



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

Be The Media! -- www.mainecommons.org & www.maineindymedia.org

Issue 16 • Fall 2004

The Theater of American Elections

BY CAROLYN CHUTE

Written for 'Beyond Anybody But Bush' discussion held at the University of Southern Maine, Sept. 20, 2004

Resistance is an American tradition. Democracy was also once thought to be an American tradition. Basically today the American tradition is compliance. How about Submission is an American tradition? Loyal subjects say "YAY." Revolutionaries say "BOOO".

I heard that Hillary Clinton said she wanted to kill Ralph Nader once. Why? Could it be that not all Americans are loyal subjects?

Could it be that people who meet behind closed doors and behind police and behind the myth that there are no closed doors and no police have reason to think that those who are not loyal subjects ... the free thinkers, the real citizens, the revolutionaries ... Could it be that these real Americans would vote for one of the two lead male characters in the "Theater of American Elections" if we had no other choices?

Methinks that's not necessarily true.

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Elections & Beyond



Welcome to the Maine Commons issue focusing on the November 2 election! We solicited far and wide throughout Maine to get articles and opinions on the statewide referendums, local elections, and the national elections. Starting on Page 13, you'll find 12 pages focused on these issues. We wanted to get perspectives from all over the political spectrum. No one wrote to us about why Mainers should vote for George W. Bush, though we wrote directly to invite the head of the Maine GOP, and the Maine Federation of Republican Women to submit articles. You'll find a diversity of opinion here, but not as broad as we had hoped. Please enjoy this issue, be sure to read the non-election-related articles, keep this around after November 2, pass it on to a friend, and send something to us for the next issue!

Ntulankeyutmonen Nkihtaqmikon

(Translated from Passamaquoddy to English means, "We take care of the homeland")

BY VERA FRANCIS

400 years after Champlain sailed up the St. Croix River, another "ship" is coming in. Its impact threatens to be as deadly to the indigenous people of the coastal Wabanaki region as small pox was to native people in 1600.

In response to the growing momentum for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal on Passamaquoddy tribal land, Ntulankeyutmonen Nkihtaqmikon has launched an ambitious campaign to educate Tribal people and opinion leaders about the nature/scope of LNG, identify interventions and solutions and organize for reform.

We are a group of Passamaquoddy people organized to stop the current efforts to locate an LNG terminal on Passamaquoddy land and in the ancestral waters of tumultuous Passamaquoddy and Fundy Bays.

Ntulankeyutmonen Nkihtaqmikon intends to legally defend our right to organize a culturally appropriate response to the recent Quoddy Bay LLC (an Oklahoma based energy company) proposal to process and store liquefied gas in Passamaquoddy Territory. The Passamaquoddy Bay region is a critical-cultural-heritage site, which deserves protection and advocacy. Over the past year the controversial LNG terminal has been rejected by communities up the Maine coast from Harpswell to Searsport and now it is focused in on our home-

land. It was only in June that plans to locate the terminal in Passamaquoddy tribal territory were made public, and LNG operatives, who include state and federal regulators and seasoned politicians, have already galvanized support from Maine's governor, John Baldacci, to bring LNG into this small coastal village.

Quoddy Bay LLC, relying heavily upon questionable information collected through a door-to-door survey in July, can supposedly prove a 60 % tribal membership in favor of a terminal. The door-to-door survey is an area of contention by tribal members that claim that the survey obscures facts and misrepresented the wishes of Tribal members. What percentage of the respondents of the door-to-door survey understood the scale of the LNG project (the enormity of the project's impact on the environment and local culture) or

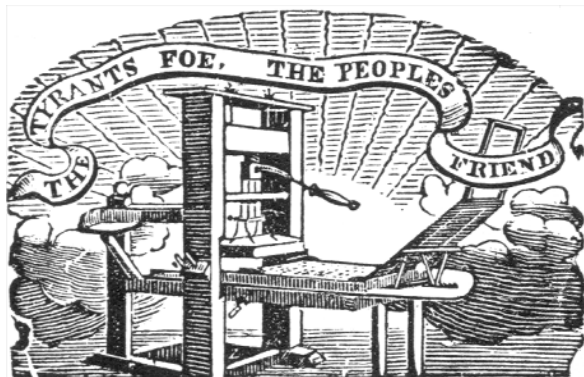
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Please help keep this paper alive -- pass it on when you're done with it.

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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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

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@mainecommons.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). 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. 31-32

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 many other businesses and organizations carry the paper.

How many copies are there of each issue?

We currently have a circulation of 10,000 issues.

Where is it based?

While the Maine Commons is printed in Augusta, this issue was finalized in Rockland, 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? We have a goal of every six weeks, but sometimes it takes longer than that. 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.23**.

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 (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!**



Letter from the Editors

From the Editors,

Hi everyone!

We're really excited to be putting out this issue focused on the November 2nd election, as well as lots of other important issues happening around this beautiful state! We hope you find the information interesting, thought-provoking and useful.

We want to get The Maine Commons out more often, but it's hard work. None of us get paid, we still don't have a permanent space to make the paper, and we can only publish when we have enough money. We raise money from grants, subscriptions, selling cds and other stuff, and ads - we could really use more advertisers! Please write to editor@mainecommons.org or call 207-649-5980 to get our ad rates. It's also difficult trying to do a paper that is truly made on a statewide level and includes lots of voices. When we have meetings, someone or other who is an important part of the group is working that day, or their child is sick, or it's a two or five hour drive, so it's not as inclusive as a group as we wish. And of course, group process is always challenging too. As a result, we've been having growing pains. At one time, we weren't sure the paper would continue. But we're hopeful that we've got the energy to make it continue. We want to heartily thank the Haymarket People's Fund for giving Maine Indymedia a grant that has helped to make this issue of The Maine Commons possible! We're thrilled to present you with this issue, and as always, want your input, your help, your submissions, and your opinions. Don't find your opinions represented in here? Please send a letter or an article that does and hopefully it will be printed in a future issue.

We do the paper to provide an outlet and a forum for a diversity of Mainers' thoughts on Maine-related issues. We like doing it because lots of people in Maine like to READ the paper, as well as WRITE or make art for it.

We hope you're enjoying the fall, and have a warm, safe, full-bellied winter.

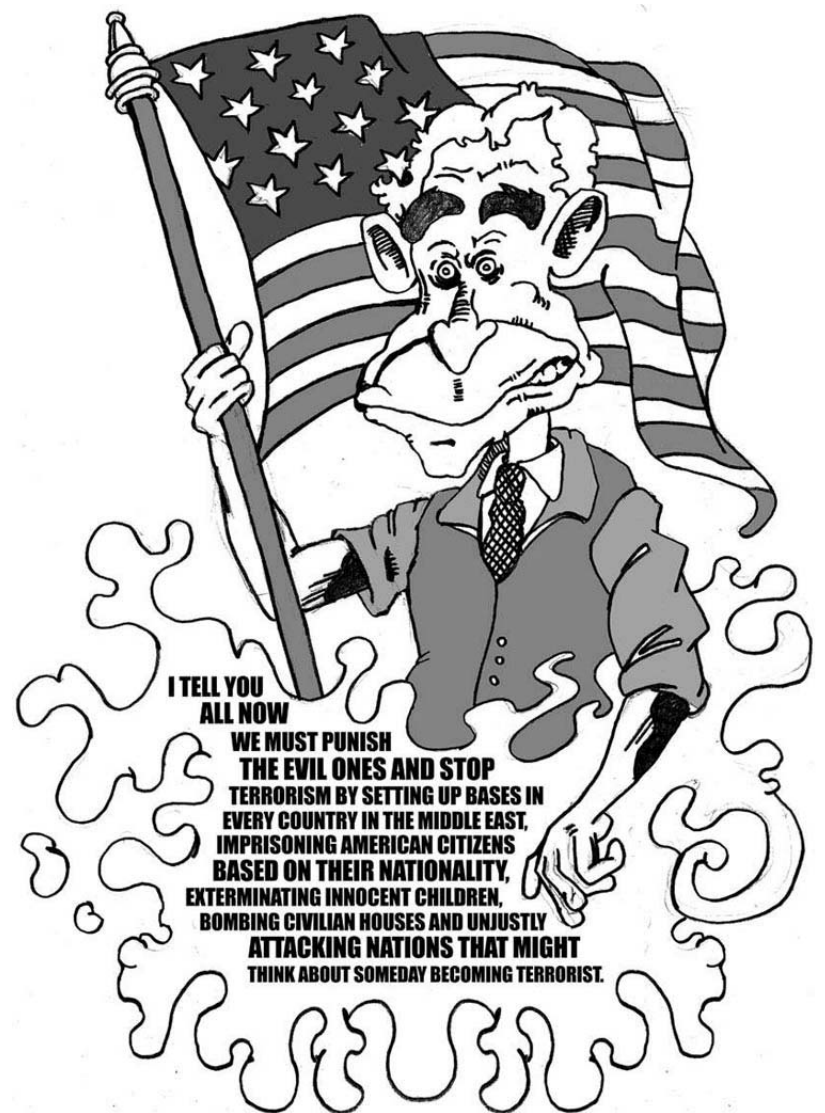
Take Care and be in touch,
the Editors

Notes:

In the last issue of the Maine Commons we published two poems by Pat Ranzoni, "Outback Woman" and "Incendiary". We forgot to mention the book from in which these poems originally appear. The poems are From "Settling - Poems by Patricia Ranzoni", published by Puckerbrush Press, 2000. Pat Ranzoni has a website with biography, bibliography, and more information on her work at www.members.aol.com/pranzoni/.

Missing Revolutionary Abby and the Acrostic this issue? Don't worry! They will be back next issue. We promise.

Give a Gift
to
Your
Community
...
Shop
in your
hometown
this holiday season.



Maine Commons
Submissions Deadline
December 3, 2004
for the Winter Issue

If you have a submission or an idea, email editor@maineindymedia.org, call (207) 649-5980, or write: Maine Commons, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903



Apathy
is a form of immorality.



Letters to the Editors

First a note... in the midst of our restructuring of Maine Commons, a file folder that had one or two Letters to the Editors went missing - so if you don't see your letter here, don't think we're ignoring you - and please write again if you feel up to it.

Greetings,

I am writing you to thank you for adding our information in your latest "Maine Commons" newspaper. The Maine Native Prison Project is growing all the time and it helps greatly for others to find us!

I would also like to commend you on the articles on DHS. The coverage of these issues is not seen in the "mainstream news". I have been surprised at the quality of this paper! Keep up the excellent work.

Thank you for a paper of REAL issues and news!

Valerie C.
Maine Native Prison Project
P.O. Box 6765

Portland, ME 04103

To The Editors,

Why is it that Governor Baldacci and members of his Department of Conservation (Patrick McGowan, Karin Tilberg, Ralph Knolls) seem quite willing to allow a developer access to the Bigelow Preserve?

The Preserve was created by a popular vote, at referendum. This vote asked that the Bigelow Preserve be created to keep the Preserve in the state in which it existed at the time of the vote. No improvements were to be made, and no commercial uses of the Preserve be allowed (outside of some timber harvesting to help pay for the operation of the Preserve)

Now developer Larry Warren wants to build two lodges just outside of the Preserve, one to the east and one to the west, and connect them with a hike/bike/ski trail passing through the Preserve. The State seems very interested. They are talking about the development of a new management plan for the Preserve, and even about a "temporary trail" through the Preserve for the developer.

Why is the State going to such lengths to destroy the integrity of the Preserve? Perhaps because the developer has hired lobbyist Severin Belliveau. Perhaps because the developer has involved legislator Mike Saxl, and corporate backers such as L L Bean.

Perhaps there is a larger issue. The Baldacci administration does not seem to understand the importance of protecting wild lands in the State of Maine, to the extent of trying to undo protections set in place by the vote of the citizens of the State of Maine.

Beyond the Bigelow Preserve, land is going unprotected around the State. The Maine League of Conservation Voters has written recently "In a failure of historic proportions, the Maine legis-

lature and the Baldacci administration have been unable to reach agreement on a new bond for the Land for Maine's Future program, which is out of funds." No bond question to fund the program will appear on the fall ballot, and the wilds already protected will face loosening restrictions, and commercialization.

In an article in the Brunswick Times Record, Elizabeth Dorsey has Tim Glidden, chair of the Land For Maine's Future board, saying that without renewed funding proposed conservation efforts may fail altogether due to a lack of funding, or will see project costs rise as property prices escalate, so that when (and if) state monies become available in the future, fewer projects will receive funding, as each will carry a higher price tag.

The Bigelow Preserve was set aside by the voters of the State, yet the Baldacci administration seeks to undo that protection to the benefit of a developer and his powerful lobbyists. Other lands will go unprotected, and one kind of future for the State and its citizens will be lost forever.

Our voices need to be raised in the defense of these lands, of these special places, and for the animals, plants, water and rock found there. If our government has become so callous as to let these last places slip by, we must remind them again of the great importance of the rich diversity of Maine.

Our voices need to be heard.

Gary Lawless
Nobleboro

To the Editor

The latest version of the "free" trade treaties, CAFTA (the Central American Free Trade Agreement), may be voted on this fall, "fast track", up or down, no changes, but we still have the opportunity to contact and caution our Senators Snowe and Collins, who are as yet undecided. The problem with these "free" trade treaties, the WTO (World Trade Organization) and NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), and the aborted FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) is that they facilitate and legitimize unfettered ("free") trade for the very large multinational corporations that design and promote them. They ignore harm done to the environment, communities, workers, small farmers, and last, but not least, small businesses.

The ongoing plant closings and job loss in Maine is part of this movement to export jobs from higher income countries to locations with no health end environmental protections and minimal pay scales. Can we afford this flight of jobs?

Another effect of the "free" trade policies is to allow below cost "dumping" of our subsidized agricultural commodities where they undersell the peasant farmers and displace whole populations of rural peoples who must move to cities and work in the sweatshops that

took the US jobs, or come to the US to compete for low paying jobs. Is this what we want?

The undermining of our democracy and sovereignty is perhaps the most shocking aspect of the treaties, under which a foreign corporation (and foreign subsidiaries of US corporations) can sue a country and receive enormous damages for any "loss of income" resulting from local, state or national legislation, regulation or ordinances that protect the environment, health, jobs, businesses, services. This is already happening under the existing free trade treaties and is already having an effect on our ability to govern ourselves.

Since the treaties also encourage privatization and foreign ownership of local services (water and electric utilities, education, public health services, postal system), we may conceivably not be able to protect these resources in the future (our water is already foreign owned) as they move out of democratic reach.

We need FAIR trade. We should not allow CAFTA to go forward as is.

Please ask Senators Collins (202-224-2523) and Snowe (1-800-432-1599) to vote no.

Beedy Parker
Camden

Dear Editor:

This marks the twentieth anniversary of Hospitality House Inc., I have been with Hospitality House Inc. since its conception.

Although the missions of Charities as Salvation Army, the United Way, and the Great Red Cross have been to ease Human suffering, in their 100 years each, they have merely placed band-aids on the human problems. Hospitality House Inc., is the only non-profit working to end homelessness, ooverty, and hunger without one paid executive - the CAUSES of needless human torment.

A few other grass root groups, also wish to inform the public that Contrary to Belief, Shelters house ONLY 3%-10% of the homeless (300-2000). There are still 90% who have no chance of housing.

It is Poverty which causes the agony of Homelessness. This causes families to lose children. Ands the State spends 5 times more keeping those children in foster care, than it would take to ASSIST the family in locating and paying for a new abode. Hospitality House Inc. needs volunteers to help us address the underlying cause of Homelessness, and eradicate destitution within a decade.

If you wish a copy of the free booklet, 'History of Poverty' with ways to Break the Myths write: Hospitality House Inc. P.O. Box 62 Hinckley ME. 04944.

Jan LightfootLane
Hinckley

This poem/song is about CAFTA (Central American Free Trade Agreement) which on the surface looks good, but underneath the covers, CAFTA exploits workers, exploits the environment, subverts

the constitution, and subverts democracy.

I hope you know the tune:

This land is your land
This land is my land
From California
to the New York Island.
From the Redwood forest
to the Gulf Stream Water
This land belongs to you and me.

Both GATT and NAFTA
were a disaster.
Now they want CAFTA.
We get the SHAFTA.
Go tell the Congress
That CAFTA should not pass.
CAFTA is bad for you and me.

Our Jobs get out-sourced.
Our jobs get in-sourced.
It takes our resource.
We have no recourse.
Both GATT and NAFTA
caused a disaster.
CAFTA is bad for you and me.

They call it free trade,
and you should believe.
It's you they're trying
so hard to deceive.
Go tell the Congress
That CAFTA should not pass.
CAFTA is bad for you and me.

Both GATT and NAFTA
caused a disaster.
Now they want CAFTA.
We get the SHAFTA.
Go tell the Congress
That CAFTA should not pass.
CAFTA is bad for you and me.

-Woody Guthrie; "This Land is Your Land"; Verses added by Randall Parr, September 2004



Backyard Healing

Rose Hips: *Rosa rugosa*

BY BREANNA NORRIS

Dedicated to Craig M. who I hope soon enough will be able get home and smell the roses. How is your herb book coming?

Late fall is the time in Maine when the rose hips are out and ready to be gathered. The hips are the seedpod or fruit of the rose plants. When the flowers die the hips develop where the flowers were. Some are no bigger than the tip of your thumb, while some are the size of a small apple, depending on age and where they grow. To me they look like crabapples. They can be pink, or sometimes deep red, sometimes with spots or a solid color. The inner flesh is usually orange-ish, but that can vary too. When you break them open you will find many off white, almost yellow seeds.

Rose hips are high in vitamin C, B complex, carotenes, selenium and bioflavanoids. They are food and medicine. Save them for use all winter by drying them or by making syrup.

Dry the hips by spreading them out on a screen inside in a warm area, like near a woodstove, so that they dry fast. I like to use a needle and thread to string together the bigger ones to hang from the ceiling. Be careful if you try this, to not put too many on one string. I have had them break in the middle of the night and was still finding them in spring.

There are many different ways to make syrup. This is the easiest recipe that I know. First make a strong infusion of the rose hips. An infusion is, simply put, a tea. Into a canning jar or something similar, add the hips; fill

it maybe a quarter full. You can use fresh or dried. If they are fresh use more than you would for dried. Break them up or leave them whole, it really doesn't matter. Fill the jar with hot water, cover with a lid and let it sit for about an hour. No more than four hours and no less than a half hour. Strain out the hips, put the tea into a non-aluminum pan, put on low heat and add two times as much honey as tea. For every cup of tea, add two cups of honey (or sugar, but honey is pre-



ferred). Stir tea and honey well, and take off the heat when they are thoroughly combined. Let it cool down, and then pour into sterile jars with tight lids. Sterile jars are important because it will mold really fast if the jar is dirty. I put my syrups in the fridge, they seem to last longer in there. The syrup should be good for about two months. I also like to add other herbs, like elecampane if the syrup is for cough. Another recipe I've seen calls for ginger and hot peppers. The recipe is the same; just mix in the other herbs with the rose hips.

You can take the syrup straight or add it to tea. For a cough or sore throat, take a couple teaspoons every few hours. At night take a few teaspoons to help fall asleep or for stress. The syrup can be used to sweeten tea too, especially the bitter ones. Rose hips are considered exceptionally safe so they are a good herb for children. I couldn't find any side effects of *Rosa rugosa* written of anywhere.

Chamomile and other calming herbs like

hips as a calming tea for nerves and restlessness. Add hips to other teas to give them a more fruity taste and extra vitamins. I wonder what rose hip wine would be like; I've had rose petal wine, which was very mild tasting. I bet the hips would give it a stronger taste. Has anyone made rose hip wine before? What about jelly? I've seen recipes, but I have never made them. Rose hips are mild but effective for calming an upset stomach. In China, rose hips are used as a kidney tonic.

Though *Rosa rugosa* is native to Asia you can find them all over Maine. Close to where I live in central Maine I have found rose bushes growing along trails and abandoned railroad tracks. I have found really nice ones where old farmhouses once stood but are long gone, the old roses still grow along with some gnarly apple trees. The beaches around Portland and Bar Harbor are where I have found the biggest rose hips. Make sure that the bushes you pick from have not been sprayed or fed chemical fertilizers. The hips are sweeter after a frost or two, but the medicinal qualities are lessened. Many people around the state have rugosas planted on their land; ask your neighbors if you can harvest some of theirs'.

To start seedlings next year, save some hips in a cool place over winter and remove the seeds from the hips before planting in early spring. The seeds take a while to sprout so be patient. Rose hips are one of the last wild foods in Maine that can be harvested before winter comes, pick them now while they're at their best.

If anyone has any rose recipes they want to share or would like to see in this section please contact-
Breanna Norris, PO Box 652, Pittsfield Maine 04967

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.

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?



Solar Electric Hybrid Tractor Alternatives to Oil

By RICHARD KOMP

This year at the Common Ground Fair, John Howe of Norway, Maine displayed his Solar Electric Hybrid Tractor. As an alternative to using gasoline or diesel, he took an old 1954 Farmall tractor and added a solar powered electric motor. He kept the original gasoline engine, transmission and hydraulic system. He built a canopy holding three PV modules delivering 450 watts at 96 volts to recharge eight 12 volt deep cycle batteries, which power the 10kW (13.5 Hp) electric motors.

The tractor will pull almost as hard on the electric drive as it can using the piston, which is still available if needed. The tractor has to sit in the sun for 20 hours for every hour it is working on the farm, but that ration could be reduced by building a PV roofed shed to park the tractor near when it isn't used. In a remote location, the tractor could even be parked next to an off-the-grid home to power the home when it isn't needed in the field.

John comments: "This tractor was built 50 years ago to replace a team of horses, mules, or oxen at a time when oil and gasoline became plentiful and was inexpensive. A team of working animals needed 2000 pounds of feed per year. Now, the

world is at a peak of available fossil fuels. Shortages and higher prices are imminent and in 50 years, fossil fuels will be very expensive and possibly unavailable. The world will need alternative energy sources, especially for growing food. Hydrogen is not the answer for alternative energy because the energy needed to produce it and storage problems. A new modern design tractor could double the battery storage and working time by eliminating the weight and space of the old design." (Using the newer, more efficient battery packs would also help increase performance. RK)

John Howe has put a lot of thought to the direction our civilization is going and has written a book called *The End of Fossil Energy and a Plan for Sustainability*, which you can purchase from him for \$10 (include \$1.50 for mailing) by writing him at PO Box 2038, Norway ME 04268.

This article is an excerpt from "Alternatives to Oil" by Richard Komp in the Fall 2004 issue of *The Maine Sun: Newsletter of the Maine Solar Energy Association*. For more info, write: 17 Rockwell Rd SE, Jonesport, ME 04649. www.mainesolar.com

Lewiston's Assault on Low-Income Residents

By BRENDA AKERS, LEWISTON

In June, the city of Lewiston announced its most recent project to "revitalize" the downtown.

The Heritage Initiative has two parts: first, Community Concepts Inc. (CCI) will build a \$4 million dollar office building and parking lot, tearing down 40 units of housing in the process.

Then over the next 10 years the city plans to build a boulevard through the neighborhood that will connect the turnpike connector to the Colisee, causing the demolition of 36 apartment buildings. The city states that its goals are to decrease the population density of the downtown by 25%, decrease the "transient" population, increase the value of taxable property by 75%, decrease the need for General Assistance by 66%, increase home ownership by 200% in 10 years, and reduce crime. The Heritage Initiative, if successful, will displace 850 people. A group of residents, local community organizations and social service agencies believe this is a conscious effort on the part of the city to push poor people - who the Heritage Initiative calls "immoral elements," out of the city.

This group has been meeting for the past few months to work to slow or stop the Heritage Initiative, to demand there be real community participation and public process in planning any development downtown now and in the future, and to offer up a different vision for what downtown Lewiston could be.

We meet every Tuesday, 6:30PM, at the B Street Community Center (57 Birch St) on the corner of Bates and Birch St. in Lewiston. For more information call 777-5144 or email seedsoutreach@yahoo.com.

At the public meeting for the Heritage Initiative on Thursday, representatives explained the reasons the city wants to tear down residential buildings and build a highway through my neighborhood.

Those reasons cited: the statistics of 13% of city police calls, tax liens, and slumlord conditions. Later, it

was revealed that there is federal grant money available for this destruction/construction project in the "projects".

