economy, and as such, slavery was the status quo. Contrary to the flashy mini-series and docudramas of today, the movement against slavery was for many many years an unpopular movement, a movement made of up of the thankless, ceaseless efforts of

men and women who refused to equivocate on the issue of human bondage, who refused to accept the status quo and refused to tolerate this most peculiar institution. We now celebrate the bravery and moral courage of these men and women, known as abolitionists, who, when the laws of men proved unjust, chose a to obey a higher law.

As it turns out, we have in America today another so-called peculiar institution. We live in an America with two sets of laws, two sets of rights, two sets of privileges: one for citizens, and one for non-citizens. William Lloyd Garrison, one of the most ardent of abolitionists, once called upon this nation to:

Let every man and woman bare testimony against the system which fills the prisons of a free republic with men [and women] whose only crime is a love of freedom.

He said these words in 1850. We again must put this call out to the nation.

Yes, men and women whose only crime is a love of freedom. Those, ladies and gentlemen, are the same men and women, who 150 years later, are filling the prisons and detention centers of today, the same men and women for whom federal agents armed with guns and dogs and unjust laws are searching, as they enter our city's bus stations, restaurants, and homeless shelters..

Once, when I was in San Diego California I saw a sign on the highway that shocked me like no other sign I've ever seen before or since. It was a twelve lane highway, with six lanes each going in each direction, the southbound heading to Tijuana, and the northbound to San Diego. I made my friend who was driving the car cross three lanes of speeding traffic to pull over to the side of the highway. The sign was bright yellow, similar to the signs I grew up seeing in Maine that have a silhouette of a moose or a leaping deer, to caution motorists. Only this sign was different. It bore the silhouette of an entire family of people running, a father, a mother, two children, one a little girl with a teddy bear and pig-tails flying as she was being dragged behind her mother. On a twelve lane highway, where the average speed is 90 miles an hour, and desert on either side for as far as you can see. I wept then and I weep now for the nation that erects such signs along its highways. Is it

not possible, I ask, as Langston Hughes's poem asks, "to let America be America again - the land that never has been yet - And yet must be?"

We must ask ourselves what is it that drives people to cross highways and deserts and oceans and mountains alike?

Could it be because the economies of their nations have been ravaged by the same so-called free trade agenda that currently ravages this nation? Could it be because, as Dr King once put it: they "read somewhere that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights?" Or because many of them had heard of something called the American dream, and peoples of North and Central and South America alike said are we not Americans too? Do we not also have a dream? O, let America be America again!

And what do they find when they reach the borders of this nation but a militarized zone, complete with all the weapons and technology of warfare. And for those who are able to make it across, what do they find within these borders but the peculiar institution of America today, complete with vigilantes that roam the countryside, hunting for so-called 'illegals,' chillingly reminiscent of the bounty hunters who in the 1800's sought to re-capture escaped slaves in return for a cash reward... The peculiar institution of a country whose economy demands an endless supply of cheap labor, and whose policies criminalize the very people who again, nearly 140 years after the end of the civil war, are building, feeding, and clothing this same nation. Yes, a most peculiar institution of a nation that refuses a seat at the table to the



Photo: Jessica Hasslen

very people who produced the food on that table. Yes, the peculiar institution of a nation that eats the fruit that migrant labor picks and then turns around and shackles the hands that picked it. The peculiar institution of a nation where freedom means having enough money to buy it, having the right documents to prove it or the right skin color to not get asked. Where national security means guns and tanks and armed men with dogs, where national intelligence means to spy, to inform, to make tips, and to wire tap. Where free trade means the consumer goods of multinational corporations can move freely across borders but people, dignified human beings of flesh and blood, cannot.

We must ask ourselves what America is this, this country that protects its borders better than it protects its human lives. O let America be America again - the land that never has been yet - and yet must be.

Again and again, throughout our nation's turbulent history, men and women of conscience have called upon a higher law when the laws of men were cruel and unjust, and indeed such a time is upon us today. When federal agents armed with dogs barge into our city searching for illegal aliens, when these armed agents raid our buses and trains, when they sweep through our bodegas and meat



A lecture given by Marcus Rediker at Emmanuel College in Boston on October 9, 2003 and recorded by Roger Leisner of Radio Free Maine (to order see below).

