



The Maine Commons

A publication of the
Maine Independent Media Center
<http://www.mainecommons.org>

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

A democratic alternative to the corporate media

FREE

Issue 5 • April-May 2002

An Interview With Political Prisoner, Ali Khalid Abdullah

The following interview was conducted in with Ali in December, 2001, via mail by two activists from Maine, on behalf of The Maine Commons. Ali Khalid Abdullah is one of many Political Prisoners in the U.S. who has faced state repression for his political beliefs and activities. His original reasons for landing in prison stemmed from his attempts to shut down a major drug dealer in Michigan, who had allowed one of his runners to molest an 11-year-old girl as payment for the girl's mother's drug debt. Since his incarceration in 1990, he has been very politically active, and his writings have been translated into several languages and distributed around the world. For this, Ali has faced repeated harassment and repression, which most recently (since this interview) includes his being labeled a "terrorist" by the Michigan Department of Corrections, having his cell searched and belongings confiscated, being unexpectedly and mysteriously transferred, and having his parole denied for the sixth time with no legitimate justification given.

Some of the readers of the Maine Commons may not know what a Political Prisoner is. Could you briefly explain?

Ali: First off, I want to THANK YOU, for lending me this opportunity to share these words with your readers. Traditionally a Political Prisoner (PP) has been defined as one who has been captured by the opposing side for their political beliefs. In Amerikkka it is said that they hold no PP's and this has been debated for a long time. But we must also understand who has made the argument that there are no PP's in Amerikkka and why this government will not acknowledge that they have PP's within its state and federal prisons. But to give you my opinion on the subject, I'd say that all that are in prison are political prisoners because we are living under a dictatorship, power-elite system and that all imprisonment is substantially politically based. But to fine-tune this issue, there are some points that need to be made for clarity. You see, there is some debate over this subject and to be clear we must look at the subject from varying positions.

Comrade George Jackson (a

ALI : CONTINUED ON PG. 4



photo credit: Hillary Lister

Lobsterman Warren Fernald, shown here in his Islesford workshop, still weaves his own netting for his traps.

Lobstermen Affected by Groundfishing Survey

BY HILLARY LISTER

Mention the "Inshore Trawl Survey" to lobstermen on the Maine coast, and you can expect an earful. Ironically, while this issue that has become so prominent in the Maine lobster fishing community, the survey is not even specifically intended for lobsters. The survey, now in its second year, is a project of the Maine Department of Marine Resources. It was initially funded by groundfish research-for-relief funds, part of a program intended to help New England commercial fishermen who fish for groundfish that have declined substantially over the past three decades in the Gulf of Maine as a result of overfishing. The survey currently receives funding from the National Fisheries Service. It is being headed up by John Sowles of the DMR. According to Sowles, this spring's survey will begin for sure on May 6th and end up on June 7th.

So what does this have to do with lobsters? In some areas, a lot. The DMR does its research surveys by conducting 20-minute tows at 100 stations, covering a total of 8,000 acres. It covers a strip of the inshore area from the Maine-New Hampshire border to New

TRAWL : CONTINUED ON PG. 5

A Shoe, a Shirt and a 2x4 for Snowe and Collins

BY JAMES GILKS

For thousands of Maine citizens, the nightmare of getting sick and not being able to pay rent, let alone the doctor bills and prescriptions necessary to get better, can and often does become a very serious reality. Day by day and hour by hour they slowly fall into a downward spiral of debt and illness until eventually,

Articles in this issue of
The Maine Commons

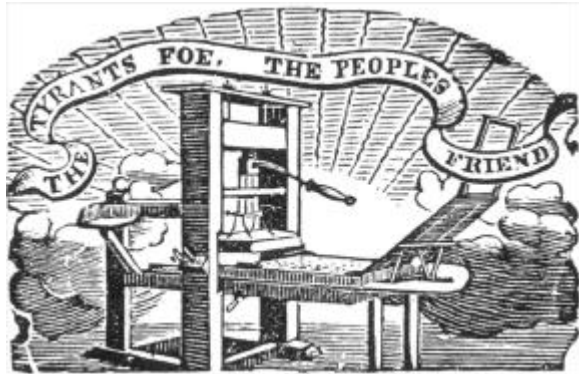
Ali Interview	pg.1
BY MUTUAL AID PORTLAND	
Groundfishing Survey	pg.1
BY HILLARY LISTER	
A Shoe, a Shirt, a 2x4	pg.1
BY JAMES GILKS	
Letters to the Editors	pg.2
Maine Commons FAQ	pg.3
BoundTogether	pg.5
BY CLAIRE GELINAS	
Governors' Race Preview Pt 2	pg.6
BY JONATHAN COOK	
Hathaway vs. NAFTA	pg.7
BY HILLARY LISTER	
Call & Response	pg.9
Solidarity Calendar	pg.10
Special Insert Section:	
<i>The Anti-Authoritarian Youth Cryout</i>	
D.I.Y. Media	pg.12
BY ALASDAIR POST-QUINN	
Independent Media Guide	pg.13
Wheelchair at the Movies	pg.14
BY BARBARA MELDRUM	
Maine Prisons	pg.15
BY STEPHEN DEPKA	
Media Listings	pg.15
News Blurbs	pg.16
Maine and the Maritimes	pg.17
Acrostic	pg.18
BY HERSCHEL STERNLIEB	
Maine Commons Classifieds	pg.19
Dear Revolutionary Abby	pg.20
Special Insert Section:	
<i>Countercoup Times Issue 3</i>	

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

they are in too deep to pull themselves out. There is, of course, some assistance available to working families in need. COBRA (The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) allows individuals with health insurance obtained through their employer to maintain that insurance coverage for up to 18 months after leaving their job by paying the full COBRA premium. However, for most people this is not enough. COBRA premiums average \$600 per month and can sometimes be as high as \$1000. As anyone who makes less than \$300 a week can testify, prices like this for basic health care

2x4 : CONTINUED ON PG. 4



The Maine Commons

a Publication of the Maine Independent Media Center
<http://www.maineindymedia.org>

Editors

HILLARY LISTER
 ALASDAIR POST-QUINN
 CLAIRE GELINAS

Layout and Design
 ALASDAIR POST-QUINN

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

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

(Maine IMC is not based solely in Waterville, although we have a PO Box there. Our members and distributors are spread all throughout the state of Maine.)

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

MeIMC Mission Statement

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

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

The Maine Commons Editorial Policy (short version):

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

Letters to the Editors

This month, unfortunately, we did not receive any letters of feedback to articles written in the Commons. Disagree? Agree? Want to be heard? We Want To Hear From You! Fortunately, we did receive interest in the paper from several people around the world. We are including excerpts of those letters here. Thanks, everyone, for writing!

From a Pakistan library:
 A Request for the Maine Commons:

The Muhammad Bin Qassim Library, in Sujawal, District Thatta, Sindh, Pakistan, is one of the leading public institutions of learning of the southern zone of Pakistan. It is engaged in catering intellectual services to the general public and creating awareness against illiteracy and providing authentic, informative, constructive literature on all subjects to the general public. It contains more than 28,900 volumes on different subjects and as many as 379 periodicals and 68 national, regional and international dailies. This reading material is donated by editors, publishers, academic and cultural institutions all over the world. The library is absolutely FREE for the readers and has NO permanent source of income. It would not only add to our pleasure and be a great favour to the reading public of this area to have regular complimentary copies of journals from your side as your noble gesture of goodwill and understanding, in the sacred cause of dissemination of knowledge.

Looking forward to gaining your kind cooperation,
 HUSSAIN AMIR
 Honorary Secretary General
 MUHAMMAD BIN QASSIM LIBRARY

(Editors' Note: What can we say? This is the second time we have gotten a request like this from the opposite side of the globe. We would be honored to have our paper included in your library.)

From a citizen in Presque Isle:
 Good Morning!

I recently picked up a copy of your newspaper. Great work! I publish my own non-profit (literally, it costs ME money) newsletter which is circulated in the Presque Isle/Fort Fairfield area. Please find the first issue enclosed, [The Citizen Reporter] which deals with the State of Maine owning our vehicles, and the most recent issue ... you may feel free to use any of these copyrighted

stories at no charge provided you do not edit them.

Regards,
 David Deschesne
 Presque Isle

(Editor's Note: We have since been up in Presque Isle and found your paper all over the place -- it's great that someone is getting out and doing these things on their own. Your effort should be an inspiration to all aspiring independent media producers! Keep up the good work!)

From a Prisoner in Texas:

I recently encountered the mention of your center and publication in the February 2002 issue of Peacework.

I am a political prisoner in the Monolithic Texas Gulag and am classified medium custody in this facility, which means that I am seldom allowed out of my cell. This permits me more than twelve hours every day to study and research and to write articles, essays and other expository pieces on topics as diverse as anti-war, anti-sexism, anti-racism, and especially prison related topics concerned with an inside view of deep psychological pain and anguish and concomitant internalization of vast amounts of hate, bitterness, despair and desire for revenge. I feel strongly that all these movements interact and tie in with one another; thus, efforts and objectives must be consolidated with a requisite widening of the appeal to fight the oppressive, anti-individual, consumption-oriented new world order perversely invading every human's life. I also write many letters to a network of reform, advocacy, and peace groups; mainstream and alternative and underground media; and government officials.

The neutral independence and importance of unbiased and complete reporting in the press is an unimaginably critical issue as we rocket our way into the 21st century.

Sincerely,
 Michael L Spradlin
 Allred Gulag
 Texas

(Editor's Note: Thank you for your insight and praise for our work. We will send on the next issue and hope you will see fit to contribute an article or two. We have an ongoing prison-issue column for which your insight would be invaluable.)



Maine Commons Frequently Asked Questions ?

What is the Maine Independent Media Center?

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

How long has the Maine Commons been printing?

The Maine Commons started in August of 2001 in order to get our first 8-page paper out by Common Ground Fair. At that point, after much deliberation on the name, we called it "The Maine Free Press". We adopted the name "The Maine Commons" for the next issue when it became apparent that there were other papers with a similar names. This is the fifth issue of the paper.

How often does the paper come out?

Ideally, the paper comes out monthly, although the next printing date is largely decided when we pick up the paper at the printers.

How do you pay for it?

We pay for the paper through a combination of: inserts from non-commercial groups, advertisements from locally-owned businesses and non-profits, individual donations, a grant from the Haymarket Foundation, and subscriptions. Future publications will hopefully be funded by more advertisements from locally owned commercial businesses and non-profit groups (see ad form page 19) and the addition of an alternative classifieds section (see page 19 for more information.)

Where is it printed?

The Maine Commons is printed at the Kennebec Journal printing offices in Augusta. We are not, however, affiliated with the Kennebec Journal.

Where is it distributed?

The Maine Commons is distributed in every county of the state of Maine. We distribute to libraries, coffee shops, schools, convenience stores, community centers, laundromats, and other businesses and organizations that wish to carry the paper. If you would like to see the paper somewhere in your area, or would like to help with distribution (all distribution is done by volunteers across the state), please contact us.

How many copies are there of each issue?

We currently have a circulation of 10,000 issues. If funding becomes available, we may increase this amount.

Where is it based?

While the Maine Commons is printed in Augusta, and laid out and has a mailing address in Waterville, people involved with putting the paper together live around the state. We try to cover events, distribute, and get people involved with making the paper, in all areas of the state of Maine.

What's this paper made of?

The paper this is printed on is 28# newsprint. Newsprint contains a very small percentage (generally around 10%) of recycled material. Paper with a higher recycled content, while ideal, would cost significantly more. If we get sufficient funding in the future, we will upgrade to a paper with a higher recycled paper content. The ink is 100% soy based ink, therefore this paper is suitable for mulching.

How can I contact the paper?

You can write us at:
Maine Commons
c/o Maine Independent Media Center
PO Box 1444
Waterville, ME 04903

You can email us at:

editor@maineindymedia.org

Why don't you have a phone number?

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

mail box, so that people may get in touch with Maine Indymedia by phone.

How can I get involved?

The Maine Commons is produced by the print team of the Maine Independent Media Center. To get involved with the print team, or other Maine Indymedia teams, use the volunteer form on pg.19.

How can I subscribe?

We have a graduated subscription rate which allows people from any economic background to get this paper mailed to them. See back page for subscription form.

How can I advertise?

Ads are available for any locally-owned business or local non-profit organization. See page 19 for advertising form.

Are you officially affiliated with any group?

The Maine Commons is the print publication of the Maine Independent Media Center. The mission statement of the Maine IMC is printed on page 2. We have no political party affiliation, we are not right wing, left wing, or centrist. We welcome all views and encourage open discussion and debate, and work to give voice to those views and stories that are not adequately or fairly covered in much of the mainstream and corporate media. We work (and exchange resources and media) with other independent media organizations, such as Portland Public Access Television, WERU Community

Radio, and Global Indymedia and other local Indymedia Centers (see www.indymedia.org). Many Maine Indymedia participants are members of other groups, and Maine IMC often collaborates with other groups on specific projects, but we do not have any formal allegiance to any other group.

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

The misconception many people have of Indymedia is that we are an elite band of professional reporters similar to any corporate media news crew. This is not the case. Maine Indymedia participants are all unpaid volunteers, who are all learning and educating each other to be the media. Indymedia is an avenue by which independent reporters (read: anyone who reports a story) are able to get their news out to the public, through this newspaper, our website, and connections with community radio stations and public access tv channels. So our question is: if you were at this (event/protest/riot), why didn't you write an article on it? You become the 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.](#)

David Rovics To Play Benefit Concerts For Carolyn Chute And Maine Indymedia

On 16 April 2002 David Rovics, Ethan Miller and a selection of Special Guests will be doing a Maine Indymedia birthday/benefit show for Author/Activist Carolyn Chute at St Lawrence Church, 76 Congress St in Portland, starting at 7:30 PM.

This will be one of two benefits for Carolyn, the other being in western Maine at on 28 April 02. The western Maine benefit will be with Jim Page, Ethan Miller and others, and should include a bonfire (conditions permitting), meat roasted outside, an Open Range and a "Turkey Shoot" as well as music and other diversions. Tickets to the Portland benefit are \$6.

Carolyn has devoted herself to writing about, exposing and explaining what its like to have to live, day-to-day, in rural areas devastated by the effects of Corporate Globalization and the commodification of every aspect of daily life. Through the Second Maine Militia, an extensive mailing list of contacts throughout the world and through her books, she explains, in sometimes terrifying detail, how rural people are squeezed by a system designed to turn them into "Human Resources", to be exploited just like every other resource.

Carolyn has been beset upon by health problems that prevent her from writing or doing anything around the farm, even preventing her from participating in her usual militia activity. At a time when we need every voice to expose what's real and what's not, one of the best has been laid low. With no health insurance, back mortgage payments and a huge pile of bills related to her activism, now is the time for media activists and concerned voices to come to the aid of a fellow activist.

This show will be covered by the Maine Independent Media Center, possibly including a Live Webcast.

David is expected to be singing many of his latest songs, and this will be the first opportunity for many people to hear them at all, much less live. The webcast will be archived and available for streaming or download from the media server at Maine Indymedia.

The April 17th show at Unity College will also be webcast. At Unity College, David will be joined by three fine Boston-based musicians on banjo, mandolin and bass. This show will definitely be webcast (audio and video) in Real format as well as Internet radio and be archived by Maine Independent Media Center for download or streaming.

For additional information on webcasts for the 16th and 17th please see the Maine Indymedia website at <http://www.maineindymedia.org> or David Rovics' website at <http://www.davidrovics.com>

**2x4 : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1**

are not only high, they are dangerously unreasonable. Between mortgages, rent, food, transportation, utilities and other essentials for survival, many families don't have \$100 left over, let alone \$1000.

So what is a civic-minded counter-culture revolutionary to do when faced with such diplomatic atrocities? Well, on March 28th at 9:30 AM, members of the Greater Bangor Area Central Labor Council (CLC) and allied organizations gathered at the Federal Building in downtown Bangor to meet with Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins. Their goal was to persuade the senators to support COBRA and specifically S. 1209, which would require the secretary of the Treasury to establish a program to pay 75% of the COBRA premium for individuals eligible for Training Adjustment Assistance. This would mean that families with members who have suddenly lost their jobs would only have to pay 25% of the COBRA premium and the remaining 75% of the cost would be reimbursed by the federal government.

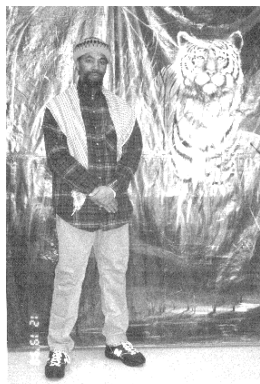
The group included laid-off workers from Saucony Shoe, Hathaway Shirts and Costigan Lumber Mill who brought symbolic presents to give to the two senators (both of which were conveniently not available to attend the meeting in person and therefore sent representatives in their place). The gifts consisted of a shirt, a pair of shoes and a 2 x 4 (which could not be brought into the building in fear that it might be used as a weapon). A former worker from Saucony Shoe presented their gift, telling them that "now you can feel what it is like to be in our shoes" and commenting that "this is probably the last pair of Saucony shoes you will ever find that was made in Maine because now they are all being made in China." Other moving speeches were given by various representatives from allied organizations, explaining how the current NAFTA and similar legislation is causing factories and mills across the state to close down and allowing big business to move them to countries like Mexico and China. The speakers spoke passionately about how the Senators must realize that "NAFTA represents lost jobs" and pleaded that "instead of fair trade, how about equal trade." Sadly, the senators will probably never hear the majority of these inspirational words, for the simple reason that the few basic notes taken at the meeting were short and to the point, lacking a great deal of the emphasis and emotion in which they were delivered. Since this reporter was standing directly behind the senator's representative during the meeting I was able to see her notes very clearly. The entire meeting, which was over a half an hour long and consisted of speeches from over ten separate people, fit on to one small page of paper and was well under 100 words.

BY JAMES GILKS

ALI : CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Black man who was sentenced to prison for one year to Life for an alleged \$70 gas station robbery at the age of eighteen, served eleven years in the California prison system, and transformed himself and became an activist and political theorist (who defined himself as a revolutionary) said in his book "Blood In My Eye" that: "All black people, whoever they are, whatever their crimes, even crimes against other Blacks, are political prisoners because the system has dealt with them differently than with whites".

Justin Brooks (who was associate professor of law at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Michigan) wrote in his article "Prisons and Corrections:



"...all that are in prison are political prisoners because we are living under a dictatorship, power-elite system ... all imprisonment is substantially politically based."

-Ali Khalid Abdullah

The Politics of Prisons" Michigan Bar Journal, Feb 1998, outlined the economics of having an expansive prison build-up in Amerikkka and how politics have created the condition for this and as a result all prisoners are now "political" based on how the government has used politics as its agenda for mass incarceration.

Bonnie Kerness (Associate Director and Coordinator of Prison Watch with the American Friends Service Committee/Criminal Justice Program in Newark, New Jersey) has outlined the US government and its practices of dealing with Blacks and other people of color by saying: "Police, the courts and the prison system all serve as social control mechanisms. The police being the occupation army of the inner city... despite what we've been taught in the schools in this country, the

only freedom of speech is what is government approved." This was stated in a transcript from "A Wall of Silence", Aug. 13, 1994 from an Anarchist Black Cross Conference.

Having said this, it is further defined as 'those who came to prison for actual revolutionary activities, albeit physical action, verbal action, or theoretical action or all of the above, and were captured, arrested and convicted by the state for their beliefs.' It is because of these activities, which were politically motivated, that there are political prisoners in America. And I might add that, in 1978, the former US Ambassador to the United States, Andrew Young, stated that US prisons

held "hundreds, maybe thousands of people I would categorize as political prisoners." However, and unfortunately, Young retracted his statement after he received a barrage of outcry.

Also, in my opinion, any one who is in prison and has politicized themselves like comrade George Jackson and others, and has become targets of the state for their political activism and beliefs and are being denied human dignities and rights and refused freedom on the basis of their activist stance, are Political Prisoners.

Why do you think we need to support Political Prisoners? How can we support them?

Ali: It is like anything else, if you do not support those who are fighting for your and my freedom, liberty, right to pursue a life without being dictated and con-

trolled by those who do not have your/my interest at heart, then you will not have any representation that challenges the existing conditions and thus the conditions will become worse and more intolerable. Further, those who are PP's have become so not because they wanted to, but because they believed and cared enough to make a stand and to risk their freedom, even their lives, to hold this government and all governments (that have negated the People's Voice) accountable.

As for how you can help? One of the ways you can help is to learn and I mean truly learn about this government and its political structure. An educated and informed person can do wonders. Also, reach out to those who are in these prisons for their political activities and learn about them. Share your time to listen to what they have to tell you versus what your local mainstream news media and corporate-bought politician and law (un)officials have to say. You can help a PP the most, however, by teaching others and educating other and then living your life accordingly by practice. You can also attend and develop workshops, speaking engagements, and other events that shed light and awareness on this and other matters, and then make your concerns known. Organize.

THIS HAS BEEN PART 1 OF AN INTERVIEW WITH ALI KHALID ABDULLAH. STAY TUNED TO THE MAINE COMMONS FOR PART 2.

For more information on Ali and how you can help him, please contact the **International Campaign to Free Ali Khalid Abdullah, 2716 SE 21st Street, Portland, Oregon 97202**, or visit: www.angelfire.com/dc/freeli.