Most police calls in the area are for "disorderly conduct" according to the police logs in the paper, or for outstanding traffic ticket warrants.

This does not surprise me in an area surrounded by bars and corner stores that sell beer and alcohol as a main revenue. There is tax income from alcohol sales, so the city would not make money from discouraging the sale and use of alcohol, which of course, is legal to buy and drink; however, often leads to social problems that bring police calls.

This is an ethnically diverse area, and I suspect that this diversity is another reason for higher police calls. In my studies at Cal State University I discovered that across America, in states where there is an African-American population, 40% of African-American young men between 15-25 years of age end up in the prison/juvenile correction system. In states with Mexican-American populations, it is also 40% of their young men who end up in the prison/juvenile correction systems, and in states with Native American reservations and populations, also 40% of the young men end up in the prison/Juvenile corrections systems. There are many reasons for this, which include the location and density of liquor stores, poverty, unemployment and hopelessness, prejudice in the form of the perceived "danger" of these men as they walk or drive, which brings higher police attention to them. The media portrays these young men as dangerous "gangs" although white teens involved in similar behaviors are perceived as "sowing wild oats" or "teen pranks," etc.

I also hypothesize that the police have been gathering "statistics" to give to politicians to justify the need for funding, often with coded labels such as "anti-gang" programs. And politicians who want to be elected can get more votes if they can say "I am tough on crime! I voted to increase money for these anti-gang programs. Which certainly increases police involvement in low-income not-so-white neighborhoods."

Maine DOT Goes For The Gusto in Camden

By ISABELLE TROADEC

On the morning of September 10, Maine Department of Transportation, Central Maine Power, and contracted Lane Construction firm began cutting along the northeast side of Route 1 in Camden.

In a plan that includes the loss of part of Camden's National Historic District, over 170 total trees are marked to be cut or "pruned" in the project to expand Route 1 from the Camden library north to the Camden Hills state park. Many of these trees are older than lifelong residents of Camden.

Some of the pruning, as reasoned by the DOT, will be done to facilitate utility and construction work- increasing the height of utility poles 10-15 ft., upgrading underground utilities, rebuilding a culvert and paving a new pathway to the state park, making it more accessible from downtown.

The MDOT claims that they will not stray from the established construc-

tion agreements with the town. Many local residents and activists, however, are distrustful of the "chainsaw massacre," and believe traffic bottlenecks, pollution, speeding, and an increase of vehicular noise are probable side effects of the cutting, in addition to the loss of beautiful decades-old trees.

When confronted with the possibility that protesters may intervene in the cutting process, Camden police chief Phil Roberts threatened to "de-energize" the power lines along the cut zones, potentially eliminating power to 6,000 homes, businesses, and public facilities such as street lights, school crossing lights, and police and fire stations.

The construction may not be fully completed until well into 2006, and it will take at least 50 years for the replacement tree saplings to reach a mature size. In the meantime, residents and drivers along that section of route 1 will have to suffer incredulously slow-moving traffic, noise, big machinery, and lots of stumps.



Although the problem of "police profiling" and "statistics" of police calls is certainly systemic in America, I have been inspired by the number and quality of Lewiston and Maine residents who are genuinely committed to undoing racism wherever it sprouts and not allowing it to grow or dominate our Maine cultures and communities. So I am disappointed to realize that unlike so many people I have met in Lewiston, racism is beyond the city council's ability to address and understand, much less make a plan that addresses the real quality of life issues in the area. I was told that the problem of crime and the police are not the city's concern.

The majority of the points justifying the tearing down of buildings was basically, slum-lord conditions: old buildings in disrepair, and landlords unable to afford the needed work or the required taxes. Then it came out that there is an availability of federal grant money for a project involving tearing down high density homes and building a highway through the projects.

At a City Council meeting, someone asked about the reality that rents will rise when these residents move out, and we'll lose our low income housing. Even if we move into the same area after renovation, the rents will be too high for us to afford. Someone in favor of the Initiative responded that it is not the city's concern. 'Rents will rise and that is out of the city's control.'

The goal of this project is to get rid of the low-income people!

The city council has voted to reduce Community Building Block Grants to "new" programs and local programs which would address the real social issues of this neighborhood, instead redirecting the CDBG money into construction projects. It is clear that the city prefers to redirect money away from real community-building brainstorming, and put it into community demolition and division.

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rooster seeking
flock of his own.
light brahma cockeral, 6 mo.,
happy healthy handsome
organic and pastured. free to a
good home.
tinuviel@lovenotwar.us or
698-1379 ex 2

FROM THE DOMESTIC LIBERATION FRONT

BY ROXANNE MUNKSGAARD

What a wild summer! Not much time for lazing around on the beach (my favorite pas-time)...but I did get to squeeze some in. Mostly I spent a lot of time on the road doing some great things.

It all started in June with the Great Labor Arts Exchange (GLAE) at the George Meany Center/National Labor College in Silver Spring, Maryland (right outside D.C.). This is my fifth year going and it gets better each year. Imagine six labor choruses from all over the country under one roof...the solidarity and sound was too intense to describe! Sponsored by the Labor Heritage Foundation, the GLAE gives artists and musicians an opportunity to gather for 4 days - jammin', composing, performing, networking, and having the time of their lives. A special event was the annual Joe Hill Award, this year given to Utah Phillips, who performed acapella, singing songs and telling stories. The event culminated in a free concert for the D.C. community and lucky me was the emcee this year!

Then in July I went down to the Boston Social Forum (BSF) - "Another World is Possible". Wow! What a fantastically organized event...so many progressive people in one place, 500 workshops with top speakers, and lots of information and networking tables. The ultimate for me was an exclusive interview with Billy Bragg at the Middle East Café in Cambridge, a fundraiser for the BSF.

Right afterwards was the Democratic National Convention in Boston. I was a delegate from the 2nd Congressional District and found myself with a special seat all week on the podium stage! This was my first time going to a national convention and I had no idea that it would mean packed agendas, piles of invitations to events morning, noon and night, many packed workshops, standing room only caucuses, and mandatory Maine Delegation breakfasts each morning at 7:30 A.M. to get

our credentials and hear speakers such as former Texas governor Ann Richards, producer/writer/actor Rob Reiner, comedian Al Franken, Senator George Mitchell, or actor John Cusak, who happened to "just stop in" one morning. I luxuriated at the Maine Delegation Colonnade Hotel (union) with a rooftop pool, rooming with a great new friend, Leslie, from Hancock County (another Imelda Marcos like me!) and geared up for "convention hours" (averaging 3-4 hours of sleep a night). Sometimes I dined with my colleagues at one o'clock in the morning at the hotel's brasserie.

Of course by then we were frantic for some "real food" after munching for hours on snacks hidden in our totes to keep ourselves going on the convention floor. The food and beverage concession stand prices were outrageous, as expected - but \$3.50 for a small bottle of water? \$4.00 for cup of coffee? But by day four I found out where you could get the free water bottles or fresh fruit smoothies AFTER our security checks but BEFORE going into the convention hall. In a way, even though it was hot, it was okay to go easy on water...you had to have a strong bladder to get through the week...most nights around 9 p.m. the gates to the convention floor and balconies were "locked down" due to security and fire marshal codes. If you needed the bathroom, once you exited, you could not return!

I can't complain though. It was such a great week with lots of hoopla, cheering, and great speeches to energize and unite us all. One of my tasks that afforded me a special seat on the podium stage for all four nights from 6:30-8:30 p.m. was to keep the people "excited." Well if you know me, that's my forte, and apparently the DNC found that out. But here it was like being inside a pinball machine: with the convention coming at you...how could you not be excited? It was truly a special week - the culmination of a long road on the Dean campaign, a week I will never forget.

In August I made my annual trek down to Hampton Bays on Long Island, NY, where my family has a "compound." Every summer I gather with my mother, sisters and other friends/family members who want some of the beach action. The ocean is beautiful, with waves that are wild and untamed, tall dunes...white sand that feels so good on your feet!

My father bought this house almost 40 years ago; he was an artist who painted the beautiful terrain. Here is where I feel my father's soul and can relax, reflect and rejuvenate.

Then after been six months of unemployment (most of those with no money coming in) very happily I started a new job with ACT-Maine (America Coming Together) at the end of August. I'm working as the Regional Organizer in Bangor and the surrounding area, organizing door-to-door canvasses to educate voters on issues and identify unenrolled voters. So life has been bustling again, busy with the necessary work to remove the present Administration from the White House. See ACT's great website at Error! Reference source not found. and click on Maine for local info.

Late summer it's "back to school" trips to The Mall with my teenage daughter, Kelsey. Walking around and around staring at racks of clothes (all of which are made in sweatshops; it's enough to make me sick). Waiting outside fitting rooms, spending money I don't have, dealing with "my style" vs. "your style", and arguing about what's "appropriate" for a 13-year-old to wear to school - after two older sons, this is all new to me!

It's October now and my oldest son, Esben, is back at UMaine as a Senior, and my middle son, Thorval, is a Freshman there this fall. So my second child has now left "the nest." I'm taking it hard. The first day of school in Bangor it was Kelsey and me sitting down alone to supper. Holding back tears, we both held each other together - happy for the boys but missing them as well. My house suddenly feels too quiet and too large. But for how long?

A final note from the Domestic Liberation Front: This really IS the most important election of our lifetime! We are clearly in a crisis situation and need to do all we can to get people registered and out to vote to remove "the emperor." Please get involved and help make it happen! Si se puede!

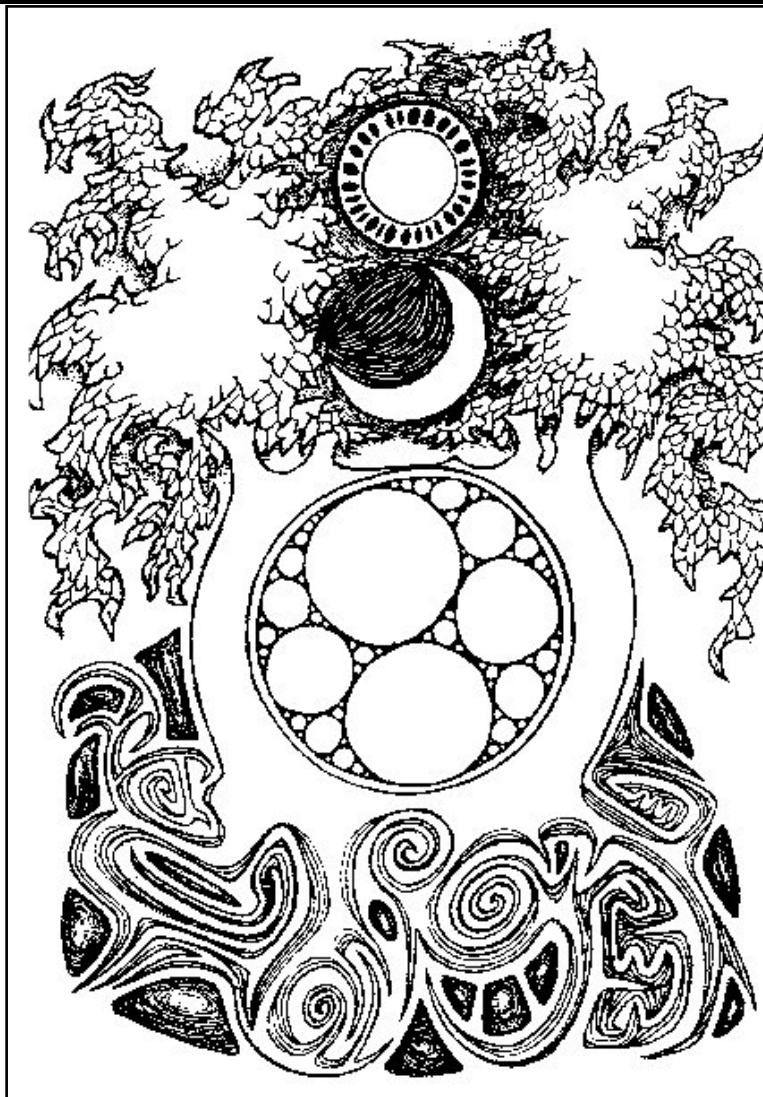
Roxanne Munksgaard lives in Bangor, Maine. She can be reached at r.munksgaard@verizon.net or by writing:
R. Munksgaard c/o Maine Commons, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903



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

Red-marked tree
 Quercus rubra
 Beautiful red tree
 I stood barefoot on your roots
 For three days
 You stood at my back
 Protecting me from Route One
 As I painted the oak grove.
 Now I'll stand for you
 When the men with orange trucks
 And orange chainsaws
 Come to cut you down.

-Susan Beebe, Camden



MENDING SAILS

By Clif Graves

The last able seaman
 The last willing worker
 Mended his last sail.

While he worked,
 He didn't see his work fade
 He didn't see his fellow seamen fade.

At lunch he was alone in the galley
 Alone with his half-drunk coffee
 Alone with his pipe.

Fading into almost nothing
 He climbed up to the deck
 To mend one more sail.

The wind took the sails
 The ship swung about
 There was no one left.

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By Tinuviel

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes. -Song of Solomon

The Edwin Booth Theatre resurrects with a passionate force in October presenting the classic American play "The Little Foxes" by Lillian Hellman. It is this theater company's third interpretation of the play (previously produced in 1980 and 1993). I spoke with proprietor Edouard Langlois, attempting to unearth the reasoning for another run. He spewed his frustration of our contemporary political situation.

"Get the gangsters out of the White House," he said. "Even in the face of the truth, these gangsters still insist the war in Iraq is the right thing to do. Now we have over 1,000 coffins of lives that will not be lived - for the benefit of profit. Truly, monumentally tragic and horrifying. We've never stooped this low as a nation. We are such horrible racists."

Curious, I asked how this play relates to us, the U.S., in 2004. "It very clearly stresses the rapacious quality of greed, a genuine lack of ethics accompanying the search for money," he explained.

"The Little Foxes," written in 1939, questions capitalism and its benefits as an economic model. A dialogue which continues to this day, becoming more applicable every decade. In 1939 there was no Tyco, no Enron, no Halliburton. Nor was there a Martha Stewart, the millionaires so worried about losing \$100,000 that she broke the law in pure selfishness. Dreaming of the future, "The Little Foxes" character Ben Hubbard says to Regina, the worst of the foxes, "One day we're going to own this country."

EDOUARD LANGLOIS ' ALTERNATIVE THEATRE

The physical space of the production is a basement loading dock of an old mill. The audience will nearly be part of the set, sitting within inches of the action. The mill itself reflects and highlights the content of "The Little Foxes", which is set in the Old South, introducing us to the Hubbard's, a cotton farming, slave owning family. Built in 1948, the Salmon Falls Mill was originally a cotton mill. Mr. Langlois states, "The mill is a metaphor for American capitalism. We pounded the slaves of the south, exploited their labor, gave them next to nothing whilst the white bosses profit. It couldn't be more appropriate. It is the inherited memory of the past to elucidate the present. Theater is a perfect means for that. I chose the mill because I work out of the box. I make something out of nothing. I don't do plays; I do theatre."

Art Will Change The World

-Dostoyevski

Langlois intends to use true theater experience as a non-partisan attack on a system sucking down our government and economy, reviving this play in honor of the upcoming election. And what expectations does he have?

First he reacts, "I doubt if any Republicans will come out to see my play." He immediately contradicts himself as he remembers two confirmed Republicans who not only are coming to see the play, but have contributed money toward the production. (In contrast to his Democratic acquaintances.)

His hope is to go out to the community and present his unique art as an argument to promote universality through the pageant of passion.

"Good theater is passion. I'm doing

it because it has to be said. I do theater to provoke, enlighten, to think about what it entails to be human. How do we do business with morality and conscience and ethics. Our government has become a business. A corporate militaristic empire."

Hellman, author of the play, was castigated by McCarthyism, placed on the House on Un-American Activities List for writing "The Little Foxes". Langlois' volatile voice discomforts the middle class liberals whose thoughts stray no further than 'Anybody but Bush'. He is attempting to wake folks up to real issues affecting our country and the world.

The Civil War changed the course of Northern cotton mills, such as the Salmon Falls mill, that converted to wool production. The current war jolts the memory of the mill, inspiring Edouard Langlois to act.

"Addie said there were people who ate the earth and other people who stood around and watched them do it. And just now, Uncle Ben said the same thing...Well, tell him for me Momma, I'm not going to stand around and watch you do it. Tell him I'll be fighting as hard as he'll be fighting someplace where people don't just stand around and watch."

- Alexandra, from "The Little Foxes"

"The Little Foxes," sponsored by the Alliance for Democracy, runs Oct. 15-31 at the Mill at Salmon Falls, 1 Front St., Rollinsford. (a stone's throw to Maine, separated by the Salmon Falls river) Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. Call 603-742-8737 for tickets and information.



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

A Poem to My Grandson

By L. E. Hughes

Come for a hike
with me,
Grandson.
In the mountains
Where the Moose live.
We'll find treasures
God has given us:
antlers,
nests,
each other.

One day
your legs
will grow
strong and sure-
You will no longer
stumble and fall
and find
a tiny owl's feather
at the tip of
your nose.

Soon my legs will
grow old and
weak.
Yours will grow
long and lean
and carry you
away
from me.

So come hike
with me now,
Aiden.

L.E. Hughes is a columnist, writer and owner of Diamond Corner B&B in Stratton, Maine. She welcomes your thoughts and comments: dcorner@tdstelme.net.

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By ROXANNE J. MUNKSGAARD, IBEW LOCAL 1837 AND AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS LOCAL 1000

BILLY BRAGG AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW LIVE IN THE LOO AT THE MIDDLE EAST CAFÉ!

At "Another World is Possible," a benefit concert for the Boston Social Forum, I had a chance to wear an "all-access" wristband, hang out and chat in the alley as well as backstage with Billy Bragg. Here is an exclusive interview dated July 24, 2004 in the "loo" backstage at the Middle East Café in Cambridge, Massachusetts:

RM: I've got three children; I'm a traveling musician in a union. So, I want to know...how do you do it? You have one child?

BB: Yeah, I've got a son and before my son was born I lived my life on the road. I felt like I was really alive. But it's really, really hard now, like living two lives - like being pulled in two directions, just like everyone else. But the funny thing is my brother's a bricklayer with three boys and we've talked about how he's got the same problem - balancing life and work. It's a problem everyone has. But I'm really lucky to be a parent and earn a living doing something I really love, traveling around the world. But the catch - and there's always a catch - is my family are at home and I'm away from them.

RM: I want to ask you one more thing...today out here you've got all these young people - yeah there are also some old farts like me - but you've got a lot of young people out there and you've been doing this for a long time. There's sort of a recurring thing happening now. But back home in Northern Maine we've got all these unemployed laid off millworkers, electrical workers, paperworkers, with mills shutting down and no manufacturing. I just want to know what can you say to these people who aren't here tonight, who weren't able to pay the \$30 to see you sing tonight? How can we get your music out there to these people, because it's really valuable?

BB: The real straightforward way for now is the internet - because it lets you put random ideas out there. With the new digital media and the internet we've got easier editorial control. The fact that you're making this movie - 20 years ago we wouldn't have gotten a camera crew in here - never mind the interview as well. The new digital media & internet allows you to get information right away. For example, instead of waiting in New York for Woody Guthrie to come and sing about the problems of the workers in the fruit fields in California, they can go to the website and hear it right now.

RM: So, would you mind if we got this information - interview and concert out to union members and we'll run it all by you?

BB: Yeah, I would be happy. I appreciate that. It would be cool.

RM: Thank you so much.

BB: Yeah, thank you!

RM: Solidarity!

Not familiar with Billy Bragg? Starting in a punk band at 19 years old and after going solo for two decades producing album after album, Billy Bragg, an English labor troubadour and punk folk singer, has certainly made a mark in British music. Record label Elektra says of his music: "Combining the social conscience and agitation of punk with the delivery and tunefulness of folk on songs that deftly blend the personal and political." A changing point for Billy was the 1980s - witnessing how the Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher was changing the fabric of British society, and the decimation of the mining communities, Bragg's songs became more overtly political. He became a fixture at political rallies and benefits, particularly during the 1984 Miners Strike. Political solidarity is a dominant theme through the years. A few years ago he teamed up with American alt-country band Wilco, in a tribute to fellow resister Woody Guthrie, entitled "Mermaid Avenue & Mermaid Avenue Volume II". It was Guthrie's daughter, Nora, who pursued Billy to set new music to the unrecorded newly-found Woody Guthrie lyrics.



Photo Credit: Roger Leisner

Roxanne & Billy at the Middle East

As a husband and father to boot, he's always touring the USA or Europe, with or without his band, The Blokes. Currently out is a new double-CD "Must I Paint You A Picture?" released in the UK in October 2003. The album features 40 of the tracks that have defined his music and approach through the years.

Check out Billy's website at: www.billybragg.co.uk and get ahold of some of his music - you won't be able to stop! Concert & interview DVDs available from Radio Free Maine, rlsner@radiofreemaine.com, www.radiofreemaine.com

Announcing: Art Exchange for Just Peace (AEJP) in Maine

AEJP's mission is to engage visual and performing artists to exhibit and sell/perform their artwork, the proceeds to be used to purchase art supplies for children in conflict-ridden, impoverished areas in the world and to help fund art programs in those areas.

AEJP will collaborate with other organizations to increase awareness of the effects of violence, oppression, and injustice on children (and on a people as a whole) and to increase awareness of the role of imagination and creative expression

in the development of emotional and cognitive abilities necessary for envisioning, promoting and participating in non-violent, cooperative means towards long-term peaceful and just solutions.

When the basic necessities of food, shelter and water are limited and when the trauma of war, violence, injustice, and oppression pervade the experience of a people, it is understandable that art --- the making of or the acquisition of art ---- is often viewed as a luxury. What is important

to understand is that there is a significant, even vital role for the arts in the healing of a traumatized and despairing people.

The hope of AEJP is that the expressive outlet creativity provides will be one small, but significant step in countering violence, oppression, isolation and despair by promoting a productive and healthy sense of individual and collective power.

Co-directed by Sally Bowden-Schaible and Bruce St. Thomas. For more info, please call or email: (207)780-0089 / aejp@pivot.net



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\$1 each extra 20 wds.**

Looking for a Pen pal-

SWM, being held hostage in Georgia, seeks pen pal to help me pass the time. I'm a college-educated craftsman, who loves to cook, go to flea markets, antiques, motorcycles, old trucks and the outdoors. I have won cooking contests for barbeque, chili and chowders owned. Before my arrest I owned and operated a small timber frame business.

I am from Brunswick and would like a pen pal in Maine. Ron Elrod # 24355, Johnson State Prison, H-2, P.O Box 344, Wrightsville, Ga. 31096-0344



Maine Books to Prisoners is a non-profit that started two years ago. We send free books to inmates in Maine jails and prisons. M.B.T.P also tries to assist inmates in finding pen pals, and to help inmates or family members and friends who are having difficulties with the system. We want to hear from inmates, family members and friends of inmates and supporters and find effective and productive ways to run this project.

Please print letters and names neatly and clearly. We cannot write back to people if we cannot read the address or name.

M.B.T.P will not publish pen pal ads that are singles ads. You know what I'm talking about. We are putting pen pal ads out in good faith. These ads are not checked out by any of us. Please use your own judgment for whom you write to and what you want written in the letters.

Be in touch with us if you want to respond to a pen pal ad, but want to use an address other than your own. We currently have multiple people looking for pen pals in Maine.

Also, please be in touch if you want to receive our newsletter or know somebody who you would like us to send it to. The newsletter will have information for incarcerated folks, as well as information for people who want to know more about being a pen pal to someone behind bars.

If you are an inmate looking for books, keep in mind that asking for subjects rather than authors or titles will probably get you a book sooner. Please put your release date in the letter as well so that we will stop sending things to you when you are out.

We are always interested in hearing from people inside and outside of prison/jail and their stories dealing with the system.