Reviewed by Nikos Raptis

Historically the elite of any society have been able to force upon the ordinary people of that society a worldview which they (the elite) had constructed. The elite of western societies are very adept in constructing such a system of views. This they accomplish by hammering these views in the heads of ordinary people since childhood.

The general opinion of people about pirates has been built on the idea that they were amoral, violent men who attacked innocent people (noblemen, government officials, naval officers, merchants, etc) to rob or kill them. Hollywood, using the time-tested formula of the "good" guys (the noblemen, etc) versus the "bad" guys (the pirates) has enforced this view significantly.

So, it is a great surprise for most of us to be presented with evidence that this is not so. That the pirates really were the "workers of the world" of their time. This evidence is based on the research work of 25 years by Marcus Rediker (Professor at the University of Pittsburgh).

Rediker's research is deep and the presentation of his conclusions is systematic and lucid. The span of time that he examines is a ten year period from about 1716 to 1726. He starts by asking who were these pirates. They were "a multiethnic, multinational, and multiracial group of people" who "in essence" were in "a struggle for life against socially organized death" and "they were also poor". They were mostly "poor working sailors".

Then Rediker tries to answer why these people "chose to become pirates?". The answer is: The barbarity of the ruling classes. The unbelievably cruel conditions of life on naval and on merchant ships, the brutality of the officers, the ever-present accidents that turned people into cripples, the low wages, the poor quality of food, etc pushed these men to their limits. As a matter of fact Rediker states that the rather "humorous" image of the pirate with a patch over his eye, a hook for a hand, and a peg leg "is a real situation for the 18th century sailor". The beggars that were found in the great cities of the Atlantic at the time were made up mostly of these crippled sailors.

(Note: I think that a 1911 painting, by N.C. Wyeth, of a blind pirate "tapping up and down the road in a frenzy, and groping...for his comrades" is an extremely vivid presentation of Rediker's description of the reality of the crippled sailors.)

So, "piracy was an effort to escape a death trap", according to Rediker. He

## "Life and Death Among the Pirates: The Real Story of the Pirates of the Caribbean"

quotes a pirate in court who says to the judge: "What I did was to keep me from perishing". And, although the life of a pirate was short he preferred it because it was a life of freedom, of dignity, and of merriment! A life based on democratic principles. The pirates elected their captain, who was revocable and was punished if he abused his authority. Any punishment was based on collective democratic decisions. They even created a "miniature welfare state", according to Rediker, by giving a certain "amount of booty" to those that were unable to work because of health, injuries, etc.

To better show the rational, democratic, and just foundation of the society of pirates (and the lack of these qualities in the correct mainstream society) Rediker uses the dialogue from a theatrical play (!) of 1722 performed by the pirates. Here are some parts of this dialogue:

The scene is in a court trying a pirate. The parts are played by pirates. The judge is on a tree wearing a mop on his head for a wig.

Judge: "Are you guilty or not guilty?"

Accused: "Not guilty".

J: "Not guilty? Say so again sir and I will have you hanged without any trial".

A: "Pray my Lord I hope your Lordship will consider..."

J: "Consider? How dare you talk of considering. I never considered in all my life..."

A: "But, but, but I hope your Lordship would hear some reason..."

J: "Do you hear how the scoundrel prates! What have we to do with reason? You know rascal that we sit here not to hear reason. We go according to law. Is our dinner ready?"

Then the judge offers three reasons for which the accused must be hanged. The third reason is interesting:

J: "Third, you must be hanged because I am hungry".

[Note: What follows was confided to me by a fellow-civil engineer shortly before his death a couple of decades ago. From 1945 to 1950 the Greek Government, a puppet of first the British and then the U.S., tried tens of thousands of Greeks for belonging to the Left. To accomplish that "feat" the Government hired "educated" people with the correct (fascist) worldview to serve as judges. One of

those judges, a civil engineer, in later years confessed to his friends that there were days that the load of cases was so heavy that around midnight, as they were "hungry and sleepy", all they did was to write "Condemned to death" by the remaining names on the list of the accused and then have supper and go to bed, without ever having seen the faces of the defendants. Thousands of people had been executed in this manner. The "supervisor" of these Christian acts on the part of the U.S. was General James VanFleet.]

So it was not through "poetic license" that the pirates of the Caribbean depicted the "hungry judge". They knew what they were talking about, as they had already experienced the law of the powerful. It is not farfetched to surmise that today the U.S. is doing similar things in Afghanistan and in Iraq in relation to the thousands of people detained in prisons in these countries.)