For copies of Ali's new pamphlets "As They Drop Bombs: Prison Writings in Opposition to Amerikkka's So-Called War on Terrorism" and "A Dialogue on Anarchism II" (\$2 each) or more information about Political Prisoners in general, please contact **Mutual Aid Portland, PO Box 7328, Portland, ME 04112**.



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The Maine Commons needs your support! In order for the Maine Independent Media Center to continue to print this paper, we need donations of money and equipment! Remember, most donations are tax-deductible. For more information on how you can help, turn to page 19 & 20.



BoundTogether

A MONTHLY COLUMN COORDINATED BY
CLAIRE GELINAS

I grew up in Maine, but left when I was in my mid-twenties. I lived in cities on the east coast and west coast of the US, and when I came back a decade and a half later, I used to say, "Maine is so WHITE!" When people talked about diversity, I said "Maine? Diverse?"

But we are. Some of us might laugh, as I did, but we need to remember that we are different in more ways than we usually think about - many of us try to hide differences in class, for example. And we need to remember that a "small percentage" does not equal "zero" - Maine isn't all "white."

We make others - or ourselves - invisible when we pretend we're all the same. That kind of blindness can make it hard (impossible) to work together for

a better world.

What follows is a list of some of the ways people in Maine are different from each other. And here I have to say that I personally have to fight the temptation to look at the percentages and then hurry up and try to "bring in those other people" so that groups I am a part of will be "more diverse." But that's not really the point; it's much more complicated than that. The list is here to make the invisible a little more visible, to give all of us something to think about - and act on - as we figure out how to work (in all our variety) to make a better world.

A reminder: BoundTogether is not intended to be a column by one person or one group - check the note at the end. Send stuff. It can be in response to something you read here, or it can be about something in your life related to this topic.

TRAWL : CONTINUED FROM PG.1

Brunswick. In conducting the survey by trawling inshore, it is inevitable that the net catches a large number of lobsters, runs over lobster grounds, and in some cases, gets entangled with lobster gear. Sowles has cited counting lobsters as a side benefit of doing the groundfish survey, and that in itself has caused contention among many lobstermen.

In areas where there still exists an active groundfishing industry, opposition exists from lobstermen toward the groundfishing industry as a whole, so the resulting concerns about the survey are not as strong. "What little trawling [researchers] might do isn't anything compared to what the government allows the fish trawlers to do. And they really destroy the habitat as well as sea urchin draggers, sea cucumber draggers, scallop draggers, and I don't think that's any way to catch most sea creatures. I think that the fish should be caught on a hook and not in a net. The cod and the haddock. It's in close, let the people dive for them," explained life-long Islesford resident and lobsterman, Warren Fernald. "They come right in over a lot between here and Northeast. Just smaller ones, but they plow up the bottom. Which is supposed to be the nursery for all small sea creatures, little fish, lobsters, scallops, the works. So it probably looks pretty barren down there at times."

Lobstermen further east, in areas where the groundfishing industry has declined, are more upset about the research trawl itself. In those areas, the sea life has made a comeback after years of dragging, and they are content to keep it that way. Last year lobstermen in Corea blockaded the research

trawler, and lobstermen in the surrounding area have expressed intent to blockade again if the trawls are not stopped. Norbert Lemieux, a downeast lobsterman explained, "...in Western Maine fishermen aren't as opposed to it because they see Massachusetts and New Hampshire dragging outside the three mile limit, but Downeast we had New Bedford draggers in the peak of lobsterfishing season, they would target areas lobstermen fished, they would drag and pile up crates, and it took a long time [for the fishery] to come back."

Fishermen in this area are angry about the damage they see the trawl inflicting on lobsters. "They way they handle lobsters, taking this net, swinging it up, and dropping it - if commercial fishermen treated lobsters this way there wouldn't be a fishery. We care about it, we care about the egg bearing females, we care about the notched females," said Norbert. "You don't go and harvest roses with a D8 bulldozer. ... from the tapes we've seen, they roll over four for every one in net."

Sowles says that most lobsters survive the survey, and they are the first to be counted and thrown back. Norbert believes that while the lobsters may initially appear to be fine, the researchers are mishandling the lobsters, and says, "We've asked them to take lobsters they're checking and hold them overnight. A lobster that gets rolled around and handled - if it has gotten punctured, is dead within the day."

Lobstermen also complain of disregard for traps. Sowles defends the trawl, stating, "We scan the tow twice, looking for gear, but nevertheless there might be a buoy running under water, so we'll

Maine Diversity Demographics

Total population 1,274,923
Gender:
Male 48.7%
Female 51.3%
(US Census 2000)

Percent of general population that has a gender identity that does not match their sex at birth, (though not all identify as transgender) 3% or more (Maine Gender Resource & Support Service)

Age (US Census 2000)
14 and under 19.3%
15-24 12.48%
25-64 53.80%
65 and over 14.39%

Race (US Census 2000)
"White" 96.9%
Black or African American 0.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native ... 0.6%
Asian 0.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander less than 0.1%
Some other race 0.2%
Hispanic or Latino
(of any race) 0.7%
People of races other than "white" are likely to be underestimated, especially immigrants and migrant workers.
People who speak a non-English language at home 8.3%
Do not speak English "very well:" 2.2%

These figures, like those of race, are likely to be skewed regarding immigrants and migrant workers. And like the figures for race, they do not include information about geographic distribution within the state. We hope to include that detail in updated versions of the Maine Diversity Demographics.

Sexual orientation
GLBT population 8% to 15% (estimated)

Income, poverty, wealth & employment
Median household income \$33,140 (US Census 2000)
State median wage \$11.01/hr (Economic Policy Institute, 1999)
State average livable wage for 1 wage earner and 1 dependent \$11.41/hr (Maine Center for Economic Policy)
Maine Unemployment Rate 2.7% (Maine DOL, Sept. 2000)
People of all ages in poverty in Maine 132,809 (10.7%) (US Census 2000)

There are all kinds of problems with trying to measure income and poverty. For example:

- People living in group homes and other group living situations are not included in these figures.

- A median household income doesn't really tell us what the average income is, nor does it tell us how many hours people have to put in to get that income.

- Figures about income don't always tell

us what it's possible to buy with that income - for instance, it does not tell us about the increasing lack of affordable housing in Portland.

People with Disabilities of population 16-64 years of age (US Census 2000)

Work disability estimated 9.5% (about 60% of whom are prevented from working)

Mobility or self-care disability estimated 3.3%

Home internet access
Mainers with home internet access 52.3%
Lower class families (39% of Maine families) with internet access 33%
Lower middle class (20% of Maine families) with internet access 60%
Upper middle class families (20% of Maine families) with internet access 52%
Upper class families (21% of Maine families) with internet access 71% (Gartner Research)

Note: Of all of these groups, only about 7% have high-speed (cable, DSL, ISDN) internet access, so many pages requiring high speed connections to be viewed (and they are numerous) are not accessible to over 90 percent of the Maine internet-using population.

Formal education (of persons 25 and older) (US Census 2000)

Did not graduate from high school 21.2%
High school graduates 53.1%
College degree 25.7%

Rural/Urban (US Census 2000)
People living in metropolitan* areas 44.6%
In rural areas 55.4%
* Any city (and surrounding environs) with more than 25,000 people.

People Born in Maine/Away (US Census 2000)

Maine born 70.6%
Born outside of Maine 29.4%

Maine Diversity Demographics is put together by Resources for Organizing and Social Change. For questions or comments or to receive updates, call 674-2358, or email rutabaga@megalink.net.

BoundTogether will appear in each issue, and is a joint project of the Maine Commons, Resources for Organizing and Social Change and YOU. Send articles, pictures, ideas, suggestions, cartoons, your thoughts, experiences, crankiness, dreams, etc. to rutabaga@megalink.net or call 674-2358 or send postal mail to BoundTogether, 18 Stone Road, West Paris, ME 04289. We'll include as much as we can in upcoming columns. Be sure to let us know how to contact you.



Opinions & Editorials

The Governor's Race Preview

Part 2 : A Drink to Independents

BY JONATHAN COOK

We were in Kennebunkport for a peace rally, and somehow, we missed it. Instead of dwelling, we crossed the bridge into Kennebunk. Mean Canadian wind skated over a low-tide river stealing tears from our faces. My collaborator lead the way, not letting the wind rob her of a good appreciative sigh as she fanned her gaze over the marsh grass. I carried the Wee One in a backpack. Her needle-like squeal of exhilaration crumpled in the maw of frozen air.

Nothing could have chilled my spirit. I knew that in mere moments we'd be hunkered up to pints of consoling ale. For the Wee One there would be crayons and plain noodles and funny smiles from baby-friendly people who gather always around warm food and fresh beer.

Federal Jacks was nearly empty at this between-meal time, which I considered a plus with the Wee One raring to put her newfound legs to use. You might've thought the milk was spiked the way she staggered and halted and stumbled. Clean-lighting and snug warmth invited her to explore. I felt the same security and had to smile at the irony of its source-Federal Jacks. I toted a pint of jolly suds -- cask-conditioned Old Thumper -- as I chaperoned our toddler's wanderings, and I mused to myself about the relationship between the Federal Government and my family's security.

Before I could sort it out, the Wee One stopped near the corner of the bar and made eye contact with a man on a stool. She stopped and stared at him with a child's deep wonder as he waved with his fingertips. After a moment, the man looked up at me, keeping a smile and nodding hello. I said hi.

He wore a knit cap and two-day's beard. His eyes were light and his grin was amusing. Nodding at the Wee One, the man said: "He's a friendly one."

She wore denim overalls and a pine green, long-sleeve jersey. She has little hair yet and no earrings. People tend to assume she is a boy.

"Everyone fascinates her," I replied.

He pointed over his shoulder with his thumb at the muted bar TV where I saw the Governor being interviewed. The knit-cap man asked me: "Even politicians?"

I smiled politely and thought that was enough for barroom jesting, but the Wee One sprayed unprovoked giggles into the air and would not move on.

"Ha, ha," the man said. "She knows something we don't."

"She's laughing because she knows she'll be governor someday," I said.

"Oh is that it?" Knit-cap laughed again. "Let's not wish that on her."

Now I picked up my daughter with my free arm. Time to go. We were on the slippery slope of political discourse between strangers in a pub, and besides, I thought it might be my collaborator's turn at the helm of the Wee One and my turn to take a few bights of our now-cold nachos. But before I could say anything like "take it easy" and step away, my kid did something amazing and new for the umpteenth time in her young life. She said: "Vote." That's right, not the baby's bee for boat, but the big girl's front-teeth-on-the-bottom-lip, clear vee sound of "Vote." And a crisp tee at the end.

Knit-cap and I exchanged astonished, goofy stares.

I will never forget it. And in the time it took for me to digest the magic of a child, Knit-cap asked another question: "Who's daddy gonna vote for?"

Now I expected trouble. The Wee One squirmed to get down. I sipped some beer from my mustache. "You going to ask me about my sex-life next?" I demanded.

He made no sound to answer, but his face suddenly lost any hint of humor.

My mind loaded my mouth with a series of things to say, ("That's like asking if I go to church, or if I wash my hands in the men's room, or ..."), each of them discharged silently. I congratulated my reserve with a long pull on the pint and kept my silence.

"Get over it," Knit-cap growled and turned to his glass.

The Wee One squirmed to the point where I had to let her go or hold her by the neck. She hit the floor moving and bee-lined to the measuring tape on Knit-cap's belt.

He looked down at her under his arm. I could see only one eye of his whole face, and the crow's feet were crinkling. He unclipped the measuring tape, locked it, and placed it within reach of two small, eagerly awaiting hands.

I had to let go of my defenses. We have to be able to talk about politics, I told myself. It's when talking is impossible that groups turn to violence for political ends, which means, I guess, that talking is the ultimate security.

But why is it nowadays that pubs and politics just don't mix? The

greatest debates in today's public houses tend to focus on whether or not the Red Sox should tear down Fenway. And that conversation is only hot because Fenway is a landmark, not because the public will pay for most of it, effectively subsidizing multi-millionaire hobbyists. That's how the bars have devolved since Colonial times when taverns served as the planning rooms for most actions taken to spark and fight the Revolution, actions such as the Tea Party. The Boston Massacre started as a bunch of pub patrons who stepped outside to holler at a regiment of marching Redcoats. A beer-inspired "Hey Lobsterback, why don't you take a long walk off a short pier," ended in a day that may never be forgotten.

I wonder how good old Sam Adams and the Sons of Liberty managed to stay on the same side during long sessions tipping back beers donated by John Hancock (that rascally trouble-maker) down at the Green Dragon Tavern. Drinking whetted the spirit of Independence. Having a common enemy probably helped those guys stay focused.

But me, I'm not a fighter, and I believe there are no enemies, only potentially good neighbors who are still learning to share. I was left looking for something else I might have in common with our new friend and hoping a good idea at least might come of the effort.

I called out for another draught and one for my kid's new hero.

"This is a rare treat for me," I said.

Knit-cap raised his eyebrows.

I went on: "Cask-conditioned. Can't find it many places."

Knit-cap shrugged. "I come here," he said. "In spite of the regulars." He pointed across the bar to a framed photo of a former president who summers nearby.

"His kind are all done-for in this state," I reassured him. Our freshly pumped brew arrived in front of us.

"As long as they have money, we'll never be rid of 'em," Knit-cap said. "And that kind always has money."

"True, but now it's available to everyone and that levels the advantage the wealthy have always had."

"You're talking clean election money, right?"

"That's right. Jonathan Carter of the Green Independent Party will qualify any day now. Something like a million bucks can buy a few prime time ads. Means he doesn't need to reach into the trouser pockets of corporate bagmen."

"Here's to that," Knit-cap raised his glass to toast.

We toasted.

Then he said: "But isn't this guy,

Carter, a tree Nazi?"

"Some people think so," I nodded. "Right now it's hard to tell. But that's what the money is for. Exposure. Let him get his message out there and let us all kick the tires. Put him in the debates and on the call-in shows and let's see what his mettle is."

"If he turns out to be a tree Nazi, then what do we have?"

"Ever heard of John Jenkins? He's going for public money, too. Not Green Independent. Plain Independent. The mayor of Lewiston and a professional motivational speaker, he gets some money and maybe talks his way into people's hearts. I don't know.

"Then we got Angus King's reincarnation, David Flanagan, spending all his own money so no one can get away from him. He's in it for keeps. His original campaign staff quit because they couldn't stand him, so he's going to need some good marketing.

"Only one hitch so far on all these guys. They have all been seen wearing neckties."

Knit-cap slapped the bar. "I knew it," he said through his teeth. "I'm not even going to bother to vote."

I felt a tug on my pant leg. The Wee One stood down there offering me the shiny measuring tape.

"Cool," I said appreciatively. "Now, give it back to the man."

She clapped it tightly in her hands and walked over to Knit-cap.

"You could at least write-in a name," I suggested.

And the Wee One reached up to him from her toes, offering the return of his toy. He accepted it with a weathered smile and said: "Write-in? Good idea. What's your kid's name?"

I knew we'd find something good in common.

Next time, Part 3: The Power of the Write-in Vote

- JONATHAN COOK
LECOOK@PSOUTH.NET

To help candidates get clean money:

<http://www.jenkinsforgovernor.com>
<http://www.cartergov.com>

To learn more about the governor's race:

<http://www.politics1.com/me.htm>

To learn more about Colonial drinking, read:

[Beer in America: The Early Years-1587-1840; Beer's Role in the Settling of America and the Birth of a Nation](#) by Gregg Smith, 315 p.



Free Trade Agreements Shaft Hathaway Shirts

BY HILLARY LISTER

"Every single one of these women here has a story. They have children that they have to pay child care, they have disabled husbands, they have husbands out of work, they don't have husbands, all these problems they are carrying on their shoulders by themselves. Now, for me, my husband has lost both legs, he's had four heart attacks, his hands are shot to pieces, I am the sole worker. So I take care of my husband, I go to work and work eight hours a day, and I come back and take care of him again. And every one of these women in this place are doing the same thing," explained Peggy Jason at a public hearing on the closure of the Waterville-based Hathaway Shirt plant.

Buying A Label

Windsong Inc. announced on March 18th that the Hathaway Shirt plant in Waterville would be closing on June 30th, leaving over 300 people without jobs. The 165-year-old company is the oldest shirt factory still manufacturing in the United States, and one of the last. Workers at the factory have worked there for twenty to thirty years.

The announcement came as a blow to the workers at the factory, mostly women, who had been fighting to keep the plant open since 1996, when Warnaco, Hathaway's original parent firm, announced that it would cease making Hathaway shirts and, ultimately, sell the business. The workers went to their representatives and explained their problems, worked for a solution, and eventually, one of the administrators of Warnaco offered exclusive rights to an investment group led by former Governor McKernan to buy Hathaway. The city bought the factory building, and Hathaway continued to operate it under a lease. While this allowed the company continued survival, it upset some workers, who complained that McKernan's group was offered exclusive purchasing rights, and that the group did not do any advertising to help the company.

However, the company survived for five years under that investment group, but last Fall it ran out of money for shirt material and was on the verge of declaring bankruptcy.

According to McKernan, "We couldn't find anybody else that was even interested in trying ... Everybody was interested in buying the brand, but nobody wanted to even make an effort for the factory." The company that did

come in to "make the effort" was the Windsong Corporation. Windsong is based in Connecticut, and owns several other clothing brands, including Joe Boxer and Pivot Rules Golf Shirts. Hathaway was to be the first physical manufacturing operation Windsong owned - the other brands it owns are simply that, brands, and it does not own the actual factories that produce the clothing. This fact raised a red flag for some of the Hathaway workers. "When Windsong bought us I knew from the get-go that they just wanted the label. They bought the label, they got the label, and now they're saying, 'We don't need you guys anymore,'" explained 20 year Hathaway worker, Barbara Pelotte. "The funny thing about that is that we, from the beginning, even after the promises, felt they were just empty promises, because we never saw them in the building, and we figured if they were so concerned about keeping us open, they would show their faces more."

According to workers, Windsong didn't do much to help quell their suspicions. "We haven't seen them, since the day they bought us. [We've] been asking as a union to talk with them, and they have not yet agreed to sit and talk," said shop steward, Patsy Hamlin. Phoebe Pelletier, president of the Hathaway UNITE union Local Local 486 concluded, "I really think they wanted the label and to run with it. It seems funny that it's five months to the day, that they bought us and they told us we were closing."

Attempts to speak to Windsong CEO, Joseph Sweedler, for this article were unsuccessful.

KMart and Wal-Mart

Whether or not Windsong purchased Hathaway for the label alone, other factors definitely did not help the factory. According to McKernan, Hathaway's survival in part depended on getting a deal to sell shirts to KMart, which also markets Windsong's Joe Boxer line. KMart had been suffering from, among other things, a significant loss of business to competitor Wal-Mart, and so it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in January, and is closing many of its stores. Hathaway's CEO, Donald Sappington, said that this caused the possible deal to fall through.

According to a March 24th Morning Sentinel article, Colette Sipperly, vice president of marketing and corporate communications for Windsong, disagreed, saying that the

KMart bankruptcy was not a factor in the decision to close the Hathaway plant, and that the bankruptcy had no effect on orders for the Joe Boxer line.

Hathaway had also been producing shirts for KMart competitor, Wal-Mart. According to Phoebe Pelletier, "We also had a lot of work with Wal-Mart, but Wal-Mart was backing down. They had really held us over for the last three, four years, because we had a lot of work from them. And now, it was going downhill, dozen-wise ... the [Hathaway] CEO went to see Wal-Mart to ask them, and they negotiated, and we even said 'We will match your overseas prices.' Well, they didn't want to offend their overseas vendors. What we needed was volume, we needed the volume to keep us going." Wal-Mart has promoted itself as an American company, and has prominently displayed that, "We buy American whenever we can." What defines when Wal-Mart "can" buy American, however, goes unexplained.

Hathaway worker Donna Charlen spoke at an event "A Shoe, A Shirt, and A 2x4" (see page 1) saying, "Wal-Mart is what helped us stay afloat the last time that we almost closed. They asked us to drop our prices in producing the shirts. We did that. All we asked was just to have a little bit more volume. Wal-Mart turns around and says 'We're sorry, but we can't offend the people overseas. Well, how about offending the people that work here, in the United States?' Pelletier lamented, "We wanted to do a big big thing with Wal-Mart and put red, white, and blue, 'USA' on the bags and everything else for their shirts, put a sign up 'Made in the U.S.A.'" Wal-Mart rejected the offer saying, "No, that would draw attention to all the things that weren't made in the USA." According to National Labor Committee study that investigated nearly clothing, shoes and purses in Wal-Mart, more than 80% of Wal-Mart's goods were manufactured in Third World countries. NLC Chairman Charles Kernaghan condemned Wal-Mart, stating, "Wal-Mart is lying to the American people. Far from protecting American jobs, they're leading the race to the bottom, pitting American workers against those in the Third World."

Foreign Competition

Indeed, a major explanation that workers are hearing for the Hathaway job losses is that Hathaway is just another victim of foreign competition. An article in the March 24th Morning Sentinel stated, "It is the willingness of people in emerging industrial nations to work for wages that are a tenth of those paid Americans that limits domestic manufacturers' ability to compete, according to Rose [an economist with the State Planning Office] and other

sources." Yet, one has to wonder if it is truly a "willingness" on the part people in these other countries to work for much lower wages, and if the competition can be considered fair.