Maine Books To Prisoners
P.O.Box 2178 Waterville, Maine 04901
mainebookstoprisoners@justice.com

SECURING

FBI Seizes Indymedia Website Servers

COMPILED BY HILLARY LISTER FROM INFORMATION ON MAINE.INDYMEDIA.ORG AND WWW.INDYMEDIA.ORG

On October 7, 2004, computer hard drives from two Indymedia website servers were seized from the London office of a US-owned web hosting company, Rackspace, at the request of the US Justice Department, apparently in collaboration with Italian and Swiss authorities. Indymedia (www.indymedia.org) is a global media network that provides open space to publish challenging, independent reporting, with emphasis on political and social justice issues. Indymedia websites allow for anyone to post news and information anonymously. This has upset governments and corporations in the past, and efforts to force Indymedia websites to take down news has been challenged in the past. In September, San Francisco Indymedia successfully opposed an application by Diebold Election Systems Inc. to their web server calling for them to remove documents that claimed to expose flaws in the design of electronic voting machines that would be used in the upcoming election. The Indymedia network is based upon principled mutual aid and voluntary participation, maintaining openly accessible newswires with the capacity for anyone to publish texts, images, audio, and video. Maine Commons is the print project of Maine Indymedia, part of the global Indymedia network.

The seizure of the hard drives in London shut down an Indymedia radio station and around 20 different Indymedia websites including those serving Ambazonia, Uruguay, Andorra, Poland, Western Massachusetts, Nice, Nantes, Lilles, Marseille, Euskal Herria (Basque Country), Liege, East and West Vlaanderen, Antwerpen, Belgrade, Portugal, Prague, Galiza, Italy, Brazil, UK, and parts of Germany Indymedia.

Although the hard drives were returned on October 13, the particular legal framework under which the seizures took place is unknown. One week after the seizures there is still an almost total information blackout from the authorities in the UK, US, Switzerland and Italy that were involved in the seizures. Indymedia still has no confirmation of who ordered the seizures, who took the hard drives, why the seizures took place, or whether it will happen again.

An FBI spokesperson, Joe Parris, confirmed to Agence France-Presse that the FBI issued a subpoena to the provider who hosted the Indymedia servers in

the U.K., but that it was "on behalf of a third country." Daniel Zapelli, senior federal prosecutor for Geneva, Switzerland, confirmed that he opened a criminal investigation into Indymedia coverage of the 2003 G8 Summit in Evian. Federal prosecutor of Bologna, Italy, Marina Plazzi stated that she is investigating Italy Indymedia because it may "support terrorism."

Meanwhile international journalist associations have come forward in support of Indymedia. "We have witnessed an intolerable and intrusive international police operation against a network specialising in independent journalism," said Aidan White, International Federation of Journalists' General Secretary.



Indymedia is consulting with the Electronic Frontier Foundation on how to retrieve its servers and prevent further government attacks on free speech. "EFF is deeply concerned about the grave implications of this seizure for free speech and privacy, and we are exploring all avenues to hold the government accountable for this improper and unconstitutional silencing of independent media," said EFF Staff Attorney Kurt Opsahl.

As of Monday, October 11, five of the downed websites have been restored, including Brasil, Euskal Herria, Poland, UK and Nice. Indymedia volunteers are working around the clock to restore the remaining sites; however at least four of them - Uruguay, Italy, Western Massachusetts and Nantes - have suffered data loss as a result of the governments' action.



THE HOMELAND BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

New Cop On The Block in Bangor

BY ISABELLE TROADEC

Clad in black, not blue, Texas native Jesse "Tex" LeGros Jr., is Bangor's first federally employed police officer. The only inspector for the Federal Protective Service north of Augusta, inspectors also are based in Portland and Augusta to protect federal properties in those areas of the state. The Office of Federal Protective Service is part of the Bureau of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the Department of Homeland Security. The mission of the service is to provide law enforcement and "security" services to the more than 1 million tenants and daily visitors to all federally owned and leased

facilities nationwide, according to information on the agency's Web site.

The service traces its origins to six night watchmen hired by a commission appointed by the U.S. Congress in 1790 to protect the buildings that were to become the seat of the new nation's government. The agency has evolved and changed over the past two centuries, especially since Sept. 11, 2001.

"The day-to-day focus of inspectors like Jesse is homeland security and protection of federal property, rather than making sure the building has power and is physically secured," said Ronald Libby, regional director for the service, based in Boston.

"This FBI operation gives us even more reason to continue with what we have been doing for several years," says an activist from Italy Indymedia.

"Uruguay has a long history of media repression. We don't have the money to pay for web hosting, and so we rely on the solidarity of other countries. Actions like the seizure of the servers make the whole world insecure for free media," says Libertinus, an Indymedia volunteer from Uruguay, one of many Indymedia web sites that was caught in the FBI actions as a bystander. "Uruguay's national elections will take place on October 31st. It's a bad time for this to happen."

On October 14th, Italy Indymedia learned that an investigation in Bologna could have precipitated the U.S.' order for the seizure of Indymedia's hard drives from the U.K. Marina Plazzi, a public prosecutor for Bologna investigating the "Informal Anarchist Federation," reportedly issued a request for information (RFI) to U.S. authorities concerning posts published on italy.indymedia.org, one of the 20 odd Indymedia sites hosted on the U.K. server. The U.S. authorities, going beyond the requirements of the RFI, then issued an order to seize the drives.

Despite this new information and the return of the hardware many questions remain.

"The fact that the authorities' actions are shrouded in mystery leaves Indymedia in the Kafkaesque position of not knowing the identity of its accusers or the nature of their claim," says David Dadge, editor for the International Press Institute.

Indymedia volunteers are now calling for supporters to sign a solidarity declaration at solidarity.indymedia.org.uk denouncing the hard drive seizure as an unacceptable attack on press freedom, freedom of expression, and privacy. They are demanding a full disclosure of the names of organizations and individuals involved in the seizure, a copy of the court order, and an independent investigation into any violations of due process.

"We have serious concerns about the use of interna-

tional co-operation frameworks to obscure legal process, undermine civil liberties, and erode communication rights," said an Indymedia volunteer.

Numerous organizations have already expressed their solidarity with Indymedia. "I would say that this is an indication of the successfulness of the Indymedia network," says Peter Phillips, Ph.D., director of Project Censored. "Freedom of information is a radical idea when applied in a fair manner, and radical ideas will always be suppressed by the transnational corporate elites whenever possible."

People angered by the multilateral seizure of Indymedia hard drives have begun turning in piles of old hard drives to intelligence agencies across the world, in symbolic protests against what many are denouncing as a serious violation of communication rights. The Global Action is called Operation Hard Drive-By.



The first wave of solidarity actions took place on October 13 in the Netherlands, where activists delivered symbolic old hardware to the Italian consulate in Amsterdam. The next day, activists in San Francisco, USA handed over hardware to the FBI.

In Houston, members of the IMC delivered a letter to the Swiss consulate. Actions are continuing around the world, including Pittsburgh, and Perth, Australia as part of Media Democracy Day on Oct 18 (ww.mediademocracy-day.org)

Maine Indymedia was not directly affected by the seizures, as its website is hosted temporarily on a separate server. To help insure that Maine Indymedia can continue to maintain an interactive website and help other groups, we are in the process of purchasing a new server that will host the Maine website, in addition to other Indymedia websites, likely including the websites of New Hampshire, Vermont, Western Massachusetts, as well as international Indymedia groups in need of web space. This purchase will cost over \$1,000, and donations are needed and much appreciated for help with purchasing this server. Donations over \$50 are tax-deductible, and can be sent to: Maine Indymedia, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903.

Homeland Security Censors Penobscot Bay Watch Website

BY RON HUBER

On the afternoon of September 16, 2004, a representative of Homeland Security called the Penobscot Bay Watch office in Rockland, Maine. The Homeland Security representative, Lieutenant Cyrus Morgan of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in Portland, requested that a certain report be removed immediately from the Penobscot Bay Watch website www.penbay.org.

The website features documents obtained from Maine Governor John Baldacci concerning proposals to construct and operate Liquid Natural Gas terminals and regasification plants along the Gulf of Maine coast. (See penbay.org/sears-foa03.html) Lieutenant Morgan identified an LNG company as the source of the complaint.

The report in question, "LNG Security Review of Boston Harbor & Everett LNG facility" arrived at the Bay Watch office two weeks ago in a packet of papers that Governor Baldacci's office mailed us in response to our state Freedom of Access Law request for his and his staff's LNG files. Each page of the report was marked "confidential" but it was presumed it had been declassified before release, as required by that law. The report details security procedures for LNG tankers travelling through Boston Harbor and for the dock areas at the LNG regasification plant in Everett Massachusetts whither the vessels are bound.

As the caller was using caller-ID blocking, we had no way to confirm his identity. We asked him to send us an email from a Coast Guard email address to do so and he obliged. See below. After consultation with trusted advisers on the virtues of taking on the Department of Homeland Security over web publishing the document or not, we decided to acquiesce and have removed it from the website. Later in the day an Ensign Swigart at the USCG's Boston headquarters phoned, asking for details on how we obtained the document. We explained the Freedom of Access Law and suggested he contact the Governor's office.

If you want to check out the guilty document, contact:

Ron Huber, Penobscot Bay Watch
POB 1871, 418 Main Street,
Rockland ME 04841
(207) 594-5717
coastwatch@acadia.net
www.penbay.org



Newsblurbs From Around Maine

compiled by sterren & bellAcose

Ray Luc Levasseur Returns To Community

Born in Sanford, Maine, the son of immigrant mill workers from Quebec, Ray Luc Levasseur has spent the last 18 years in federal prison. Levasseur was convicted in a New York U.S. District Court for numerous bombings of corporate offices- IBM, Union Carbide, and Motorola, as well as corrupt South African government satellite offices in New York city. A month later he was sentenced to 45 years in prison. No one was injured in the bombings although property damage was extensive. These actions were part of a conscious plan to use "Propaganda Bombing" as a tool to get media and public attention to the United State's and U.S. corporate involvement in the plight of violently repressed peoples in these regions and military installations, including Central Maine Power's headquarters in Augusta in 1976.

A Vietnam veteran, Levasseur wrote of his radicalizing experience in the war, "I saw intense racism directed toward the Vietnamese people, which recalled the anti-Franco bigots and white supremacy I'd encountered at home. As I saw the culture and poverty of the Vietnamese ridiculed, I recalled the intolerant [people] of my youth."

Justice Clothing Comes To Bangor

Maine has lost 7,500 garment jobs over the last ten years. Under the gluttonous stipulations of NAFTA, multinational corporations have been devastating local economies by exporting business to "free-trade zones" across the world. They are then able to exploit workers in sweatshop factories paying, less than 10% of Maine wages for the same amount of work.

Roughly half of all clothes sold in U.S. stores are made in sweatshops -- often gated work zones where primarily women and girls under the age of 25, labor for poverty wages in conditions that are unsafe, degrading, and abusive.

So where can you go to buy clothes created, as PICA (Peace Through Intercommunity Action) suggests, that are

A member of the anti-imperialist United Freedom Front, Sam Melville/Jonathan Jackson brigade, and Vietnam Veterans Against The War, Levasseur came to Portland in the 70's, where he began working with another Vietnam veteran and ex-convict, Thomas Manning. The two worked for Statewide Correction Alliance for Reform, a prisoners' rights organization. They tutored inmates and opened Red Star North, a radical bookstore on Congress Street.

Released on parole in August, Levasseur will be living with other inmates in the Pharos House, a half-way house in Portland until his scheduled release November 4. He became eligible for parole after 10 years of imprisonment, and was released after serving 20 years, to be supervised by the government for the remainder of his sentence, minus credit He is still technically serving his sentence in the community.

"I'm from Maine. This is where I grew up, this is where my family is. It's where my heart is," he said in a jetport parking garage surrounded by reporters. "I want to see my mom, my mama, she's going to be 83 in a couple of weeks," he said. "She's my No. 1 supporter since I was in Vietnam. She has always stood by me."

made according to established international standards of ethical production? Eric and Mandi Oder-Fink have spent years searching for clothes such as these, before initiating their own retail store Maine. After years of difficult exploration finding sweatshop-free clothes in the mainstream marketplace, the couple decided to form their own 100% sweatshop-free shop, aptly named Justice Clothing, located in downtown Bangor. All clothes in the store are made in the USA and Canada by workers in democratic unions.

Why Bangor? "Partly because we are winter junkies - we'll admit it - but, more importantly, Bangor is a welcoming community that is home to the Clean Clothes Campaign with lots of great folks working to end sweatshops," says Eric. "It was just a good fit."

Coalition for GE Free Maine

At the Common Ground Fair in Unity last month, a new coalition was launched to protect Maine farmers from the threats posed by genetic engineering. GE Free Maine (www.gefreemaine.org) seeks to create GE Free Zones across Maine through a combination of voluntary farmer pledges and town resolutions, as well as to build support for efforts to protect both conventional and organic farmers from liability issues in cases of genetic cross contamination.

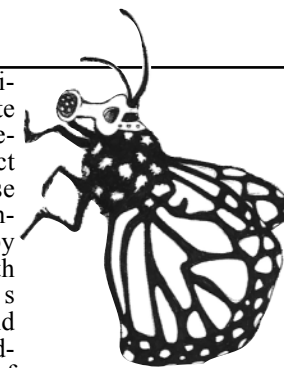
Maine is at a crucial juncture in the debate over genetically engineered crops. According to the Maine Department of Agriculture, genetically engineered crops are planted on only about 6,100 acres (5,100 acres of Roundup Ready Corn and 1,000 acres of Roundup Ready Soybeans) out of Maine's 1.25 million acres of farmland. Biotech companies are pushing for increases in the amount of genetically engineered corn and soybeans grown in the state. The companies are also pushing for the introduction of additional genetically modified organisms, including trees, salmon and many other plants and animals over the next few years.

This may be Maine's last chance to say, "Time out on GMOs." It may be the last chance to address concerns over the environmental and health implications of GE crops, realistically assess their effects on

farmers' livelihood, and create a legal framework to protect farmers whose crops are contaminated by GMOs. With consumers around the world demanding products free of genetically engineered organisms and Maine farmers currently taking advantage of these new markets, taking a time out on GMO's is the only way to protect all Maine farmers.

GE Free Maine is currently running two campaigns both focusing on addressing issues of genetic contamination at the local level. The first campaign involves collecting pledges from landowners across the state to prohibit genetically modified organisms (GMOs) on their land. The second campaign will work to help towns vote for or against GMOs in their communities. GE Free Maine will have volunteers collecting signatures in at least a dozen towns on Election Day.

For more information on GE Free Maine or to get involved, please visit www.gefreemaine.org or write PO Pox 318, Mount Desert, Maine 04660 or call 207-244-7694.



Whoopie Pies and Corporate Candy Keeping Maine Schools Afloat

Public schools in Maine have been struggling for years to achieve adequate funding for their basic needs, and with skyrocketing military funding, its no surprise. Resourceful public school officials, however, are discovering the money-making opportunities in selling junk-food to kids. Schools make profits when students opt out of the hot lunch program and instead buy whoopie pies and fruit punch from the "a la carte" wagon. Who knew that schools all over Maine were actually losing money on each hot meal they served to students? "We serve 600 to 700 a la carte type servings a day," Lester Young, business manager for the Brewer school system reports on the program after a school committee meeting, held at State Street School. "A la carte is the lifeblood of our program."

The a la carte offerings accounted for \$290,000 of the food program's total rev-

enue of \$573,554 in the 2003-04 school year. Though this may seem like a lot of servings of snacks and treats, the money earned is still not quite enough to cover the food program's total expenditures, which were \$580,548 last year.

The penny-pinching plan is to lay off cafeteria workers, and begin the push for a more extensive a la carte menu, including pizza, cinnamon buns, soda, ice cream, and cheese-doused nachos. The principal of Holbrook School in Holden did note that fruit may be added eventually. Holbrook instated such an a la carte menu last spring and cleared \$15,000 in profits before the end of the school year.

Some concerned staff and parents are voicing opposition to the plans, saying that the school system hasn't explored other creative ways to supplement their budgets. One parent added that the schools shouldn't shed their food service deficits by packing them on the waistlines of the kids.

Maine Economy Doesn't Pay

A recent study has confirmed what poor people have been saying for years - a quarter of the jobs in Maine do not pay enough for a family of four's basic needs in housing, transportation, education, and food. About half of the jobs in Maine provide no pensions or allow for paid sick leave. One in twelve Mainers now

holds more than one job, compared to the national average of one in twenty.

In the last decade, Maine has seen an exodus of stable good paying jobs. The findings echo recent evidence of the lower quality of service-industry jobs, compared to the manufacturing positions they replaced. John Dorrer, Director of Maine's Labor Market Information Services has recently stated that the state would add

68,000 new service positions to the economy by 2012, but manufacturing would have lost nearly 25,000 between 2001 and 2012. The average wage of industries gaining jobs is \$27,290, compared with \$35,529 for those losing jobs.

The Maine report focuses on these issues of structural unemployment and argues that raising the minimum wage - which was increased by a whole ten cents this fall - would help the economy.

Layoffs Continue

Since the last issue of the Maine Commons (in early March 2004) a number of layoffs have occurred across the state. This writer found 350 jobs eliminated reported in the major Maine Daily papers. These include jobs at Bangor-Hydro, owned by Canadian energy company Emera, cut 40 union jobs to replace with computerized meter monitoring equipment worth \$15 million. UK-based First Technology is shutting down its Caribou plant by Dec 31, eliminating the full-time jobs of 62 people. The plant has been operating since the 1970's, originally under the name Mecon. The Caribou workers make automotive circuitry parts. First Technology is moving some of this production to the Dominican Republic and some to its plant in Standish, where Caribou workers may be offered the possibility of relocation. Canadian-owned Irving Oil is shut down its Bangor administrative support operations, leaving 75 people without jobs. 31 people have been laid off from Irving Forest Products in Dixfield. Since the layoffs were officially due to a shortage of white pine logs

resulting from a wet spring and summer, the layoffs may be temporary. General Dynamics-owned Bath Iron Works has laid off 67 people working as preservation technicians. Although BIW spokespeople say that the company is trying to find those workers other jobs in the company, those who aren't placed elsewhere will be out of work and without severance packages, thanks to the current BIW labor contract. Indiana-based Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Maine has put 70 people out of work as a "cost-cutting measure." Smaller numbers of people lost jobs at various paper mills, including a reported 5 at Georgia Pacific in Old Town. There have been numerous jobs cut at various schools and of town employees across the state as towns are losing their tax bases when companies move out. Other layoffs have definitely been occurring in since the last issue, but not reported in the major dailies. There has been reliable word of jobs being cut and positions not being refilled at various MBNA call centers, as well as word that much of the call center operations will be moved to India. Also according to employees in Rumford, an unknown but definite number of jobs cut at the Rumford Mead paper plant.



Maine Elections & Beyond

PAGE BY BECCA SHAW GLASER

As Maine Goes, So Goes...?

Maine is extraordinary in many ways, including our voting patterns. Mainers are fiercely independent in voter registration - 39% of Maine voters are registered as independent/unenrolled. The nationwide average was 35% according to a CNN poll in October 2002. Maine also boasts some of the nation's highest rates for voter turnout in presidential elections. In 2000, 67% of voting-age Mainers voted; the national average was about 50%. Whether our great turnout is due to our older population (older people are more likely to vote than younger), our easy voter registration policies, or an incredibly involved citizenry, I feel proud.

This election, Maine is among the swing states - meaning other states are assuredly going to either George W. Bush or John Kerry, but Maine's vote could go to either way. Maine also has a unique electoral vote system: Maine is one of only two states that can spilt up its electoral votes. (The other state, Nebraska, will unquestionably give all its electoral votes to Bush). Of Maine's four electoral votes, two go to the candidate who wins the statewide popular vote, the third goes to the candidate who wins in the 1st Congressional District, and the fourth to whoever wins the 2nd. Maine hasn't split its electoral votes before, but this election could be so close that the state could split its votes 3-1. As of October 15, the New York Times showed Maine leaning towards Kerry, but Bush could potentially get the electoral vote from the 2nd District (Gore won the 2nd by a mere 5,600 votes in 2000). The national presidential race will be extremely close, so Maine's votes are tremendously important, especially if just one electoral vote ends up winning the election.

Ralph Nader's Campaign

Ralph Nader is running his presidential campaign as an Independent this time. The New York Times reports that votes for Nader could possibly swing the vote to Bush in nine states, including Maine. In 2000, Nader won 6% of the vote in Maine, and with Bush and Kerry running neck and neck here, votes for Nader could easily affect the outcome. Nader will be on the ballot in 30 states, though some Democrats (unfairly) tried to keep him off. His support will likely be largely reduced this year - best evidenced by the endorsement of John Kerry by Winona LaDuke, Nader's 2000 running mate. Still, recent polls show he could win about 1.5% of the national vote. Polls also show that most of his support is drawn from Kerry, not Bush - which explains why Republicans weren't trying to get him off ballots.

"I'm all for insurrection in the street. But it doesn't accomplish much without insurrection at the ballot box. So why not use it?"
- Musician Jello Biafra

National Voting Trends

You should know this about voting: statistics for the last few years show that richer, employed, married, older homeowners are the most likely people to vote. In fact, according to the US Census Bureau, in the 2000 national election, 72% of people in families with incomes over \$50,000 a year voted, while only 38% of people in families who made less than \$10,000 voted. And the more education a person has, the more likely they are to vote, and vice versa. These statistics show that wealthier, more educated people get to have more control over our lives (if you believe voting equals some amount of control).

Something to beware of: 50 million people in the US may use electronic voting machines to vote on Nov. 2nd. Most of these machines have no paper trail (making a recount impossible), and the software can be changed by anyone. This could mean that you'd press the button for Nader, but the machine would say you'd voted for Bush. Some studies have shown these machines have major flaws. In addition, the chief executive of electronic voting machine-maker Diebold, Inc, is a top fundraiser for George W. Bush. In a fundraising letter, executive Walden O'Dell stated he was "committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes for the president next year." Diebold will have 75,000 machines at polling places around the country, including Ohio, this November. Sound fishy? Public interest groups are demanding these machines provide a paper receipt. They encourage all voters who might face an electronic voting machine to instead vote by absentee paper ballot.

Other interesting trends: the last two presidential elections have had the lowest turnout since 1948. I hope this trend stops. There are trillions of other things to do to help our state, our loved ones, and our big galaxy besides voting. Still, I think it's important - even if you write in 'none of the above'- let them know you are watching, and that you care about your life, and how the world is going.

Suppressing the Youth Vote

In 2000, only 36% of 18-24 year-olds voted, the lowest percentage of any age group. This election year, tons of groups are encouraging youth to vote - including voterx.com, youthvote.org, punkvoter.com, and indyvoter.org. Even media giant Warner Brothers is putting little stickers about voting on its musicians' cds. But some companies are actively trying to suppress the youth vote. Hip clothing chainstore Urban Outfitters was selling a shirt this year that said, "Voting is for old people." Urban Outfitters' CEO is a Bush supporter; he and the company have contributed to Sen. Rick Santorum, an archconservative who has in the past equated gay sex with incest and bestiality.

After lots of outcry, Urban Outfitters stopped producing the shirt. More recently, the media monopolist Viacom - that owns all the "youth-culture" TV channels (MTV, Comedy Central, VH1, BET) refused to air an ad directed to youth addressing issues of college financing, the minimum wage and the Iraq war. Comedy Central banned the ad made by CompareDecideVote.org, citing

Viacom's unpublished policy to refuse any ads that don't come from official candidates.

Music For America, a group encouraging the youth vote commented on this censorship, "Ads for 'Girls Gone Wild,' alcohol, and 'Natural Male Enhancement' are fine, but politics is out of bounds."

To see the ad Viacom censored, go to www.comparedecidevote.com/viacom/censored.htm

Why Ban Discussion of the Draft?

Ed Gillipsie, chairman of the RNC, has sent MTV a "cease and desist" letter [which MTV promptly put onto its web site <http://blog.rockthevote.com/multimedia/RNattacks/RTV.pdf> threatening legal action if Rock The Vote doesn't stop talking about a draft. Gillipsie's letter includes a threat to take away Rock The Vote's non-profit status, accusing it of "malicious" propoganda.



Voting In Maine - What To Know

Who Can Vote In Maine? Anyone who is 18 years or older, a US citizen, and a resident of the municipality in which s/he wants to vote. (17-year-olds will be able to vote in 2006 Maine primaries if they will be 18 before the general election)

How Do I Register To Vote In Maine? You can register at your town office or city hall, at any Motor Vehicle branch office, or at voter registration drives. On election day, you can go to the voting place and register. Though not absolutely required, you'll want to make things easier by bringing a photo ID, and/or a piece of mail addressed to you proving that you live in that town.