I think that Rediker should be praised for having unearthed, through his research, such a gem from what is wrongly considered the detritus of human history.

Similarly, Rediker's analysis of the symbolism of the social attitudes of the pirates through their flag, the "Jolly Roger", is superb. Especially his thesis for a second level of symbolism (the first being that of death and a short life), that has twisted the symbols (of skull and bones, etc) "rooted in Christian culture". That second level of symbolism was used to declare their ultimate message towards the powerful, based on the use of the (early 18th century) verb "to roger", which meant "to copulate with a woman". This message to the powerful being in essence: "F\*\*k you!"

According to Rediker two key elements characterized these "proletarian outlaws": rage and humor. Burning rage against the powerful and the humor and merriment of men that have chosen to be free.

Finally, it is to the credit of Rediker that he admits that his involvement as an activist in the Mumia Abu Jamal case (of the former Black Panther on death row for the last 21 years) "had a tremendous impact on (his) ability to see in the materials that (he) was studying the ways in which terror had been used in times past by governmental

authority... Because of him, because of the campaign (he) could see things in the historical record that (he) would not have seen otherwise.."

The eye-opening conclusions of Rediker's research tempts one to think if it is not so utopian to propose that a new course could be added to the curriculum of the last grade in high school. The course could be named: "Critical Thinking", or "Critical Reading of History", or whatever. The list of subjects dealt with in the course could be:

- Pirates (according to Rediker)
- Mark Twain's repressed work
- The Nuremberg Tribunal
- The Tokyo Tribunal
- The Bertrand Russell Tribunal
- George Orwell (in 1936 Spain)
- History (according to Zinn)
- The Worldview (according to Chomsky)
- And so on

Is this extremely utopian? I think that starting with Rediker's pirates will not be that difficult.

PS: Professor Rediker's previous work includes an earlier book on pirates, "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea", and, with Peter Linebaugh, "The Many-Headed Hydra", Beacon Press, Boston, 2000. His forthcoming book, on which the above lecture was based, is: "Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age".

Radio Free Maine presents Marcus Rediker speaking on LIFE AND DEATH AMONG THE PIRATES: The Real Story of the Pirates of the Caribbean

Recorded by Roger Leisner on October 9, 2003 at Emmanuel College in Boston

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markets and restaurants and homeless shelters, in pursuit of illegal persons, we the people of Portland and the people of Maine cry out that you will find no such person here. Because we insist, we firmly and ardently insist, that no human being is or could ever be illegal. Perhaps one day our children will remember the day when Maine once again led the nation,

when Mainers of all origins rose against the criminalization of human beings whose only crime was the love of freedom.

O let America be America again - the land that never has been yet - and yet must be.

Jesse Leah Vear is a low-income rights activist and co-coordinator of POWER: Portland Organizing to Win Economic Rights. POWER is part of The Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign - a broad, multi-racial movement dedicated to uniting and organizing the poor as the leadership base to abolish poverty.

Contact POWER: 681-0035 / [power@riseup.net](mailto:power@riseup.net), / Po box 4281 Portland, Maine 04101.



# ACROSTIC # 312

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.