A large number of textile jobs are moving to China. According to Bjorn Claeson, of Bangor-based Peace through Interamerican Community Action (PICA), "It's important to remember here that the companies [closing factories in Maine] are not going bankrupt, but are shifting their jobs to China. That's part of a trend in the US. The companies pay about 3% of the wages that they used to pay here. That's 25 cents an hour ... Is this good for China, is this good for Chinese workers? We know how people in Maine are suffering ... Can we assume that they [Chinese workers] benefit as we go down?"

"While China is widely seen as an emerging economic and political power, it remains an economically poor and still predominantly rural developing nation ... The opening of Special Economic Zones provided manufacturing platforms for predominantly foreign corporations while reinforcing the movement of millions of farmers from the countryside in pursuit of urban jobs. However, the privatization of many unprofitable state industrial enterprises has created high rates of under and unemployment, an enormous pool of workers competing for low wage jobs.

"... Like workers in many Third World nations, Chinese industrial workers are often required to work long hours in dangerous environments at low wages. ...The right to organize independent trade unions is prohibited. In state-owned industries, dependence on company housing, child care, health and other services severely limits workers freedom of autonomous action ... Among the worst labor standard and human rights violations of Chinese workers is the 'three-in-one' design of many low wage factories. Workers, not infrequently locked in for the night, sleep in a dormitory on the third floor with the factory and warehouse below. They are defenseless when fires break out on the floors below."

Trade Agreements

At the public hearing on the Hathaway closing, audience members asked why politicians couldn't just stop factories from moving to China through legislation or tariffs. One woman exclaimed, "This world trade ... We can't compete with someone that's getting 25 cents an hour. There's no way that we ever can compete. I mean, we are great workers, we go to work every day, we do anything the boss says, whether we're sick or not we're always there. Why can't you vote for what we want, why



SHIRTS : CONTINUED FROM PG.7

can't you help us?" One of the youngest workers at the Hathaway plant, Catherine, suggested, "I had an idea, that maybe if there were more tariffs on clothes that were made overseas, then maybe it would be more feasible for people to make it at home, here in the United States. If it were more expensive to get it from overseas, then it wouldn't be worth their while to send shipping over there."

Other workers had figured out a likely reason these tariffs or legislation aren't in existence. "Once our [factory] closes, it's going overseas, and there's no way really of saying 'I'm going to try and get another company in here.' We lost our label, they took our label away from us, and then they went ... NAFTA. The minute they shoved it down our throat. President Clinton, George Mitchell - NAFTA. Well that sucking sound has come up to Maine, Waterville, Maine. That's your sucking sound right there. All overseas, that's where the work is going. They got their NAFTA and we got SHAFTA." Added Phoebe, "I think corporate greed has a lot to do with that too."

NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, went into effect in January of 1994. NAFTA is an agreement between the governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States that created the world's largest "free trade" area. It gives corporations the freedom to operate across national borders; however, it does not do anything to protect individuals or the environment. It works to eliminate all tariffs and break down many regulations and labeling laws between the three countries.

Under NAFTA, U.S.-based corporations have rapidly moved their manufacturing operations to Mexico, where wages are many times lower, and labor and environmental laws, where they exist, are even more rarely enforced than in the U.S. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Maine lost a net of 22,357 trade-related jobs between from 1994 to 2000. The exact figures aren't available between 2000 and the present, but the number is definitely in the thousands.

As much of a household word as NAFTA has become, it is only one of many trade agreements that are causing these massive job losses throughout Maine. In fact, many factories that moved from the US to Mexico are now moving to countries like China, where it's even cheaper to produce. It is likely that Windsong will move manufacturing to China, in which case NAFTA will not have been the direct cause of the job losses at all. NAFTA is only one agreement among many that gives corporations the freedom to move across borders, and operate without regard for the

rights of communities, workers, and the environment. The U.S. and Chinese governments have a different agreement, called PNTR. Bjorn explained the history of PNTR "I looked back two years ago when there was a huge corporate push in Congress for permanent normal trade relation status. [This agreement requires] Congress to stop reviewing human rights, labor, religious rights, environmental, and democracy records in China every year. They said, 'Now our commerce can flow freely without considering these issues.' [Corporations] spent 10 million dollars on this



"RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU'VE WORKED HERE FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS"

Ken Gagnon addresses an auditorium full of Hathaway workers at the public hearing on March 21st, 2002.

photo credit: Hillary Lister

... What was at stake was not the ability to export, but was the ability to relocate production to China, so that they could always re-import finished products to US market. They didn't want to be stuck producing in China, then find Congress had reviewed and restricted trade. It's not just a natural flow that we're seeing with Maine jobs going into China - This has been deliberately engineered and created." As the world's 7th largest economy, and with trade agreements encouraging businesses to move their manufacturing to China, Bjorn predicts that China may be a preview to a new standard for working conditions around the world.

What the Future Holds

Hathaway worker Donna Charlen proclaimed "Hathaway lasted for 160 years, through the Depression. ... If we can last through the Depression and make a go of it, I don't know why we can't last through this NAFTA." Yet it looks unlikely that the Hathaway factory will be saved from closure. With tears in her eyes, Barbara emphasized, "The people at the mill, they're just great people, they're wonderful people, they're hard workers, they've all got some great stories, and I just wish the best for everyone. It's going to be a long hard road. I wish we could make it, but I just don't think we can."

Some people have suggested that workers buy the plant, but this idea has been rejected for a number of reasons. "We have looked into that, but we don't have the money right now, we're so poor. We've had so much time off that the people that are going to be getting unemployment are going to be getting very little unemployment because they've had so much slack time," explained Phoebe. "Their quotas aren't going to be worth drawing on. They don't have enough earnings. They're going to end up with maybe \$120 a week unemployment."

On the future of Waterville, Barbara lamented "Waterville has just been hit so hard, with Scott Paper, and Huhtamaki, and Crowe Rope, and now Hathaway, I really think that Waterville just can't take much more. There are so many people looking for jobs, I think that a lot of people are going to have to move away. Maybe not the people that own homes, probably are close to retirement, probably won't move away. But the younger people... And it's too bad because I really don't want to see Waterville as an 'older' community, becoming a kind of Florida where people go to retire. Because it's just, it's too bad, there's just so much that can be done to Waterville to help us, I just don't know what. But the possibilities are just out here, and I don't know how to get them here."

Many workers are planning to take advantage of programs that will help them go back to school and get degrees. Older workers nearing retirement are not as sure they want to take this path. Joked Phoebe, "Retraining, schooling would be good. But I'm at the age that by the time I graduate, when I get my diploma in this hand, and my social security check in this hand. And I'm only going to be one smart retiree." The job prospects for workers without a specialized degree are limited in Waterville, as they are throughout much of the state. Jobs such as those at Hathaway, which were unionized, full-

time jobs with benefits that require learning a skill, but not a college degree, are becoming all but nonexistent. Waterville has a new business center opening - but it will contain a Home Depot, Staples, Ruby Tuesdays, and likely a Wal-Mart - none of which allow worker organizing such as unions, and which for the most part provide little in the way of full time jobs or benefits such as health insurance.

At a hearing in Brunswick on the effects of free trade agreements on workers in Maine, audience members asked what people could do to help. "I think we've kind of run out of ideas. We don't know. We don't know what we can do. We can all picket Wal-Mart..." Phoebe replied, only half-jokingly. An audience member called out, "Picket the CEO's homes in Connecticut." Joyce Rufia, a long-time Hathaway worker and union recording secretary, replied, "We talked about that. We have thought about that too. It'd be great to go right down there and picket right in front."

Barbara's daughter will be sticking around to work on solving the problems that led to the Hathaway closure, "My daughter likes to stay in Maine, and she's hoping that she will be able to stay in Maine after. She's going for her masters in accounting. So she sees how the jobs are leaving, and she sees how this shutdown of Hathaway is affecting the town of Waterville and also the surrounding towns, so she wants to start her own business to hopefully keep other jobs here in the state. That is her goal."

The future for Hathaway workers remains an uncertain one. Many workers are attending conferences on job training, schooling, and health care. No one feels they know for certain anymore what the next day will bring. Phoebe explained, "We have very mixed emotions. One day you're numb, the other day you could cry at the drop of a pin."

Yet even if the mill closes, the workers at Hathaway are determined not to let it defeat them as people. Joyce concluded, "We have to keep our spirits up and keep fighting."

For anyone interested, you can attempt to contact the CEO at:

WINDSONG INC.
Joseph Sweedler, CEO
1599 Post Road
East Westport, CT 06880
Telephone 203-319-3600 ex 302
Fax 203-319-3610
E-Mail: jsweedler@windsonginc.com



Call & Response

Maine Commons Writers Respond to Criticism and Corporate Media

The first in this month's Call & Response is a response by representatives of MOFGA (Maine Organic Farmers and Growers Association) to an op/ed in a local Seattle Times-owned paper.

On February 10, Dennis Bailey, a public relations consultant, published an op/ed piece in the Portland Press Herald extolling the virtues of genetically engineered corn, and criticizing Mainers for not embracing the technology. It is interesting to note that Bailey failed to identify the corporate client who inspired and/or paid for his effort, and disturbing to note the number of errors in his presentation. Within a week of that publication, we had submitted a response to PPH on behalf of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. PPH has to date declined to print our response.



The Problem with Genetically Engineered Corn: MOFGA's Response to Dennis Bailey

In his February 10 commentary in the Portland Press Herald, Dennis Bailey argues that genetically engineered corn has been "misunderstood" - and wrongly banned - in Maine. While fairly representing the biotech industry's point of view, Bailey's piece is replete with its own misunderstandings:

Contention: Bt corn "would eliminate the need for pesticides."

Response: Instead of the conventional, once- or twice-a-year application of Bt spray - an application that breaks down rapidly, Bt engineered corn has a gene built into it that produces a pesticide throughout the corn plant - including the kernels - and that persists for the duration of the plant's life. Because the pesticide is available continuously to such pests as the European corn borer, scientists overwhelmingly predict that the proliferation of Bt-engineered crops will lead to pest resistance to the Bt toxin. In the long run, this will result in loss of effectiveness of Bt as a spray to all farmers, and the resort to more toxic chemical alternatives. Yes, the EPA promises to address this through "insect management plans" asking farmers to set aside refuges of non-Bt crops, but a biotechnology industry survey published in January 2001 showed that nearly 30% of farmers who grew Bt corn in

2000 did not follow the resistance management guidelines. As industry rep Jeff Stein conceded when he spoke to the Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) in 1997, uniform enforcement of these plans is problematic, and many "knowledge gaps" exist relative to insect resistance, such as "insect growth, migration behavior, mating...".

Contention: Bt Corn "presents no risk to human health."

Response: The fact is that scientists simply don't know. Genetic engineering creates new proteins that humans have never before widely consumed. Proteins are the predominant trigger for allergenicity. New proteins, both unexpected and unidentified, may be created in GE foods. As Barry Commoner observed in his recent analysis of the "spurious foundation of genetic engineering," (Harper's Magazine, Feb. 2002): "the biotechnology industry is not required to

provide even the most basic information about the actual composition of the transgenic plants to the regulatory agencies." The 2000 report of the National Academy of Sciences on Bt crops concluded that "there is the potential for ... adverse health effects" and recommended that "priority should be given to the development of improved methods for identifying potential allergens" in these crops.

That recommendation was reiterated in a report in July 2001 by the EPA's own scientific advisory committee, including leading U.S. allergists. The EPA went ahead to reregister Bt corn before the recommended tests had been developed and carried out.

Contention: "Genetic engineering ... will enable us to create more food more cheaply."

Response: This much touted promise certainly hasn't been borne out with the crop in question, Bt corn. The December 13, 2001 report, "When Does It Pay to Plant Bt Corn?," by Dr. Charles Benbrook, former Executive Director of the National Academy of Sciences Board of Agriculture, found that from 1996-2001, American farmers paid at least \$659 million in price premiums to plant Bt corn, while boosting their harvest by only 276 million bushels - worth some \$567 million in economic gain. The bottom line for farmers was a net loss of \$92 million - about \$1.31 per acre. Benbrook observed that the "jump in per acre seed expenditures with Bt

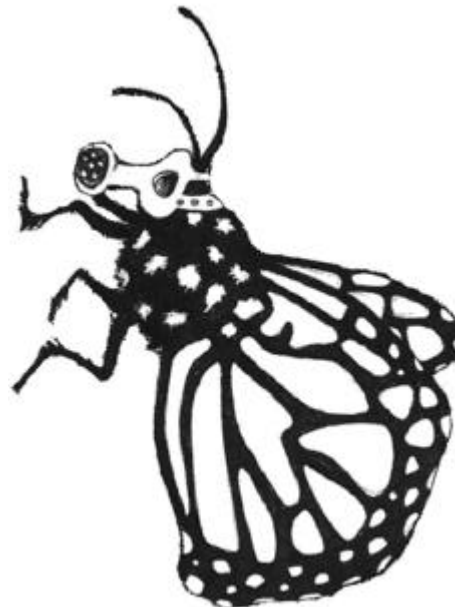
corn is by far the biggest in history linked to a single new trait." Good news for Monsanto, bad news for farmers.

Contention: Bt corn is "banned" in Maine.

Response: Before any pesticide, including a genetically engineered "plant pesticide", can be used in Maine, it must be registered by the BPC, which must find, among other things, that a "need" exists, and that there are no "unreasonable adverse effects on the environment." When Novartis and DEKALB submitted the first applications for Bt corn in 1997, they submitted no data whatsoever to suggest Bt field corn would improve farmers' yields under Maine growing conditions (a fact doubted by Cooperative Extension specialist Don Barry), and conceded that widespread use of Bt corn was likely to place "high selective pressure" on the European corn borer to become tolerant to the Bt toxin. (Jeff Stein, Novartis rep., Oct. 24, 1997 meeting). The BPC denied the applications. When, in December 1998, Monsanto submitted a new application for its Bt corn, the Board sent Monsanto a list of 13 questions related to need and environmental impact. Monsanto replied on January 6, asking that its application be "tabled indefinitely," "pending our cost/benefit review of the additional data requirements." The biotech industry has twice failed to comply with Maine statutes in seeking registration of its products here.

Bailey thinks Maine is missing an opportunity. We agree. Maine could be the first state to prohibit the planting of GE crops, thereby opening up opportunities for export that the rest of the country is busy surrendering by our wrong-headed policy of planting first and figuring out what happened later.

-SHARON TISHER & RUSSELL LIBBY
MOFGA



The second response is the latest installment in an ongoing discussion, for which the Maine Commons has been the middleman, between 2 activists with similar opinions but one major difference - their attitude toward computers.

Timeline: This is in response to a piece in the March 2002 issue of the Maine Commons, a letter to the editor by Chaos, an online reader of the paper in Western Massachusetts. Her letter was in response to an op/ed by Cal Clark in the Nov-Dec 2001 issue, entitled "Youth Music Scene Targeted in Capitol Area". Here Cal offers his rebuttal:

chaos -

I think you for your criticism. However, I think that you, a user of the internet, are an exception amongst a growing number of people who feel out of place; outside their homes, due to restrictions like I mentioned in that article. Whether it's television, computers, malls, or prisons, it's an attempt to isolate ourselves even more. All of people's dissent and loneliness can be channeled into institutions that the ruling class makes. With increasing restrictions (i.e. the U.S. Patriot Act) becoming more fact than fiction, staying quietly in our homes is a triumph for all who benefit from the existing structures and institutions.

The internet is an advancement of capitalism, dividing and conquering at a much faster rate, which even without these devices it has been able to do. Perhaps I need to clarify my definition of a community: a geographical area, where people from that vicinity interact face to face, have fun, and work together. When people communicate on the internet, they are reacting to words on a screen, not actual beings with bodies, scents, and other characteristics.

Despite its vast array of information, I'm not willing to romanticize the existence of computers and the Internet. You can receive information by simply experiencing life, by interacting with people. Do you think people can't live without the Internet?

I can't discredit all who frequently use computers as some are the people who bust their asses for Maine Indymedia. But I think to reclaim one's life, it is necessary to reject isolation, and search for activities that can help us build real relationships, real communities.

-CAL CLARK



Maine Solidarity Calendar

April 13 - May 17, 2002 (updated and with more info at <http://calendar.maineindymedia.org>)

Feb. 25th - May 1st

Women's History Celebration 2002

Phone: 581-1228
Web: www.umaine.edu/wic
Location: UMaine, Orono and Peace & Justice Center, Bangor
Info: The theme is "Women's History from Diverse Perspectives." Call or visit the website for a full listing of events.

Saturday April 13th

Maine Teachers Delegation to Cuba

Contact: Renee Cote
Phone: 786-4325
Info: Sponsored by Let Cuba Live. Continues to Saturday, April 20th

Demonstration Against War, Racism, and Israeli Occupation of Palestine

Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Congress Square, Portland

Monday April 15th

Youth Activism Gathering

Contact: Cal Clark
Phone: 588-0347
Email: urbanhood@yahoo.com
Location: Evergreen School, Hallowell
Info: Workshops on youth liberation, veganic gardening, anti-oppression, & more. Continues to Wednesday, April 17th. Call or email to register.

Smoke In

Contact: Maine Vocals
Email: harrybrownsfarm@hotmail.com
Location: To Be Announced
Info: Eleventh annual Patriot's Day Smoke-in for legalized use of hemp.

Tuesday April 16th

Conference Investigating Crimes Committed by the FBI

Contact: Joseph Balter
Email: jbalter007@earthlink.net
Location: UMaine, Farmington
Info: The theme of this year's event is "Making Cruelty Visible."

Augusta Tax Day Events

Time: 12:00noon
Phone: 772-0680
Email: peaceactionme@peaceactionme.org
Location: Post Office, Augusta
Info: 46 percent of each federal income tax dollar in 2002 will go to wars and military expenses. On Tax Day, April 16 (April 15 is a state holiday), peace advocates and war tax resisters will offer people at several post offices a choice of how they would rather have their income tax money spent.

Bangor Tax Day Events

Time: 12:30-1PM
Phone: 942-9343
Email: peacectr@gwi.net
Location: Post Office, Bangor
Info: See Above

Belfast Tax Day Events

Time: 4:30-5:30PM
Phone: 525-7776
Email: invert@acadia.net
Location: Post Office, Belfast
Info: See Above

Portland Tax Day Events

Phone: 525-7776
Email: invert@acadia.net
Location: Main Post Office, Portland
Info: See Above.



photo credit: Roger Leisner

IN THE SHADE OF AEGIS: Demonstrators outside the Bath Ironworks at the Disarmament Vigil during the season of Lent.

Wednesday April 17th

"All About Consent: Sexual Assault on Campus"

Time: 12:15 PM
Phone: 581-1228
Location: Coe Room, Memorial Union, UMaine, Orono
Information: Panel, part of Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

Friday April 19th

New England Economic Justice Conference

Contact: Maine United Church of Christ
Phone: 846-5118
Email: conference@maineucc.org
Web: <http://www.maineucc.org>
Location: Westbrook-Warren Church, Westbrook
Info: Continues to Sat. Apr 20th

Saturday April 20th

HOPE Festival

Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Phone: 942-9343
Email: peacectr@gwi.net
Location: Brewer Auditorium, Brewer
Information: Help Organize Peace Earthwide Festival. Organizational fair with 60 nonprofit organizations, entertainment, & more. Free.

Alternative Education Discussions

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Phone: 368-4935
Location: Public Library, Bangor
Info: Drop-in discussions on alternative education.

Wednesday April 24th

Film "Occupation"

Time: 7:00 PM
Phone: 879-6196
Location: 165 Science Building, USM Campus, Portland
Info: A film about the Harvard Living Wage 21-day sit-in by Maple Razsa and Pacho Velez, narrated by Ben Affleck. Discussion to follow.

Friday April 26th

Workers' Memorial Day

Contact: Maine Labor Group on Health
Email: mlgh@mint.net
Information: Workers' Memorial Day to

remember workers who died on the job.

"The Global Banquet" video

Time: 7:00 PM
Phone: 942-9343
Email: peacectr@gwi.net
Web: <http://www.peacectr.org>
Location: Peace & Justice Center, Bangor
Info: Video showing "The Global Banquet" on the politics of food and free trade.

Saturday April 27th

"Circling for Change: Maine Women Empowering Each Other" Gathering

Contact: Raina
Phone: 772-6714
Location: TBA, Portland area

"Renewable Energy and You, Is There a Connection Yet?"

Contact: Peter Arnold
Phone: 882-7323
Info: 4th annual renewable energy conference.

Homeless Shelter Benefit Walk

Time: 9:30 PM
Phone: 872-8082
Location: Starts at Messalonskee High School, Oakland
Info: Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter 5th Annual Benefit Walk. 2 mile walk. Walkers can begin any time between 9:30am and 12pm.

Tuesday, April 30th

Maine Care Workshop

Time: 9:00AM - 12:00noon
Phone: 621-0677
Location: Calais, ME
Info: Maine's Health Insurance Programs for Families with Children Workshops. Workshop will provide updated information about Maine's publicly funded health insurance programs including services covered, cost, eligibility guidelines and the application process. If you would like to register, please contact the workshop presenter for your preferred location and date. Free.

Wednesday May 1st

Lewiston May Day Rally

Phone: 626-5388
Location: Park, Lewiston
Info: Daylong rally commemorating 15th anniversary of Jay Strike. Will discuss history of May Day, and current Maine labor issues. Presente! will perform in evening.