Where And When Can I Vote? You can vote either on the day of the election (Tuesday, November 2nd) or ahead of time by absentee ballot. To find out where the voting places are in your town, or the hours it will be open on voting day, call your town office or city hall ahead of time, or on voting day. Please note that all voting places close at 8 PM (though if you were waiting in line before that, you have the right to vote). If you need help getting to the place to vote, you may be able to call the Republicans (622-6247) or Democrats (764-5907; 622-6233) in your area for a ride. You can call them ahead of time to pre-arrange.

How Do I Vote Absentee? To get an absentee ballot in Maine, you can either go to your town office before election day and vote right then, or you can get them to mail you a ballot and you can mail it or bring it back to them. You don't have to give a reason for why you need to vote absentee. It's a good choice because then you won't have to worry about lines on voting day, or forgetting, etc. More info on Absentee Voting is at www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/absent.htm

What Are My Rights As A Voter?

1. If you are registered to vote in Maine, you can vote.
2. If you are not registered to vote in Maine, you can register on Election Day and you can vote.
3. You cannot be turned away from the polls. You must be allowed to vote a challenged ballot.
4. If you do not have identification, you can vote.
5. If you are in line at the time the polls close, you can register and vote.

6. If you make a mistake, you can get a replacement ballot.

7. If you're visually impaired, physically disabled, or unable to read or write, you can be assisted.

8. You may see a sample ballot and receive instructions on voting procedure.

9. You may not be harassed when voting or be influenced on how to vote.

If you have any problems, or are denied the right to vote, call the Elections Division immediately at 207-624-7650.

In most towns, there will be people acting as monitors to make sure that everyone who wants to vote will be able to. There is a rumor that college students-who can legally vote in Maine-will potentially face some difficulty in registering, especially from Republicans. Please be aware that you as a student have every right to vote in Maine if you live here, as long as you do not vote elsewhere. If you are given any trouble, please call the Elections Division at 624-7650, and/or seek out the election monitors who should be able to help you vote. You can also call a national Election Protection hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE.

State of Maine Voters Guide is at www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/votguid04.htm or call the Secretary of State at 624-7650.

Maine Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions Division of Elections and Commissions:
www.state.me.us/sos/cec/elec/elec.htm

Maine eDemocracy Portal, Information about voting and access to Democracy:
www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/

A Variety Of Sources On Voting & Elections (sorry that so many organizations are so web-based - other contact info included when available):

www.abilitymaine.org (Featuring Maine politician's stances on Disability Rights Issues)

www.rockthevote.com / 202-828-0138

www.lwv.org / 202-429-1965 (League of Women Voters)

www.environment2004.org / 202-367-0500

www.blackradicalcongress.org / 314-307-3441

www.HAVAInfo.org (Help America Vote Act)

www.DontBlockMyVote.org

www.projectvote.org (1-800-546-8683)

www.opensecrets.org (Great guide to campaign contributions - find out who's contributing to local and national officials and parties.)

www.declareyourself.org (Youth Voters Website)

www.youthvote.org

www.excelgov.org / 202-728-0422 (Council for Excellence in Government)

www.indyvoter.org (Connecting Voters Throughout the US - Has Links to Portland & Waterville Voting Guides for Maine)

www.vote-smart.org / 1-888-VOTE-SMART (Great Resource to Find Out Candidates' Stances on Issues, Voting Records, Free Voter Self-Defense Manual)

www.SpeakOut.com (Read up, participate in online polls, send messages to elected officials, and sign petitions about issues that concern you.)

www.projectvote.org (Working to increase voter registration)

www.fairvote.org / (301) 270-4616 (Focusing on Fair Elections)

Maine Political Party Contacts:

Maine Republican Party:
www.mainegop.com / 207-622-6233

Maine Democratic Party:
www.mainedems.org / 207-622-6233

Maine Green Independent Party:
www.mainegreens.org / 207-772-1414

Libertarian Party of Maine:
www.lpme.org / 207-780-1776

Socialist Equality Party of Maine
www.wsws.org

Thanks to Ability Maine, Maine Youth Action Network, Maine eDemocracy Portal, and Planned Parenthood Northern New England for help with voter resources!

-Becca Glaser



13 Reasons Mainers Should Vote For Presidential Change

BY BECCA
GLASER

1. Job Loss & Attacks On Workers

- Since President Bush took office, Percentage-wise, **Maine Has Lost More Manufacturing Jobs Than Any Other State:** 17,800 jobs lost between July 2000 and August 2003. (1)
- Mainers' median household income fell by over \$3,000 (2)

2. Biggest Deficit In U.S. History

- Although Bush inherited a \$127 billion surplus, his proposed 2005 budget makes the **Deficit A Record-Setting \$521 Billion** (not including spending for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan). (3)

3. Health And Medicare:

- In Bush's Four Years As President, **Three Million More Americans Have Lost Health Care Coverage.** 43.6 million Americans do not have health care coverage, including 190,000 Mainers. (4)
- Bush's Medicare drug plan **Forbids Medicare Officials From Negotiating For Lower Drug Prices For Seniors.** (5)

4. Tax Cuts For the Rich

- Under President Bush's tax cut, the richest 1% of Americans - who make over \$337,000 a year-will receive on average a tax cut of \$59,000 each year until 2010 (when they get \$85,000), but the poorest 20%-who make \$16,000 or less per year-will receive a tax cut of \$100 or less each year until 2010. **Is This Fair?** (6)

5. Environmental Destruction

- **Bush's Proposed Budget For Fiscal Year 2005 Cuts \$1.9 Billion From Environmental Protection Programs,** including water and sewage funding, land conservation, wildlife protection, and parks funding. (7)
- Maine has one of the highest rates of adult asthma in the US, and Maine children have the highest asthma rate in New England, in large part due to the pollution we receive from the nation's factories (8). **The "Clear Skies Initiative" Bush Has Proposed Will Allow Power Plants To Pollute More,** emitting 50% more nitrous oxide emissions, 7 times more mercury, and twice as much sulfur dioxide emissions which cause acid rain and premature death from respiratory disease.(7)

6. Stem Cell Research

- In August 2001, President Bush signed an executive order which **Decimated Federal Funding For Stem Cell Research,** though many researchers believe it will help cure Alzheimer's and other diseases. (9)

7. Privacy Invasion

- The Maine legislature voted to demand that President Bush and the US congress reconsider the parts of the Patriot Act which unnecessarily **Invade American's Civil Liberties,** because Mainers deeply value our privacy and hard-won freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.(10)

8. Education President

- Bush's No Child Left Behind Act is the ultimate in Big Bad Government. The Act mandates federally standardized tests, while being under-funded by \$9.4 billion. (11)
- The non-partisan National Head Start Association warned that Bush's 2004 budget would begin a five-year process **Severely Dismantling Head Start.** (12)

9. The Government In Your Bedroom

- President Bush has said he "will do everything in my power to restrict abortion." If he gets a second term, he will appoint an archconservative judge to the Supreme Court, which will

- Make Abortion Illegal.** American women will again die in back-alley abortions. Ironically, Bush has severely cut family planning funding - which will result in more unwanted pregnancies.
- Bush's Administration is replacing school sex-ed with abstinence-only programs that give **False Information** about the effectiveness of contraceptives.
- Bush is stacking the federal courts with anti-choice judges.
- President Bush cut funding to the United Nations Population Fund. According to the Fund, these cuts will result in 2 million unwanted pregnancies, 800,000 induced abortions, 4,700 maternal deaths, and 77,000 infant and child deaths. (13)

10. Nuclear Buildup And BIW

- Bush is pouring money into nuclear weapons and an unproven Missile Defense System, which is part of the reason that **Bath Iron Works Has Fewer Navy Contracts** and could face more layoffs in 2010. (14)

11. Corporate Fraud & Backroom Deals

- **Bush's Biggest Lifetime Campaign Contributor Is Kenneth Lay, Former CEO Of Enron,** who presided over one of the largest corporate frauds in world history, and was given a backroom pass to create Bush's proposed Energy Bill.(15)
- Vice President Dick Cheney is former CEO of Halliburton, the company given no-bid contracts worth up to \$7 billion in Iraq by the US government. Halliburton has recently been in the news for overcharging for meals to soldiers, as well as overcharging for fuel.(16)

12. Terrorism

- Bush Says The US Is "Safer" Since Sept. 11.** In truth, world opinion of US policies and the Bush Administration is lower than before 9/11. People are inflamed over the Abu Ghraib tortures and America's unilateralism. Osama bin Laden hasn't been found and Al Qaeda is thriving.

13. War

- **60% Of Maine's National Guard Was Serving In Iraq As Of May (The Second Highest Percentage In The U.S. (17) Eight Mainers Have Died In Iraq And Afghanistan, 1,100 US Service Members Have Died In Iraq, And 7,862 US Service Members Have Been Wounded,** according to the Department Of Defense. (18)
- Saddam Hussein is in custody, no Weapons of Mass Destruction were found, more than 13,000 Iraqi citizens have died (19), and **Bush Doesn't Have A Clear Plan For Leaving Iraq.**

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TITLE: An Act to Impose Limits on Real and Personal Property Taxes

Question 1: Do you want to limit property taxes to 1% of the assessed value of the property?

Save our Communities - Vote No on Question 1

BY ROB BROWN

There is no doubt that the state of Maine must reform the property tax, but what kind of reform and at what price? This question is more relevant than ever due to referendum Question 1, commonly referred to as the Palesky tax cap, and it is essential that every voter understand how this proposal would work and what it is Maine citizens are being asked to sacrifice.

There are many elements to this proposal, but there are two that are most significant. First, Question 1

would roll back property valuations to 1996 values and, second, it would cap the tax at 10 mils, meaning 1% of valuation. This means that a house valued at \$100,000 would have a tax bill of \$1,000.

Simple and to the point, right?

Hardly, since what this means in practice is that many towns will see their budgets slashed in half. Do you honestly believe that any amount of "trimming of fat" and "belt tightening" would make this feasible? I am confident that anyone who takes a long, hard look at the short and long-term impacts of Question 1 will quickly realize how misguided those who brought this proposal from California are.

When California passed this law, they had to lay off over 100,000 people and close down 75 libraries. Their schools went from best in the nation to among the worst. Their public Universities went from the best with the lowest in-state tuition rates, to among the worst with much higher in-state tuition. High school sports are "pay to play," some schools have done away with guidance counselors, and kids have to pay to ride the bus. Class sizes doubled and tripled in some schools.

The cuts in education that Question 1 will force will seriously damage one of the things Maine does best. Forbes Magazine had an article titled "Maine Gets Biggest Bang for its Education Buck," noting that we have average per pupil spending, but first in the nation performance. Maine consistently ranks at or near the top in all national student performance rankings. Many libraries,

which are also centers of education in a community, will have to cut back to a day or two a week, or close down altogether, and will be forced to charge their users astronomical fees.

Our public safety services - fire fighters, ambulance, police - will take an even harder hit. Bangor, for example, will have to lay off about half its public safety employees, making the community less safe and secure, doubling

response times, and raising property and business insurances, since policy rates are based on

the quality of these services. Many towns would have to do away with emergency services altogether and contract them out to bigger towns and cities on a pay as you go basis.

Many of the other services our towns provide - road plowing and maintenance, public health, trash pick up, transfer stations and solid waste contracts, recycling programs, parks and recreation, public assistance for those who need a hand, and code enforcement - will be severely cut, stretched to the breaking point, or done away with altogether. In addition, one-third of Mainers are renters; they will see no tax reform, but will feel all of this pain. Simply put, our towns will not be the same. All this for a nearly \$700 million tax cut that gives the majority of its benefit to vacation home owners from away, corporations and the wealthy, and most likely will not provide any tax reform for many among us with the highest tax bills!

This is because the state Supreme Court has already said the roll back provision described above is unconstitutional. That means that the many coastal towns with high valuations and, therefore, already low mil rates, will see no tax reform if this were to pass. MBNA in Belfast will get a \$600,000 per year tax cut, but homeowners in over half of Waldo County's towns will see nothing.

Worst of all, this is just another classic ploy out of the right wing's play book. Radical right wingers love to use promises of across-the-board tax cuts because they simultaneously push us toward two of their fundamental goals - de-fund our democracy to the point

Remain A Mainer. Vote the Cap!

BY RON HUBER

The cleansing of native Mainers from their homes & properties by canny land speculators, highly skilled in manipulating property values - and property taxes - sky high, is well underway. Defeating the tax cap is critical to their plans, for it lets them continue wielding the Tax Hammer to smash the tightly knit communities that are blocking impatient investors in Los Angeles, Miami, Wilmington and Boston from sprawling out their New-Maine nightmare over the remains of towns suddenly gone by.

Want to Remain A Mainer? Your last chance awaits you in the voting booth next month. Better not fall for the expensively produced lies fouling Maine's media landscape. The sprawl-huggers doing their best to frighten townspeople across the state into digging their own communities' economic graves do NOT have your best interests at heart!

If you vote against the Cap, you'll be driven from Maine by inexorably rocketing property taxes, as investors around the nation continue their invasion of Maine's woods, shores and towns - lucrative sprawl frontiers all.

With no cap, and with willing accomplices in town assessors' offices throughout Maine, the

investor/speculator crowd will remain free to continue forcing valuations/property taxes right up through the roofs of the average Maine-borns' homes, sending you hapless natives packing. Where? Some less choice location in the hinterlands? There's always Massachusetts...

If you vote the cap into Maine Law, your suddenly increased personal money supply will let you roll with the service drops, if you exercise the least bit of Yankee thriftiness, until town services' stability is re-achieved.

About a year and a half should drive the bloat from municipal budgets - and the speculators, with far fewer property tax victim families to wrest homes from, will disappear in search of less protected states to batten on. Too wimpy now to shovel your own sidewalks? To take your garbage to the dump yourselves? To keep your fish piers washed down, your town commons mowed?

C'mon, there's a war on, after all.

Taking a little responsibility for keeping the community ticking is what your parents and grandparents did when they had to, as a matter of course. If they could, so can YOU. Best of all: you'll Remain A Mainer! Your choice.

where it is unable to do anything meaningful for anyone, and remove any responsibility for funding that government from corporations and the wealthy. Since across-the-board tax-cuts seem to give everyone at least a little something, it's easy to paperover the fact that the vast majority of the benefit always goes to those who are least in need.

The proponents acknowledge how flawed their proposal is but say that we just need to pass it and then we can fix it. Never do they acknowledge the fact that buried in the language of this bill is a clause stating that, if passed, it cannot be changed except by a two-thirds vote in a statewide referendum. Also, while they go around bad-mouthing firefighters and teachers as just another "special interest" trying to save their job, it is worth noting that the primary spokesman is a wealthy

businessman from Cape Elizabeth who will realize an \$800,000 per year wind-fall should this pass. Considering this, is it possible that these people simply do not care about the social and economic devastation that will result from passing Question 1?

The best way to reform the property tax is to make it based on ability to pay for Maine residents, which could be done for a fraction of what the tax cap would cost. To learn more about Question 1 and to see what responsible, progressive tax reform could look like please go to our website www.homesteadplus.org and please, for Maine's sake, vote NO on Question 1!



TITLE: An Act Prohibiting Certain Bear Hunting Practices
Question 2: Do you want to make it a crime to hunt bears with bait, traps or dogs, except to protect property, public safety or for research?

Mainers will face two referendum questions on November 2nd: 1. The Palesky tax cap, and, 2. A change in bear hunting practices. Maine is one of the few states in which citizens are able to vote directly on issues. The editors have collected some information about the bear hunting initiative from both the for and against opinion. We hope it helps you make an informed decision.

TITLE: An Act Prohibiting Certain Bear Hunting Practices

QUESTION: "Do you want to make it a crime to hunt bears with bait, traps or dogs, except to protect property, public safety or for research?"

REASONS FOR THE BAN:

1. Bear baiting causes overpopulation
 - Creates a "supplemental feeding program," a "self defeating" form of population control
2. Baiting and hounding are not necessary for population control
 - Until 25 years ago Maine's bear population was controlled by other methods
 - Other states with a ban do not have overpopulation problems (including WA, OR, and CO where a ban was recently put into effect)
 - These other states have also not reported a decline in annual kill
3. Bear hunting caters to non-residents
 - Nearly 80% of the kill in 2002 was taken by out-of-staters
4. Non-residents are locking Mainers out of acres of hunting land
 - Most of the hunters from away pay for access to private land to hunt on
5. Baiting, hounding and trapping are cruel and inhumane
 - Baiting exploits bears' need to feed for up to 15 hours per day this time of year

- Maine is the only state that allows trapping of bears
- Hounding puts dogs at risk of fights with bears

6. Bear baiting is damaging to ecosystems

- Bait stations lure bears from their natural habitat
- Bait stations attract other wildlife, putting them at risk
- Bait stations draw large numbers of bears to one location, increasing the risk of spreading disease
- Bait stations are polluting and stink

7. This initiative to ban baiting, hounding and trapping of bears allows exceptions for public safety and research

REASONS AGAINST THE BAN:

1. Bear hunting is necessary for population control
 - Bear population is directly related to availability of natural food
 - Population growth in Maine is also related to habitat preservation and research programs funded in part by money brought in by the hunting industry
2. Baiting and hounding are traditional hunting methods used in Maine
 - These methods are generally not used in states with low bear populations
 - It is difficult to hunt bears in Maine using only still hunting and stalking methods because of the dense undergrowth of Maine's woods
3. Non-resident hunters are contributing to Maine's economy
 - 200,000 people hunt in Maine yearly, nearly half of which are non-residents
 - Hunting brings nearly half a billion dollars of economic activity to the Maine guide industry annually
4. The use of private property for hunting is a matter of access and money, and a bait ban will not affect who has access to it.

Baiting Ban Shortsighted

By ANGIE HAFFORD

As November approaches, Maine citizens are fearing what decision will be made regarding the popular sport of bear hunting. Supporters of Question 2 hope that Maine voters will decide to ban individual hunters (though not state game workers) from using bait, hounds and traps for bear hunting, while opponents are fighting to maintain what has been a tradition for generations in Maine.

Maine voters are faced with the question of whether these practices are humane as well as "sportsman-like". The answer is both yes and no.

In almost every form of hunting, there are specific techniques used to lure animals in order to kill them. People hunt using calls, foods, scents, and decoys. They hunt in highly supplied areas of natural foods and camouflage their clothing and the area they will be sitting while waiting for the animal they are hunting to come along.

Maine has the largest population of black bears in the East coast, at approximately 23,000 bears statewide. The success rate for hunting using hounds and/or bait is 25% each year. At this rate, there are approximately 5,750 bears killed each year, leaving 17,250 bears left. Since 1999, bear harvests by method have been as follows -- Bait: 78%; Hounds: 10%; Trapping: 2%; and Incidental to deer hunting: 10%. Based on that information alone, our black bear population would increase by about 30%, which would mean that 575 bears would be killed each season, leaving a remainder of approximately 22,425 of the 23,000 bears in Maine yearly. To add to this factor, Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife already receives around three hundred nuisance bear complaints each year, so with the population increase, how will this affect the amount of nuisance bears? Considering that bear season runs right into deer season, how safe will it be to have people hunting for bear and deer at the same time? There are bound to be some accidents with that many people running around through the woods.

The fact of the matter is that Maine is known for its black bears. People from all over the world come to Maine for bear hunts for many reasons. Baiting is the most feasible form of hunting that a person who has difficulty walking can do. Someone who uses a wheel chair can sit in a ground blind. They cannot go chasing animals through the woods, so are they supposed to just give up and forget about hunting?

Bear stands are also a great way for a parent to introduce hunting to a child, or take along an older relative, and it is

a wonderful way for two people to bond. These bears are being shot to die. It is not like they are being shot with a bb gun, they are being shot with a lethal weapon whether it be a rifle, shot gun or a bow and arrow.

As it is, there are quite a few bears. If baiting is taken away, then the population of bears will increase. It will create problems. Maine Citizens for Fair Bear Hunting (MCFBH), which is the organization pushing hardest in the state for the ban to take effect, states a number of reasons why people should push for this referendum to go through in their publication of "The Bear Facts". Contained in that publication is a good deal of misleading information, which I will help to correct some of for those who want to hear the truth.

Baiting or feeding bears, they say, creates nuisance bears. I do not feel that one can consider a bear much of nuisance if they are feeding it. Bears who are fed bait are going to stay where the food is. If they know they can have access to food that easily and not have to work for it, you can bet you know where to find them there on an every other day basis. Why would they go look elsewhere? By the time that the baiting and the season is done with, the surviving bears have eaten enough to last them through the winter. The bears who aren't fed are the ones who go out in search of food, even if it means raiding trash or stealing from nearby homes, woodsmen, and campers. One bait site can feed over twenty bears easily, and if only one-eighth of those are shot, the other 17 or 18 bears are fed for the winter.

Recently, I did some research. I sent out letters to one hundred sporting camps and/or guide services that hunt bear using a number of different methods. Of the seventy-two who responded, there was not even one who had an average yearly kill of less than 60%. The average amount of money land owners received ranged anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Each of these places all stated that cutting the use of bait or hounds will decrease their income from \$3,000 to \$60,000. Of the seventy-two, there were only nine who hunt bears in a manner that MCFBH calls humane, sportsman-like hunting techniques.

MCFBH's "Bear Facts" says plain as day that not all bears are shot. Isn't this a good thing? They're being fed and they are not pestering people. If this has been a tradition for decades, then next year when those bears have no food, they'll go looking for it. The same publication says the bears who eat at these bait sites, but aren't shot, are the ones



TOWARDS POST-PARTISANSHIP

BY LYNNE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.

For centuries, political parties have been an integral part of civic life in the United States. In essence, a party label provides a key by which the voter can gain a general overview of a candidate's beliefs. Furthermore, a party endorsement can lead to volunteer and financial help for a candidate. Even "Clean Elections" candidates can benefit from promotional materials paid for by independent campaign expenditures.

Although I am a registered member of a political party, the Green Independent Party, over time I have come to develop grave doubts about the role of political parties in the United States political system, and those doubts lie with the two major parties. The Democrats and the Republicans possess the same faults as many other top-heavy organizations, such as big corporations and big labor. They are hierarchical, undemocratic systems that tolerate little dissent. On the national level, they possess overpaid, "corporate-style" leadership. Furthermore, on many issues they are significantly out of touch with their membership.

Much party activity is insider gamesmanship, with little impact on voters' lives. Although they do assist their candidates, that organizational and financial help is not without a price. There is a reason that each major party in Congress, as well as in the state houses, designate a party "whip" and the game is called "follow the leadership." Vote with the party...or else, is often the order of the day.

Therein lies part - not all, but part - of the cause of the gridlock in Augusta. This last term, we saw it played out in the legislature, with the failure to successfully address the voters' demands for property tax reform. In past sessions, we have seen it played out over other issues.

During this past year, I had occasion to lobby the legislature to support a resolution to call on the federal government to amend the Patriot Act, in order to eliminate provisions that are clear violations of our right to privacy and of our basic civil liberties. Two national proponents of amending the Act are the ACLU and the National Conservative Union, not usual allies. Initially, some Republican members of the legislature expressed support for the resolution. Certainly there was national bipartisan support for this type of resolution. In the end, however, those Republicans were told by their party leadership to back off on such support, scuttling any hope of a bipartisan vote.

Also during the last legislative session, there were ad hoc bipartisan coalitions and caucuses that appeared to make attempts at creative property tax reform. Once more, however, partisanship prevailed and no reforms were made.

I believe that we have reached the point at which partisan politics has become not only a contributing factor to the dysfunction of our governing bodies, but an essential cause of it. Not every issue splits along partisan lines, nor should they. There should be many opportunities for bipartisan coalescence, however temporary. Yet party leadership strongly discourages bipartisan cooperation and continues to engage in win-win politics.

What of the Green Independent Party? Given the history and longevity of the two major parties, the Greens are very young. Although there is a Green platform (worth reading at www.gpusa.org), the Greens are not yet at the point where the leadership can "whip" Green elected officials into shape. Although the number increases following each election cycle, there are still relatively few Green elected officials, and only one Green state legislator, John Eder of Portland. However, if Maine is any indication, each election will see an increase in the Green Party's share of elected officials. This year, Maine Greens are running more than twenty candidates for the state house, almost double the number from two years ago.