- A. N.C. Beach plays lead in Mash. (3 wds)      36 251 172 199 6 143 63 147 78 269 224 24
- B. \_\_\_\_ of the red. (3 wds) sign of unstable business.      28 62 190 35 254 262 153 139
- C. Child's nocturnal comforter goes to war. (3 wds)      123 20 197 181 76 119 191 52 140 221 1 209 255 69 80 267 9 31
- D. Screw me twice. \_\_\_\_ (3 wds)      54 116 206 33 260 89 108 230 45
- E. Chicago's main flight center. (2 wds)      184 222 40 257 122 8 184 49 55 105 248 152
- F. Cigarette fans. (3 wds)      192 107 68 74 84 266 258 195 233 91 231 16 272 47
- G. Sweet and dry alcoholic beverage      201 239 41 130 242 101 23 48
- H. Perfect performance has complete liberty. (3 wds)      94 241 154 158 118 11 125 25 253 104 51 137
- I. What a stench does to Shakespeare.      216 75 5 186 170 88 173
- J. Tire for a Tiger or a Sherman. (2 wds)      180 112 232 238 30 111 37 126 171
- K. House of Commons verbal approval. (2 wds)      93 65 208 220 204 182 162 71
- L. AL Mid-East Airline.      58 226
- M. Cheap skate rebel returns to his pre war plantation. (3 wds)      225 217 60 19 120 61 81 3 141 246 156 188 15 13 244
- N. Surprise. (2 wds)      265 4 100 53
- O. Wanting. (2 wds)      59 155 128 202 193 210
- P. Lady Astronaut goes to Amusement Park. (5 wds)      165 160 44 223 38 14 67 194 205 114 95 10 57 134 198 72 17 271 22
- Q. \_\_\_\_ for the road. Some soue's last words. (2 wds)      90 212 82 106 50 203 146
- R. Part of Chinese leader's daughter's wedding announcement. (2 wds)      21 218 135 183 56 176
- S. Little Scottish males. (2 wds)      142 187 124 214 43 228
- T. Clothing designer competes with Hertz and Avis. (3 wds)      215 27 237 213 99 46 110 145 32 149 7 234 115 136 166 219 268
- U. Out of style. (2 wds)      211 150 157 113 77 189 96 196 243 185 131 83
- V. G.I. identification ends up at a yard sale. (3 wds)      240 256 249 92 270 178 109 129 188
- W. Shipping container goes into auto sales. (3 wds)      85 236 163 261 250 66 169 12 102
- X. \_\_\_\_ vacation. (3 wds) Ubiquitous June plea.      98 252 117 229 207 167
- Y. Crooked extremities turn into a crook. (3 wds)      39 247 263 151 87 235 79 121 245 132 133 227 64 179 2 138
- Z. Rain coat warns ships at sea. (3 wds)      127 86 177 18 200 26 103 34 264 259 144 273 70
- ZI. Parolee makes a meat dish. (2 wds +hyph)      174 29 175 148 159 73 97 42 161 274

1	C	2	Y		3	M	4	N	5	I		6	A	7	T	8	E	9	C		10	P	11	II		12	W			
13	M	14	P		15	M	16	F	17	P	18	Z		19	M	20	C	21	R	22	P	23	G	24	A	25	H	26	Z	
		27	T	28	B	29	71	30	J	31	C		32	T		33	D	34	Z	35	B	36	A	37	J	38	P			
39	Y	40	E	41	G	42	71	43	S	44	P	45	D	46	T		47	F	48	G	49	F	50	Q	51	H	52	C	53	N
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66	W	67	P	68	F	69	C	70	Z		71	K	72	P	73	ZI	74	F	75	I	76	C		77	U		78	A		
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118	H	119	C	120	M			121	Y	122	E	123	C	124	S	125	H	126	J	127	Z		128	O	129	V	130	G	131	U
132	Y			133	Y	134	P	135	R			136	T	137	H	138	Y		139	B	140	C	141	M		142	S	143	A	
144	Z	145	T	146	Q			147	A	148	ZI	149	T	150	U	151	Y		152	F	153	B	154	H	155	O	156	M	157	U
		158	H	159	ZI			160	P	161	ZI		162	K	163	W	164	E	165	P		166	T	167	X	168	M	169	W	
170	I	171	J			172	A	173	I	174	ZI		175	ZI	176	R	177	Z	178	V	179	Y		180	J	181	C	182	K	
		183	R	184	E	185	U	186	I	187	S	188	V		189	U	190	B	191	C	192	F	193	O	194	P		195	F	
196	U	197	C	198	P	199	A			200	Z	201	G	202	O	203	Q	204	K	205	P	206	D	207	X		208	K	209	C
210	O			211	U	212	Q			213	T		214	S	215	T	216	I	217	M		218	R	219	T	220	K	221	C	
222	E	223	P	224	A			225	M	226	L	227	Y	228	S	229	X		230	D	231	F	232	J		233	F	234	T	
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261	W	262	B	263	Y	264	Z	265	N	266	F		267	C	268	T	269	A	270	V	271	P	272	F	273	Z	274	ZI		