GLBTQ Youth Conference

Time: 8:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Contact: Downeast GLSEN
Phone: 667-7828
Location: John Bapst High School, Bangor
Info: 1-day conference for GLBTQ youth.

"Basics of Starting a Business"

Time: 9:30 PM - 12:30 PM
Contact: Women, Work, and Community
Phone: 1-800-442-2092
Info: 3 part workshop. Continues for next 2 Wednesdays.

Friday May 3rd

Maine Land Conservation Conference

Contact: Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Phone: 729-7366
Web: <http://www.mcht.org>
Location: High School, Brunswick

Living Wage Rally

Time: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Contact: Maine Rural Workers Coalition
Phone: 783-4208
Email: mrwc@gwi.net
Location: State House, Augusta

Saturday May 4th

Million Marijuana March

Time: 12:00 PM - Sunset
Web: www.cures-not-wars.org/mmm
Location: Capitol Park, Augusta
Information: Rally against intolerance.

Peace Action Maine Annual Meeting

Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Phone: 772-0680
Email: peaceactionme@peaceactionme.org
Location: UU Church, 524 Allen Ave, Portland

Sunday May 5th

Pax Christi Annual Assembly

Contact: Charlotte Herbold
Phone: 223-5096
Location: St. Mary's School, Bangor
Info: Pax Christi (Catholic peace and justice group) annual assembly w/speaker Lucy Poulin.

Friday May 10th

Maine Care Workshop

Phone: 626-7058 ext. 208
Email: mmcpherson@mejp.org
Location: Augusta
Info: See Listing Tues. Apr. 30

Tuesday May 14th

Maine Care Workshop

Phone: 622-7083
Email: lwebber@mainecahc.org
Location: Lewiston
Info: See Listing Tues. Apr. 30

Friday May 17th

Wildgathering 2002

Contact: Blessed Maine Herb Farm
Phone: 654-2879
Email: herblady@blessedmaineherbs.com
Web: <http://www.blessedmaineherbs.com>
Location: Fairgrounds, Rte 150, Athens
Information: A celebration in honor of the Wild Earth. Continues to Sunday, May 19.

20th Anniversary Against the Tide Dinner

Time: 6:00 PM
Contact: Maine People's Alliance
Phone: 797-0967
Location: Woodfords Congregational Church, Portland

Solidarity Calendar Continues on Page 11 (after the insert), including Weekly, Bi-Weekly and Monthly Events.



Maine Solidarity Calendar (continued from page 10)

Monthly Repeating Events

Sundays

Merry Meeting Green Meetings
Phone: 443-9005
Info: 1st Sundays, except holiday weekends.

Mondays

Bangor Clean Clothes Campaign Meeting
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
Contact: Joanna days, Deanna evenings
Phone: Joanna 989-3306, Deanna 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

Waldo County Peace and Justice Group
Time: 7:00 PM
Contact: Susan Lauchlan
Phone: 338-0406
Email: s_lauchlan@hotmail.com
Location: UU Church, 37 Miller St, Belfast
Info: Meets 1st Tuesday each month.

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

MAIN Meeting
Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Phone: 947-4371
Email: kiguay@imfi.net
Location: Equal Justice Center, 126 Sewall St, Augusta
Info: Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods is a coalition of low-income individuals & organizations working together to gain control of our living conditions. 2nd Thursday of month.

Peninsula Peace & Justice potluck supper
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Phone: 326-4405
Email: robbsins@downeast.net
Location: Congregational Church, Main St, Blue Hill
Info: 2nd Thursday each month. Potluck supper and conversation, planning.

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

Ellsworth Area Friends of Peace and Justice Meeting

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Phone: 667-0268
Email: eadams@downeast.net
Information: 2nd Thursday of the month.

Union River Greens

Time: 7:00 PM
Phone: 359-2283
Email: eggplant@ct1.com
Web: www.maineegreens.org
Location: Ellsworth City Hall Auditorium
Information: 1st Thursday of each month.

Saturdays

Northern Regional MAIN Meeting
Phone: 947-4371
Email: kriaguay@infi.net
Web: www.bairnet.org/organizations/main/
Location: Methodist Church, Orono
Information: Northern Branch of MAIN. See Thursday listing. 1st Saturday of month. Call to confirm meeting is happening.

Weekly Repeating Events

Sundays

GLBTQ Congregation Services
Time: 4:00 PM
Phone: 621-2658
Web: <http://www.northernlightsmcc.com>
Location: Riverside Drive, Vassalboro
Info: Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church is an all inclusive church meaning that all religions are represented in the congregation, including Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish.

Mondays

Youth Adelantando Meeting
Time: 5:15 PM - 7:30 PM
Phone: 947-4203
Location: Peace & Justice Center, Bangor
Info: A self-governed group of area youth who are committed to change, working especially on building connections between youth in El Salvador & Maine, issues of 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
Web: www.maineaidsnetwork.com/outright
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.

Tuesdays

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
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, Winthrop St, Augusta

PACT Meeting
Time: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Location: Peace and Justice Center, 1 Pleasant St, 4th floor, Portland
Info: People Against Corporate Tyranny. Meets every 2nd and 4th Tues.

Wednesdays

Let Cuba Live Meetings
Time: 7:00 PM
Phone: 273-3247
Email: stevbee@midcoast.com
Web: <http://www.letcubalive.org>
Info: Usually takes place at the 55 Plus Center in Brunswick, but people should call or email first to be sure, sometimes the third Wed meeting is held in different locations around the state. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.

Thursdays

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

Fridays

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
Information: A program specifically for those GLBTQ youth 16 and under

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

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

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

Portland Outright Meeting
Time: 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Phone: 828-6560 / toll-free (888) 567-7600 for long distance in-state
Email: outright@outright.org
Location: 832 Congress Street, Portland
Information: Safe drop-in space and meeting for GLBTQ youth ages 22 and under.

Saturdays

Camden Farmers' Market Winter Marketplace
Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: State of Maine Cheese Company, Rte. 1, Rockport

Speakouts on Proposed Changes to TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families)
Phone: 947-4371
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Dates & Locations: April 10, Bangor; April 24, Presque Isle; April 17, Sanford; April 30, Augusta

To have your event listed in the next issue of the *Maine Commons* as well as online, email the event info to: editor@maineindymedia.org or write: Maine IMC, PO Box 1444, Waterville, ME 04903.

Actions to End Current Israeli-Palestinian Violence

These four ideas and recommendations for actions by the people and government of the US are based on the belief that the current (early April, 2002) Israeli military actions in the West Bank and Gaza will not reduce but rather will intensify the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians and, therefore, will make any just and lasting peace between the two more difficult.

1. That the violence, physical and structural (discrimination, lack of safety and security) perpetrated by both Israelis and Palestinians, must be condemned by the U.S. people and government. Neither military action nor suicide bombings can bring a just peace or security to either side.

2. That U.S. government public statements must call for an immediate end to Israel's military incursion into Palestinian territory as well as re-emphasizing its condemnation for suicide bombings by Palestinians. All deaths, whether of Israelis or Palestinians, must be equally and strongly condemned.

3. That the U.S. government must work with Middle Eastern and Arab governments and other countries throughout the world to craft proposals for a lasting peace. The louder the outcry from governments around the world, the greater the pressure and chances for a just and lasting peace process. This can begin with support for and enforcement of UN Security Resolution 1402, which the U.S. voted for on March 30, demanding an immediate withdrawal by Israel from all Palestinian areas re-invaded since Friday, March 29.

4. That the U.S. government must withhold a significant portion or all of the foreign aid it gives to the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority as long as the violence continues and until a peace process has begun.

These are vigils that are or were recently ongoing. Call to confirm before attending, if you are not sure. If there is no vigil in your area, this is an opportunity to start one.

Augusta: Fridays, noon-1 PM, Lithgow Library, call 549-3061

Bangor: Tuesdays, 5-6 PM, Federal Building, Harlow St., call 942-9343 and Sundays, 12:30-1 PM, West Market Square, call 546-296.1

Bar Harbor: Sundays, 1-2 PM, Village Green, call 288-4365

Belfast: Sundays, noon-1 PM, High & Main Sts., call 338-6365

Blue Hill: Sundays, 5-6 PM, Town Hall, call 326-4405

Brunswick: Fridays 5:30-6 PM, Brunswick Mall, call 443-2899

Bucksport: Wednesdays, 5-6 PM, Municipal Building, call 469-3946

Camden: Thursdays, 12:30-1 PM, Public Library, call 549-3061

Downeast: 11th of each month, 5-6 PM, Village Green in Steuben, Library in Harrington, Machias, 483-6133.

Ellsworth: Fridays, 5-6 PM, on the bridge in downtown, call 667-0268

Farmington: Fridays, noon-1 PM, Post Office, call 293-2580

Kennebunk: Sundays, noon-1 PM, Main & Water Sts., call 985-1459

Lewiston: Monday, 5:30 PM, Kennedy Park, 946-4478

Portland: Mondays, 5:30-8 PM, Monument Square, call 772-0680

Rockland: Sundays, 7 PM, Post Office on Limerock St., call 594-9575.



D.I.Y. Media

A How-To Series To Help You Be The Media

Digital Processing of Photos for Web and Print

BY ALASDAIR POST-QUINN

This article is meant to help the relatively computer-savvy individual prepare photos for print publications and web design, with a special focus on Indymedia applications. The author is most familiar with Windows PCs, but most advice offered herein is easily translated to other operating systems. As you can imagine, this is a large and potentially messy subject to cover, and the author is writing from experience rather than book-learning on this subject (and therefore is subject to error).

Acquiring photos from an analog source

As many people have not yet taken the ideological and monetary plunge into digital photography, the scanner, which transfers printed photos into digital form, is one of the indispensable tools of computer photo processing. Scanners generally come in three varieties: the handheld, the sheet-fed, and the flatbed. For the sake of simplicity, I will deal solely with the latter type and let owners of the other types translate as needed.

First of all, most scanners prefer flat material to scan. For scanning loose photos, this is not a problem. Scanning from books can be messy, however, since they tend to bend away from the glass the further toward the spine you go. Anyone who's ever tried to Xerox an encyclopedia page will know exactly what I mean. Some flatbed scanners have the ability to scan slides and photo negatives, generally with a backlighting attachment, but most flatbeds do a poor job of this. Slide and filmstrip scanners are much more expensive, however, so it may be more cost-effective to deal with the poorer quality of the jury-rigged apparatuses included with some flatbeds.

The best advice I can give for scanning any photograph, whether for web or print, whether grayscale or color, is to scan it in color at 300dpi (dots per inch). Dpi is a screen-display measurement that has no real bearing on the printed page, but I will go into that in more detail later. Basically, if the resulting image is in color at a higher resolution than you will use, you have much more leeway for converting it to a lower resolution or different color separation. Scanning at low resolutions may be tempting for speed concerns, but it is easier to convert a high-res file to a low-res file than vice versa.

Acquiring photos from a digital source

Digital cameras have many advantages and many flaws. Their major flaw is their price, which leads people to believe they

are not as good quality as their analog predecessors. A digital camera bought for a given price will likely be of worse quality than a film camera of the same price. In order to get the same quality, you will probably have to shell out a couple hundred to a couple thousand more for the digital variety, depending on specifications. However, you will never again have to pay exorbitant prices for developing. On the other hand, you may not be as easily able to put digital pictures in your scrapbook, unless you have a very good color printer.

This is not meant to be a column of advice on how to choose the best camera, but some general considerations are in order. Any digital camera without a preview screen is probably not worth bothering with. Any digital camera that does not tell you how many megapixels (million pixels per image) it is capable of using is also probably not worth it. My camera is a modest 1.3 megapixel unit, but the best digital cameras now go up to 6 megapixels or beyond and resemble SLR cameras in every regard except film. Most digital cameras take pictures at 72dpi, but the size of the picture is so massive that it can easily be shrunken in dimensions and its resolution brought up to 300dpi.

You can also download photos from the internet, but their resolution will almost always be low. High-res photos are often ones you have to pay for. Low-res photos are hard to blow up. But if you have no other way (and the space you have for the image isn't too large), conversions can be done.

Digital Photo Processing

Once you have a photo in your computer, open it in an imaging software like Photoshop or Gimp. If you have used a TWIN interface in your imaging software (Insiders in the computer industry tell me that TWIN stands for "Technology Without An Interesting Name"). Similarly, the PCMCIA card in your laptop allegedly stands for "People Can't Memorize Computer Industry Acronyms"), you should already have an image open.

The first thing to do is to make a master image. This just means to save the image at the highest quality possible, and base all future changes on that file (while making sure not to save over your master file). I personally use uncompressed TIFF format. Images in this format are large, but it is the closest to clean, raw picture data you will find that is still relatively standard on all machines. If you are concerned that you might mistakenly overwrite the file, make a backup copy somewhere else on your machine.

At this point, you can make all sorts of changes to the photo and

always come back to the original if you are dissatisfied with the results.

Think about the final dimensions you want the photo to be seen at. Your imaging software should be able to resize your photo in a couple of different ways. In both, you will want to keep the "constrain proportions" box checked, if there is one - if it is not selected, you will be able to change the width without changing the height and vice versa, which is interesting but not terribly useful in most cases. The first way is simply by changing the number of pixels. This will not affect the resolution of the image, which is denoted as "dpi" or dots (pixels) per inch. The dpi of the image is calculated by the number of pixels the image is on the screen and the number of inches it is on the printed page. To make the dots more dense, the "print size" option may be changed to a smaller value, while keeping the same number of pixels. Generally, you only need to change one value (height or width); the other value will change on its own according to the proportions of the image.

Too much pulling and squeezing of an image can make the final image messy. I suggest that if you make a change you don't like, use the "undo" command or re-open the master file and start from scratch. Don't necessarily try to patch the mistake you made unless you're sure it can be done without loss of quality.

Processing for web

Processing photos for web pages is generally easier than processing them for print. In most cases, the way the photo looks on your screen is the way it will look on anyone else's screen. You do not have to pay attention to the "print size" of web photos, and they can be output in 72dpi, which is standard screen resolution. In fact, the dpi of web photos doesn't make much difference, since web browsers only pay attention to the actual pixel size of the image.

For publishing to web pages, keep in mind how much space you want the image to take up. Generally, it is the width of the image that you will be concerned with, since web browsers scroll up and down naturally, but most people are not used to scrolling side-to-side to read a page. In deciding on the pixel size, consider the other elements in the website, and how wide they are. In Indymedia sites, for example, there is generally a fixed-width column on the far right and left, leaving a space in between that is the width of the screen minus the combination of the two columns. If you can find out what the widths of these columns are, it will help you in determining how much space is left.

Of course, everyone has a different monitor size. I have found that, for

greatest accessibility, it is best to base your web authoring on an 800-pixel screen width. This is the width of the most commonly used screen resolution. If you want to go for total accessibility, you can base your authoring on a 640-pixel screen width, but this is often quite restrictive. On Maine Indymedia (www.maineindymedia.org), we ask that people submitting photos for feature articles keep them at 250 pixels wide or so. This gives ample space for the 2 side columns and any text that may accompany the photo in the article.

When saving your web photo, be sure the image is in RGB mode. This is a color separation (Red, Green, Blue) mode used by web browsers. Other modes are not supported, and an inadvertent saving in CMYK will render the image unreadable by the end viewer.

The preferred file formats for web photos are JPG and GIF. These are the only two formats that are supported by all web browsers. GIFs are generally smaller but are limited to 256 colors. This is often a problem for full-color photos, but is used extensively in web design where the color palette of a site may be limited to all of 16 or 32 colors to begin with. It is also generally fine to use GIF when your image is in grayscale. JPG is what you will want to use for most photos, but be careful - JPG is a lossy format, which means that depending on the compression ratio you choose, your image may be smaller in file size but also noticeably lower quality. Most programs that allow saving in JPG let you choose the compression ratio (from 1 to 12 or so). I often save in the middle or just over the middle for the best file size to image quality ratio.

Processing for print

The most pernicious difference between web and print photo processing is the color separation mode. While web browsers use RGB color, printing presses separate colors according to the CMYK method (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, black). Many a project has ground to a halt because the printer was furnished with RGB photos. In most cases, the printer will be able to make the change themselves, but they will invariably charge you for it, and the procedure is all of 2 seconds long for most images on most computers, so there is no excuse for not doing it yourself. Depending on your imaging software, the process will be different, and some software may not be able to do it at all. Check your manual or help files for instructions. The resulting image will look exactly the same, but will be 1/3 again as big as the RGB file. This is because an RGB file is comprised of three different images overlaid on each other, and a CMYK file is comprised of four.



Maine Independent Media Resource Guide

We hope to develop the most comprehensive Maine Independent Media Resource Guide. We will do features on specific media outlets and programs as well as list highlights of programming around the state. If there is something we are missing, please let us know. You can email suggestions to edemocracy@hotmail.com or snail-mail them to Ed Democracy, POB 4189, Portland, ME 04101-0389.

FEATURED SHOWS



with Amy Goodman
<http://www.democracynow.org>

"Democracy Now! is a national, listener-sponsored public radio and TV show, pioneering the largest community media collaboration in the country. The program was launched six years ago as the only daily election show in public broadcasting. Because of its success, Democracy Now! broadened its focus and became a national news show committed to bringing the voices of the marginalized to the airwaves on issues ranging from the global to the local."

Portland Commons : Common Issues for the Common Good
<http://www.portlandcommons.org>

The newest show on Portland Public Access cable TV -- Channel 2.

A monthly show on a range of social justice issues which are all interconnected. The format connects common people and common issues with activists and policymakers in an effort to build community and bridge the decisionmaking gap.

JOIN US! We meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 6:30pm, 100 Oak Street, Portland. No Experience Necessary! This is an all volunteer production. If you have ideas or just want to become a video activist, then come on over!

Sound Ecology
with host Karen D'Andrea
<http://www.soundecology.org>

"Environmental/ecological public affairs show celebrating three years on WMPG with controversy, current issues, great information, important guests and

always stimulating conversation."

Sound Ecology is the hot spot in Greater Portland for radio activism! Host Karen D'Andrea organized Portland's 24 HOUR homelessness marathon and enlisted the resources of WMPG and WBLM.

Big Talk
<http://www.wmpg.org/shows/thupmpublic.htm>

Join us for this award winning public affairs program. Big Talk takes on the Big Issues that happen right here in our community. Join the discussion by calling in, listener participation required.

Grace Street & Feminist Forum
<http://www.wmpg.org/shows/tuepmpublic.htm>

Listen to Grace Street an innovative call in talk/music show with a focus on addictions. Great music and good talk offers a "street view" of addictions and a talk/forum for those of us seeking a little shelter from the storm. Then, tune into Feminist Forum radio for a feminist perspective.

Free Speech Radio News
<http://www.wmpg.org/shows/monpac.htm>

National News from an alternative perspective, "News you're not supposed to know".

A production of Pacifica Reporters Against Censorship. Over 40 freelance reporters in 14 states and four continents are boycotting the Pacifica Network News.

FEATURED OUTLETS

Radio:



Community Radio 89.9 Blue Hill & 102.9 Bangor
<http://www.weru.org>

WERU is known across the state and across the nation for its leading edge radio activism. Attracting nationally and internationally known people and connecting them with original local programming and the local community has made WERU known coast to coast in community radio. They offer diverse music and progressive information,

much of which cannot be found elsewhere on the radio dial.



www.wmpg.org

A listener-supported community radio station based on the USM campus in Portland.

Web:



<http://www.maineindymedia.org>

The Maine Independent Media Center is a non profit, democratic collective of independent media makers and journalists offering grassroots, non-corporate news coverage and media education for the state of Maine, and enjoying yummy food.



Breaking news & views for the progressive community
<http://www.commondreams.org>

"Common Dreams is a national non-profit citizens' organization working to bring progressive Americans together to promote progressive visions for America's future. Founded in 1997, we are committed to being on the cutting-edge of using the internet as a political organizing tool -- and creating new models for internet activism."

Common Dreams was started by Craig Brown, a nationally known activist, who lives in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. He believes in the potential strength and vision of common people and has sought to showcase and unify their strength and vision on his website.



<http://www.maineprogressive.org>

The Maine Progressive is back! We hope that its online reincarnation will again provide a lively forum for Maine's progressive activists and writers. We see the Maine Progressive as a place where readers can find information about the work of the many groups in this state which are working for the environment, human rights, social and eco-

nomics justice, and peace. We believe that a common forum can build bridges and facilitate cooperation among us all.

Print:

Maine Commons : A Democratic Alternative to the Corporate Media
<http://www.mainecommons.org>

Founded in 2001 as a side project of the Maine Independent Media Center, The Maine Commons was created to be a Maine media "commons" where diverse ideas of diverse people are free to meet and congregate. See pg. 2 for more.

Television:

Community Television Association of Maine
<http://ctmaine.org>

The mission of CTAM is to advance democratic ideals by ensuring that people in Maine have access to electronic media. In order for democracy to flourish, people must be active participants in their government, educated to think critically, and free to express themselves.

Community Television Network - Channel 4 - Greater Portland
<http://www.ctn4maine.org>

A nonprofit organization that was founded in 1986 as a station designed to offer low-cost production rates and access to airtime for community organizations operating in the Greater Portland Area. They provide high quality, locally produced arts, education, health care, public affairs and other community programming to people in the CTN viewing area.

Portland Public Access TV - Channel 2 - Portland
<http://www.ctn4maine.org/ch2.htm>

PPAC's mission is to provide Portland area residents and non-profits with opportunities to share their ideas, interest and views through electronic media by making available training, equipment and a public forum.