As the Greens become stronger, as I have no doubt they will, it is my hope that they will present a new model of governing. This new model would go beyond automatic loyalty to a party label and unquestioned obedience to party leadership. It would embrace multi-partisan and independent cooperation and productive problem solving. With such a post-partisan model, elected officials would find that working with legislators from other parties does not diminish one's own party; rather, it strengthens the whole.

Lynne A. Williams is a Rockland attorney and a candidate for the Maine House from District 47, which includes Rockland and part of Owls Head. She can be reached at llwilliams@earthlink.net

Letter From Away

BY SHLOMIT AUCIELLO

My office is a tin can.

When we bought this place sixteen years ago, Joe's mom decided to look for a trailer she could put on our land. She wanted to be able to visit without "bothering" us. What she found was a 14-foot, 1971 "Tag-a-Long" complete with convertible dinette, gas kitchen, and flush facilities. She used it a couple of times, and then both she and the trailer began to show signs of wear. About ten years ago she realized that staying in the house with us was really no bother at all. The trailer stood unused, except as an occasional clubhouse for the kids.

Five or six years back some friends helped us bring it up next to the house and cut an opening in the outer mud room. I gutted and reconfigured the interior, and now I can walk from the warmth of the house to the gas-fired heat in my office all year round.

Over time the walls and windows have become cluttered with photographs, business and birthday cards, notes and drawings. Paul Wellstone's words share space with those of the Dalai Lama. Loose sheets of poetry hang by bits of drying scotch tape next to pictures of old friends, and prayers catch my eye as I search for notes on different publishers' formatting requirements.

I splurged on a comfortable chair a couple of years ago, and behind me as I write this hangs a calendar sent by an old friend and patron of the arts. Counting the days until we can begin to wake from our current political nightmare, I came to these words: "Election Day: The most serious threat to democracy is the notion that it has already been achieved. Please vote intelligently."

A few days ago, I spotted a bumper sticker that read, "John Kerry...bringing full sentences back to the White House."

Sometimes it seems like that's the only difference between the two Yale men competing for the highest political office we can confer.

Certainly, simply electing Kerry will not ensure a return to some mythical golden age of peace and prosperity. No President can create good government all by him (or dare I say her) self. One of the reasons we keep finding ourselves in deeper and deeper political doo-doo is our foolish refusal to stay involved with our employees in government. We need to do what any good owner does. We need to set their agen-



da, watch them work to achieve it, help them make the connections to people and ideas that support the accomplishment of their tasks, correct them when they are off course, praise them when they do well, and fire them when they consistently, and with proper review, fail.

I'm sure it comes as no surprise to most of you that I am looking forward to George Bush's dismissal.

But "Anybody But Bush" was never a very well thought out plan. After all, Dick Cheney is someone other than George Bush. And though I am grateful to Ralph Nader for all he has done to improve life in America, I don't think that he really wants to take part in the continual game of compromise and appeasement that is life in public office. John Kerry will not take us as far or as fast as I think we should toward a return to the sense of empowerment and community connection that is part of the image I hold of our country's early agrarian promise. He's certainly not Thomas Jefferson, or even Teddy Roosevelt. The reality is that the global community we now live in is so complex, and technology allows things to happen so quickly, that any of our presidential icons would probably be severely challenged if they returned to the White House today.

So we will have to help our tenant on Pennsylvania Avenue, no matter how this particular election turns out.



More Than an Inch of Difference

BY GREG FIELD, YARMOUTH

Greg is Executive Director of Peace Action Maine. Peace Action Maine is a non-partisan organization, and does not endorse any candidates. These are Greg's opinions only.

Note: Jack Busell is part of Veterans For Peace, Maine

I'm one of those people who makes phone calls to the White House phone line. I used to, anyway. I called Carter's White House, and Reagan's. I phoned to complain to George H.W. Bush about the first Gulf War, and I called in the Clinton years to question NAFTA and make my own suggestions about health care.

Shortly after the inauguration in 2000, I called the current Mr. Bush's answering service. I couldn't get through. I figured there would be some transition time, but after almost a year, I gave up trying. It was clear to me that this occupant of our shared real estate had no wish to hear from his landlords.

As his tenure has continued, this perception has not changed. I think about the stories of Abraham Lincoln's open receptions, where any citizen could come and speak to the President of the United States. Sure, it was risky. The man was killed in a public theater. I'm sure, as intelligent as he was, he knew the hazards of the job he'd taken. As I tried to say in my disjointed way last time, life is inherently risky.

So as the season for interviewing our one employee in the executive branch comes to a close, what are our choices? Personally, I'd rather take a chance on the model of shared responsibility espoused by Democrats than continue on the every-man-for-himself path set for us by the radical Republicans now in charge of federal policy.

Were John Adams or Dwight Eisenhower here today, I'm sure they'd agree that the world has gotten too small, and our collective reaction times too fast for the sort of government that accuses others of taxing and spending, while continuing to misuse and misappropriate the wealth of future generations. The time for thoughtlessness has passed.

Absentee ballots are arriving in town offices. Call your city or town clerk to find out how to use them. Be prepared to present ID when you register or vote. If your current address differs from that on your photo ID you should also bring a utility bill with the correct information. In Maine, you can register immediately prior to casting your vote.

Please go and learn about the people who want to work for all of us. Decide whom you'd like to hire. And Vote on November 2.

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I saw Jack Busell give a speech the other day and he quoted Sam Webb from the Communist Party US saying this: there's only an inch of difference between Bush and Kerry, but in that inch are precariously perched the lives of thousands of people. That's why he's putting aside his differences and voting for Kerry.

I would go further than Jack and say there's more than an inch between Kerry and Bush, and have chimed in on those issues before. To say there's little or no difference is simply to ignore a range of issues: funding for rental subsidies for low-income, working-class families, international aid for projects that include family planning and birth control, cleaner factory and auto emission standards, the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and the Landmines treaty, funding for a whole new generation of nuclear weapons. All of those are issues where Kerry's position is clearly, far and away better than George Bush. Kerry's voting record and public statements on each one of those issues is clear. Which one of those doesn't matter to you? Any one of those issues will either save lives or improve the quality of some lives under a Kerry administration. Under a Kerry administration fewer people will be hurt.

I asked it before and ask it again: after you have declared there's no difference and IF George Bush wins, will you go stand in line at a homeless shelter and tell someone who has lost their apartment because they lost their subsidy that "there's no difference." Will you go to a Maine family with kids suffering from asthma as we live downwind from the offending smokestacks in the mid-west and midatlantic states and say "there's no difference." Will you volunteer your time for an aid project in

a poverty-stricken area of the world, caring for children born to women with no access to family planning and birth control and tell them "there's no difference." How about buying a leg prosthesis for a child who stepped on a landmine that would have been banned under the treaty our current President has refused to support?

But there are two more issues for me:

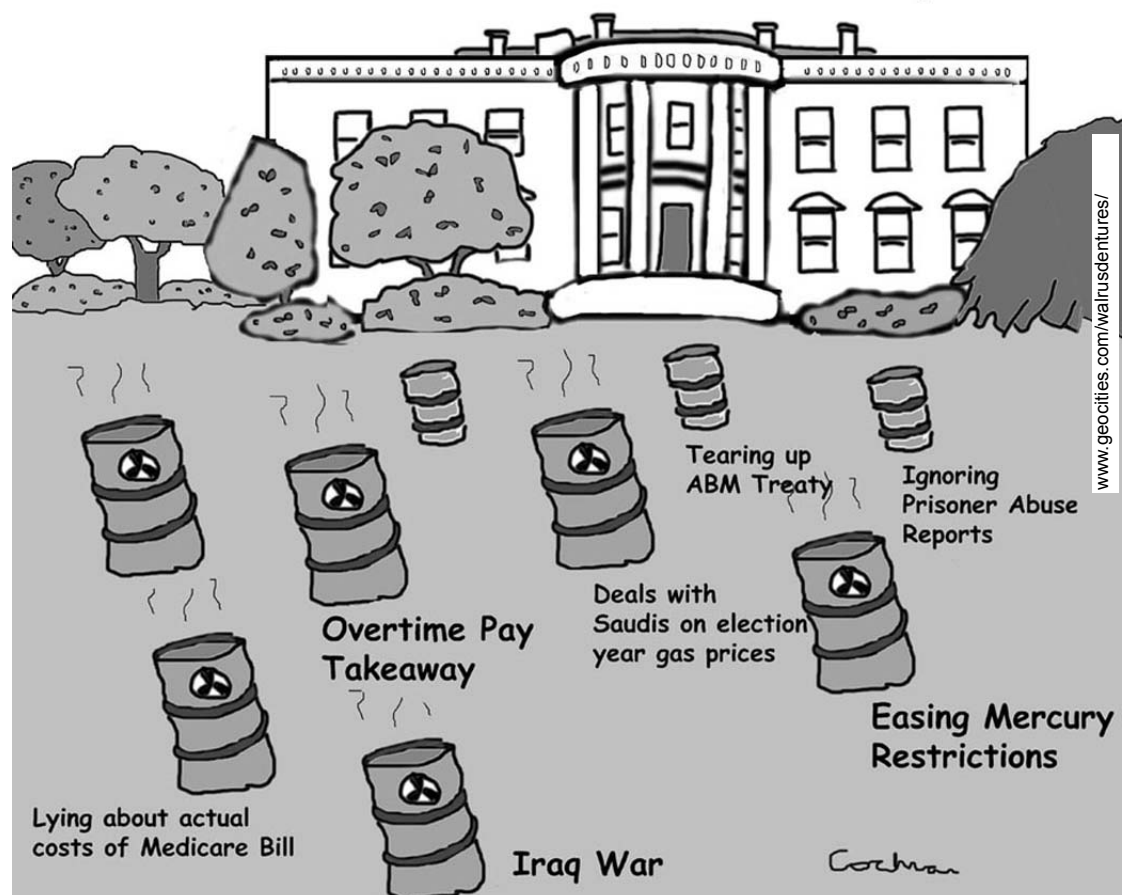
1. Kerry is part of a party that has within it people like Dennis Kucinich and Barbara Lee. It's the party of local candidates like Richard Rhames and Andrea Boland. George Bush has a party that has within it Tom DeLay and Rick Santorum. The Dems do indeed support plenty of corporate-purchased policies, but they also have within the party a core of progressive values that if we turn our back we risk seeing weaker, not stronger. There are good people who aren't within the Dem party too - especially here in Maine with the Maine Green Independent Party. But without Instant Runoff Voting and with our current Electoral College system for Presidential races, I think the choices are simply not the same in the Presidential race as with local or state races. And especially people who live in the Second Congressional District here in Maine I would urge to think long and hard about their Presidential ballot.

2. A Presidential election is not the end-all-be-all for me. I don't expect Utopia from any election. We have to mobilize and grow our progressive movement now and far beyond the election. We cannot expect any national candidate to embrace a more progressive agenda until we have more people with us. What plans do people have for January 2005, and beyond? That's where our focus has to be.

This is a long-haul effort and if we run it like it's a short dash we'll burn out and lose what effort we've built.

I will vote for Kerry, without apology but also without illusion.

America's next hazardous waste clean-up site



www.geocities.com/walrusdentures/



BY MARISSA PARISI
of Planned Parenthood of Northern
New England

The March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., was one of the most incredible events of my life! What amazed me most was the number of young women and men marching side by side with their mothers' and grandmothers' generations in support of the pro-choice movement. On that day hundreds of thousands of people under age 30 stood side by side with those who laid the path for reproductive freedom and chanted in unison "This is what a democracy looks like!"

Even more exciting than that unseasonably cool, hazy day in April, were



BEARS: CONT FROM PG 17

causing problems for people and themselves. How so? If they're eating at bait sites how are they a problem? They are satisfied and they got their bellies filled, they have no reason to go be a nuisance. Feeding bears not so much increases bear population as it keeps them alive. Scarce food supplies causes these animals to die of starvation. Which is a more humane way of death, being shot or being starved?

MCFBH questions whether the supporters of the Sportsman Alliance of Maine (SAM) can be trusted. I question, can we trust MCFBH? The group actually got the idea of this referendum through the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) which is also a group working to make hunting practically impossible to do, and which claims that people in America no longer hunt for food, but only for sport.

Another important thing I would like to mention is that MCFBH says that this referendum will have no negative impact on anything. I disagree. How about the folks of Aroostook County? Don't they count as citizens as well? How will this affect not only the bear population but also the small businesses? So many of these businesses and towns make their primary source of income from the bear hunting season. According to the Maine Professional Guides Association, bear hunting (pri-

Make History: Vote!

the months of planning leading up to it. Nine of my colleagues joined me on a team that filled buses, sent letters, hosted events, sold t-shirts, solicited in-kind and financial donations, and motivated and mobilized more than 10,000 people all across Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine to take part in the march on Washington.

Around the country, individuals and teams just like ours helped to organize 1.15 million people who care about choice and other issues that affect women - making the March for Women's Lives the largest public demonstration that Washington has ever seen.

Shortly after the march, we began our next phase of activist mobilization. A new interdepartmental staff team is focused on using the energy and enthusiasm generated by the march to encourage young voters to participate in PPNNE's MAKE HISTORY-VOTE! '04 Campaign.

But we've got our work cut out for us!

Although so many young women and men took part in the march, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 18 to 24 year olds are less likely to vote than any other age group. In 2000, 16 million young women did not register to vote and as many as 21 million never made it to the polls on the voting day. Why? Polling data shows that young voters feel disconnected from politics and don't believe that voting can make a difference in their personal lives.

The March for Women's Lives stirred up an unprecedented level of enthusiasm for women's issues and helped many of us make connections between our personal lives and the political environment in which

we live. Right now, committed volunteers are working in their local communities to help break down the barriers that exist for young people's engagement in the democratic process - and to make sure that young women's political involvement does not begin and end on the National Mall. Through activities such as door-to-door canvassing, outreach at con-

certs, "live action" activist training camps, and a large-scale voter registration effort, we believe that young people - and particularly young women - will vote in record numbers on November 2, 2004. Just as we did at the march, we will again MAKE HISTORY!

Live the world you want!

There are many volunteer opportunities for people (regardless of your age or gender) who want to continue in Planned Parenthood's voter mobilization effort. Visit www.ppnne.org/vote or call 888-600-9319.



***"The wife is to subordinate herself to her husband."
-Judge Leon Holmes, nominated to Arkansas federal
district court by Pres. George W. Bush***

marily using the methods that the referendum would ban) brought in more than \$6.4 million to Maine in 2002, and that's not even counting the money paid to local businesses and taxidermists by hunters. A lot of folks in the state of Maine have done bear bait as a main way to make a living, and have been born into families who do this. What will happen if this is taken from them? I will tell you what will happen. Maine's unemployment rate will boost to even higher levels. The same people supporting this referendum will be the same people paying tax dollars to support the folks who cannot work due to a lack of employment in their area or not being computer literate or having a college degree. The most important thing I want to mention of all is, why are city folks being allowed to vote on this? Whether bears are baited, trapped, chased by dogs, a nuisance, die of old age, or whatever else could happen, has absolutely no effect on them. I bet they won't even hear about most of it. Over half of the people who are supporting this referendum I am willing to bet have not ever seen a dead bear, let alone a live one, and they probably never will due to their geographical location. I highly doubt you will ever find a bear in the center of South Portland. However, it is likely to see a bear in the middle of just about any given town north of Bangor. Bears stay mostly in heavy, thick forest. The majority of people pushing for this referendum will not be affected if this goes through and will

not have to live with the devastation and problems that this can and will create.

MCFBH is presenting research and statistics from other states to argue that there have been no issues and the ban has worked for them. Some will say that bears are not aggressive whatsoever. I just wonder why we are taking the words of the people who maybe have never even visited Maine instead of the word of those who have lived, hunted, guided and basically spent most of their life in the woods and know the behavior, activity and capability of these animals. Just about any reputable hunter or guide will tell you that a hungry bear is an unpredictable bear. They will attack humans, they will kill your pets, they will raid your homes with you sleeping in the next room, they will take down your tent and they will destroy your gardens. Why take that chance when we can have it completely under control with baiting? We are avoiding all of these problems by allowing baiting. The population has been at reasonable levels and kept that way for a long while now, why is this even an issue?

I was born and raised in bear country, and I have had bears come up on the porch of my home to eat my dogs' food. To be completely honest with you, I took my dog and I hid. If that bear was coming in, there was nothing I could do to get it to go the

other way. A bear that is just coming out of hibernation in the springtime is not going to care about who they have to harm to get a bite to eat. If this is how it is with someone who has grown up and been around bears, then how do the outsiders feel about this? How will this affect our tourists campers, and canoers?

Bear baiting was started for a reason. It wasn't because people were lazy hunters or ignorant. So ask yourself why? I think that if this referendum goes through, people in Maine are going to regret the decision. Possibly folks in Maine will try to get baiting and hounding re-legalized to once again regulate population levels.

In closing, I have given most of the reasons that I can think of to not support this referendum. There are no reasons that I can think of to support it. All it is doing is giving the folks who do not have an interest in hunting or even acknowledge the wildlife in Maine as well as organizations such as MCFBH to gain more confidence and power to do things that will greatly affect Maine's hunting heritage. Don't doubt for a minute that they won't try to ban deer stands and lure as well.

ANGIE HAFFORD
CARMEL, ME

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Why It is Important to Elect Maine Indians to the Maine Legislature

By ERIC
BRUNNER-WILLIAMS

Under current law, the two members of the Maine Legislature who represent the two towns of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation at Old Town are non-voting. In addition, under the current rules of the Legislature, which are subject to change by each Legislature, they also may not vote in Committee. During the 130th Session of the Legislature, Senate Majority Leader Michael Michaud lead the fight to retain the no-votes-in-Committee rule for these two statutory representatives.

The claim offered for not allowing Committee votes to Indians was that because Sipayik (Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Reservation, between Perry and Eastport), and Indian Township (between Princeton and Calais), are within House District 134 and Senate District 4, and Indian Island adjacent to Old Town, are within House District 121 and Senate District 7, that voters for the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot representatives to the Maine Legislature are already represented, and that Indian voting in Committee would violate "one person, one vote." Majority Leader Michaud prevailed on the Committee Voting issue in the 130th Legislature.

The two statutory representatives to the Maine Legislature may introduce bills, as may any party who obtains even a "legislative courtesy" from a member of the Legislature, and they may participate in the non-voting activities of Committees, as may any party that attends the Public Hearings of any Committee.

The enrolled populations of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation, if combined, are sufficient to form a majority if contained in a single House District. Because these populations are divided by the Legislature into two House districts, they are a non-voting minority in each.

The problem of Indian representation is not restricted to the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation, though these are the only Maine Indians affected by the non-voting rule for their respective statutory representatives. The Houlton Band of Maliseets, the Aroostook Band of Mic'macs, and Abenakis in Western Maine are also affected. Harold Tomah (Mic'mac) ran for the House from Wells, (District 7) in 2000. He ran a respectable race, but the point is, he can not vote, or run for office, in a voting district where Indians are more than 1% of the population.

The 2000 census in Maine for "Indian" was 7,098, and for "Indian and one other race" is 13,156. Off-reserve Indians over the age of 50, particularly Abenakis, do not declare any "Indian" identity to civil authorities. An estimate of the total Indian

population in Maine rises to that of a Senate District, some 36,400 persons, or four House Districts of 8,400 persons each.

However, due to the non-contiguousness of the three largest areas where Indian voters reside, and the general dispersion of Indians to Maine's towns and cities, as well as to locations that are "away", the contiguous district rule hotly debated elsewhere in the contexts of (non-Indian) "safe minority" or "gerrymandered" districts, completely dilutes the suffrage granted by the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, and not enacted in Maine until 1952.

This election cycle there are two contested races for the 132nd Legislature in which Indians stood for election. Mary Beth Williams (Abenaki) stood in the primary election for a Portland House district, and despite winning endorsements from the Dirigo Alliance and the Portland Press Herald, her better connected and more conservative male opponent obtained the web of party officeholder endorsements and won. Donna Loring (Penobscot) stands in the general election as a Democrat in a competitive district against a moderate Republican. She has been shunned by her Party, and though she is a Lesbian, Equality Maine, which, like the Maine Dems' Coordinated Campaign, has leadership overlap with "Casinos NO!", endorsed her opponent, a straight white male Republican.

It is important to elect Maine Indians to the Maine Legislature because the leadership of the Maine Democratic Party is wrong and needs correction. Maine's Democrats do not gain by preventing Indians from running competitive races in its primaries, or by preventing Indians from running competitive races in general elections. The ongoing violation of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 by the Maine Legislature as a whole is also wrong and needs correction.

Indian Self-Determination is not going to go away.

Maine has two choices: to maintain the fiction that the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 is fully implemented, even though no Indian voting district exists, and both major State Parties actively exclude Indians from all effective party or elective office, or to "get over" its romance with racism and the "no special rights" rhetoric that poison public debate over what is in fact a long series of questions about status and dual-nationality that define Federal Indian Law.

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A website devoted to

Progressive Politics, Indian Issues, and Autism Advocacy

WGME and The Bias of Sinclair Broadcasting

By KEELIN SARU

In a year where negative campaign ads have reached depths unimaginable even four years ago, one of the largest TV station owners in the US, Sinclair Broadcasting, has forced its affiliates to show preempt its regular programming and show, without ads, a documentary which purports to show Presidential candidate Senator John Kerry as "un-American." This past April, Sinclair Broadcasting drew public attention when it claimed a Nightline segment featuring a reading of the names of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq was "contrary to the public interest." Sinclair then commanded seven of its stations not to air that show. Sinclair executives have been consistent supporters of the Bush campaign. This isn't a liberal or conservative issue - this is an issue of one large company controlling and limiting the views and information that are reported as news to the public.

These attacks on Kerry are not new, nor are they, as WGME, a CBS affiliate in Maine owned by Sinclair asserted, "news." As a local news station, WGME has done plenty of hard edged and valuable coverage for a number of years. It is unfortunate that, as of this writing, WGME is planning to preempt its regular programming to show the documentary.

The documentary, by Carlton Sherwood, is far from being unbiased. Sherwood is a former assistant to Homeland Security Czar Tom Ridge. Furthermore, 97% of the campaign contributions Sinclair has made have

been to Republican Candidates. The DNC has filed complaints with the FCC, but there is no way to know how many Sinclair affiliates will be showing the documentary, "Stolen Honor," in over 35 markets nationally.

While it may be impossible for the consumer to stop this violation of campaign laws, there are grassroots efforts you can do to counter these broadcasts. The distributors of the documentary film about John Kerry's service in Viet Nam, "Going Upriver," (which began showing in Waterville, Maine at the Railroad Square Cinema on 10/15 - call 873-6526 for times & more info) are actively encouraging people to download and show the film - becoming the first commercially released film to allow peer to peer networks. For download info, go to www.thekerrymovie.com. The download can be converted to dvd or vcd for watching on a home DVD player.

Several major advertisers on WGME, including the law offices of Joe Bornstein, Lowry & Assoc, Paradigm Windows, Piranco Northeastand, and Lee Auto Malls have pulled their ads from the station in protest of the of the film being shown as news. Representatives from Lee and Bornstein both cited that Sinclair's decision to broadcast the documentary as news brought up concerns of fairness in the media. Many sites have already sprung up with boycott info and other legal info regarding the broadcast of "Stolen Honor." Check the Maine Indymedia website at www.maineindymedia.org as well as www.maine.com for continued reporting about this ongoing issue. Freepress.net out of Northampton, MA, is a non-profit organization working to involve the public in media policymaking and to craft policies for a more democratic media system, that is also organizing to challenge Sinclair. Visit www.freepress.net or call 866-666-1533 for more info.



Second Presidential Debacle

BY: REVEREND DOKTOR C. SARIAN

More fanfare from the floor as the incumbent and pretender switched off doing their stand up routines to a selected TV audience. Having failed at previous attempts to stop split-screening, Bush's Republican handlers had clearly instructed the president not to smirk, grimace, look at his watch or roll his eyes as Kerry spoke. Instead, Bush held his face in a distorted mask that bespoke a determined effort to not reveal his reactions to the Senator's words.