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# NEWS BLURBS

short attention span news compiled by sterren

**Sears Island is the largest uninhabited island on the East Coast,** Maine Department of Transportation bought it in 1997. Despite citizen outcry the State and businesses over the past 40 years have tried to build an atomic power plant, a dry cargo port, a coal-fired plant, and an aluminum smelter on the island. The new plan, being proposed by Maine Department of Transportation officials and the part public/part privately owned Maine & Company, is for a liquid natural gas terminal (if one isn't placed in Harpswell) light industry, office space, work force housing, and other commercial development. If the island became home to a LNG Terminal, it could cost a great deal of Maine taxpayer money. How? If the Department of Homeland Security maintains the same policy here as it has in Massachusetts, there is a required a "Code Orange" alert whenever a LNG tanker docks. This alert costs Massachusetts taxpayers approximately \$37,500 to cover costs of the required police, fire, and security officers Homeland security requires at the dockings. A citizen group, Friends of Sears island, is working to propose an alternative plan to go on a public referendum in November, such as a state or town-owned park, and is meeting regularly to publicly discuss plans.

**Townpeople in St. Pamphile, directly over the border from Quebec,** continue to fight to live their daily lives without harassment from border patrol. Under the Dept. of Homeland Security's post-September 11th border crossing rules. While townspeople could previously cross back and forth over the border (which is necessary to go to the store or church or hospital), no one at all is allowed to cross when the border station from Canada into the US when the station is unstaffed. The next closest open border station is 200-miles away in Fort Kent via logging roads. This January, lifelong St. Pamphile resident Richard Albert, who lives 30 yards from the border, was notified that he will be fined \$10,000 for crossing the border when the station was closed. Richard has been freely crossing the border all of his life, and his fine results from crossing the border to when coming home from church - a day when the border station is unstaffed.

**While Border Patrol is harassing townspeople in northern Maine** for going to church, it's targeting poor people and people of color in southern Maine. On January 24th & 25th, Federal Border Patrol agents transferred from Southern border patrol conducted a sweep of Portland to find any "illegal" immigrants. They arrested 10 people, may have rounded up many more, and effectively bullied many more people, mostly legal immigrants and residents. They specifically targeted places where poor people and people of color would be, bursting into Preble Street Resource Center shelter, and Asian, African, and Latino markets and restaurants and demanding identification. In response to this race and class profiling, over 200 people marched through downtown Portland on February 7th, protesting the sweep and calling for change.

**Aquaculture businesses will be able to profit off coastal communities** more easily if bill LD 1587 passes. The bill would allow aquaculture businesses (most of which are owned by foreign corporations) to double the acreage that they can lease, and towns will lose their authority to issue mooring permits and charge mooring fees for aquaculture. This will also eliminate the ability of Maine citizen's to require a public hearing on aquaculture lease renewals and development plans.

**Efforts to ban smoking are now moving from indoor spaces,** where everyone shared breathing the smoke, to outdoor open air spaces. The city of Portland is working to establish "voluntary" tobacco-free zones, at park events, playgrounds, and athletic fields. Employee of the Rec department would pass out cards saying "You are welcome at our Tobacco-Free Field ...but tobacco is not!" These zones already exist in at least twelve other Maine towns and proponents hope it will spread. The idea for the zones is that seeing smoking sets a bad example for youth - it's less than likely that Pepsi-free zones or border-patrol harassment-free zones will be showing

up to set a good example for Maine youth.

**Lawmakers have approved, without public hearing, a major landfill** expansion to be handled by out-of-state companies. Legislators approved plans for Casella to purchase the paper mill landfill in Old town. The state would run the facility. Despite requests for a public hearing from community members who found out about the plan, no public hearings were held as they aren't required in the case of an expansion. The expansion creates a number of concerns - Test wells around the landfill show that the landfill may already be leaking volatile organic compounds. Members of the Penobscot Nation, who are already on the receiving end of plenty of pollution from the mill, were not consulted about the expansion which could affect their water even more.

In addition to in-state waste, the landfill will also be receiving incinerated out-of-state waste.

This deal appears almost as a form of blackmail, as state and company officials claim that this is the only way to make sure that Georgia Pacific won't shut down its mill, leaving even more people out of work - though this landfill doesn't have any guarantees that the mill will stay open either.

And Casella has proven itself to be a less than ideal community member in other towns in Maine (it operates the waste-incinerator in Biddeford) and the Northeast. Casella has been sued by both Saco and Biddeford for shortchanging towns the revenue it owes them, and by Saco for exceeding limits on amounts of trash, odors, and truck traffic. When Bethlehem, NH raised the Casella landfill's taxes, the company unsuccessfully applied to the state Dept of Environmental Services to gain a complete exemption from property taxes on the basis of it being a "pollution control facility."