Biddeford Public Access TV

Richard Rhames
10 West Loop Road
Biddeford, Maine 04005
(207) 282-2119

SEE THE MEDIA LISTINGS FOR
**WERU, WMPG, AND PORTLAND
CHANNEL 4 ON PAGE 15.**



A 'Wheelchair' Goes to the Movies

BY BARBARA MELDRUM, RN, TEACHER,
MSW, UNEMPLOYED

I'd like to make this a humorous piece, but I'm not in the mood. Bear with me; the 'Wheelchair' is grateful in the end, and all is right with the world. I do think that some of us in the disability community are inventing a new genre of humor, drier than Down East. Let's call it 'freeze dried.'

I went to the movies with my partner, Norman and my 10-year old son tonight. I didn't so much want to see that particular movie, but I wanted to watch Noah see it. It's a place I could never go by myself. The doors are massively heavy and I've ruined my shoulders opening other doors from my wheelchair. (That's another story about a graduate school, a Human Rights Complaint and a lawyer who sold me downriver.) My guys tried to stand behind the doors as they opened them, tucking in their feet so I wouldn't roll over their toes.

The only handicapped spaces were in the last row, filled except for two empty seats, which were not together. A man at the end surveyed the situation, and clearly decided not to rock the boat by asking everyone to move down. I knew enough not to ask them myself, because when I speak to people from my wheelchair, they pretend they don't hear. However, if they do, they express extreme perturbation because the Princess wants her Special Seating.

Norman and Noah found seats elsewhere, and I watched the Coca Cola

ads by myself. To say that I didn't enjoy the movie is a vast understatement. I have fibromyalgia and degenerative joint disease. A predominant symptom of the first (besides unrelenting pain) is depression, which I fight daily by doing painful exercises, volunteering 3,000 hours a year on a hotline, and by dragging myself to the movies. Lately, a victim-blaming experience with a dental duo had thrown me into a tailspin. During the last four movie outings I had not been able to sit with my family, and this was just one time too many.

At some point I had to pee. I crossed my legs for a while, because I knew that once I got out (powering the doors open in that direction), I wouldn't be able to get back in. After wrestling with the bathroom door, I went to the lobby to get help to get in again. I was tempted to take my van for a drive, but I had paid for the damned tickets.

I decided to tell one of the uniformed workers about the fact that they did not reserve seats for the families of wheelchair users. She said pleasantly that she had never heard of that before, but she would tell the owner. Meanwhile, a man came over to see what was up. He said that he'd never heard of reserved seats, and they "only get a couple a Wheelchairs a month." Now, had his tone been conciliatory, I might have let that slide, but his gruff defensiveness stimulated my response: "I'm not a 'Wheelchair,' I'm a person who uses a wheelchair." (I can't rightfully say whether I'd prefer to be a disease entity, a 'Degenerative,' or an inanimate

object.) To give him credit, he did offer us a bench, but I knew that Noah would not be able to see over the heads of those in front, and I didn't want to make a scene. The woman, still trying to be nice -- bless her heart -- helped me back into the theater.

Sitting in the dark, I felt too injured to be angry. The depression that I had beaten back returned with a vengeance. (I can be a 'Fast Cyclor' sometimes!) I wanted to be home licking my wounds. "Why did I have to open my mouth," I thought, "Why do I set myself up like this?" Then I remembered the other two monthly "Wheel-chairs," and planned a letter to the owner (to make meaning of misfortune.) I thought, "Here are all these people laughing at this silly film, and I'm plotting my next political action." That's alienation -- three times removed! The toughest part about having a disability is that you have to fight so hard to be part of the social fabric, yet you never really make it.

"Well," I said to myself (I talk to myself a lot), "I might as well know what the plot is about," so I disciplined my attention back to the film. Since I am a social worker, I don't have a social worker because I know what she would say if I had one: "You need to pretend you're enjoying life, so that eventually you'll discover that you really are because you won't be depressed anymore." It's good advice; I say that to lots of people and I try to keep my own counsel. Actually, that's a bit of an oversimplification, but you get the drift.

The saber toothed tiger, the

human baby, and the sloth named Sid survived, and the movie ended. I waited for people to leave so that I wouldn't clip their ankles with my chair. Norman and Noah walked back, the manager came up to us, and I braced myself. He apologized(!), and said that he had called the owner(!), his tone pleasant-appeasing. He told me that next time they would move people so we could sit together. He gave me their number so that I could call ahead if I wanted to (!), and they would tape off some seats. He gave us free passes so we would come back.

I smiled. A little voice said, "Like this really makes up for all the crap you've put me through." I told that voice to shut up because this was a real victory here! (We 'Wheelchairs' get all excited over the dumbest things.) It didn't take away all the hurt, but it was a nice gesture. In the lobby, the woman said that she had learned something tonight. "Thank you," I said, "Not many people are willing to do that!"

In the car, Norman silently put his hand on my thigh. Back home, Noah arranged the passes with some others, and figured out that he could take seven people to the movies and just have to buy drinks for three and a drink and popcorn for one. (Ten-year-olds are always scheming.) Then he turned to me and said, "But I'm sad that you didn't get to sit with us." "I am, too," I said. We hugged. That's about as good as it gets.

This is the first installment of a regular column by AbilityMaine dealing with disability and accessibility issues.

DIY : CONTINUED FROM PG. 12

Of course, you don't have to deal with any of this if you are planning on printing in grayscale.

Resolution for print is generally 300dpi - hence the resolution I suggested you scan in. However, newsprint does not have to be as high due to the lower quality paper used. Our printer asks for 180dpi photos, but I expect every printer has their own settings. Make sure when you resize your photo that you correctly set its print size. It is best to have an image processing program do this for you rather than telling your layout program to display the image at, say, 42%. Layout programs' scaling-on-the-fly tools are rarely better than scaling down in your image processor. Besides, smaller images will save you space in the final file. Likewise, if you have a large image you are using only part of, it is better to crop it down in an image processor than use only part of it in a layout program - the final file will still include the entire image, even the parts you don't use, which uses unnecessary amounts of space.

Newsprint is also known for its absorbency, as you might find out if you run out of paper towels and make a mess in the kitchen. This also means that photos printed on thin newsprint will come out darker than they looked on the screen. It is generally best, therefore, to increase the brightness and contrast of the image before printing. I generally use 20-30%, depending on the image. The more shadow in the image, the brighter you'll want to make it. This does not generally apply to simple black-and-white graphics. Be sure to increase both brightness and contrast (generally an equal amount), or your picture will appear whitewashed or too sharp.

These are only guidelines, of course, intended to put you on the right path. True learning only happens through making a lot of mistakes, so experimentation is encouraged. But make sure you back up your work first!

-ALASDAIR POST-QUINN

Don't Peek! Answers to the Acrostic on page 18 below:

A. Hoist; B. After The Fall; C. Rigor Mortis; D. Laconic; E. Offenbach; F. Winning; G. Scattering; H. Hot Stuff; I. Amos and Andy; J. Peter Rabbit; K. Lemonade; L. Effected; M. Young Frankenstein; N. Trend; O. Haiti; P. Emblematic; Q. Women; R. Orphans of the Storm; S. Rains; T. Listen; U. Demon; V. Organist; W. Famous; X. Mate; Y. Ammunition; Z. Nimrod.

Step Outside... Shop Outdoors!
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We bring the freshest and earliest produce from our Pittsfield gardens to a town near you. Starting early May we're at the farmers' markets in:
Fairfield—Weds. 2–6pm ❖ **Pittsfield**—Mon. & Thurs. 2–6pm
Orono—Sat. 8am–1pm; Tues. 2:30–5:30pm ❖ **Unity**—9am–1pm
Veggies, herbs, garden seedlings, lupine plants, compost, house plants & garden advice. We have carrots before most folks have rhubarb!

<http://home.gwi.net/~troberts/SOF/index.html> troberts@gwi.net 487-5056

Your Ad Here!

For more info on placing an ad in the Maine Commons, turn to page 19 now!

Locally-owned businesses and non-profits only - your ad will never be overshadowed by a corporate chain store or lost among many other advertisers.



Small Victory for Maine Prisoner

The following is a letter sent to Roger Leisner by Stephen Depka, who will be released from the Maine State Prison on May 3, 2002.

The afternoon of September 17, 2001 was possibly the worst time to receive a package of materials from Radio Free Maine. While much of America sat glued to their TVs watching the tragic images of terror that were unleashed just six days earlier, mailroom censors at the Maine State Prison were busy screening incoming prisoner mail for contraband.

Ordinarily, this consists of searching for the usual, everyday items that people mail to prisoners, such as the requisite metal file, drugs, money, roadmaps of South America, blueprints for weapons of mass destruction, etc. But after the terrorist attacks, prison censors focused more on political and intellectual material which contained "objectionable content", an intentionally vague and ambiguous label with no real definition.

When the guard delivered the mail, it was no surprise that the contents had been mauled over with meticulous care. The prison guards were all wearing red, white and blue ribbons on their uniforms, apparently to signify their patriotism as much to the prisoners as to each other, because who else gets to see them, after all? And anyone who didn't agree with their politics was deemed an enemy, or worse, a traitor.

That it required a period of two weeks for the authorities to review the material, which was apparent from the postmark on the envelope, was unexpected and annoying. Roger Leisner had enclosed numerous flyers describing his voluminous collection of audio and video offerings, which included such names as Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Angela Davis, Jim Hightower and many others. And what I didn't know at the time was that there were also a dozen cassette tapes of lectures recorded by Roger Leisner of Radio Free Maine, that were removed from the package that arrived. I was later to discover they were a most generous gift from Roger Leisner and Howard Zinn.

After noticing the 14 day old postmark moments later, I wrote to the

media review committee (prison censors) and asked if anything had been removed from the packet of flyers. None of the staff seemed to know who was responsible for conducting such censorship or if they even had an office. It took an entire month of waiting and writing letters to various Department of Corruptions personnel to finally learn that yes, there were items removed from the package, twelve audio tapes and two books. It took yet another month after that, an elapsed time of sixty days, to receive the two paperbacks. The books in question? "Index on Censorship for Free Expression" And the theme boldly emblazoned on the cover read, "Intolerance in Europe & American gulags", an irony that I made sure was not lost on the prison-crats.

I don't know if there's any real moral to this story, but I do know that I'm thankful for my friend Jeremy (who is living in the so-called free world and presumably reintegrating well) who managed to successfully smuggle shipments of anarchist zines and books to me (inside the prison laundry cart) while I was serving some segregation time. It was in one of those zines that I stumbled on Roger Leisner's Radio Free Maine address, which prompted me to write him.

I am also thankful for receiving such a wonderful and enlightening gift from Roger and Howard Zinn, whose generosity has helped nourish my insatiable thirst for alternative viewpoints on the political and social ills that plague our modern society. Their insights and dedication to what they believe are apparent and have brought a much needed source of light into the otherwise darkened imbroglia of one American gulag, and one man's life as well.

Radio Free Maine
P.O. Box 2705
Augusta, Maine 04338
Web Site www.radiofreemaine.com
Email: rleisner04330@yahoo.com

This article is an instalment in a monthly Prison Issues column. If you are or have been a prisoner, or work in a prison (especially in Maine) and wish to write about your experiences and insights, we want to hear from you.

Media Listings

Television:

Excerpts from April's Schedule for TV Channel 4 - Greater Portland

Monday

7AM The Maine Stage: Kate Schrock, Series Premiere! (60 Min.)
3:00 PM & 9:00 PM Portland Commons (60 min.)

Tuesday

9AM Portland Commons (60. min.)

Thursday

1:00 & 7:00 PM Community Point of View with Host Lesley Jones and Guests (60 Min.)
3:00 & 9:00 PM Navajo and the Native American Heritage Series (60 min.)

Friday

7AM Community Point of View (60 Min.)
9AM Navajo and the Native American Heritage Series 60 min.)
2:00 & 8:00 PM Democracy Now In Exile (60 Min.)

Saturday

7AM Democracy Now in Exile (60 Min.)

Sunday

12:00PM & 7:00PM The Maine Stage: Kate Schrock, Series Premiere! (60 Min.)

Watch PORTLAND COMMONS: Common Issues for the Common Good every Saturday @ 11am & 7pm on Portland cable Channel 2!

Radio:

Here is a sample of WERU's programming schedule: (www.weru.org)

6:30 a.m.
Information, News & Public Affairs Programs & Features Weekdays on WERU

7:30 a.m.
National Native News -- Mon-Fri

8:30 a.m.
BBC World News Headlines -- Mon-Fri

4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Alternative Radio -- Monday
Radio Philanthropy Project -- 2nd Tues
Deep Ecology -- 3rd Tues
Open Wide the Door -- 4th Tues
Natural Living with Gary Null -- Wed.
Conversations -- Thurs
Doing Business

(Local Live Call-in) -- 2nd Thurs
Conversations on Science & Society with Jim Campbell -- 3rd Thurs
Radioactivism -- 4th Thurs
Call-in (Local Live Call-in) -- Fri.
Alternative Currents with Bela Johnson -- 1st Fri.
Economic Literacy 101 with Paul Anderson -- 2nd Fri.
Talk Of The Towns with Paul Anderson -- 3rd Fri.
Economic Literacy 101 with Jane Livingston -- 4th Fri.

4:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Women's International News Gathering Service -- Mon.
This Way Out -- Tues.
Voices Magazine -- Wed.
TUC Radio -- Thurs.
CounterSpin -- Fri.

4:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Free Speech Radio News (or other independent news programming) -- Mon-Fri

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Democracy Now -- Mon-Fri

Here is a sample of WMPG's programming schedule: (www.wmpg.org)

Monday-Friday 7 to 7:30 pm
Free Speech Radio News (see pg. 13)

Monday 7:30-8:30 pm
BLUNT Radio
<http://www.natecorey.org/blunt>

Tuesday 7:30 to 8:30 pm
Grace Street & Feminist Forum (see pg. 13)

Wednesday 7:30 to 8:30 pm
Sound Ecology (see pg. 13)

Thursday 7:30 to 8:30 pm
Big Talk (see pg. 13)

Satellite:

Free Speech TV
<http://www.freespeech.org>

Watch Democracy Now on FSTV Daily at 8 pm EST
On the Dish Network Channel 9415!

Go to the CTAM website to download a PDF comprehensive listing of public access cable TV stations in Maine complete with contact info.

New Zine out of Milo! Screw the Norm. Free but donations appreciated. Visit <http://screwthenorm.topcities.com/> for more info.



News Blurbs

Union jobs are disappearing. In only the past month, it's been announced that over 300 workers will lose their jobs at the unionized Hathaway Shirt factory in Waterville when it closes this summer. 51 production workers at unionized Bath Iron Works will be laid off in April. Unionized Bangor Hydro, owned by Emera Inc. of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is planning to lay off about 216 workers. And at the unionized Rockland distribution center of Nautica Enterprises Inc., 308 jobs will be lost as the company moves to Virginia. Nautica has been operating in Rockland since 1939, and will be moving all of its operations to Virginia by the end of the year. The corporation recently built a distribution center in Virginia, and said that this move was part of a plan "to further consolidate operations." In 1995, Rockland secured a \$400,000 grant to help Nautica expand, and gave the company a \$13 million tax increment financing deal that was supposed to span a 15-year period. Since then, the town of Rockland has rebated \$1,337,048 in taxes to Nautica. Apparently these incentives were less profitable than the incentives the corporation will receive in Virginia, where already it will gain at least \$3.5 million directly in financial benefits from the state. Nautica will offer Rockland workers the opportunity to transfer to Virginia, and assistance with the transfer. Local 371 of UNITE has succeeded in negotiating a \$2 million severance contract for the 234 union workers to be laid off from the Rockland distribution center. The Rockland distribution center currently employs 308 workers. According to the governor of Virginia, the expanded distribution center in Virginia will create 150 jobs.

Jobs are also in jeopardy at pulp and paper mills. Mead has announced that it will lay off 110 workers at its Rumford mill in April. The Baileyville-based Domtar paper mill (formerly Great Northern Paper) is struggling to stay in business. In the last year over 10,000 pulp and paper jobs have been lost in the US. The mill has lost an average of \$15 million a year for the past 10 years. Domtar is working to avoid having to put people out of work by instead cutting pulp production by 22%. The unionized Great Northern paper mill in Millinocket shut down 2 of its 4 paper machines for 3 weeks. This will affect about 100 workers, who were asked to either use existing or upcoming vacation time for that time. According to the president of the Maine Pulp and Paper Association, the lack of sales leading to the temporary shutdown are a result of foreign competition, a strong U.S. dollar and high taxes and energy costs in Maine. He said that mills in Latin America and Asia especially have an advantage because "They have the advantage of cheaper labor, fast growing trees and looser environmental regulations."

A few jobs are being created in Maine, however. The former president of CMP is planning to buy the machines and possibly the building from the closed MacDonald Footwear Company in Skowhegan, and build a new company that will make only custom-made shoes. This new company will initially employ 8 to 10 people.

A Norwegian salmon corporation, NorWestFish is seeking to lease two 16.5 acre sites in Passamaquoddy Bay in order to set up two salmon farms. The sites would be on an area of shoreline where there have never been leases before. There is some concern about the logic of using these sites for salmon farming since the area is exposed to easterly winds and storms. This has caused concern that the salmon could escape and overtake wild salmon populations. There are 60-70 fishermen, including druggers, weir fishermen, and lobstermen, who make their living fishing the Bay, and they are concerned that if they two leases are granted, it could make way for 6 or 7 new salmon farm leases, which they fear would in effect make traditional fishing impossible in that area. The salmon farms would employ 4-6 workers each.

Residents of Somerset County are voicing concern about the air they have to breathe. In Norridgewock, the Houston, Texas-based Waste Management Corporation wants to expand its Crossroads Landfill. This landfill is one of two large commercial landfills in Maine. Waste Management Inc. is listed by Greenpeace as "one of the world's biggest polluters." In addition to environmental abuses, the corporation has been implicated in human rights abuses, including the fatal shooting of a man in Thailand leading a protest against the building of a new Waste Management Incinerator and landfill. In Norridgewock, residents living near the landfill have complained of resulting headaches, nausea and dizziness from landfill gases. A Waste Management consultant dismissed these claims, stating that while the gas was smelly it was not dangerous and that the symptoms that residents complained about were psychosomatic and related to the strong odor, but would not cause long-term health problems.

Meanwhile, in Athens, residents awarded Montreal-based Boralex Inc. the "Toxic 10 Award 2002" for its biomass burning practices. The "award" was sponsored by Toxics Action Center, a nonprofit organization that fights toxic waste and pollution throughout New England. People living near the plant have been complaining of headaches and breathing problems resulting from smoke from a chip pile

fire that had been smoldering for almost two months. The plant generates energy by burning discarded wood and construction and demolition debris. Mixed in with the demolition debris is PVC. When PVC is burned at low temperatures, it produces highly dangerous toxins, including dioxins. Currently the pile fire has been removed, mostly as a result of it being burned off. The plant still will be receiving and burning some demolition debris, and that has some people worried, since there is nothing ensuring the debris won't contain more PVC. DEP regulations allow a minimal amount of plastics in the debris but some residents are calling for a ban on PVC being incinerated. Residents are also calling for an independent group to be responsible for quality control of the operations. Currently, testing is done by Thompson Enterprises, the hauler of Boralex's debris chips. The citizens' group which presented the Toxic 10 award is asking the DEP to take five steps to prevent this problem from recurring: make a plan to assure the fires will not reoccur, effectively sort PVC and other potentially toxic materials, assign a third party to be responsible for quality control, prohibit burning and incineration of PVC plastic and vinyl materials and implement training for people to be responsible for selecting appropriate demolition debris. Local Mark Roman noted the irony that "Citizens cannot have burn cans out back, but [Boralex] can burn houses (demolition debris)." Town manager, Guy Anton, is hopeful that the company has listened and will change its practices as a result of public outcry, negative publicity, and DEP citations, and become more accountable to local residents, "I think Boralex has gotten the message that people here aren't going to put up with this."

The state of Maine is calling for pesticide spraying in Cumberland, Falmouth, Freeport, Yarmouth, Brunswick and Harpswell. The call is in response to the brown-tail moth population in that area which is approaching its highest level since 1990. Many people are allergic to the moths, and contact with the airborne hairs when the caterpillar sheds can cause a rash, and inhalation of the hairs can cause respiratory problems. It is possible that more than 4,400 acres in this region will be sprayed with the pesticide Dimlin, in order to decrease the caterpillar population. Dimlin kills the caterpillars by inhibiting the molting process and impairing the ability to form a new exoskeleton. Its effects are not limited to caterpillars, however - it has the same effect on shellfish, which must molt and form new shells on a regular basis. This has many fishermen worried about the effects of spraying in coastal areas, especially near lobster-fishing areas. In response, spraying is not allowed within 150 feet of the shore. As a result of the state chemical trespass law, landowners have the right to keep chemicals from being sprayed on their land. In the case of aerial spraying, it is difficult to avoid spraying specific parcels of land in some cases, and in these cases, even when most property owners in an area want aerial spraying, the spraying will not take place if a small number of landowners object.