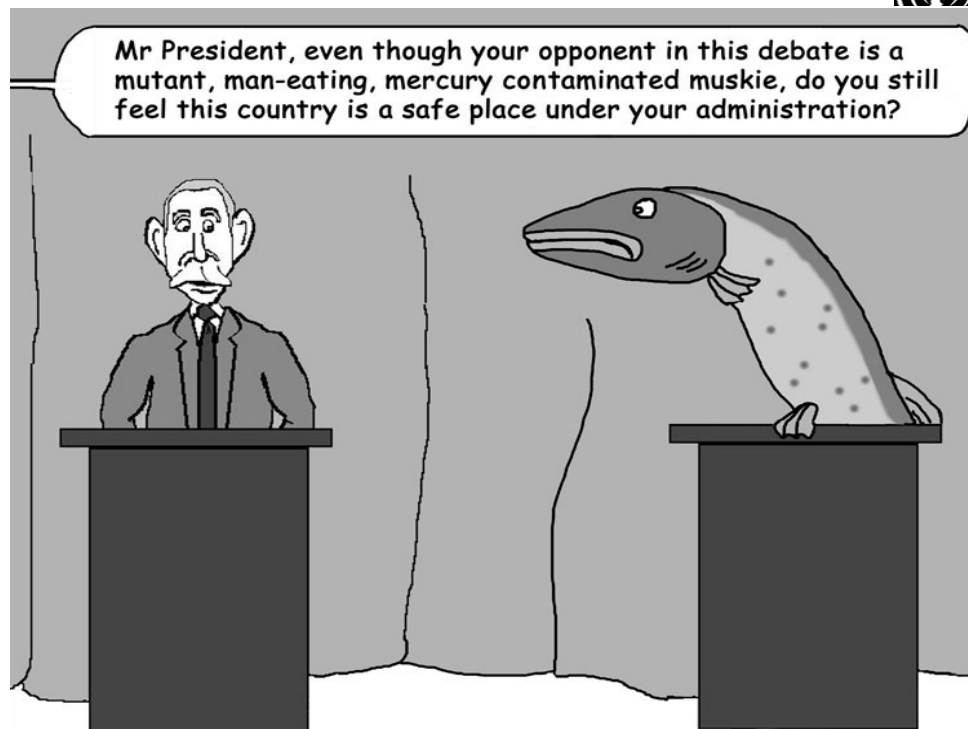
Beginning one incoherent rebuttal with, "I almost scowled on that one!", Bush played the emotion card -- stalking around the floor hunching and waving his arms, pecking his head in a birdlike manner, and affecting the chummy, 'I'm a regular guy like you' pose - getting a few uptight laughs for his mock self deprecation. Mr. Kerry got no laughs at all. While Bush was smug and decadent, Kerry was glib and desperate. Standing stiffly, Kerry delivered his well reasoned responses in a grave manner. His long face only broke into a mischievous smile as Bush iterated his idioms, including referring to his opponent as "Senator Kennedy", and Earth as "The war we live in."

Both candidates prevaricated over various questions. Both were long on what they would do and very short on how they would do it.

When asked who he would appoint to the Supreme Court, Bush, after sneering that he wouldn't tell... uh...didn't have anyone in mind (didn't want to offend anyone because he wanted them to vote for him), averred he would appoint someone who would not make judgments based on personal feelings or party affiliations. Kerry, while sticking to his 'Wrong war, Wrong time, Wrong place' condemnation of the Bush Administration, and how it has made America more vulnerable, nevertheless insisted that the nation's, Iraq's, and the world's problems could be solved by the military force of a stronger America.

Both candidates pandered to the audience about tax rebates - Bush boasting that bonuses to billionaires would create jobs, and Kerry countering cutely that only three persons in the room benefited from the Bush tax cut: the resident, Kerry himself, and, as he added apologetically, the moderator.

When responding to questions from patent support-the-troops-right-to-lifers on tough ethical questions like embryonic stem cell research, Kerry schmoozed his questioners by stating that he felt their passion and commitment. Each candidate declared the other's statements were false. Bush argued that the Senator's voting record was checkered, and Kerry restrained himself from actually accusing the resident of deliberately lying to advance his and his friends' agenda. Asked about the Patriot Act, Kerry admitted voting for it, saying it was needed, but that it needed revamping because it had the effect of abridging civil rights. Bush's rebuttal was that fighting terrorism is so important, the Patriot Act is a "tool" for fighting ter-



Bob Cochran - www.geocities.com/walrusdentures/

rorism, cutting across interdepartmental lines, making it easier to "keep track of" terrorists, and poses no threat whatever to civil liberties.

The telling moment of the debate came near the end when a shaggy lady asked Bush, of the thousands of decisions he had made during his term, could he mention three that he felt were mistakes and to describe what he should have done otherwise. After a moment's puzzlement, Bush launched into a defensive tirade, asserting that invading Iraq was the RIGHT decision, removing Saddam was the RIGHT decision, and the war against terrorism was the RIGHT decision. It sounded as if he was avoiding the question, but he was actually answering in neg-speak. Those decisions were the three wrong decisions, but he would do it again in a heartbeat.

After the debate a banner came up on the screen asking 'Who won?' No score had been kept, as in most debates, but it was clear THEY won, and we are going to lose, whoever "wins" the election. No to Bush policies! No matter who Kerrys them out!

Reverend Doktor C. Sarian
<http://reverenddoktor.freakwitch.net>
 Mid Coast Sub Church of Paranoia
 Church of the SubGenius

Beyond Democrats and Republicans: 2nd District Socialist Equality Candidate

We are printing a letter sent to the Socialist Equality Party by Jack McKay, president of the Bangor Central Labor Council, and a reply by Carl Cooley, a candidate for Congress from Maine's 2nd Congressional District. Cooley's reply has been edited to conserve space.

From Jack McKay:

I recently saw that here in Maine's 2nd Congressional district the Socialist Equality Party's Carl Cooley is trying to run against Mike Michaud for Congress. Such a campaign is incredibly divisive. Mike Michaud is perhaps the only member of Congress who comes from the factory floor - his other job is driving a forklift at the paper mill in East Millinocket. Three generations in the mill - he's the real deal.

We in labor (I'm a UNITE member and president of the Bangor Central Labor Council) love Mike - he's there for us, comes to all events and he gets the importance of building a movement. Here in Maine we have done some great steps putting labor and progressive movement groups together. This unity has caused Maine to pass first-in-the-nation Clean Elections laws, Maine Rx bill, Maine anti-sweatshop legislation, Maine Jobs, Trade and Democracy Act and many other bills. If Mike were to lose in a protest vote, it would be devastating up here and hurt the work that countless people have put into this.

In order to make change, we need to build working class power. Up here, analysis is not the problem - just about everyone knows that the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer. The real

problem is do we have the power to do anything about it. To create power we must organize. Mike Michaud is crucial in this movement. Mike is an inspiration to workers across Maine and across the country. We can come off the factory floor, without fancy education, and effectively fight for progressive issues at the Legislature or Congress. I would hate to see the Socialist Equality Party undermine one of the few, true working class heroes in America today.

In solidarity,
 Jack McKay

 From Carl Cooley:

Dear Brother McKay:

I have been placed on the ballot in the Second Congressional District with the support of 3,000 Maine workers, students and professionals who want a socialist alternative to the two big-business parties in the November election.

You describe my challenge to incumbent Democrat Michael Michaud as "incredibly divisive." Clearly, the thousands of voters who signed the petitions to put the Socialist Equality Party (SEP) on the ballot don't see it that way. They want a candidate who is making a loud and clear demand for an end to the war in Iraq and the immediate withdrawal of all US troops from that occupied country. For them, too many of Maine's young people, forced into the military by a lack of jobs and funds for their education, have already died. They want to be able to vote for someone who stands for a socialist program. They believe, as I do, that society's resources must be redirected to meet the needs of working people for decent-paying jobs, free universal health care and affordable housing, rather than to fuel the profits of the corporations and the accumulation of wealth at the top.

They will not find such a candidate in either Michaud or his Republican challenger. The only thing "divisive" about my campaign is that it is consciously



directed at dividing working people from the Democratic Party and establishing a new, independent mass political party fighting on a socialist and internationalist program.

We in the SEP are well aware that this perspective is diametrically opposed to that of the AFL-CIO. For decades, the union bureaucracy has promoted illusions that the Democrats represent a genuine alternative to the Republicans—that it is a party of the "people" and can be pressured into carrying out reforms in the interests of workers. For decades, the Democrats have collaborated with the Republicans in destroying social benefits and wiping out jobs.

They joined in handing the Bush administration a blank check to launch an illegal war based on lies. Now this party is running two multimillionaires on its national ticket, both of them committed to continuing the Iraq war and the attacks on living standards and basic democratic rights at home. No doubt, to even state these truths is "divisive" in the AFL-CIO's book.

What has the alliance of the AFL-CIO and the Democrats done for workers in Maine? The loss between 2000 and 2003 alone of nearly 18,000 jobs—including 22.1 percent of the state's manufacturing employment—hardly stands as a political achievement. The legislation that you praise has done nothing to stem this hemorrhaging of jobs.

You say that Michaud's "other job is driving a fork lift at the paper mill" in East Millinocket. If he's kept it, he is one of the lucky few. Great Northern in Millinocket and East Millinocket employed about 4,500 workers in the 1980s. Now only a few hundred work in the same mills. Unemployment in Michaud's hometown of East Millinocket stands at 32 percent, worse than during the Great Depression.

I don't see how Michaud's coming off the "factory floor" without a "fancy education" is some kind of a qualification for leadership. I spent 12 years on the line in a Chevrolet assembly plant, so I know something about the politics of the factory floor. They aren't that different in an auto factory than in a paper mill.

They are the politics of a union bureaucracy committed to labor-management collaboration and the preservation of its own privileges at the expense of the workers. Any independent struggle on the "factory floor" is subordinated to the bureaucracy's relations with the bosses and the Democratic Party.

Should anyone in the rank and file question this setup, they are told to shut

up, if they know what's good for them. What has been the result of this brand of politics, as practiced by the Maine AFL-CIO and the Democrats in response to the jobs crisis created by the actions of Great Northern, International Paper and other major manufacturers?

It has been endless rounds of wage cuts for the workers and tax breaks for the bosses that were supposed to attract new corporate saviors and defend jobs. One after another, these corporations have taken advantage of the giveaways, sucked out as much profit as they could, and then carried out new rounds of layoffs and shutdowns, looting employee pension plans on their way out the door.

When workers have attempted to fight back—as in the 16-month International Paper strike of 1987-88 in Jay, Maine—their struggles have been isolated and betrayed by the union leadership, who told the strikers the answer to layoffs, wage-cutting and union-busting was to vote for the Democrats.

It is hardly a surprise that the Maine AFL-CIO has hailed John Kerry's "jobs plan," which boils down to another set of tax breaks for the corporations, supposedly given as an incentive to locate operations in the US rather than abroad.

In an opinion piece in the Bangor Daily News last month, Maine AFL-CIO President Edward Gorham praised Kerry's proposal, concluding: "One thing I know to be true—if you give American workers a fair playing field to compete on, there's no one in the world that the American worker can't compete against. What we need now is leadership in Washington that will work with us to level that playing field."

Maine workers have seen more than two decades of Democratic politicians and union bureaucrats working to "level the playing field" so that they can "compete" with workers overseas. We know the results: nine out of ten jobs gone, with the few still working making less in real wages than they did in the 1980s.

My party rejects any proposal to make workers more "competitive" with their class brothers and sisters in other lands. If ever there was a losing proposition, this is it. The corporations operate globally. They can move their operations and jobs to whatever country offers the lowest wages, the most ruthless levels of exploitation and, consequently, the highest profits. Those who start from making their region or nation "competitive" end up pressuring workers for more and more concessions to attract capital investment, rather than fighting to defend the workers' rights and living standards.

For the workers, it is a vicious race to the bottom. This is just what the policies of the AFL-CIO and the Democrats have produced in Maine.

There is no national solution—much less a Maine solution—to these problems. The way out of this crisis starts with workers in Maine and throughout the country rejecting the nationalist and protectionist prescriptions offered by Michaud and the AFL-CIO. Their policies serve only to subordinate the interests of workers to the interests of the bosses who exploit them, while dividing American workers from workers in other countries who are oppressed by these same transnational corporations.

Our party starts from developing a global strategy for the working class to counter the global strategy of the transnational corporations. This means coordinating the struggles of workers in Maine and throughout the US to defend jobs and living standards with those of workers internationally, fighting for the interests of workers of all countries on the basis of a common anti-capitalist and socialist program.

What is needed in Maine is a massive public works program to guarantee jobs for all at decent wages. Both the Democrats and Republicans claim that there is no money for such a program. They lie. There is plenty of wealth, but it is monopolized by the rich.

The SEP proposes a radical restructuring of tax policy, beginning with the repeal of all the tax cuts given to the wealthy over the past two decades and the institution of major tax increases for those with the highest incomes and greatest accumulated wealth. We maintain that the wealth looted from the people of Maine and elsewhere by giant corporations must be recovered and used to help meet the social needs of working people.

Our basic premise is that the accumulation of personal wealth should be subordinated to the satisfaction of human needs. In opposition to the immense concentration of wealth in the hands of a financial elite, the SEP advances the principle of social equality, and advocates a system of public ownership and democratic control of the economy. Michaud, like Kerry and other Democrats, counts on the votes of those who go to the polls out of outrage against the war in Iraq, while he himself continues to back the occupation. The Democrats cynically calculate that those who oppose Bush have nowhere else to go. Michaud voted last March for the so-called "Liberation of the Iraqi People" Act, justifying once again the Bush administration's illegal war. More recently, he voted for a \$500 billion Pentagon budget that includes some

\$25 billion to continue the US occupation.

One cannot support these appropriations for war and claim to be standing up for the rights of working people at home. These massive military outlays can be paid for only through the gutting of social programs and the lowering of living standards for the vast majority. My candidacy will allow those hundreds of thousands of people in Maine who want US troops to be withdrawn from Iraq to make their voices heard. It will directly challenge the squandering of vast resources on militarism and demand that they be used instead to fund jobs, health care, education and other basic social needs.

Michaud has lined up with the right-wing elements in the Republican Party in passing the first legislation in three decades restricting the right of women to abortion. Hundreds of thousands in Maine are opposed to this attack on democratic rights and the attempt to exploit religion for political gain. My candidacy will give them a voice at the ballot box.

This will not be a "protest vote." It will advance the necessary fight for the political independence of the working class from the two parties controlled by big business. My campaign, and that of the SEP nationally, will utilize the 2004 elections for the purpose of building a new mass socialist movement from the ground up. We are confident that broad layers of people in Maine will join us in this fight.

Sincerely,
Carl Cooley





A Sportsman's Case Against George Bush

FROM WWW.ALANMACEY.COM

The "hook and bullet" crowd, as sportsmen are often called, is generally a conservative voting block loosely bound together by their various pastimes. Even so, the NRA represents a 4 million member strong lobby force in defense of the second amendment, and it is precisely this issue that keeps many hunters (and anglers) in the Right's hip pocket.

The issue that is often not spoken about on the national level is the issue of conservation. Most sportsmen I know participate in grassroots activism to support their local natural habitats, whether they be trout streams, state forests, lakes, or whatever. The hook and bullet crowd is not generally shy about forking over dollars to preserve their right to hunt and fish, and this is evident by polls in Minnesota and Wisconsin that suggest hunters and anglers are in favor of fee increases if the money goes to support maintenance and purchasing of public lands and waterways.

On the gun rights issue it is clear that the Republicans will always hold the advantage over the Democrats, because Republicans are generally in favor of less stringent gun control laws. Many hunters have bought into the rhetoric that if you allow the government to take away any gun rights, it is only a few short steps until all guns are outlawed. The second amendment is by and large the one issue sportsmen agree on. But when it comes to conservation, how come so many sportsmen ignore the conservation record of George Bush when considering their vote on November 2nd?

I can only surmise that many hunters and anglers are very focused on the lands and waters that they hunt and fish, and do not see such things as Clean Water or Clean Air.

Is this smart?

A significant number of outdoorsmen rely on public lands to pursue their sports. Whether that be elk hunting in national parks and forests, deer hunting on state-owned wildlife management areas, or fishing on state-owned lakes or streams. Anyone who uses government owned (i.e. public) resources to pursue their hobby should make every effort to be in tune with what their government has planned for those resources.

Moreover, clean air and water are important to every American, and anyone who cherishes days wading in clear spring creeks or the taste of a walleye should keep a critical eye aimed at the government to ensure that they are keeping these resources viable.

George W. Bush has one of the worst environmental records of any American president. And this is why sportsmen should vote against him:

1) The Bush Administration has proposed to legalize the release of inadequately treated sewage into American waterways, after refusing to enact a proposal by the Clinton-era EPA that addressed the problem of sewage dumping in rivers across the country.

2) Bush reversed federal policy aimed at preserving U.S. wilderness areas. Under Bush, a legal settlement threatens to open millions of acres of wilderness-quality public lands to drilling, mining, road building, and other development.

3) The Bush Administration allowed drilling in New Mexico's Otera Mesa in spite of widespread local opposition. The Otera Mesa holds enough drinking water in drought-ridden New Mexico to provide fresh drinking water to half of the state's population, and contains more than a million acres of Chihuahuan grassland.

4) The Pentagon released a statement labeling global warming as a security threat, but the Bush Administration continues to insist there is no such thing.

5) Recent data indicates that the nation's water and air pollution is getting worse under the Bush Administration reversing a trend of improvement.

6) Anglers in most parts of the country are confronted with health warnings about eating fish due to sewage dumping and lax run-off legislation, yet the Bush Administration continues to undermine and weaken the Clean Water Act.

7) The Bush Administration changes the way the EPA evaluates air pollution over national parks so that new coal-fired power plants can be built near them (to wit: Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota)

8) The White House considers changing forest rules aimed at preserving watersheds by exempting some logging projects from environmental requirements.

9) The EPA waives Clean Water Act permit requirements for pesticide discharges into waterways. Their justification? Chemical designed to kill aquatic insects are not wastes in need of regulation.

10) The Bush Administration denies wilderness protection for millions of acres of Alaska's Tongass National Forest.

11) The Bush Administration held up public release of information in an EPA report that indicated mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants pose an increasing danger to children.

12) The EPA has changed its standards and definitions numerous times to suit the needs of business: to wit, claiming that wetlands cause pollution, using suspect data taken from wetlands near highways and other

run-off points.

13) Under the Bush Administration's desire to drill anywhere there is dirt, Wyoming's BLM field office has received 4000 drilling applications in the past three years. A draft plan released by the BLM in February, 2003 would allow drilling in Jack Morrow Hills, home to the largest elk herd in the world.

14) The Bush administration changed the rules around the Clean Air Act to allow more than 17,000 power plants, refineries, et. al. to replace old equipment with 'functionally equivalent' new equipment without undergoing the clean air reviews required by the CAA's new source review program. The end result is this could allow more than a million more tons of polluted air to be emitted.

15) Bush's "Clear Skies" plan, based on EPA data, would not meet its goal of reducing mercury emissions by 70% by 2025 (if ever), let alone the 2018 mark it intended to hit. It would needlessly delay reductions in mercury levels for decades, at a risk to public health - but it would of course save the coal and utility industries billions.

These are just a few samples of Bush's assault on the natural resources of this country.

In short, the Bush Administration is systematically laying waste to the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. Both of these bodies of legislation directly affect the quality of our drinking water and our natural habitat - the impact on human beings is certainly bad, but the impact on the wild creatures that live in the sewage-ridden waters and smog-drenched forests are equally bad, if not worse.

Furthermore, the Bush Administration's myopic and arcane energy policy, which basically calls for drilling anywhere there's the potential to find oil or natural gas, has placed millions of acres of public lands used for hunting, hiking, camping, and fishing at risk for drilling, road building, and deforestation. Bush can go hide away in Crawford while the rest of us stare in misery at the destruction of those few remaining places in our country where we can go bugle at an elk, hold a glittering trout, and stand on a mountain top, look around for miles in blissful solitude while shrugging off the mantle of industrialized America. If you love the great outdoors, then your only hope to keep it GREAT is to keep Bush out of office.

We, as Americans, have been endowed a great gift in our wilderness areas. Thanks to the foresight of Teddy Roosevelt and others, we are able to enjoy the sights and smells of relatively unchanged lands, where herds of cervids roam free, trout and other game fish swim in clean water that we, in turn, might use to cool our necks or quench our thirst.

All of that is in grave danger because of Bush's horrible environmental record.

To think that John Kerry wants to take your guns away is an ignorant, uninformed position. But to think that George Bush is going to sell off or destroy your natural resources is a proven fact based on his administration's record.

SUPPORT THE TROOPS

As of this publication, 1,100 US troops have died in Iraq. Six of them were from Maine. In Afghanistan, two Mainers have died. The Department of Defense reports 7,862 US troops have been wounded in Iraq. And up to 15,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed since the invasion. Please be aware of these tragic and painful losses as you go about your day. And do what you can to support the troops and their loved ones, and remember them after they've returned.



AMERICAN ELECT. CONT FROM PG. 1

Methinks that revolutionary types, America's true citizens, are stumped at what to do in a phony election process, a country of phony freedoms, phony media, even phony education.

Have you noticed that not one of the two lead male characters in the "Election Process Theater" has mentioned the word: "Sovereignty?"

Quo Warranto? How are these things decided? By whose authority?

Wars for instance. Energy for instance. They don't even mention that the things they promise to give or take from us in our personal lives are things that should remain in the realm of privacy. The freedom of privacy, a right not a gift, it was once believed.

The Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights, undebatable in a country such as the one they lead us to believe we live in.

Last fall. October. A rainy night, I was reading something lite. Something to help digest my supper. I'm joking. This kind of reading is bad for digestion. But people who read this sort of stuff don't participate in the Election Process Theater with any sort of enthusiasm. Maybe they don't vote at all.

Hillary is wrong. Ralph Nader didn't cause Gore to lose. He never once promised to honor sovereignty of the American people. He only talked about things he would give or take when he talked in plain straight out english at all.

Not that he could have honored our dignity, our so-called sovereignty, our personhood. In fact, Ralph Nader, if he could somehow become prez in the year 2004 could not undo the vast financial system, its culture, its institutions which do have personhood.

Ralph Nader cannot save us. No one person or two persons can save us. It would be insulting to deep thinkers to suggest Mr. Nader and Mr. Camejo could do that sorta magic. It takes us to save us. But...in my kitchen I have a stained, wrinkly, moldy little note I tacked up 20 years ago over the sink. It's a remark by a guy named Larry White. He said: "The significance of some leaders may lie more in what they

come to represent than what they actually accomplish."

Back to the October night when I was reading "The Grand Chessboard". It was raining hard. A dog barked in the near distance. Two dogs barked actually. Headlights flashed on the walls. Went to the door.

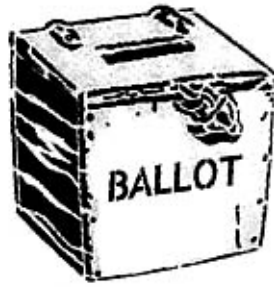
It was three friends: Richard Grossman, Rita Kubiak, W.D. Kubiak and a friend of theirs up visiting from Florida: Lt. Col. Robert Bowman, the retired director of Star Wars under Ford, Carter and Reagan. No, not the movie, "Star Wars." Oh yes, under Ford and Carter...you say there was no Star Wars then?

What the Loyal Subjects don't know won't hurt them, it is believed.

In walked the Lt. Col. Holy Smokes. I have never seen a straighter-shouldered guy in my house. He wore a long black coat like they all do behind closed doors or on the way to closed doors. His hair was feathered...or whatever that is...and he carried a valise as big and black as my jeep and probably better made. In his other hand a black umbrella like I remember they all carried at Kennedy's funeral. He had droplets of water all over him from the blowing wild rain.

My house has plywood floors, a gas range with only one knob that works, partially digested dog rawhide chews tossed about in corners and in chairs. He asked me if I wanted to take his umbrella and coat. I suggested he better hang onto them.

He spent a few hours with us, eating rhubarb pie and telling us stuff. He had a military accent. Excellent teeth. He confirmed all the stuff I'd been reading for the last few decades. He said yes, they are making concentration camps here in the USA, he'd seen them. For the poor. For immigrants. For dissidents, he said. He said yes there are conspiracies, that the phrase "conspiracy theory" is silly. Just say "conspiracies." He said that if a president tried to give America free medical, (not central-



**Our dreams
cannot fit in their
ballot boxes.**

ized insurance company as the Democrats now propose) but free medical for us all, that that president would be very quickly killed, probably a crashed plane.