It has been under investigation, and charged in many cases, for dumping over permitted limits, excessive leakage and leaking toxic chemicals into rivers, failing to survey dumped materials, and dumping, among other things, flags meant for ceremonial burial and illegal asbestos. In New York it received payment for providing recycling services, when instead it was dumping the recyclables in landfills. Four years ago, 116 Maine towns sued Casella for sending waste to its Orrington incinerator, instead of to other disposal facilities which it didn't own and which would not have provided as much profit, in violation of its agreement to seek lower fares. It also has a past history of making deals to build or expand dumps in hidden meetings, without public notification or input as it did in Rockingham, VT.

**While Roxanne Quimby has claimed that her plans** for a National Park in Maine would help to support the communities that would surround it, her actions upon recently purchasing 24,000 acres of forestlands from Irving have done little to back up that claim. Quimby has explained that, on her newly owned land she will not continue camp leases indefinitely, despite the fact that some people have had some of these camps in their families for generations, explaining "'I don't think they should plan on leaving those lots to their children in their wills.'" She also hinted that free open access to the land may not be continued for all hunters, snowmobiles, ATV's or logging trucks as it had been in the past. Quimby's actions ever fully supported the claims of wanting to support the local economy. She claims that a National Park will bring much needed jobs to an area of Maine that's been hard hit by job loss, despite the fact that her own company, Burt's Bees, was originally located in Dover Foxcroft, and she moved it to an industrial park in North Carolina when she found labor and other costs cheaper, so the company could make a greater profit. Meanwhile, there has been little word from the William Gardner and Herbert Haynes, who purchased the other 47,000 acres Irving put up for sale. They have a history of subdividing and developing their land for vacation house lots, which just as effectively closes down public access to the land.



## David Strikes Against Goliath: Loggers & Truckers Stand Up To Irving

BY HILLARY LISTER

It is becoming more and more difficult to make a living as a logger or trucker in Maine. Maine's largest landowner, Canadian-based Irving Woodlands has been a major cause of that difficulty over the past decades as it continues to find new ways to make a profit. Maine forestry policy expert Mitch Lansky explained in a May 2000 Dept. of Labor hearing "While profitability of landowners went up 169% since the 1970s, and productivity per worker went up 74% or more, real wages for loggers went down 32%." Loss of income and control over their livelihoods most recently led loggers and truckers in Northern Maine to form the International Logging Association (ILA). This group has been fighting for a collective bargaining bill to be passed in the Maine legislature and for a fair contract from Irving.

The collective bargaining bill, LD 1318, would allow loggers and truckers hauling wood to organize and collectively bargain with forest landowners who own over 100,000 acres. Currently, the workers in the forest, while legally "independent contractors," are, in reality, employees of landowners, since only a few major companies own both the land and the mills where the wood is processed. This bill spurred James Irving, president of JD Irving, to travel to Augusta to meet with the governor and legislators to discuss the bill. In a Bangor Daily article, Maine Irving operations manager Chuck Gadzic is quoted as saying, "We take the threat of this bill very seriously. It is a substantial threat to our success." In that same article, bill sponsor Rep. Troy Jackson, a logger from Allagash commented, "More than 50 loggers from northern Maine came and spoke at the hearing. ...Anyone who believes the little guy has a chance in Augusta should have been here the last two weeks. ...I haven't seen such a big effort to kill a bill since I have been here... I wonder now who lobbies for the little man." The bill was tabled in the Legislature, but sponsors have since made some changes that would exempt smaller landowners, and are hoping that Baldacci will seriously consider the bill.

Irving's contracts contain stipulations that are surprisingly blatant in the master/servant relationship they create, very similar to the contracts between the mining companies and workers in Appalachia. One is the

agreement that if the contractor ends work before the contract agrees, for any reason (for example, if the contractor can't afford to pay the massive loans on their equipment, and can no longer afford to operate), Irving can take control of contractor's equipment, using it to finish the harvest. If the amount harvested is less than expected the contractor then OWES Irving the lost expected profits. This is what contractors face for breaking a contract - Irving, on the other hand reserves the right to break the contract at any time and for any reasons (Market Conditions is one valid reason Irving specifies) and the contractor must clear all the equipment off Irving's land and accept the loss - Irving doesn't owe the contractor anything.