The East-West Highway is still a possibility. The highway has been pushed for by businesses and legislators since the 1930's. The current proposal from the Bangor City Council contains two proposed routes that would connect Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Toronto, with each route going through Bangor. Proponents believe the highway is needed for safe and efficient travel, economic development and to facilitate increased trade to and from Canada under NAFTA, and explain that it would make Bangor a new "international hub." The estimated cost for the corridor is \$1 billion. Opponents, however, believe that the construction of this highway would take money away from improving already existing roads, that it would almost solely benefit truckers, and mainly Canadian truckers, that it would lead to sprawl and have numerous other negative environmental impacts, and it could harm, and in some cases destroy small communities it would cut through. Opponents also complain that the only people in charge of the proposed project are municipal officials in Bangor who see Bangor as a "hub," and oil and trucking related companies, and that they are not accountable to the public (or in the case of the municipal officials, not accountable to people in other parts of the state who would be affected.) According to a Maine Sporting Camp Association position statement, the highway would cause a "major transition from rural Maine to one more east coast suburbia."

Cable television fees are increasing. According to the cable TV companies, the increases are a result of higher programming costs and upgrades to infrastructure. However, consumer advocate groups, such as the Consumer Union, are blaming the increase on continuing consolidation of media control. Adelphia, the Pennsylvania-based cable provider for much of Maine, has a monopoly on the cable market in most of the areas it operates. According to David Butler, a spokesman for the Consumers Union, cable TV monopolies exist in 95% of American communities. At the same time, cable rates have increased 37%. In 1995, Maine had 8 more cable TV companies than it does now. Then, Frontiervision bought those 8 companies, and in 1999, Adelphia bought Frontiervision. According to Butler, cable TV rates are 14-20% lower than the national average in the 5% of communities that have more than one cable company.



Maine and the Maritimes

Making the Connection

What do Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont have in common with Boston, New York, Washington, Atlanta, Houston, and Los Angeles? The same thing New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island have in common with Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver. Virtually nothing!

But what do these Northern New England states have in common with the Atlantic provinces? A lot!

Not only do both regions share a common Franco-Anglo, Native American heritage, but they are tiny. Their combined population is only 5.4 million -- about the size of Denmark. There are no big cities in either region, only a handful of small ones like Halifax, Manchester, Portland, Saint John, and St. John's.

Although the mountains in New England are higher than those in the Atlantic provinces, with few exceptions, the two regions are amazingly similar geographically and equally beautiful. Prince Edward Island is relatively flat and Vermont is only indirectly linked to the Atlantic. On balance the four provinces have milder winters than their southern neighbors thanks to the warming effects of the Gulf Stream.

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island encompass the site of what was the first permanent French colony in North America, the region known as Acadia. According to some accounts, Acadia got its name from Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano, who in the service of France explored the North Atlantic coast in 1524. Verrazzano called the area Arcadia after the idyllic region of ancient Greece known for the simple, quiet, contented lifestyle of its pastoral people. The r was later dropped.

Although two-thirds of the people living in the Atlantic provinces have some English ancestry, French influence remains particularly strong in New Brunswick where 45 percent of the population have some French connection. The Acadian influence spilled over into Maine, and even today nearly 10 percent of Vermonters are French speakers.

Neither region treated Native Americans very well. The Micmacs still have some influence in the Maritime provinces as do the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy in Maine, and to a lesser extent the Abenakis in Vermont.

Life is lived at a slower pace and on a smaller scale in the Atlantic provinces and Northern New England. People are more laid back than they are in the rest of Canada and the United States. Small is still beautiful in tiny Vermont and Prince Edward Island where roadside billboards have been banned. Freedom, independence, self-sufficiency, hard work, thrift, respect for individual rights, environmental integrity, and loyalty to family and community, are among the common values shared by these regions.

In varying degrees tourism, fishing,

farming, food processing, forest products, and mining are the most important industries in the two areas. Trade flows between the regions are minimal. The Atlantic provinces are heavily subsidized by Ottawa. Dwindling fish populations and restrictions imposed on fishermen by the Canadian government have kept income levels down. Although Maine is dependent on defense-related subsidies, New Hampshire and Vermont are not.

- Excerpted from "A New Atlantic Republic" by Thomas Naylor

On March 22nd, four Maine Indymedia participants headed up to Sackville, New Brunswick, for a conference called "Coming Together 2002." The conference was intended to build networks between people working for social and environmental justice in the Maritimes and Maine. Over 100 participants attended, including people from New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Maine. There were numerous similarities in the issues faced by people in Maine and those in the Maritimes. Participants in this event agreed that it didn't make sense for groups of people living in the same region to be so separated from working with each other on similar issues just because of an arbitrary border. Here is a brief listing of some of the issues that groups in the Maritimes are focusing on.

Africville

In Africville, Nova Scotia, where Seaview Park now lies, about 80 African-Canadian families lived and worked in a self-reliant community. The community grew its own food, fished, had a church, a school, and sustained itself. There is proof of the community existing there at least as early as 1808, likely earlier.

As early as 1912, the city of Halifax had determined to use Africville land for industrial development. It built a city dump, a rendering plant, a hospital for infectious diseases, a prison, slaughterhouses, and 4 sets of railroad tracks near and within the community. All of these developments were businesses that employed few if any Africvillians. By 1965, the city had embarked on an urban renewal campaign. They forcibly displaced the residents of Africville, bulldozing homes to make room for industrial expansion.

African Canadians have been fighting for over 30 years to take back the land and for compensation for the onslaught of human rights abuses, displacement, and environmental racism. From Friday, July 26th, through Sunday, July 29th, the Africville Genealogy Society will hold the 19th annual Africville Reunion, "Africville: Still Looking for Justice." They are calling to build an Atlantic-wide united front against environmental racism and classism, holding a conference, and forming a tent city. If you would like to help, or would like to have a member of the

Genealogy Society visit your group and speak about this (they want to do talks in Maine), please contact the Africville Genealogy Society at tinkya@yahoo.com or call 902-455-2985

G7 Meeting

The G7 are the 7 richest and most industrialized nations in the world (including the U.S., Canada, the UK, Japan, France, Germany, and Italy) & every year they get together to discuss world economics, and therefore, politics and the future of the world. They are part of the larger G8, which includes Russia. The G7 will be meeting at a yet unannounced date (probably 2 weeks before the G8 Conference that takes place June 26-27), in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Halifax activists are organizing a "G7 (un)Welcoming Committee." They are calling for activists throughout the Northeast to converge on Halifax. For more info, please watch <http://www.protest.net/bethechange> and <http://maritimes.indymedia.org>.

Irving Issues

Irving exerts enormous amounts of control in both the Maritimes and many parts of Maine. Irving is the largest landowner in Maine, but it has even more control in the Maritimes, where it owns everything from oil refineries, gas stations, forestry plantations, pulp and lumber mills, to bus lines, trucking and shipping lines, and aircraft to potato farms, fertilizer chemical lines, farm machinery lines, potato processing plants, and dairy farms, to a number of local daily newspapers. Several groups in the Maritimes have worked on anti-Irving campaigns to some degree of success, but currently are relatively inactive. If you would like to help reactivate these Irving campaigns, please contact Aaron at aaronk@mailers.isn.net or 902-659-2575.

Moncton Anti-Racist Action

East Coast Anti-Racist Action (ARA) is organizing a convergence, Smash Hate 2002 - Make the Maritimes a Nazi-Free Zone. It will take place May 10-12 in Moncton, New Brunswick, and feature discussions on tactics, local issues (such as environmental racism in Africville, N.S. and white privilege), movies, concerts, and a spirited march through downtown Moncton.

The convergence is in response to cross burnings, racist graffiti, street confrontations with minorities and anti-racist youth, and neo-nazi group organizing in Moncton. This isn't isolated to Moncton. The Heritage Front and National Alliance are getting increasingly active in Halifax.

Housing and food will be provided. Please contact eastcoastara@canada.com for more information, Or try calling ARA Montreal at 514-573-7867.

Sydney Tar Ponds

Sydney, Nova Scotia has become famous for its tar ponds. The tar ponds are North America's largest toxic waste site. The sludge in these ponds is made of byproducts of the coke ovens, a former Domtar tar plant, a former benzene plant, and raw sewage.

Under public pressure, the provincial government took soil samples at some homes in one neighborhood near the plant - when the levels of toxins turned out to be far higher than government standards, it simply increased the allowable level of toxins to new "urban standards."

Recent studies on the health of the people of Sydney show a significantly decreased average life expectancy, and extremely high cancer and birth defect rates. Yet, these studies did not attempt to establish a link between the contaminated sites and high rates of diseases and illnesses seen in Sydney. To fill in the gap, a Peoples' Health Commission is being formed in Sydney in order to perform a community health survey that will be focusing its efforts around the Sydney neighborhoods closest to the toxic wastes sites and make publicly available cause and result effects. In addition, the PHC believes that the Community Health Survey could be a useful tool to help the citizens of Sydney get more directly involved in issues effecting them. The PHC is also interested in making contact with anyone interested in making a video documentary on the communities affected by the Sydney Tar Ponds. If you can help with the Health Surveys or the documentary, please contact The People's Health Commission at 539-3957 or Bruno Marcocchio at 567-1132.

US Military Base on PEI

U.S. Air Force representatives will be visiting Prince Edward Island to check out Slemon Park facilities for a possible training location. Slemon Park is the former home of a Canadian Forces base. PEI residents are worried that the U.S. Airforce proposed temporary use of this base could become permanent, as it has in other countries. They are also worried what other U.S. military forces or government agencies this could place in the region. The tentative date for the U.S. Air Force officials to come to Slemon Park to check out the facilities is May 13-17. Local residents are planning an "unwelcoming" party to let the military know that they are not welcome. They are asking for support and involvement from others throughout the northeast. People in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are planning on organizing buses or vehicles to come to PEI for the party - a bus or van from Maine would be more than welcome. For more info, contact Aaron at aaronk@mailers.isn.net or 902-659-2575.



ACROSTIC #269

by Herschel Sternlieb

Quote's Author: Harlow Shapley

Acrostic directions: Fill in the numbered blanks next to the lettered clues on the left. Then transfer the letters to the grid according to their designations. The grid can also help you solve the clues. If you need answers to the clues, turn to page 14.

- A. Lift, raise
101 153 17 207 107

- B. Arthur Miller's play about Marilyn Monroe. (3 wds)
78 25 178 131 97 115 84 146 209 156 70 163
- C. Muscular stiffening after heart stops. (2 wds)
147 63 217 98 104 41 170 14 133 136 200
- D. Terse, concise, succinct.
157 189 204 85 93 50 27

- E. Jacques___ operettacomposer
80 127 184 205 64 34 191 57 7

- F. Succeeding
47 26 160 2 125 106 174

- G. Dispersing, disbanding
51 18 185 100 210 87 49 128 199 82

- H. Stolen goods. (2 wds)
116 4 90 126 68 176 24 103

- I. Radio show where whites portrayed blacks. (3 wds)Var.
162 155 134 61 19 81 145 117 67 71 124
- J. Famous carrot muncher. (2 wds)
31 54 30 180 151 202 111 188 121 172 139

- K. Ubiquitous citrus drink.
29 62 197 10 20 69 123 194

- L. Wrought, accomplished.
36 164 135 59 193 129 8 95

- M. Mel Brooks horror spoof. (2 wds)
112 33 165 213 137 40 154 60 192 214 102 119 177 130 66 23 46
- N. Drift, direction.
168 45 74 196 132

- O. Western Hispaniola.
211 15 186 6 195

- P. Symbolic
77 9 113 190 3 175 142 83 212 167

- Q. Men's major quest
149 122 37 94 173

- R. Lilian Gish, D.W. Griffith classic. (4 wds)
1 32 201 138 150 56 11 144 5 118 53 44 73 109 120 88 110
- S. The___ Came. Power-Loy flick.
58 48 169 152 86

- T. Pay attention
35 215 76 12 89 148

- U. Devil, monster.
43 114 143 208 182

- V. Bach or Schweitzer.
42 92 16 75 166 55 38 161

- W. Noted.
96 181 158 39 28 206

- X. Wed
65 183 52 159 21

- Y. Grist for cannons.
198 79 99 91 216 140 13 108 105 171

- Z. The "Mighty hunter of the Lord."
141 72 179 187 203 22

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

TRAWL : CONTINUED FROM PG. 5

catch lobster traps occasionally. The first year we caught 12 traps out of 100 tows. ...We always broadcast and keep track of where we cut, and they usually can grapple and get gear back." Norbert replied, "In the second year, the amount of lobster traps caught was far more than 12. In a video we have from 1st years survey, i know of 4 they caught in one tow." Leroy Bridges, Downeast Lobsterman's Association president, added, "I know personally in the bay that I fished, they knifed off a fella, and I know that he was never contacted, nothing came over the radio, we all have scanners. This fella lost damn close to \$1000 worth of traps."

Lobstermen also contest the numbers of lobsters the survey is finding. They believe that the numbers are artificially low since only a portion of lobsters get caught in the nets, while many stay buried in the mud or get run over by the net, and the trawl surveys the same strip each year. They argue that they keep much more comprehensive records on the lobster population through self-regulation and using on-board recording devices, such as the two year old Thistle electronic log book. Some have offered other alternatives for gathering data on

the lobster and fishery population such as Scuba and snorkle diving, use of submersible minisubs with sensors and sample gathering ability, underseavideocameras, catch & release surveys by live trapping, and side scan sonar.

Proponents of the trawl hold that all methods for researching fish populations have unique sets of strengths and weaknesses, and that all should be used. They argue that trawl survey data is not affected by baiting, variable soak times, effort, and lobster distribution. It is fishery independent, so it is considered free of fishing biases; however, other non-trawl options such as diving, filming, and independently setting traps are also fishery independent.

The questions become: If a combination of research methods are available to get a full picture of the fish and lobster populations, is trawling one of the necessary methods? Do its benefits outweigh its ill effects? And if the trawl is needed, considering that it is intended specifically for gathering groundfish data, can it be conducted without putting forth the controversial official lobster counts which, if unnaturally low, could lead to federal interference?

- BY HILLARY LISTER

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All publications \$2 each, including shipping. Please send well-concealed cash to: Mutual Aid Portland / P.O. Box 7328 / Portland, ME 04112



The "Stuff to Copy or Cut Out" Page

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

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

Inserts (see example in this publication) 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.

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**

Maine Independent Media Center Volunteer Form

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

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

Name _____
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, 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.
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Other Skills/Comments _____

Please Mail to:
Maine Independent Media Center
PO Box 1444
Waterville, ME 04903

Turn over for Donation Form

The Maine Commons Classifieds

will be a new concept in classified ads. In keeping with our non-commercial ideals, we will include listings of **free-for-the-taking items, trades, wanteds** and **skill-sharing**. We do not take classified ads for items for sale/rent; we want to encourage more trade, gifting, & barter.

Prices: \$2.00 for the first 30 words, then 10 cents per word after that. Maximum number of words: 100. Include text for your ad on a separate sheet (or the back of this ad, if photocopied). Make sure to include your name and contact info. Form below is for our records only.

I am listing a free-for-the-taking trade wanted skill

Name _____
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Free Box

Random disassembled computer and other small machine parts. Typewriters to circuitboards. Harvest-your-own or use for sculpture. Contact Alasdair at acpquinn@middlebury.edu or call 649-5980 after 7pm or on weekends.

Trades

Ford Van, frame in good shape, many new parts, camper modified, may need new motor, needs sticker, will trade for reliable, preferably fuel efficient and/or diesel (or biodiesel), sticker-ready vehicle of most any sort, station wagon, pickup, car, bus, van. Contact Hillary, PO Box 1729, Waterville, ME 04903, 649-5980 (after 7pm or any time on weekends).

Wanted

Wanted: Members of the Working Class. Are you overworked, underpaid, or unemployed? Are you ready to build a world without Bosses? Join the Industrial Workers of the World. Students, homemakers, etc. are

all welcome. Bosses need not apply. Write IWW, P.O. Box 3343, Lewiston, ME 04243, or call 207-626-5388 (ask for Jim)

Wanted: For A Forming Community Garden. Soil, old kiddie pools and buckets for planters, garden tools, organic seeds, advice. Contact: Hillary, PO Box 1729, Waterville, ME 04903, 649-5980 (after 7pm or any time on weekends).

Skill-Sharing

Will trade my computer-fixing skills for your vehicle-fixing skills. If you're a mechanic but can't get your computer going, I'm a geek and can't fix a car. Get in touch! Contact Alasdair at acpquinn@middlebury.edu or call 649-5980 after 7pm or on weekends.

This could be your classified ad! Take advantage of our statewide distribution and get your non-commercial classified ad out to the masses! Prison Penpal requests can be made as well. Just fill out the form to your left and send it our way. Thanks!



Maine Independent Media Center Donation Form

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

Name
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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

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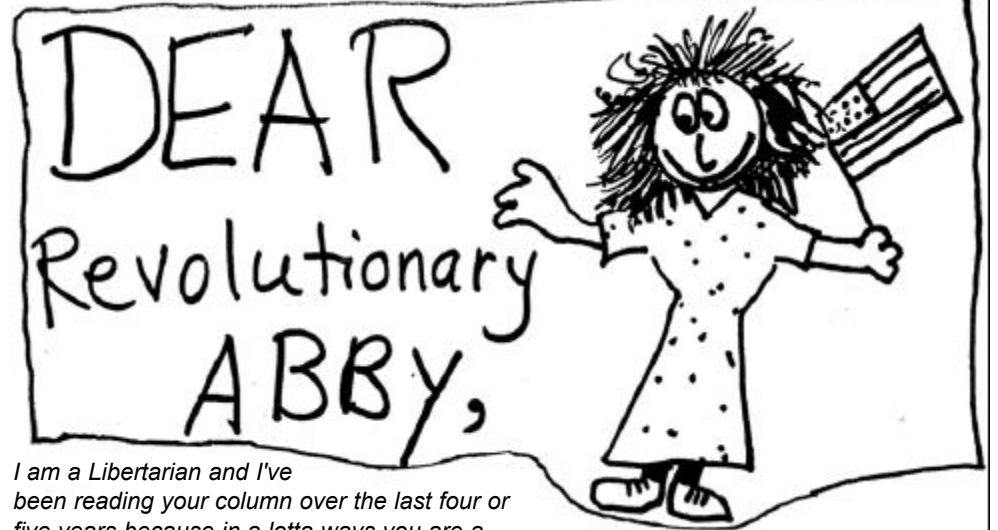
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I am a Libertarian and I've been reading your column over the last four or five years because in a lotta ways you are a Libertarian. In fact, I've heard you call yourself a no-wing libertarian, whatever that means, but I have two bones to pick with you on that. One, I hear you say you want things like free medical and free ambulance, and free firefighting service. That is government.

A real Libertarian does not want any government. Then I've heard you blather on about big corporations and their power and so forth and how you want to have citizens control their charters!!!!!! Abby, corporations are free enterprise. If they get big, that's just the way it goes. They work hard. They deserve vast wealth. They should not be controlled by anyone!!! We need to get RID of government and let things just work out the natural way. THAT is called LIBERTY. Get with it Abby!!!!

Yours for Liberty in Liberty, Maine

Dear LL,

Shucks. You sure are passionate about liberty and what not. Me, too. I believe in personal liberty and in freedom from tyranny.

You see, it is freedom FROM things as much as freedom TO DO things. That's what the Bill of Rights is about. The things which the government cannot do to us is written down there, line by line.

Okay, so HERE is the clincher. Big corporations ... you know, those mega-corporations, tools of the mega-investors, bankers, whatever you want to call them ... these corporations ARE the government.

Corporations make the laws, pick the presidential candidates, senatorial candidates etc etc. They shape our VALUES through foundations, grants, fellowships, institutions..(media, colleges etc). They hold seminars for judges, media managers, etc etc. They own all the BIG media and tell most of us what to think and feel. They shape the news. In fact, they literally make videos now, theater pieces, which go to the networks. Press releases for the newspapers. They OWN the Congress. They tell the Congress and State legislatures how to spend OUR tax dollars. They decide where wars will be and why. They decide what to tell us and what not to tell us. Corporations run the UN now (United Nations). They have created investor rights agreements called NAFTA, WTO (Gatt), FTAA and in the works now a new beauty, GATS.

These agreements are awesome, LL. They overrule all governments of the world to make sure that for one accidental little moment, a particular government of a particular nation doesn't represent PEOPLE, regular people like you and me.

Holy Toledo on a rolling donut, LL, don't you see?

See the American people there on the Freedom Elevator. Suddenly the door slides open and in steps the 900,000 pound green mega-gorilla called The Corporation.

There's not enough room. Somebody has to get off, the gorilla or the people.

Sure, sure, sure, some tiny corporations stay nice-ish and do a good job by people. The non-profit kind often do. But the corporation, which is a piece of paper, has, by the permission of the Constitution, become a scary ugly THING. It has no FEELINGS, but has more rights (yes, the Bill of Rights) and privileges than we do.

It has TOTAL control. It even has our MINDS. It has started a myth (ahem... big lie) that if we deny it liberty, we deny ourselves liberty. That's NUTS...

I agree with you that ANY kind of government should not be too big. I do not see Free Medical as government, but a service, one we've paid for already for many generations. But I believe a government should not only be small, but less complex. What has made it so complex?

First the plantation guys. Then the industry guys. In other words, POWER GUYS. Whenever they have found that citizens wanted representation for themselves THE PEOPLE, the POWER GUYS would throw in the fog and the haze and the tangled webs of laws, the illusions, the jargon, the gaps and the hitches, all meant to EXCLUDE us.