He said that at discussion groups such as the Trilateral Commission and

the Redwood Hideaway of the Bechtel family, among many hidey holes these types meet in, it is decided who the two leading characters in the Election Theater will be long before campaigns begin.

I want to say here that I voted for Ralph Nader in the last two elections. It was either that or not vote at all. Hillary is wrong.

I will probably vote for Ralph Nader for the rest of my life. I'm not a Green.(Greens are too wholesome.)

I am an Anarcho-Libertarian Anti-Federalist Conspiracy scholar.

There are thousands of Americans, I think, who each represent a party of one...just like Jefferson said in religion, he was a "sect of one." That is what America was supposed to be: Freedom; I grew up thinking so.

My husband Michael says he wants to do what he did in the state goober election. He wrote on his ballot, "Whichever way you vote you get the royal screw." Then he drew two screws. Standard screw was Republican. Phillips screw was Democrat.

Last spring we decided we'd try to organize an election day theater piece of our own. Though no one was interested. We have a friend who has an old hearse. We have another friend with a Bush mask. I'm sure we could find a Kerry mask. And 2 guys could ride in the front seat of the hearse while wearing these masks. A coffin in the back. On the back window these words: DEATH of Democracy. (Not that we've ever had much democracy but it was sort've a cool thought).

Behind the hearse would trail a funeral procession of a dozen or more cars. We

would drive exceedingly slow through The Maine Mall parking lot and other such busy places which normally prohibit free speech.

The funeral procession behind the hearse would chug along with windows rolled down and all its many passengers wailing and keening, weeping and sobbing, sniveling and bawling and howling loudly.

I am furious that these creatures of great wealth and power and addiction to more power are behind closed doors creating for us (the people) a contest between two phonies. Too phony people. Too phony ideologies. The entire contest is phony. They say it's between Democrats and Republicans. But the only real contest is between the people and the aliens. That's the real contest. Oh yes, the people have been mostly neutered into consumers, rural vs. city, honor students versus "special." We are the trusting loyal subjects. So much for we the people. But we are people. So the real contest is EARTHlings versus the Invaders. From. The. Planet. Of. Mega Mammon. But especially we are up against the system which has allowed these aliens to take over EARTH.

Get this straight. We need to give up trust in big systems. We need to laugh at the elections. It is yes, theater, which will get much worse if we keep letting them direct it. And if we continue to believe it is real. The wars are not funny. Their CIA-inspired terror attacks are not funny. Their destroying the air and water isn't funny. Their prisons, jails and concentration camps are not funny. What they are doing to our youngsters in their Prussian-model schools isn't funny. Their prohibitions and related corruptions are not funny. Their clever, oh yes, ingenious weird P.R. and propaganda isn't funny. Their stealing our sovereignty isn't funny. But they are funny. They look funny. We don't see them very often. They hide behind their hired front men like Kerry and Bush, and their cops, but they really do look very funny.

To vote for Ralph Nader and Peter Camejo who represent honesty and strength of character, a strength of character which is remarkable, is one of the few dignifying actions we thinking people can take in these difficult times.

- CAROLYN CHUTE

THE ICE COMPANIES

A Fable

by Herschel Sternlieb

**Once upon a time, there were two ice companies,
the Democrats and the Republicans.**

**The Democrats promised to deliver their ice in the summer, but most of
the time they delivered cold water.**

**The Republicans also promised to deliver their ice in the summer, but
instead delivered it in the winter.**



By: Becca Glaser

Goodman, Zinn and Chomsky on Media, Democracy, and War

On August 13, 2003, I heard progressive icons Amy Goodman, Howard Zinn, and Noam Chomsky speak at a fundraiser for Cape Cod's community radio station, WOMR-FM. They spoke to a sold out audience of 700 in Provincetown.

Reporter Amy Goodman is co-host of the national radio show Democracy Now! which is broadcast on 270 stations, including Maine's WERU-FM (89.9 and 102.9) Monday to Friday from 5-6 PM. Goodman spoke about community media. "If we don't use it, we're going to lose it," she said, "We need independent media in this country. The media must be challenged and changed in this country." Goodman was critical of the mainstream media's coverage of the US war on Iraq. She questioned the ethics and objectiveness of news outlets who used the Department Of Defense's own slogan for the war: 'Operation: Iraqi Freedom' in their reporting, as well as other ways in which the military has gotten "cozy" with the mainstream media. Goodman asked, "If we had State Media in this country, how would it be any different?" Since reporters were embedded with US soldiers in Iraq, she asked, "Why not embed reporters in Iraqi families? Why not embed reporters in the peace movement in this country? We have to challenge this kind of media-military relationship that has only grown."

"After Sept. 11th," Goodman said, "we were all united with victims of terror around the world." She said people were compassionate towards the US, which could have made stronger alliances between countries, but "unfortunately, people in the US started saying, 'USA! USA!'...a chilling chant, and it's not the answer." Goodman believes the Bush Administration is "destabilizing the world", and that one good thing is that, "George Bush is managing to unite the world...against him." She said it's very important that we remember grassroots success stories, citing the independence of East Timor, the death penalty moratorium in Illinois, and Congress' rebuking of the FCC's new loosened regulations--being led by critical congress people as diverse as "Barbara Boxer to Trent Lott." People around the world see the US as "the shield or the sword," either coming to the US for help, or knowing that the US provides weapons used against them, she said. "We make a decision every day of our lives whether we want to represent the sword or the shield," Goodman concluded.

Author and professor Noam Chomsky was asked to speak about strategies for change. He said though there is "no

magic key," there are basic truisms which make change: "Hard work, refusal to submit to frustration, and failures, (not just one or ten letters), a dedicated permanent commitment to the only strategies for change that are known: education (self as well), organizing, participation, careful choice of actions that fit your goals." He said it's a slow process. He said that "popular struggle is much more advanced in other places [than the US]." He said the US was not founded as a democracy, but as a polyarchy, and that there is "a long task ahead to create a functioning democracy." He said, "Our privilege carries with it responsibility. Use the freedom and privilege for the benefit of the people who need assistance." He said there is no historical precedent for the recent global activist movements.

Chomsky believes "Freedom of speech is protected in the US which has no counterpart anywhere else in the world." And says we got this freedom by the civil rights struggle.

When asked about the 2004 Presidential election, he said we need to look at how people vote, as well as the strategies of people in power. Chomsky criticized the way election campaigns are now run. He said campaign strategies purposely focus on getting a name in office, "directing voters to qualities, instead of issues." He cautioned activists from the belief that simply putting a Democrat in the Presidential office in 2004 is all that must be done, reminding the audience that they should focus just as much on local representative elections. Chomsky said that polls conducted immediately prior to the 2000 presidential election showed that 75% of the population "regarded the election as a farce carried out by PR." He believes that many election campaigns are now run to "prevent people from recognizing the issues," instead "directing them to 'qualities.'" He said that this sort of campaign strategy is designed to make voters feel helpless, and discourage them from actually voting, in addition to skirting the true issues such as National Health Care (which he says 75% of people support) and the Environment. He said that "voting is skewed very much to the wealthy."

According to Chomsky, the current National Security Strategy is "to maintain permanent control of the world."

Chomsky said the Bush administration is "carrying out the same script as in the 80's"

under Reagan, by cutting taxes for the rich, combined with massive overspending. He said unpaid debts are good for the economy. He said this strategy will enable the Republicans to later say, "We're in a horrible fiscal crisis," giving them an excuse to destroy the Social Security System, and to "roll back the progressive legislation of the last century." The only way to get the population to accept such changes, he claimed, is "by inspiring fear. One scare after another is the only way to keep the population under control." He compared the current US and Germany just before the Nazi take-over. Germany went from being one of the most vibrant, open countries in the world to becoming "the greatest mass-murderers of all time." He recommends the Democrat/Green/Left strategy for our next elections be to bring the issues into the public.

Howard Zinn lives near Provincetown. Zinn is a historian and author, best known for the book "A People's History of The United States". He began his talk by stating, "I'm constantly encouraged--because I talk to people who are constantly discouraged--when I see people like this [audience], and when I think that this kind of [gathering] is happening all over the country." Zinn believes the truth is beginning to come out that, "We are not liberating Iraq; we are occupying Iraq." He found it ironic that the US purports to want to bring democracy to the world, but when democracy is actually working (as it did when the Turkish government obeyed the wishes of the 95% majority of its people who didn't want to be involved in the war against Iraq), the Bush administration and the Pentagon acted as though they wished Turkey was not a democracy.

Zinn said, "George Bush is the worst President we've ever had in my memory, and I remember as far back as George Washington...What is our job? The secret is getting people together, telling the truth. All of us have neighbors, at our jobs-ways in which we can communicate to people, and steer them to sources of information which differ from major media." He encouraged the audience to do everything we can, "From the smallest to the largest-from writing a letter to the editor to civil disobedience. We all do what we can do. No action too small or too large for us."

Zinn concluded, "I think there's something more ominous than the occupation of Iraq, and that is the occupation of the United States. You know, we live in a beautiful country. It's been taken over, and our job is to take it back. Thank you."

PASSAMAQUODDY: CONT FROM PG 1

actually received clear understandable information about the project?

On June 22, 2004 Maine's governor leveraged his political power by sending his emissaries, comprised of top cabinet members, to personally deliver a message to members of Sipayik that LNG is not only good for "Indians", it's good for Maine. Later he says, "If Passamaquoddy's don't want it, I don't want it." Which is it?

On the evening of August 3, 2004, during a Passamaquoddy Tribal council meeting, Governor Melvin Francis promised that a referendum would be held in 90-days. Less than 2 weeks later, on Friday, August 13, 2004 members of Sipayik received notice in a local newsletter that the Passamaquoddy Governor and Tribal Council would hold a special referendum the following Tuesday, August 17, 2004. Even with all the media coverage for Quoddy Bay LCC, only one indigenous leader within all of Wabanaki territory, Passamaquoddy Traditional Sakom, Hugh Akagi, has expressed concern. In agreement with Akagi's position, hastening and manipulating an internal tribal process on an issue bearing such magnitude (LNG in Passamaquoddy Territory) evidences no process.

Despite the fiery pace and the pressure put on the situation by both tribal leaders and the company wishing to bring in the LNG, Passamaquoddy people are clearly not united on the issue of LNG. Like Sipayik's tribal council's 4-3 vote on August 3, 2004 calling for a non-binding referendum, the referendum on August 17, 2004 belies any misconceptions that Sipayik members are wholeheartedly committed to the prospects of a LNG terminal. Like other coastal communities of Maine, the vote proved once again there's community division, and not unanimity. Coupled with the issue of electoral irregularities, it's not fair to over generalize the sentiment of Passamaquoddy voters as majority rules, especially since the referendum process itself can be easily recalled.



Photo Credit: Donald Soctomah

Pulpit Rock, sacred rock formation in Passamaquoddy Bay.

Eroding the spirit of sovereignty: Consent or Conflict of Interests? Questioning the LNG Process on Tribal Land and in Tribal Lives

"We have, as a company, no ability to make a determination about when they voted or didn't vote. That was up to them. They had to make a choice. There is no question that along the way we had very candid discussions about the need to move with/at a relatively rapid speed. But that's not pressuring the government. They could have chosen not to continue, not to have a vote. They chose to do so."

-(WERU FM interview with James Mitchell, Quoddy Bay LLC, 9/21/04)

Just because Quoddy Bay LLC deems it expedient, is LNG on Tribal land a forgone conclusion? Whether written or oral, contracts are supposed to state the obligations of, and benefits to, the parties in question. Reasonably enough, contracts, agreements or implied contracts are also creatures of domestic legal terminology. At its best and most basic, the search for truth about LNG (an energy mega-project) on tribal lands and in tribal lives needs to include indigenous voices.

Otherwise, the concept of cultural damage will never be a consideration in the impact assessments, a consideration that is concerned with the real impacts of

industrialization within a culturally distinct location. By cultural damage, I mean two things. The proposed site for a LNG terminal will prevent free access to traditional grasslands and sacred sites, which includes the rocky shoreline that has served as the home to megaliths, geo-myths, and our religious beliefs in Wonakomeswok (translated to mean "little people") However, it's not just our traditional lands/ ancestral waters that are under assault, it's our deepest cultural beliefs - our religion, which help form our Passamaquoddy sense of identity that is also at risk of being extinguished.

With that said, I will propose several questions to the people of Maine (and New England):

Have Passamaquoddy's, as the actual occupants and owners of tribal land and territorial waters, been adequately and explicitly informed about the complexities and consequences implicit in the potential siting of a liquefied natural gas import terminal on tribal lands, a residential area populated by members of the Passamaquoddy tribe?

More to the point, do local, tribal electoral irregularities -domestic interferences brought on by the inducements of corporate interests- cause any concern about Quoddy Bay LLC's recent announcement that an agreement to



"lease tribal lands" to an undisclosed entity is pending? Quoddy Bay LLC in the guise of a party having a genuine interest in the well being and future of the Passamaquoddy people is planning to capitalize on the location and advantageous tax benefits of the tribe.

Put another way, can Passamaquoddy consider the specific purposes of any contract in light of the fact that there has literally been no disclosure concerning the proposed LNG import terminal?

More importantly, how can distressed communities be assured that local officials are safeguarding their interests, when the same officials have personal interest in the outcome?

As we have seen in Maine's coastal communities this past year, the situation is now so acute, critical awareness of unjust social structures and political relationships is our only hope if any healthy debate about LNG can occur statewide.

Considering the historical patterns proving how, time and time again, indigenous people are left insolvent, to ignore the issue of traditional life ways is antithetical to indigenous culture/tradition. The proposed site and port will essentially be a site for hazardous materials, which is in direct opposition to Passamaquoddy values. Therefore, any lease, any sale or any transfer of ownership of tribal lands and territorial waters should always be scrutinized.

Instead of mistaking corporate intrusion for an "internal tribal matter," all those concerned about indigenous freedom and independence need to critically debate issues relating to the erosion of Passamaquoddy culture.

Sovereignty issues are not always glamorous - issues of sovereignty are after all more often messy than they are neat, and not simple but remarkably complex. Allies of indigenous people should always be wary of state interpretation of indigenous issues.

After all, the principle of self-government, as essential as it is to this analysis, is widely divergent from the actions of tribes clinging to (state) municipal powers.

While many tribal members openly question the validity of any transfer of ownership of Passamaquoddy land, many liberal-minded folks who are always in position to demand accountability from their own political entities too often call for a hands-off-approach (liberal individualism).

Why? "Internal tribal matter" is not an umbrella term to be used to protect against exposing demonstrations of disproportionate leveraging of political power. In that, the State of Maine or its representatives have never been effective guardians of indigenous rights. But when tribal officials are forced to turn to the same authorities that have a vested interest in the outcome, the standard of protection for native communities are made insufficient, maybe even impossible.

It's not wise, however, to conclude that the only structures and processes indigenous people have available are the replicas of Western models. Aside from the



Photo Credit: Marty Saccone

Passamaquoddy Bay - Site of proposed LNG terminal

tribal council structure, we do have our own social processes, where making links between the micro-political situation to the macro one is part of our critical analysis; and where emphasis is not just focused on the individual right but also on the collective rights of the Passamaquoddy nation.

An ethical breach in democratic process (a bypass of local approvals) is hardly all that is at issue. Bringing to light whether Passamaquoddy people have freely chosen to "lease lands" and whether or not those initiating an agreement are truly considering the best interests of all Passamaquoddy people is what is at issue here.

Are the parties involved equally represented? In my view, Passamaquoddy land ownership interests are being forced into closed-door negotiations with a domestic entity (State of Maine) and multinational corporations (an unknown entity) without any oversight and monitoring.

Whose responsibility is it to ensure corporate accountability within structures that have historically operated adversely to indigenous people? Should the corporate veil of secrecy be allowed to drive Maine Indian policy today?

I wholeheartedly doubt that even NAFTA has any application on tribal land and territorial waters. However, will the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) preempt authority regardless of community objections?

Everything seems to point in that direction. After all, the United States Congress has strongly recommended that these facilities not be built within 3 miles of populated areas. However it is certain that Quoddy Bay LLC is going to follow FERC's less restrictive criteria of 1 mile, and will ignore the criteria recommended by Congress. Though many of Sipayik's tribal members actually reside within 1/8 of a mile from the proposed LNG import terminal site (situating it dead center of our village), the further away any gas supply is to its users, the higher the cost.

The State of Maine indeed has an interest in channeling natural gas to its users in the more urban areas of New England; introducing more gas lessens pressure on increasing tariffs, comforts users, lowers anticipated price increases, and avoids Canadian tariffs completely, all the while increasing the potential for more industrialization and thereby utilizing an established pipeline (in this case, the Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline) currently operating closer to 60% under capacity.

Again I pose the question being avoided by Quoddy Bay LLC: Is leasing upwards to at least 42 acres of tribal trust land for

a LNG import terminal an appropriate way to respond to the social and economic conditions of Passamaquoddy people?

Like the federal government's lack of regulatory oversight on LNG in the United States, Maine doesn't even have an energy plan. So why should tribal people's sovereignty be eroded - while the United States and Maine furiously try to catch up with American policies for globalization.

David Moses Bridges, a Passamaquoddy birch bark canoe maker, responds: "FERC regulates the industry, and it doesn't serve the people, it serves the industry. Oil falls under many regulations, gas does too, but LNG doesn't fall under any because it is so new to the U.S.A."

While a few tribal leaders and Quoddy Bay LLC, the developer desiring to get their hands on tribal lands and benefits, would have the public believe that the so called "vote" (held on August 17, 2004) whether or not to proceed to discuss a development was a victory for them. The "non-binding" referendum, forced upon tribal members, which now the aforementioned parties call a "mandate from the grassroots up" was far from a victory.

In effect, our consent to negotiate any terms for any lease is made suspect by the fact that 68% of our voting population either disagreed entirely with altering our environment from residential neighborhoods to a heavy industrial complex or have not even been given opportunity to decide. If traditional life ways have no bearing on the rationale to propose an LNG import terminal on tribal lands - be assured - sovereignty is being eroded, consent does not exist, and questions of conflicts of interest - at tribal and state government level - are magnified.

Even if for the sake of argument "decision-making" is central to sovereignty, what kind of processes are necessary to establish open systems on reservations in Maine?

If what you have in the mix includes state interference, corporate encroachment, and factional tribal leadership; one's dissent is met with exaggerated comments that suggest futility; and any attempt to counter a potentially harmful project like LNG is discouraged on every level; can one reasonably conclude that there is a "hostile corporate take-over" occurring on Passamaquoddy tribal lands?

Are there any assurances the Maine Human Rights Commission can make to the voiceless in Maine - if Passamaquoddy human rights are simply

being ignored.

What about our civil liberties? We call attention to our rights. It's supposed to be a given that as Passamaquoddy people, we have a right to fully participate in the social, political, economic decisions that affect our lives at community, state, national and international levels. Even in this informational age, disempowering Passamaquoddy people on these fundamental levels would not only be futile, it's an outdated mode of politics to intentionally try to take away the right of Passamaquoddy people to tell their own stories and represent themselves.

As sovereign people, Passamaquoddy have a right to live and flourish by a different set of values. We don't all want the same things but we do want mutual support and respect.

Every Passamaquoddy deserves to know whom these multinational corporations are; deserve to know the real issues, as well as, knowing the real price attached to LNG. More than this, we deserved ample opportunity to examine clear and understandable information about the "proposed" LNG import terminal being sought for Passamaquoddy Bay.

What are we dealing with? It's nothing new, it's the leveraging of corporate/state/factional politics - it's even less about tribal sovereignty - it's the same-old, age-old tactic, which continues to repeat over time. The promise of money and perks usually brings with it social disruption and a scramble by speculators to score.

The spirit of sovereignty cannot afford to be eroded with a breach in process; the dynamic Quoddy Bay LLC has ushered in should be made visible for others to view. Passamaquoddy deserve to pose questions, as well as, follow through with the question about any potential transfer of ownership of tribal lands to our satisfaction. Land loss is, after all, the greatest threat to indigenous survival.

As Indigenous people we not only have a right to make decisions - we have a right to control our resources and environments. If Maine's people are dissatisfied with the current lack of open debate, which is what I suspect, call into question the material evidence of interference of Passamaquoddy tribal procedures, ask for public hearings, demand respectful processes, support traditional life ways and engage direct democracy, as I ask for an apology from those who rushed into this arrogant display-this erosion of spirit. At the very least, vote in the upcoming election for those willing to defeat the divisive politics currently running unchecked in Maine. Hold your elected officials accountable to the fact that Maine's promise for a quality of life doesn't have to be at anybody else's expense. Until there are credible oversights established for LNG in the United States, and until the communities most likely impacted have a place to turn for reliable information, there should be a moratorium on establishing LNG import terminals. LNG in Maine calls for an open debate - LNG should not be preordained by a non-visible entity.

VERA FRANCIS



Maine Solidarity Calendar

October 21 - December 19, 2004 (updated and with more info at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>)

Thursday, October 21st

US Support for Israel's Occupation of Palestine
Phone: 581-386.
Time: 12:30 and 7:30 PM
Location: University of Maine, Orono
Info: Phyllis Bennis of Institute for Policy Studies speaks at Marxist-Socialist Series and 7:30 PM at the Schonberger lecture. Free.

Maine Native Prison Project
Email: karen@soundecology.org
Time: 7:30 PM

Location: WMPG Radio 90.9 and 104.1
Info: Val Cartonio speaks about the Maine Native Prison Project on Sound Ecology radio.

Friday, October 22nd

Vickie Boisseau Speaks About Gender
Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine
170 Park St., Bangor
Info: Learn about intersexuality issues and how you can help protect the rights of intersexed people

Martin Sherman's "Bent"
Phone: 581-1755

Time: 7:30 PM, Oct. 24 and 31 at 2pm
Location: Hauck Auditorium, UMO, Orono
Info: Play about struggles of gay men during the Holocaust. Mature audiences only. \$8 Admission. Runs 22-24, 29-31.

Saturday, October 23rd

SOUNDS OF PEACE:

A Community Celebration Through Music
Phone: Asha, 594-1794
Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Lincoln Street Center, 24 Lincoln St, Rockland
Info: musicians Michael Cooney and Anne Dodson join other performers for the second annual fundraising concert for Midcoast Peace & Justice Group. \$10

States of Heads: Unauthorized Portraits

Phone: 828-5600
Time: 6:00-8:00 PM
Location: Space, 538 Congress St., Portland
Info: Artist talk at 7:30 PM. Depictions of men in power, along with photos by Samantha Appleton of people of Iraq stuck in the middle of the war.

Great Maine Apple Day

Phone: John Bunker, Highmoor Farm 568-4142 or 933-2100
Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Location: Exhibition Hall at MOFGA's Common Ground in Unity, Maine.
Info: Fourth annual fall harvest. Celebrate everything apple. Admission \$2-4.

Sunday, October 24th

Highjacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear, and the Selling of American Empire

Phone: 942-9343
Email: info@peacectr.org
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park St., Bangor.
Info: video showing on loss of civil liberties and social programs. Free.

Monday, October 25th

Poor Peoples' Candidates Forum

Phone: Portland Tenants Union 775-0270, POWER 681-0035
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Chestnut Street Church, Portland
Info: regular people address our questions & concerns to candidates running for City Council. Sponsored by Bayside Neighborhood Association Portland Tenants Union, and Portland Organizing to Win Economic Rights [POWER]

Monday, October 26th

Greater Bangor NOW Chapter meeting

Phone: Day 989-3306, Evening 947-5337
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Location: Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 362 Harlow Street, Bangor
Info: Meets 3rd Monday of month.

Health Action 2004

Phone: 800-838-0388
Location: Augusta
Info: Conference on affordable health care and honoring of John Baldacci. Consumers for Affordable Health Care

Tuesday, October 26th

Intersex Awareness Day

Location: Anywhere
Info: bodieslikeours.org, www.isna.org, itpeople.org

"Tell Us the Truth"

Phone: Norma Athearn, Midcoast Peace and Justice Group, 594-1478
Time: 6:30-8:30 PM
Location: Rockland Public Library, Limerock St., Rockland
Info: Media consolidation and international trade affecting music industry w/Billy Bragg. Video shown.