Irving continues to push loggers and truckers into situations where they must take out loans to purchase hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of new equipment in order to keep up with Irving's harvesting practices and attempt to maintain a livable income. Once truckers began buying lighter trucks so they could haul heavier loads of woods over the roads, the rates they were receiving from Irving went down. Now Irving is pushing truckers to buy new off-road trucks, but it doesn't maintain the roads well on it's land which those trucks are intended to drive on.

Other new logging equipment has computers installed on board which will set off alarms if the joysticks on the equipment aren't used (for any reason - such as using the bathroom) for a period of more than 30 seconds - the operator has to tell the computer why it's not being operated at that time to shut off this alarms. Much of this equipment is being pushed to increase worker "efficiency" - basically more output for less cost to Irving.

Irving's is planning to implement a new "Efficiency Program" which Allagash logger and state Rep Troy Jackson describes as "another scam of theirs to get you to work harder, longer, and more productively so they can lower your rate again." The details of the plan are not yet public, but according to Jackson, Irving has been working to convince fellow loggers to sign onto the plan, with the explanation that if a logger normally made \$10,000, and under the plan made \$14,000, Irving would get to keep half of the new income, so Irving would get \$2,000 for the logger's efforts in following the plan.

When the International Logging Association first began meeting, they were offered a 7% average rate raise from Irving. Some members of the ILA were wary of this deal, as it allowed Irving to offer a 14% raise to one contractor and a 0% raise to another, and the average would be 7%. The 7% offer was revoked, in any case, after Irving heard word that a strike was in the works, and instead offered to increase payment to cutters by 10% while offering no increase at all to truckers. The ILA rejected this offer and on January 5th and brought about 50 trucks to Portage, announcing that they would be striking, and calling for Baldacci to support the Collective Bargaining Bill and for Irving to increase rates.

The first week most of the strikers held fast, and only by the third week did a noticeable portion return to work, with about half of the loggers going back to work, though almost all of the truckers remained striking. Throughout the strike, Irving was calling strikers at their homes at night, visiting some of them in person, offering individual deals to loggers of a 2% rate increase over the 10% if they would sign onto the efficiency program

Irving also wasn't making it easy for strikers to work for other landowners. According to St. Francis resident Angie Hafford, when another landowner offered the strikers work on their land, Irving was "enraged" that workers were taking up work with other companies, and denied access to any of the roads it owned to get to the other land, and threatened to press charges on any logging company or logging truck that was found using those roads.

Irving representative Gadzic explained in a Bangor Daily article that Irving couldn't agree to many contract changes because, come spring, Irving would be making a move to transition its log transport from truck to more railway transport. Jackson argues that plan isn't a real possibility, though, because the railways are unlikely to be able to handle more logs than they already transport, and the threat rail transport is just another way to scare people into working for lower rates.

Unlike past times, Irving didn't bring in Canadian workers to replace the strikers. Jackson thinks this is likely due to the fact that Canadian loggers and truckers aren't making enough money and are facing similar and worse deals with Irving. ILA members were keeping

in touch with a New Brunswick logging association throughout their organizing. The New Brunswick loggers had gone on strike a about 3 years ago for 6 weeks, and though they didn't get all their demands met, according to Jackson, they "held their own." On the 3rd week of the Maine strike, truckers in New Brunswick went on strike, and the following morning Irving met their demands. Jackson thinks this may well have been in part to keep the fact that truckers on both sides of the border were striking against Irving at the same time, making the issue a larger cross-border problem - and breaking down the idea that the American and Canadian loggers have no common interests or solidarity.

Three weeks after the strike began, strikers voted to return to work, with the stipulations that Baldacci support the collective bargaining bill and that Irving take back all contractors who had been part of the strike. Strikers lack the power to enforce these stipulations, though, so they are really include to have the statements on the record. It's far from clear whether Baldacci will support the bill. And although Gadzic stated in a Bangor Daily article "The only folks that we're not anticipating doing business with are the ones who have moved on to other things," Jackson said otherwise, explaining that Irving was pulling the contracts of three loggers involved with the strike, saying they weren't needed and telling one of the loggers that he "was too vocal."