Actually, I think the government is too small. Yeah, a small cozy club for mega-corporate wheeling and dealing. To represent the American people, we need a whole mess of representatives to represent us, and if one single representative for a corporation tries to slip in, we all scream "TREASONER!!!!!!" and pitch him or her out.

Unfortunately, right now THEY are in and we are OUT. THEY are the government.

Yours Forever in Truth, Revolutionary Abby

The Anti-Authoritarian Youth Cryout

This insert was put together to bring light to youth who read it that there is resistance out there, that even they are affected by the existing structures of today, and that those who challenge it are being silenced and we must join them.

This is a paid insert. Get an insert for your group or project -- details on pg. 19

Young And Oppressed

BY BRIAN DOMINICK & SARA

While most common oppressions, such as sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, even speciesism, have been identified, widely acknowledged, thoroughly discussed and deeply analyzed, one oppression remains largely untouched. This fact is astonishing given that the group oppressed by this ignored injustice is one to which every adult human has once belonged. It is the one oppression with which all humans can identify, having suffered from it directly. It is not an oppression of a tiny minority to which few will ever belong. It is not the oppression of people who can be blamed themselves -- by any stretch of the imagination -- for being among the oppressed.

The oppressed group is that of young people -- all young people.

As we will further demonstrate, adults and adult institutions in our society regularly commit acts of abuse, coercion, deprivation, indoctrination and invalidation against young people. From the moment of conception, young people are oppressed by their elders, entirely based on the difference in age, via a process known as "ageism."

As an oppression in need of acknowledgment and understanding, ageism is vital to oppression theory. Yet its overall framework has long been ignored. Sure, many an author has attempted to discuss the relationship between parent and child, teacher and pupil, detention center officer and detainee, etc. But when has it been stated that adult society, as an institution, oppresses the young regularly, consistently, and without exception? And when has it been stated further, in any detail, that this oppression is vital to, and largely born of, society's need for maintenance at such absurd, atrocious levels? Let's face it: when adults look at oppression theory, they do so from a "grown up" perspective - one which sees right over the heads of even their own children. While the Left takes great pride in its defense of women, the impoverished, racial and religious minorities, etc., it fails to realize that among the most thoroughly and widely oppressed are society's young. In our struggle for true liberation, we can leave no one behind -- especially not those to whom the torch of revolution shall be passed.

That is why ageism needs to be recognized.

Which brings us to why ageism is unique among oppressions: we are all directly its victims. It is not at all presumptuous to claim that the one oppressive dynamic of which we have all been on the receiving end is that of ageism. Indeed, we are all victims of every oppression acted out in our society. But none other than ageism claims each of us like a man carves a notch on his headboard, like a bombardier a stencil on his airplane, a capitalist a dollar in his bank account.

That is significant. When we step back and observe the social engineering performed by society's institutions upon its members, oppressions are plainly spotted in the tool chest of the dominant. Among those oppressions which help maintain the power positions of the wealthy white Christian heterosexual male elitist adult, ageism is universal. It is also, unlike the others which are interchangeable, completely indispensable to society's maintenance of individual apathy.

In order to be a permanent victim of an unjust society's power structure - that is, accepting and not resisting one's own victimization - one must be engineered as a child to remain docile in the face of oppression. Certainly young people who are impoverished, female, African American, gay or otherwise in position to be oppressed, are conditioned for disempowerment. But what about white male children of upper class parents? Why do they show the same signs of submission and apathy when confronted by oppressors? Why do they, by and large, fail to expose and resist injustices, both in concept and in everyday encounters? Could it be because, as children, they undergo a rigorous process of indoctrination, both formal and informal, in schools, on television, at church, in the home? Could it be because they have been abused and coerced by legal systems, parents, teachers, police? Because they have been invalidated by overpowering institutions and individuals whose purpose it has been to teach them of their "incompetence," their "worthlessness"? Could they be so as a result of having been deprived of their right to self management, of simple needs, indeed of love and understanding and support? Could



it be, at last, because throughout childhood and adolescence they have been treated as adult society has seen fit for its young - ignored, conditioned, neglected, brutalized, violated and compelled?

Then, as adults, they reproduce their own suffering, this time inflicting it upon those the society of which they are now full members has traditionally oppressed. As adults, they are offered power over - if no one else - the people on whose behalf few stand: their children, their younger neighbors, their adolescent customers, their voiceless constituents.

It is clear that ageism is not just another oppression. In some cases (few would disagree) age difference, aside from being the basis for oppression, is a justification for special treatment. Surely children require guidance as they learn for themselves about social realities. In

many cases, clear bounds need setting by adults, for the child's safety and indeed for her or his benefit. But how much more often than not does the relationship between adult and young person -- between adult institution and the young population -- become counterproductive, destructive, outright violent? Why are these inequities not exposed, denounced and struggled against by those of us who regularly fight other oppressions?

These issues, equal in importance to the full examination of ageism itself, are in dire need of discourse. With that in mind, we hope to present, from our own biased perspective as young people, what we see as the issue: What is ageism? How does it manifest itself in practice? What are its results?

(CONTINUED ON PG. 2 OF THIS INSERT)

Political Ageism

BY BRIAN DOMINICK & SARA

Few oppressions are more obvious than those perpetrated by governments. From laws to bureaucracies, the manipulation factor in state systems is staggering. The most blatant mechanism employed by government towards the oppression of its subjects is certainly the legal system. Consistently, it is laws made specifically against young people which most flagrantly display the state's contempt for their youthful attitudes; mindsets which by their nature contradict prevailing social values and norms. After all, young people are one of the only oppressed groups which the US government not only discriminates against in an official capacity, but towards whom it does so unabashedly and without apology. The list of things the state will not allow people to do based on their age is seemingly endless. At the same time, the rights and "equality" of most other oppressed groups are lauded and, at least to some extent, protected by government agencies.

There is little validity to the argument that young people, due to their inexperience, need to be protected from themselves by agents of the state. It is the government's own interests which require defense from young people's natural lack of subordination and submission. Hence, authoritarian structures are forced to protect themselves by containing the expression of free thought and activity by children and adolescents. As a sort of insurance policy, the government stunts self-confidence, individuality and creativity at the earliest age possible, knowing full well that its resurgence in adult life will then be unlikely. People must be trained for submission when they are most vulnerable to impression, which happens to be when they are young.

The government displays its contempt for young people's ability to determine the courses of their own lives by trying to restrict their access to everything from R-rated movies and ear piercing to alcohol and tobacco. Conflicting with the concurrent pressures introduced by the market economy - which encourage participation in "risqué" entertainment, exotic fashion and drug usage - the imposition of such limitations is counterproductive at best, probably even devastating. The mixed messages conveyed by the two wings of the establishment that possess the farthest-reaching influence pit

(commercially manufactured) impulse against (state-imposed) inhibitions, and the confused results are ruinous.

Another outstanding and pressingly current example of legal ageism is the rash of curfew laws which is presently sweeping the nation. While crime rates hover at mid-1970s levels, violent incidences have become increasingly concentrated among the young community, particularly in urban areas. Rather than take an approach which could be labeled even slightly rational, many local governments have decided to pass new laws and further restrict the rights of young people. Though laws will never keep young people indoors, they will surely keep them out of places where they can safely meet and recreate. Meanwhile, the boredom, frustration and despair felt by many young people is only fueled and aggravated. This is a clear example of coercive power used to deprive young people of the freedom to act as they choose, regardless of whether harm would be done to themselves or someone else (the usual accepted criteria for determining legislation).

As few clear-minded folks would dispute, modern states have managed with alarming success to master the art of indoctrination. Without using severe and boisterous methods of brainwashing, the government has achieved the relatively efficient production of numbed minds, conditioned for obedience, servitude and, in turn, the perpetuation and magnification of state power. Not only does the state define the curricula which will be imposed upon any student whose parents cannot afford private school (and upon many whose can), but it forces them to attend classes in Eurocentric barbarism, as dictated by powerful adults who define education standards. Those mental factories which the government does not control it at least regulates.

In the classroom, the student learns, above all else, that learning is boring, degrading and difficult. Based on quantitative systems of instruction, even the most progressive mainstream schools educate young people of little else than submission, assimilation and conformity. It's not what you learn that counts, it's how much you can prove you know. More still, as education standards and expectations regress, the rule is who knows more, not if anyone knows anything of relevance.

The enforced process of hand-raising, through which the student demonstrates her or his subservience to the teacher, is a classic display of the demeaning relationship promoted by formal scholastic activity. The teacher, at the same time, is an adult who is chosen unpluralistically and given ultimate authority - not only in the sense of "expertise" but also of "power." That is, the class is being run by someone who is vastly different in age from the students, and was chosen not because of leadership competence but knowledge alone; charisma, compatibility and attitude being irrelevant.

While the teacher is dictating many rules and little important knowledge, the students are being stratified and segregated. Young people begin the process of discrimination by gender, class, race, etc., which reflects the attitudes of parents and teachers, before they are in grade school. "Boys are good at math and science, girls needn't so much as try their best." "Black students do not possess the capacity to learn as well as whites, so we'd might as well spend less energy trying to teach them." The pattern is irrational, but it has been consistent and unwavering for centuries.

Although experimentation with a progressive concept known as "inclusive education" is now being undertaken around the country, the separation of students according to their perceived ability to learn is still dominant throughout most US schools. Elites are formed of "gifted" students who display a propensity to learn at a faster pace, while "normal" students are herded into overcrowded classrooms across the way from those tagged "disabled." Do these distinctions haunt the adult lives of students grouped as such because they were originally accurate or because they became self-fulfilled prophecies during childhood and adolescence? Furthermore, in case the labelling system does not sufficiently stabilize a young person's self-image, requiring that his or her class ranking be included on every high school transcript does the trick.

Formal education, whether it be collegiate or secondary, is wonderful practice for one experience which can be looked forward to by prospective adults: routinization. School teaches people to fall into line, obey rules and, most of all, to qualify. Whether one learns anything or not, one had better pass the final; whether one works a fulfilling job as an adult, one had better bring home a paycheck.

Other government institutions practice ageism as well. There is little argument on the Left that the US mili-

tary -- any military, for that matter -- uses severe forms of indoctrination, coercion and invalidation, whose effects overshadow even those of the most thorough scholastic "education." The recruitment practices of the armed forces are diabolical in their use of propaganda and outright lies, as well as their focus on young people, not so much for the acquisition of strong, young bodies as impressionable minds. Save for professional criminality, the military is often seen by America's poor to be the only way out of poverty, a fact illustrated by disproportionate numbers of Latino, Afro-American and working class recruits. And again, the military complex instills the same biases and psychological effects as the education system, only with much greater severity. The broad effects of military service on the individual young person, not to mention whoever s/he is manipulated or forced or bribed into killing, are clear and disastrous.

As our world becomes more and more technologically advanced, it has become increasingly difficult for individuals to maintain any sense of individuality. As humanity is herded and oppressed as a whole, it is the young who receive the most trampling. As if the isolation felt by adults is not enough, their needs are often fulfilled by the state (over which adults at least have some power) far prior to the needs of their children. We live in a system where even those adults whose voices are allowed hearing receive very little from the power structure which holds them down. So how can we (especially those of us on the Left) have gone so long without recognizing that young people, whose voices are seldom heard if ever, are even more severely oppressed by that same, inherently violent system of authority and subordination?

This article and the article on page 1 are excerpted from the pamphlet "Liberating Youth" by Brian Dominick and Sara.

The pamphlet's full text is available here:

<http://www.rootmedia.org/~messmedia/kidlib/libyouth.htm>

You can also order it in hardcopy from that site for \$2.00 sent to:

**Critical Mess Media
PO Box 7037
Syracuse, NY 13210**

The Anti-Authoritarian Youth Cryout

pg. 3

Youth Activism Resources

Central Maine Outright 621-6393 centralmaineoutright@hotmail.com
Lewiston-Auburn Outright 786-2717 outright_la@hotmail.com
Coastal Outright 800-207-4064 coastaloutright@yahoo.com
Portland Outright 828-6560 outright@outright.org
Bangor Outright 990-3626 drew_eman@outright.org
Downeast Outright 667-3506 dean@downeast.net
 - Gay, lesbian, bisexual, Trans, Questioning and allied youth under 22 who have drop in programs for youth. Call to find out what nights.

Youth Adelantando 947-4203

- A self governed group of youth in the Bangor area who are committed to change. The group works especially to build connections between youth in El Salvador and Maine, issues of corporate control, and peace work.

Web resources

<http://www.rootmedia.org/~messmedia/kidlib/libyouth.htm>
http://www.infoshop.org/interviews/katie_sierra.html
http://www.infoshop.org/kidz/k_schools.html
<http://www.infoshop.org/kidz/curfews.html>
<http://crayon.does.it/>
<http://free.freepress.org/genterror/index.html>
<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Parliament/8487/>

Book Recommendations

How Children Fail, John Holt
Deschooling Our Lives, edited by Matt Hern
Teenage Liberation Handbook, Grace Llewellyn
Deschooling Society, Ivan Illich
Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Public Schooling, John Taylor Gatto

The Underground History of American Education, John Taylor Gatto

For more info on youth activism, youth liberation, write:

Anti Authoritarian Youth Cryout
 r.r. 2 Box 8049
 Gardiner, Me 04345



Walkout in Oakville Product of Persistence

OAKVILLE, ONTARIO THU OCT 25, 2001

Oakville walked out too! But the politics were backwards. At my school, walkouts can only occur if the weather was good. But I managed to get thirty students and about 10 or 20 pedestrians to help.

I started at 9:00am Monday morning with a sign that said "PROVINCE-WIDE STUDENT WALKOUT OCT 23RD". By 9:30 cars were slowing down, some even stopped to ask what we were protesting. I told them, and they were in full support.

At about 9:45am (which is break time at my school) the students started flowing through the crosswalk as they read my sign. Some asked if they would get suspended, I simply told them if they bring their friends, they would not because it's in support of the teachers and students across Ontario.

By 10:00am, everyone was

gone. So there I was, sitting by myself at the crosswalk waiting for more cars or people to show support. I waited until lunch time which is 11:00am at my school. One bad apple came up and ripped my sign in four, threw it on the wet ground and told ME that I was making the school look bad. That ended my campaign for the day.

The next day, I waited in the Main hallway in the front of the school with a drum and five rather large signs. People told me that I was going to make an ass of myself. I told them to come out anyways. The second I walked out I was immediately confronted by my Vice Principal. He told me that if I walked out, he would suspend me, and whoever walks out with me will also be suspended. I beat my drum as hard as I could, I blew my whistle as loud as I could and made my way through the VP and a crowd of smokers.

I guess that sparked a rebel-

lion because I had 20 people walk out with me. We took over the crosswalk. We stayed there for about fifteen minutes. Cars were honking their horns for us to move. One individual told each car what was going on and how to get around us. The cars didn't move and neither did we. Then one driver who was apparently on our side said, I'll follow you to the next intersection.

So we moved. Right in front of police headquarters in Oakville. The cars helped stop traffic until lunch which was 11:00am. Two hours of stopped traffic on the busiest intersection in Oakville. A major accomplishment, well not quite. When we moved along the street back towards our school, we were confronted by about 15 police officers waiting to arrest someone.

It turns out that we were lucky that there was a lot of traffic in front of the police station and around the intersection, the police cars were too far back to see what was going on, and too dumb or lazy to walk.

Back to the front line. One officer shouted "Who is responsible for this?", I raised my hand and shouted back from the middle of the 30-40 person crowd, "I am".

Lucky me I had picked some really good protesters. The rest one by one raised their hand and shouted the same thing. The police were obviously looking for a confrontation. So we made a deal, walk us back to the school, no arrests, or we'll go back to the intersection and work our way downtown.

The police took their time deciding what to do. We had reached an agreement. The police could walk us back to the school, no arrests, as long as we wouldn't block another intersection during the next walkout.

As we walked back the crowd dispersed, so did the police. We managed to get back to the school with a stopped short, but very successful walkout.

- JUST A. GUY

Justice for Katie Sierra

The latest from Katie and her attorney, and how you can help

As of late, there has been a great deal of discussion online about the case of Katie Sierra, and what supporters can do to lend their voices to the efforts to help Katie. On Nov. 28, I talked with Katie Sierra and her attorney, Roger Forman, and I wanted to communicate the latest news and ways they suggest people can support this case.

In case you're just learning about this case...

Katie Sierra, born in Panama, is a 15-year-old ninth grader at Sissonville High School. in Charleston, West Virginia in the United States. She's become the subject of national media attention after the high school suspended her for anti-war sentiments and her desire to start a student anarchist club. She was suspended for three days in October for defying school orders not to form an anarchy club or wear T-shirts that include slogans opposing the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan. The handwritten message on the T-shirt that got her in trouble read: "When I saw the dead and dying Afghani children on TV, I felt a newly recovered sense of national security. God Bless America."

The school claimed Katie's actions disrupted student learning and a Kanawha County Circuit judge upheld the suspension. The West Virginia Supreme Court on Nov. 27 voted 3-2 not to consider Katie Sierra's petition to prevent the lower court from "continuing to deny her freedom of speech." Her attorney says federal court and other legal options are being considered.

Media reports of threats Katie's received are indeed true. She's being homeschooled right now (in a program paid for by the school) because of those threats (due to her parents' concerns, and the fact the school can't guarantee her safety). She says she'd prefer to be in school. However, the situation as it is has made that a problem.

I cannot emphasize enough, in case that's not completely clear, of how the issues related to what's happening to Katie affect so many movements, from those of us speaking out against U.S. intervention in Afghanistan, to the rights of students to organize, to the growing legal and extralegal movements to repress, intimidate and criminalize dissent (particularly anarchists). Katie's fight is our fight, and our support of this companion is essential. Katie Sierra and Roger Forman are extremely welcoming of support from the anarchist community, and I encourage each of you concerned about what's happened to Katie to take action. Katie, obviously, is a really great and gutsy person and she deserves support from all quarters.

Suggested actions:

a.) Please contact the high school and the county board of education to demand equal opportunity for Katie's education. She has become the

target of harassment and attacks at school, and Katie's parents have pulled her from school because school administrators cannot guarantee her safety. This unwillingness to protect Katie from harassment on the part of Principal Forest Mann is nothing less than tacit support for student violence. Mann has spoken to the media in opposition to Katie's right to free speech, and the school and the board of education should take measures to give Katie the education she came to the school for -- in her classes and free from abuse. Send polite but firm letters supporting Katie's rights to education, freedom from abuse and free speech, and demanding Katie be granted security to return to school.

Contacts:

- Sissonville High School 6100 Sissonville Drive Charleston, WV 25312 (304) 348-1954

- Principal Forest Mann fmann@access.k12.wv.us

- The Kanawha County Board of Education, attn: Superintendent Ron Duerring 200 Elizabeth St. Charleston, W. VA 25311

- Melanie Vickers Assistant Superintendent (304) 348-7787

- West Virginia Board of Education Site Webmaster

sfleming@access.k12.wv.us

b.) If you are in the Charleston, West Virginia region, protests and other actions are welcomed. Roger says, "I never believe that lawyers work in isolation so I wish people would take to the streets." This represents a great opportunity for anarchists to coalesce with a wide variety of people -- from civil libertarians to peace activists to those concerned about the increased repression many activists are experiencing. Please consider laying down plans for actions now.

c.) If you would like to make a donation, Katie and Roger suggest making a donation to the West Virginia American Civil Liberties Union (WV-ACLU), which is providing legal representation to Katie. Please make sure to indicate your

donation is going to supporting Katie Sierra's case costs.

West Virginia ACLU P.O. Box 3952 Charleston, WV 25339

d.) Send letters in support of Katie to area newspapers, and to challenge the assertions made about anarchists.

- Charleston Gazette <http://www.wvgazette.com/static/Forum.html>
gazette@wvgazette.com

- Charleston Daily Mail [250 words or less] editor@dailymail.com

e.) Send an email in support to Katie directly. Since moving to West Virginia this summer from Florida, Katie's been in a hostile environment. Reports have covered various harassment Katie has endured. Students spit on her mother's car at the high school. A boy wore a T-shirt signed by many Sissonville students that read: "Go back where you came from." The idea is to silence Katie Sierra, and she deserves our support for her courageous stand. Send her an email to anarchistgirlie@aol.com (she's okayed distributing her address) to express your support.

For continued information and updates on Katie's case/status, visit: <http://www.illegalvoices.org/katiesierra>. We should be able to set up ways for Katie to update info herself on the site soon.



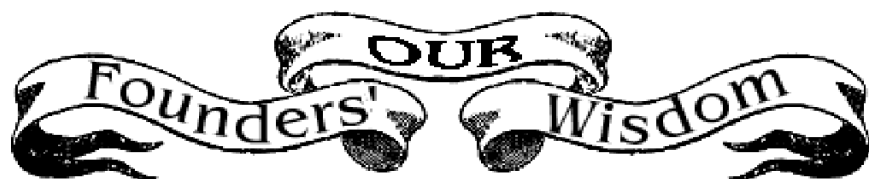
The two most important things we learn as children are to walk and talk. Then we go to school and are told to sit down and shut up.