Connections: Breast Cancer & the Environment

Phone: Maine Breast Cancer Coalition, 800-928-2644 or Colby Environmental Studies Program, 872-3000
Time: 7:00 -9:00 PM,
Location: 1 Olin Science Building, Colby College, Waterville.
Info: Cheryl Osimo of Silent Spring organization speaks on connections between breast cancer and the environment.

Tuesday, October 27th

Peer Mediation Coordinator Training

Phone: Pam Anderson, 780-4159
Email: pamela@usm.maine.edu.
Location: University of Maine, Orono
Info: for K-12 educators. Til October 28th

"Bombies"

Phone: 326-4405
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Blue Hill Library
Info: Canadian film about the U.S war on Laos from 1964-1973. Discussion to follow.

Wednesday, October 28th

"Engaged Buddhism and Socialism,"

Phone: 581-3860
Time: 12:30 PM
Location: Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono.
Info: Sulak Sivaraksa speaks at Marxist-Socialist Series

Documentary Film: Zero Day

Phone: 828-5600
Time: 7:30 PM
Location: Space, 538 Congress St., Portland
Info: video diaries of two high school students who came to school one day with guns, knives, and explosives.

Friday, October 29th

Red Cross Blood Drive

Phone: 828-5600
Time: 12-5 PM
Location: Space, 538 Congress St., Portland
"DON'T KILL IN OUR NAMES"
Phone: 326-4405
Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Blue Hill Public Library
Info: Rachel King discusses her book "Don't Kill In Our Names: Families of Murder Victims Speak Against the Death Penalty". Co-sponsored by the Volunteers for Hancock County Jail Residents and Blue Hill Books

Saturday, October 30th

COVER BANDS!!!

Email: Ryan xrwyinx@yahoo.com
Time: TBA
Location: TBA
Info: \$5
The Company Anthem (Fifteen or DHYS?)
Tom Savage Explosion (Green Day)
DTK (Fear or Black Flag)
By Misadventure (Hot Water Music?)
Scary Mary (Guns And Roses)

Genocide in Darfur, Sudan

Phone: Tony 326-9574
Email: tonyaman@gwi.net
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: Unitarian-Universalist Church, 121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth.
Info: program with Wells Staley-Mays and people from Darfur now living in Portland, w/ potluck at 5:30 PM.

Sunday, October 31st

Halloween Vigil

Phone: 671-4292
Time: 12:00-1:00 PM
Location: Begin on S. Portland side of Casco Bay Bridge and spread back across to Portland.
Info: Casco Bay Bridges for Peace will be holding a special vigil on the Sunday before the elections. Dress up in your halloween costume!

Monday, November 1st

Pre-Election Rant and Rave

Phone: Karen 831-9568
Email: karen@soundecology.org
Time: 5:00-7:00PM
Location: 90.9/104.1FM or live-stream at <http://www.wmpg.org>
Info: Green Party Vice Presidential Candidate, Pat LaMarche will co-host Sound Ecology special taking calls from around Maine and will be joined by local candidates and representatives from Maine's referendum questions.

Tuesday, November 2nd

Election Day

Location: statewide, including voting and collecting of signatures on referenda petitions. Signature collecting details on H2O for ME campaign (charging water bottlers for water extracted) by calling 628-6404.

"Creating Your Own Future"

Time: 9:00 AM-2:30 PM
Location: Acadia Hall, U/Maine, Bangor.
Info: Women, Work, and Community, 800-442-2092 or www.womenworkandcommunity.org. (Also, "Basics of Stating a Business" on Nov. 2, 9, 16, 9:30-noon.)

Thursday, November 4th

Peer Leadership Conference for Youth,

Phone: Maine Youth Action Network, Sue Sanford, 622-7566 x232 or
Email: ssanford@med.org
Location: Atlantic Oakes, Bar Harbor.
Info: November 4-5:

Fifth annual Fitzgerald Award Dinner

Phone: Maine Citizens Against Handgun Violence, 780-0501 or
Email: info@mcahv.org
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Sheraton Tara Hotel, S. Portland.
Info: honoring Lois Reckitt w/speaker Tom Andrews,

Friday, November 5th

Farmer to Farmer Conference

Phone: Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, 568-4142
Email: mofga@mofga.org or
Web: www.mofga.org
Info: Nov. 5-7: , Gouldsboro (5) and Atlantic Oakes in Bar Harbor (6-7).

Saturday, November 6th

Long Range Post-Election Planning

Phone: 942-9343
Email: info@peacectr.org.
Time: 1:00-4:00 PM
Location: Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park St., Bangor

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine Annual Meeting

Phone: 800-218-9885
Location: Piper Shores, 15 Piper Rd., Scarborough.
Info: w/program on "ethical wills"

Peace & Justice Action Planning Session

Phone: 942-9343
email: info@peacectr.org
Time: 1:00 -4:00 PM
Location: Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park Street, Bangor
Info: to review progress on our strategic planning goals and to continue to develop specific ways to strengthen the Center.

Holiday Craft Fair

Phone: Bob Winters 564-7259
Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Location: Grange hall on East Sangerville Road, Sangerville
Info: East Sangerville Grange annual Holiday Craft Fair.\$1.

Tuesday, November 9th

End Hunger Now Campaign

Time: 4:00-8:00 PM
Location: O'Naturals in Falmouth
Info: Partners in Ending Hunger fundraising event

Thursday, November 11th

Veterans Day Parade

Email: jafabussell@gwi.net
Time: 9:30 AM
Location: Longfellow Square, Portland
Info: Join Veterans for Peace in mourning all victims of war.

Friday, November 12th

Building Bridges: Leadership Training

Phone: Diane Gilman, National Coalition Building Institute, 882-8022
Web: www.ncbimaine.org.
Location: Portland
Info: weekend workshop for managing diversity and advocating for others. November 12-14

Annual Gathering of War Tax Resisters

Phone: 525-7776
Email: Stephen Soucy, sjsoucy@downeast.net or Larry Dansinger, invert@acadia.net
Location: The New School, 38 York St., Kennebunk.
Info: Annual gathering of war tax resisters and those interested in resisting war tax in New England. November 12-14

Saturday, November 13th

Accordian Rally

Phone: Joe 667-0260
Location: Trenton Grange, Trenton
Info: Fourth Annual. Evening talent show. \$10

3rd Annual Harvest Craft Fair

Phone: Mark Lindquist 828-0048 ext. 112
Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Location: Portland Exposition Building 100
Info: Maine craftsmen & fine artists fair sponsored by Port Resources Inc.

Sunday, November 14th

"Bonhoffer"

Phone: Randy Kezar (603) 642-8265
Email: rkezar@rcn.com.
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Friends Meeting House, Dover, NH
Info: film about opposing fascism during World War II

Tuesday, November 16th

PUNK as F**%K

Email: cory.hooper@umit.maine.edu
Time: 6:00PM
Location: The Industry, Portland
Info: \$10. Tix available from bullmoose music or email *The Casualties*Lower Class Brats*Scary Mary*MORE TBA!!!

Tuesday, November 16th

Low Impact Forestry Workshop.

Location: MOFGA Education Center, Unity.
Phone: 568-4142
Email: mofga@mofga.org
Info: November 18-20 (changed from Nov. 11-13)

Friday, November 19th

Annual Ending Hunger Campaign

Phone: 1-800-STOP HUN(GER)
Location: statewide
Info: to raise awareness about groups working against hunger in Maine. Till November 29th.

Saturday, November 20th

Peace through Interamerican Community Action (PICA) Annual Auction
Phone: 947-4203



Web: www.pica.ws
 Time: 3:00-6:00 PM
 Location: College Center, University College,, 210 Texas Ave., Bangor.
 Info: to benefit Bangor-El Salvador sister city

Sunday, November 21st

Peace, Propaganda, and the Promised Land
 Phone: 942-9343
 Email: info@peacectr.org
 Time: 6:00 PM,
 Location: Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park St., Bangor
 Info: video about Israel-Palestine conflict

Tuesday, November 23rd

Fixing the Burn: Climate Change, Mercury Transport, and the Plant Next Door
 Phone: Norma Athearn 594-1478
 Time: 6:30-8:30 PM
 Location: Library, Limerock St., Rockland
 Info: program on Dragon Cement and environmental issues presented by Toxics Action Network

Friday, December 3rd

"Authentic Communication"
 Phone: 789-5299
 Email: peggy_smith@fivetowns.net
 Info: training based on Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication
 Location: Hutchinson Center, U/Maine, Belfast.
 Info: December 3-5:

Thursday, December 9th

"Sentencing Institute"
 Phone: Sue Rudalevige, Maine Council of Churches, 772-1918
 Email: srudalevige@mainecouncilofchurches.org
 Location: Samoset Resort, Rockport
 Info: conference on criminal justice issues, December 9-10:

Tuesday, December 14th

Holiday Bazaar
 Phone: 874-9868
 Location: 144 Cumberland Avenue, Portland
 Info: Time Dollar members will bring crafts and items that they will trade for time dollars.

Sunday, December 19th

All Quiet on the Western Front
 Phone: 942-9343
 Email: info@peacectr.org
 Time: 6:00 PM
 Location: Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park Street, Bangor
 Info: Peace & Justice Center Film Series

Monthly Repeating Events

Mondays

Maine Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty
 Phone: 884-7407
 Location: Canterbury House, Orono
 Info: Meets 1st Monday of each month.
Clean Clothes Campaign Meetings
 Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
 Phone: 947-4203
 Location: Peace & Justice Center, Bangor
 Info: Working to eliminate sweatshops and to encourage Bangor area businesses to carry clothing made in a socially responsible way. Meets 1st Monday of month.

Greater Bangor NOW Chapter meeting
 Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
 Phone: Day 989-3306, Evening 947-5337
 Location: Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 362 Harlow Street, Bangor
 Info: Meets 3rd Monday of month.

Peace Action Maine Disarmament Committee Meeting
 Time: 6:00 PM
 Phone: 772-0680
 Location: Peace & Justice Center, 1 Pleasant St, 4th floor, Portland
 Info: Meets 1st Monday each month.

Tuesdays

Maine Time Dollar Network Gathering
 Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Phone: 874-9868
 Web: www.mtdn.org
 Location: The Family Workshop, 215 Congress Street, Portland
 Info: Potluck. Time Dollars are a community currency in Portland. Meet other Time Dollar members and share great food and conversation, while building community and having fun. 4th Tuesday each month.

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

Wednesdays

People's Free Space Free Movies
 Phone: 879-2699
 Email: info@peoplesfreespace.org
 Location: Portland West, 181 Brackett ST. (across from Reiche School), Portland
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Info: movies Outfoxed and Amadala--movie showings the last Wednesday of the month

Midcoast Peace & Justice Group Meetings
 Phone: 273-3247
 Time: 7:00-9:00 PM
 Location: Unitarian Universalist Church, Broadway, Rockland
 Info: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month

Peninsula Peace & Justice Group Meetings
 Phone: 326-4405
 Time: 6:30 PM
 Location: Liberty School, South Street, Blue Hill.
 Meets 2nd Wednesday of month

Thursdays

Northern Lambda Nord Meeting
 Time: 6:30 PM
 Phone: 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

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

Weekly Repeating Events

Sundays

Bridges for Peace
 Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
 Web: www.peacebridges.org
 Location: Bridges throughout the state.
 Info: Weekly peace demonstration. See website for specifics.

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: robbs@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
 Location: downtown Skowhegan

South Berwick Peace Vigil
 Time: 11:30 AM - 12:00 noon
 Email: renalasel@hotmail.com
 Location: War Memorial, Rt. 4, S. Berwick

Yoga every Sunday Morning
 Phone: 879-2699

Email: info@peoplesfreespace.org
 Time: 9:00 AM
 Location: 62 Forest Ave., 2nd Floor, Portland

Mondays

Youth Adelantando Meeting
 Time: 5:15 PM - 7:30 PM
 Phone: 947-4203
 Location: Peace & Justice Center, Bangor
 Info: A self-governed group of youth working on building connections between youth in El Salvador & Maine, corporate control, & peace work.

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

Deer Isle Peace Vigil
 Time: 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM
 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
 Location: Outright Space above Portland Glass, 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
 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, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and allies.

Let Cuba Live Meetings
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Phone: 273-3247
 Web: 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: rolloffid@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: tinuviel@lovenotwar.us
 Location: Salmon Falls Bridge

Thursdays

MDI United For Peace
 Time: 7:00 PM
 Contact: Jeff or Kyla

Phone: 288-8199
 Location: Bar Harbor YWCA, Mount Desert Street

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

Fridays

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

Lewiston/Auburn Outright
 Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
 Phone: 786-2717
 Web: www.outrightla.org
 Location: 145 Lisbon St, Room 302, Lewiston
 Info: Safe drop-in space and meeting for GLBTQ youth ages 22 and under.

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

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

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

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.

Saturdays

Eastport Peace Vigil
 Time: 12:30 PM
 Email: 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), Houlton

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
 Location: Post Office, Winthrop



Veteran Newsman Recalls Ferreting Out Bush OUI Conviction

By: STEVE CARTWRIGHT

Ted Cohen laughs about becoming a truckdriver after 30 years of reporting. But he believes there is nothing funny about his editors sitting on his story about George W. Bush's drunk-driving conviction in 1976.

In 2000, as a veteran reporter for the Portland Press Herald, he was the first to dig out the information that George W. Bush has been convicted of drunk driving in Maine, 24 years earlier. He took that story to his editor four years ago, three months before the muddled Presidential election in which Bush was installed as President by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Cohen said he acted on a hunch when he asked Kennebunkport police chief Robert Sullivan if he had ever had any run-ins with Bush. Yes, Sullivan told him, he had arrested Bush, then 30, for operating under the influence. "I've been a real aggressive reporter for 30 years, and I'm proud of it. I went on instinct," he said, figuring that any young man in Kennebunkport in the summertime might have had an encounter with local law enforcement. He checked the court

records in Biddeford, where he had been the paper's bureau chief, and there was the proof. "No one handed me the story," said Cohen, 53, now a South Portland resident.

But when Cohen brought his story back to the newsroom, his editors spiked it, calling it a non-story, old news. Cohen, who considers the story an important news scoop, now wishes he had fought harder for the story, and not simply accepted the editors' decision to kill it. He didn't leak the story to any other news agencies, he said, because to him that would be unethical. Shortly before the November 2000 election, Erin Fehlau, a reporter for the Portland Fox News affiliate WPXT-TV, stumbled on the story and it finally aired across the country. A call to that station revealed it no longer has a news department.

Cohen, meanwhile, has left the news business and graduated from tractor-trailer driving school. He is now working for Vermont-based Land Air Express in Scarborough.

Some pundits said in 2000 that the story broke too late to have much impact on the

election. Others said Bush's problems with alcohol had already been revealed, although none of his biographers had uncovered the incident in Kennebunkport, where the Bush family has an oceanfront summer home. If the Press Herald had run the story, would things be different today?

Cohen is humble enough to admit that's debatable. "We'll never know." Yet at least one Maine journalist told Cohen he thought Bush would have lost by a clear margin if the drunk driving story had broken earlier. Republican Bush, then governor of Texas, lost the popular vote to former Vice President Al Gore, a Democrat, and the U.S. Supreme Court resolved the disputed electoral vote in Bush's favor.

Emmet Meara of Camden, who spent 30 years reporting for The Bangor Daily News, said he is convinced Bush would have been a clear loser if the drunk driving story had gotten out in July 2000. As it was, the late-breaking news appeared to have hurt Bush in his last days of campaigning, said Meara, who now works for The Camden Herald.

"I like to think it would have reversed the results," said Cohen. The story may have reversed Cohen's fortunes. Cohen claims he was fired earlier this year, and he traces friction with his superiors back to their refusal to publish the Bush scoop. Editors in Portland have declined comment, but a statement from the Press Herald called Cohen "a disgruntled former employee" who walked away from his job. Jeannine Guttman, Press Herald editor, did not return calls seeking comment.

Cohen said he has a certified letter showing he was terminated by the Press Herald, even after the newspaper's doctor recommended he be assigned a different

supervisor. The Newspaper Guild has filed a grievance on Cohen's behalf. According to Cohen, problems worsened when Ryan Blethen, son of Seattle Times publisher Frank Blethen, became regional editor last year. The Blethens purchased the Press Herald and two other Maine papers from the Guy Gannett family in 1998, and Cohen believes he was singled out because he spoke out about the failure to publish the Bush story.

Meanwhile, the conservative Fox News Channel - criticized for pro-Bush reporting - is defending its "fair and balanced" slogan by claiming it broke the Bush OUI story days before the 2000 election. The Fox network's chief political correspondent, Carl Cameron, claims, according to the New York Observer, that he "was the reporter who broke the Bush (drunk driving) story." Cameron reportedly claimed that his "relationships with Republicans in the 2000 campaign didn't stop Fox from reporting the (drunk driving) story that Karl Rove said cost George Bush the popular vote."

President Bush has thus far not acknowledged his police record in Kennebunkport. The liberal website salon.com reports that when the drunk driving story hit the news in 2000, Fox News' Cameron said, "A lot of people are saying, '24 years ago? We knew the governor (Bush) has already disclosed his alcohol problem. What's the big deal?'"

Internet journalist Matt Drudge told Fox news, "We're talking tonight about a story about a guy pulled over for driving too slow with a little too many beers. This is amateur chump stuff." National Public Radio political correspondent Mara Liasson is quoted as saying, "I think it's going to have little effect on George W. Bush's chances for the White House. It's not a bombshell."

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Think

Every gun that is made,
every warship launched,
every rocket fired,
signifies - in the final sense, a theft



from those who hunger and are not fed,
those who are cold and not clothed.

This world in arms is not spending money alone.
It is spending the sweat of its laborers,
the genius of its scientists,
the hopes of its children.

This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud
of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.
Dwight D. Eisenhower, April 16, 1953

This ad was paid for by the Midcoast Peace and Justice Group
photo by Olive Pierce, Rockland Maine

To learn more about the Ad Campaign and other Midcoast Peace and Justice projects
call 273-3247 or email p_and_j@midcoast.com

Donations to expand the Ad Campaign will be gratefully accepted.
Please make checks out to: Midcoast Peace and Justice Group
and send to: Midcoast P&J Group, PO Box 453, Tenants Harbor, Maine 04860

Dragon Cement Plant Confronted By Locals

Neighbors for a Safe Dragon formed this year by people from around the Thomaston area for the purpose of assuring that the Dragon Cement Plant is operated in a safe and environmentally sound manner. Dragon Products Company's cement kiln dust waste-pile in Thomaston covers 15 acres and has grown to 845,000 tons. Dragon Products does not have a permit for this waste pile.

The EPA has found that cement kiln dust contains dioxin, chromium and lead, along with other toxic chemicals. Tests done by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) show that chromium and other compounds are contaminating the area. Dust from Dragon blows into neighbors' homes and yards. Blasting from Dragon's quarry is causing cracks in nearby structures and could damage underground gas

tanks less than a mile away. Dragon was bought by a Spanish company several years ago. Neighbors are worried about the health risks of workers and residents in the surrounding area.

The Maine DEP hasn't been doing enough to make sure Dragon complies with its rules. Tell Commissioner Dawn Gallagher at the Maine DEP to take action: (207) 287-7688. For more information or to help out please call: 594-8999

Fundraiser for Neighbors For A Safe Dragon: Masquerade Ball Oct 29, Watts Hall in Thomaston.
FMI: 594-8999





The Maine Commons is now accepting ads and inserts! Take advantage of our statewide volunteer-powered circulation to promote your non-profit group or local business!

Ads are priced per issue, depending on size, with discounts for contract-based repeat ads. Write or call us for an ad form and full ad policy. We accept ads from locally-owned businesses and non-profits only. We need ads to survive!

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

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

Contact Name _____
Organization/Business Name _____
Phone Number _____
Mailing Address _____
Email _____
Website _____

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

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

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

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Maine Independent Media Center Volunteer Form

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

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

Name _____
Email _____
Address _____
Town/City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

I can help cover events within (circle one):
10 miles 20 miles 50 miles 100 miles of my location.

I want to join the:

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

I can help with:

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

Other Skills/Comments _____

Please Mail to:
Maine Independent Media Ctr, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903
Turn over for Donation Form

Maine Commons / Maine Indymedia Order Form

CDs (contact us if TAPES are needed):

- Ethan Miller Live at Colby College 9.12.02 - \$11
- Ethan Miller Live at Unity College 4.17.02 w/CDROM tracks. - \$11
- Ethan Miller Studio Recording "In Times Of War" - \$15
- Dave Rovics Live at Colby College 9.12.02 - \$11
- Dave Rovics Live at Unity College 4.17.02 2CD set w/CDROM tracks - \$15
- Dave Rovics Live at St. Lawrence 4.16.02 - \$11
- Dan C, Detritus & Sarah Live at St. Lawrence 1.11.02 2CD set - \$12
- Jim Page Live at Carolyn Chute's 4.28.02 2CD set - \$15
- Maine Indymedia 2003 Sampler - Patti Smith Interview, Exclusive Tracks and more - \$11
- Bill Ayers, formerly of the Weather Underground - \$10

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

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

Back Issues of the Maine Commons (priced according to availability)

- Issue 1 (Maine Free Press "Sept 11 / Jim Hightower Interview") - \$7
- Issue 2 (Nov-Dec 2001, "War or War? / Crisis Profiteering") - \$5
- Issue 3 (Jan-Feb 2002, "New Media/Civil Liberties" w/Countercoup Times 1) - \$3
- Issue 4 (March 2002, "Truck Fines/Belgrade Pines" w/Wormtown) - \$3
- Issue 5 (Apr-May 2002, "Lobstermen / Hathaway" w/Youth & CCTimes 3) - \$3
- Issue 6 (Jun-July 2002, "Community Ag / Liberty Money / Public Access") - \$3
- Issue 7 (July-Aug 2002, "Maine vs DOT / TV Prison Visitation") - \$5
- Issue 8 (Sept-Oct 2002, "Freedom Of Assembly / Hempstock/ Liberty Dollar Times") - \$3
- Issue 9 (Oct-Nov 2002, "Plum Creek/Layoff Map 2002/Poor Peoples Organizing") - \$3
- Issue 10 (Dec 2002, "Mead Air Pollution/Racism & Klan in Maine/Economic Rights)- \$3
- Issue 11 (Mar-Apr 2003, "Maine's Anti-War Movement/Warren Prison Warehouse") - \$3
- Issue 12 (May 2003, "General Dynamics/Life After Layoff/Somali Activist") - \$3
- Issue 13 (July-Aug 2003, "Maine DHS/MBNA/Economics Roundup") - \$3
- Issue 14 (Late Fall 2003, "Maine Prison System/Homeschool/True's vs DHS") - \$5
- Issue 15 (Spring 2004, "Global Economy Hits Home/DHS Reform") - \$5

Tapes:

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

Your Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email or Phone _____

Item Description	Price	# of Items	Subtotal
Grand Total:			

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

Shipping is now included with all items for ease of ordering.

please make check out for the above amount to the **Maine Independent Media Center, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903**. Thanks!

Don't forget to fill out your name, address and contact info above.



Donations Anyone?

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

Name _____
Email _____
Address _____
Town/City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

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

I would like to make a non-tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ to the Maine Independent Media Center. (Donation can be any amount)

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

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

I prefer to remain anonymous in my donation: YES NO

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

Comments _____

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Please make a copy of this form and send it and a check made out to:
Maine IndyMedia Center, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903

Revolutionary Abby is taking a month off this fall. She'll be back with next issue. Until then, a poem by Isabelle Troadec about the struggles against Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals in Maine

Lobster Revolution

There recently were some folks
Who strategized a hoax
To dump lobster on Baldacci's lawn

Feeling angry and resentful
And somewhat sentimental
That he's playing Mainers like pawns

A 30ft. tripod was erected
And persistent protesters protected
Our first amendment rights

Radicals, locals and folks of all sorts
Came out to say, NO!
To a proposed LNG terminal
Big business wants to grow

You will ruin our fishing grounds,
Communities, and environment!
And send many lobstermen into early retirement

Let's find ways to end fossil fuel addiction
And stop perpetuating this polluting affliction

We'll look towards wind, water, and sun
And biodiesel on which to run

There's still so much left that's wild and free...
So lets keep this state
The way life should be



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