Although the strike has ended, the ILA is still together and members hope it will remain active. Jackson explains that it can continue to help members and be a force to show solidarity between loggers and truckers. Irving will doubtless continue to pressure the governor to reject the collective bargaining bill and make as much profit possible off the workers and communities that generate it. But as Jackson observes about Irving, "When you're that powerful you can do a lot of things that I certainly can't predict - but I guess that's part of the battle - you gotta keep watching, gotta react, try and counter their shit." The strike is just part of a continuing struggle by loggers and truckers to earn enough to make a living and help keep their communities alive.



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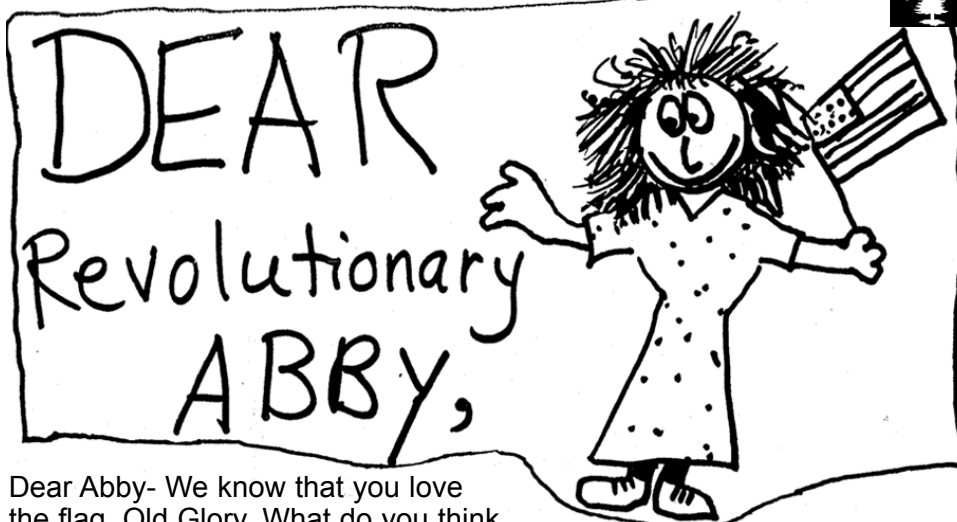
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Dear Abby- We know that you love the flag, Old Glory. What do you think we should do to those who desecrate the flag? Prison, Deportation? Worse?

Yours, Flag Lover in Fairfield

Dear FLF- Well, I know what you mean. I was born on Flag Day and have always had affection for the darn thing. Even though it's design was taken from the scoundrelish East India Company, their union jack, I think it is a striking, handsome thing to look at. And although I think the Big-Money-owned government sucks and the culture is sick, I have affection for my country, the people and the creatures and the land.

I wouldn't recommend punishment for flag desecration. A guilty conscience should be enough to straighten them out eventually, but it does nauseate me to see all this flag desecration.

Basically there are seven kinds of flag desecration commonly used, and intensifying since the propaganda blitz on TV etc. following September 11th, 2001.

Read carefully now...

- 1.) Speeding around with the poor little flag attached to an antennae until it is shredded as a snotty Kleenex.
- 2) Hanging on a stick from somebody's porch but all tangled up in a tree limb or worse a TV antennae or jammed in a closed window.
- 3) Big Biz displaying it while they screw over the American people.
- 4) The fact that most American flags are now made in China.
- 5) The fact that most flags are so cheezy-made that they are pink, white and turquoise.
- 6) Displayed on military jets which represent not us Americans and DEFENSE but represent GIANT INTERESTS OF FINANCE and bomb people in poor countries so that FACELESS FINANCIERS can take over the world.
- 7) Peace Activists burning the flag, using a perfectly good flag which could be used PROUDLY in conjunction with this message:  
**RESISTANCE IS AN AMERICAN TRADITION!**

Yes, flag desecration makes me sad. I hope it ends soon. Maybe after the 60 wars are over. Maybe after the Mega-Money-Men have all our sons and fathers in body bags and everyone in other lands in every hemisphere are pissed off enough to attack us with their bare hands and teeth. Maybe they will unite against this country and totally blow us away, thinking you and I and our neighbors are UNITED with the Mega Money men who hurt and use us all.

Maybe the best way to display the flag would be half mast until the grief stops. Or maybe HIDE our flags. When the news tells the truth again, when the elections are REAL (they have never been real in America.) When war is ONLY for defense. When freedom rings from sea to shining sea, well... hey... UP GO THE FLAGS! Glory!

Yours in Truth, Revolutionary Abby

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