THE NEW CHAUTAUQUA Countercoup Times



Issue No. 3



"The most effectual engines for pacifying a nation are the public papers. A despotic government always keeps a kind of standing army of newswriters who, without any regard to truth or to what should be like truth, put into the papers whatever might serve the ministers." -- THOMAS JEFFERSON

"It is proper to take alarm at the first experiment on our liberties. We hold this prudent jealousy to be the first duty of citizens and one of the noblest characteristics of the late Revolution. The freemen of America did not wait till usurped power had strengthened itself by exercise and entangled the question in precedents. They saw all the consequences in the principle, and they avoided the consequences by denying the principle. We revere this lesson too much to forget it." -- JAMES MADISON

"Beware of the leader who bangs the drums of war in order to whip the citizenry into a patriotic fervor, for patriotism is indeed a double edged sword. It both emboldens the blood, just as it narrows the mind.

"And when the drums of war have reached a fever pitch and the blood boils with hate and the mind is closed, the leader will have no need in seizing the rights of the citizenry. Rather, the citizenry infused with fear and blinded by patriotism, will offer up all of their rights unto the leader and do it gladly so."

"How do I know? I know for this is what I have done. And I am Caesar."

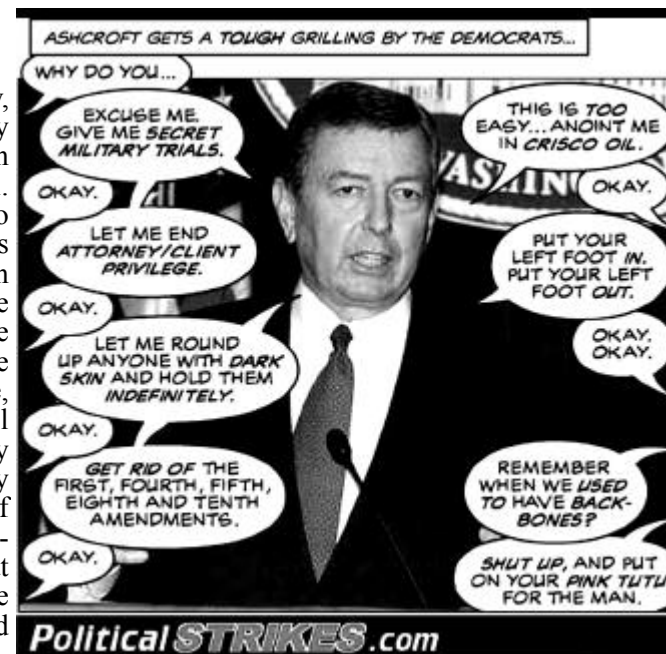
-- JULIUS CAESAR

Editorial

As ye must note by now, CC Times is not really about local news or even traditional journalism. Our sole mission is to offer thinking Mainers enough suggestive recon & references to sense the reality of the corporate coup themselves. We don't know which voice, cartoon or article will trigger it off, but we pray each of you will one day experience an instant of crashing insight, a political satori, if you will, that starkly reveals the true nature of our plight and what must now be done.

As Jim Hightower tirelessly observes, "the problem" is not this multinational or that conglomerate, but the nature of Big Corporate Being itself, and its silent seizure of sovereign power. Corporate entities are tyrannic by design and preach obedience, consumption, and competitive greed like a new religious creed. Inside corporate membranes, members must surrender all their Bill of Rights protections, including privacy. When these hierarchic bodies run a society they strive to put these same controls in force. As above, so below - if our rulers outlaw democracy in their own private worlds, they are not bloody likely to champion it in ours.

In view of all this, "our" government's recent attacks upon our civil rights, its mad declaration of perpetual war, and its otherwise inexplicable energy, health, defense, and environmental policies begin to make perfect sense. They are all exquisitely rational if your chief concern is increasing corporate authority, wealth and power, rather than human well-being. This may not be "good news," but it is vital knowledge for our survival as a free and humane land. Therefore like a desperate Paul Revere we intend to keep bellowing it around the state until we find a wake-up call that works.



THE NEW CHAUTAUQUA Countercoup Times

AN INSURGENT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR
LIBERTARIANS, PROGRESSIVES, RADICALS,
SIXTIES MOLES, STUDENTS, WORKERS,
YANKEE INDEPENDENTS AND EVERY
OTHER MAINER WHO BELIEVES THAT
CORPORATE DOMINATION OF OUR
CULTURE, CONSCIOUSNESS AND POLITICS
HAS GONE ENTIRELY TOO DAMN FAR.

Editorial Chores

Big Medicine

Layout & Design

D. Norby

A. Post-Quinn

Please send letters and feedback to
cctimes@nancho.net or P.O. Box 13
Kennebunkport, ME 04046

As Maine Goes... The Chautauqua Breakout Beyond Unity

'We're Here to Take Back the World'

Hightower Rolling Thunder attracts thousands of Central Texans
by Dick Stanley © Austin American-Statesman 3/24/02

Austin - With one swing of a red wooden mallet, Austinite Jeremy Hepokoski sent a metal slug flying up a vertical track to ring a bell entitling him to a momentous choice: \$17 billion to buy 10,000 nuclear weapons or to hire 425,000 school teachers. It was a no-brainer for Hepokoski. He hired the teachers...

It was safe to say president Bush had few fans among the more than 5,000 young and old Central Texans who paid \$10 at the gate or \$5 in advance to attend the Austin kickoff of the Rolling Thunder Down Home Democracy Tour.

It was a gathering of liberal activists who, feeling increasingly marginalized in national politics, are determined to jump-start what organizer and former Texas Ag Commissioner Jim Hightower calls a movement of populist awakening. "A day of fun, music and education. Who could ask for more?" said Travis

County Judge Sam Biscoe, who opened the noon to 9 p.m. event from a stand in the expo center's chilly barn, which usually hosts groomed farm animals at livestock shows.

A stiff breeze through the open-sided barn unfurled an American flag with stars replaced by corporate symbols such as McDonald's golden arches. A nearby sign declared, "We are the true majority." Food stands offered honey lemonade and veggie tamales. There was free massage and acupuncture for the perpetually stressed.

"Have you been to the 171 tables yet?" asked Sue Johnson of Wimberley (referring to booths for groups ranging from Amnesty International to the Lakeway Parents Concerned About Sewage Spray). "It's not fringe so much as alternative, and there really is a difference. Our turn's coming."

Johnson, a representative of the Texas Organic Grower's Association, was distributing newsletters in hopes of finding new members.

Newspaper columnist Molly Ivins, who calls Texas politics "better than the zoo, better than the circus," was one of several speakers who mixed progressive exhortation with biting humor, always at the expense of the conservative opposition, whether Democrat or Republican.

"I look at (U.S. House Majority Leader) Dick Armey," Hightower told the crowd, "and I think: 100,000 sperm, and you were the fastest?"

It wasn't all fun and games. Workshops included: Stealing Elections 101, Culture Jamming: Pranks With a Purpose, and Radiation in Our Food & Community.

Six weeks from now, organizers said, the tour will move on to bigger game in a dozen more cities, including Atlanta and Chicago.

"This is not just an affair to complain about the world," Hightower said. "We're here to take back the world."

CUTE NUKES, TEENY-TINY NUKES BY MOLLY IVINS

AUSTIN, Texas -- Thinking about nuclear weapons is sort of like looking directly at the sun: If you do it for more than a split second, you go blind. Or insane.

Our government is now contemplating such a ne plus ultra of idiocy that it's enough to make one yearn for the dear, departed days of MAD (mutual assured destruction). MAD was such a sane policy. Dr. Strangelove, report for duty immediately, the Bush administration needs YOU!

We are about to get a new nuclear weapons policy -- cute nukes. Teeny-tiny nukes. I was betting the Pentagon would name them "precision nukes," but I have once again underestimated our military's ability to obfuscate with mind-numbing language. The cute nukes are "offensive strike systems."

Now here's a sane sentence from the Pentagon's new Nuclear Posture Review: "Non-nuclear strike capabilities may be particularly useful to limit collateral damage and conflict escalation." That means we won't wipe out entire populations and start World War III if we stick to non-nukes. A point to be considered.

But our busy military planners like to plan for all contingencies (except terrorists with box-cutters) and are proposing "a new gen-

eration of nuclear weapons" -- just what we need. The cute nukes are to be "employed against targets able to withstand non-nuclear attack (for example, deep underground bunkers or bio-weapons facilities)."

The drawback to cute nukes is that they're more "useable" than the old-fashioned, clunky kind -- it's so much more tempting to use just a tiny little nuke. But cute nukes do have the same charming property as the grown-up kind -- they're made of lethal radioactive materials no one on God's green earth knows how to get rid of.

Naturally, the rest of the world thinks we're nuts, and they're not even using diplomatic language to say so. A Russian legislator inquired if Americans "have somewhat lost touch with the reality in which they live."

We could spend some time relishing the glorious black humor MAD produced, but let's take a few steps back here at look at the Big Picture. Here are the questions: What do we think we are doing? And what kind of country do we want to be?

According to the State Department, the federal budget in 1949 for international aid and diplomacy (that is, efforts to settle conflicts peacefully) was \$66.4 billion. In the 2002 budget, it is \$23.8 billion (from Harper's

Index). We spend less on foreign aid per capita than any other industrialized country. Japan spends \$3.5 billion more in total than we do. Some world leader.

We are also neglecting our own people and infrastructure. How pathetic is it that we're going to put another trillion dollars into the military while we cut back on child-care for women moving from welfare to work?

We are, as we remind ourselves too often, the most powerful nation on earth. How do we want to use that power? What do we stand for? Democracy, human rights and global prosperity? Do we really think we can make the world a better place by building a new arsenal of nukes? And how much money does that take away from building democracy, human rights and global prosperity?

In the play "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," at the end of the relentless tragedy one says to the other, "There must have been a time, somewhere near the beginning, when we could have said no." As the beloved Robert Frost put it, "Two paths diverged in a wood, and I -- I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." We have been down the more-traveled path of spending insane sums for unspeakable weapons many times before,

and we know where it leads. The state of the world today is not much of a recommendation for it. Before we lurch off onto it again, let us at least stop and think, and ask questions and demand answers, and consider alternatives.

Before the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, before we become a shape with lion body and the head of a man, with a gaze blank and pitiless as the sun, before we become that rough beast, its hour come round at last, slouching toward Bethlehem to be born ... let's stop. And think. Because this may be our only chance to say no.

THE AXIS OF JUST AS EVIL

BEIJING - Bitter after being snubbed for membership in the "Axis of Evil," Libya, China, and Syria today announced they had formed the "Axis of Just as Evil," which they said would be way eviler than that stupid Iran-Iraq-North Korea axis President Bush warned of his State of the Union address. Axis of Evil members, however, immediately dismissed the new axis as having, for starters, a really dumb name. "Right. They are Just as Evil... in their dreams!" declared North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. "Everybody knows we're the best evils... best at being evil... we're the best."

Diplomats from Syria denied they were jealous over being excluded, although they conceded they did ask if they could join the Axis of Evil. "They told us it was full," said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. "An Axis can't have more than three countries," explained Iraqi Prez Saddam Hussein. "This is not my rule, it's tradition. In World War II you had Germany, Italy, and Japan in the evil Axis. So you can only have three. And a secret handshake. Ours is wicked cool."

International reaction to Bush's Axis of Evil declaration was swift, as within minutes, France surrendered. Elsewhere, peer-conscious nations rushed to gain triumvirate status in what became a game of geopolitical chairs. Cuba, Sudan, and Serbia said they had formed the Axis of Somewhat Evil, forcing Somalia to join with Uganda and Myanmar in the Axis of Occasionally Evil, while Bulgaria, Indonesia and Russia established the Axis of Not So Much Evil Really As Just Generally Disagreeable.

With the criteria suddenly expanded and all the desirable clubs filling up, Sierra Leone, El Salvador, and Rwanda applied to be called the Axis of Countries That Aren't the Worst But Certainly Won't Be Asked to Host The Olympics; Canada, Mexico, and Australia formed the Axis of Nations That Are Actually Quite Nice But Secretly Have Nasty Thoughts About America, while Spain, Scotland, and New Zealand established the Axis of Countries That Be Allowed to Ask Sheep to Wear Lipstick. "That's not a threat, really, just something we like to do," said Scottish Executive First Minister Jack McConnell.

Courtesy of www.satirewire.com

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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CHAUTAUQUA CULTURE

The Chautauqua movement was founded in 1874 on the banks of New York's Lake Chautauqua. The original intent was simply to edify rural teachers, but it soon became a place where thousands of families could gather together for several days of inspiration, education, and enjoyment. People came from miles around to hear progressive speakers of national renown, enjoy music & dance, and openly debate the great issues of their day. The idea spread.

In 1878, the New York Chautauqua initiated the first book club in our country, eventually sponsoring more than 10,000 local reading circles all across the land. At the turn of the century, Traveling Chautauquas were first introduced, and in their heyday 21 such troupes operated on 93 circuits, reaching a phenomenal 35 million people a year! Teddy Roosevelt was so taken by the radical democratic spirit of these original tours, he exclaimed, "The Chautauqua is the most American thing in America."

THE POPULIST BACKDROP

Once you start exploring the populist ferment of the early chautauqua era, you soon find startling parallels between their struggles and our own. Consider, for example, these *deja vu* passages from the Populist Platform of 1892:

"The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation; we meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box, the legislatures, the Congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized... The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled; public opinion silenced; business prostrate, our homes covered with mortgages, labor impoverished and the land concentrating in the hands of capitalists... The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes, unprecedented in the history of the world, while their possessors despise the republic & endanger liberty.

"We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon the suffering people. We charge that the controlling influences dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop without serious effort to prevent or restrain them. Neither do they now promise us any substantial reform... They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives, and children on the altar of mammon; to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the millionaires."

Other than substituting "billionaires" for "millionaires," are there any other textual changes we really need to make today?

The populists fought the good fight, but were finally vanquished early in the last century by the corporate-owned press,

police and politicians of the day. They were aggressively replaced by more factory-friendly union movements and the so-called "progressives" who were willing to settle for piecemeal reforms rather than contest the basic structure of corporate power.

Though the populists were crushed and largely erased from high school history, it is amazing to realize that 120 years ago populist firebrands like the Knights of Labor had over 700,000 national members (with over 120 lodges in Maine!) and openly called for full racial integration, equal wages for women, public control of basic

utilities & consumer/producer cooperatives to replace wage-slave factories. In many ways, the Knights were the true visionary ancestors of today's anti-corporate rule movement, and the issues that they raised are still central to our cause.

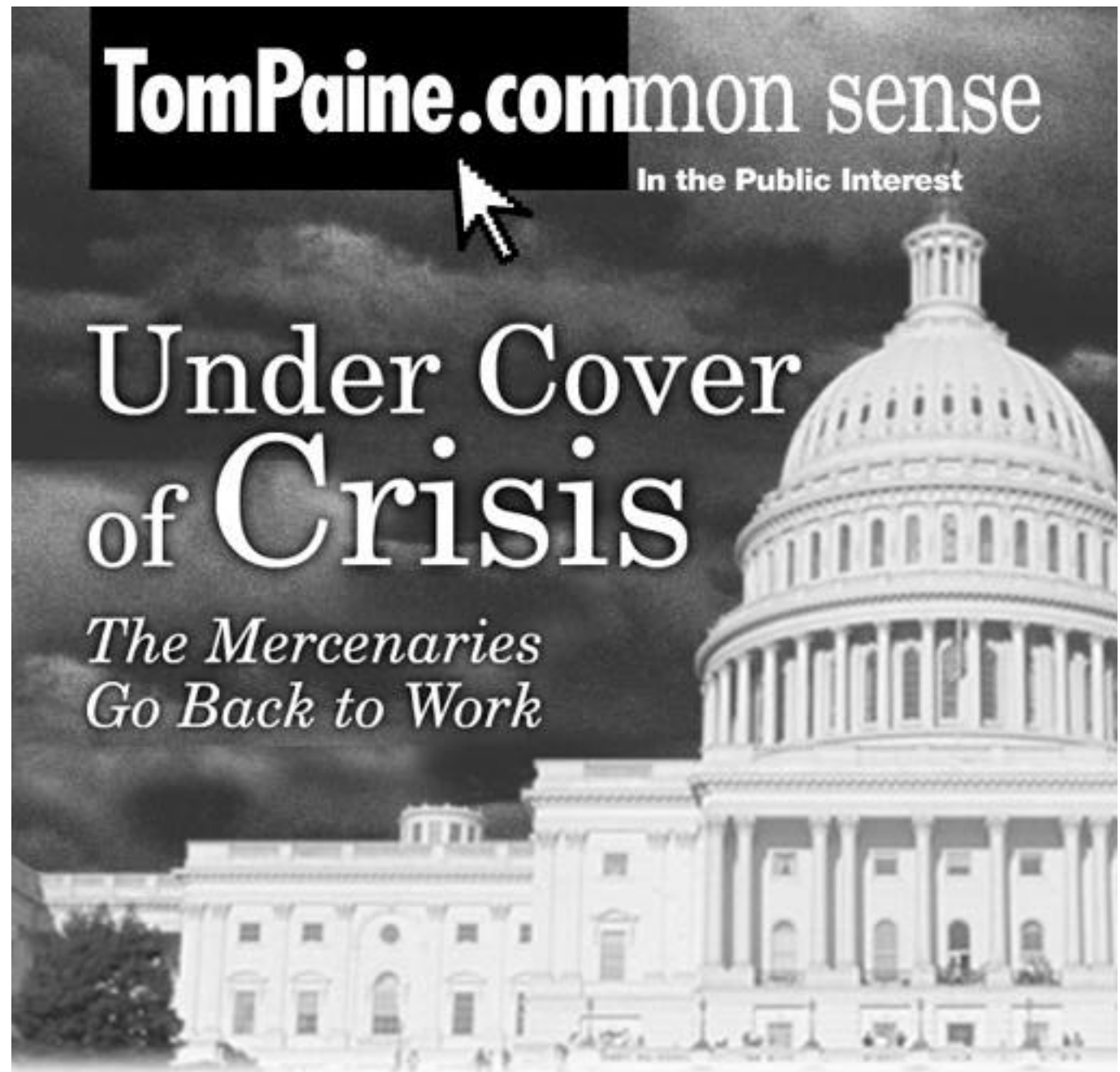
THE COUNTERCOUP FOREGROUND

So what can we learn about strategy from these articulate, well organized, numerous, non-violent, and ultimately futile forebears?

One simple lesson we might draw is quite inspiring: Very ordinary people talking and working together for human rights & social justice anywhere can spawn a potent move-

ment for economic and political democracy (even without telephones, let alone email).

More sobering lessons are: a) without fair media exposure even broad-based reform movements can be misportrayed to death (and we thus need to claim our own media and find ways to tempt the latent humanity of younger corporate journalists); and b) our history texts have been quietly lobotomized, and our collective memories of US labor history, populist struggles for justice, and corporations' gradual usurpation of total power have all been lost in shadow (and it is here that we must cast new light).



THE MERCENARY AGENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST RETURNED to work in Washington even before the smoke of 9/11 had cleared, before the tears had dried.

As most Americans asked what they could do for their country, the special interests asked what the country could do for them.

The airlines forgot their historic distaste for government and begged for taxpayers for help. Congress responded with a bailout worth billions. Help for laid off airline workers was an afterthought.

Before 9/11, the Dinosaur Lobby's energy plan - call it "**The Fossil Fuel Pollution & Profit Protection Act**" - was headed for a Senate filibuster. Immediately after 9/11, first Senator Murkowski and then Senator Inhofe tried to revive it, saying it would reduce our reliance on foreign oil. Gagged as they are by the Dinosaur Lobby's campaign cash, Murkowski and

Inhofe cannot say that a major investment in renewable power and efficiency is a better path to energy independence and new jobs at home.

In the name of 9/11, Star Warriors at the Center for Security Policy - funded by defense contractors - urged Bush to throw even more money at missile defense. Never mind the program's string of failed and fixed tests - its only success so far has been lining contractors' pockets. Never mind that future threats, like those of 9/11, will likely fly under any missile defense radar.

Not to be outdone, the National Taxpayers Union, defender of the oppressed wealthy, suggested that more tax breaks for corporations and the richest would aid the war on terrorism.

Opportunism knows no bounds. Anything is possible under cover of crisis.

What Happened on 9/11? Whose War is this Really? Heroic Congresswoman stands (alone) to ask the tough questions

Georgia Rep. Cynthia McKinney has begun demanding that the Bush/Bin Laden connection and the bizarre fabrications included in the official story around the 9-11, WTC attacks be fully investigated. *(Excerpts from a 3/25 speech)*

And so, with no concern at all for the effects on others of US supported terrorism the US, with its bombs and military, has embarked on a world-wide crusade against terrorism that Bush said likely will last as many as 20 years. The list of target countries is long, with Afghanistan, Somalia, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, the Philippines, and Iraq offering the starters. But what of the fact that Henry Kissinger and the current new US Ambassador to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, both once lobbied Washington, DC on behalf of a US oil company, Unocal, and a softer policy toward the Taliban? Whose war is this really?

In November 2000 Republicans stole from America our most precious right of all, the right to free and fair elections. In an organized manner, Florida Governor Jeb Bush and his Secretary of State Katharine Harris created a list of convicted felons, 57,700 to be exact, to "scrub" from the state's voter roles.

The names were created from Florida records and from lists provided by 11 other states, the largest list coming from Texas. We now know that most of the people on that list were innocent of crimes. The list was a phony. And worse, the majority of those rightful voters were people of color, and likely Democratic voters. Of the thousands who had their votes scrubbed, 80% are African Americans. Had they voted, the course of history would have changed. Harris declared Bush the victor by only 537 votes. President Carter has said that the Carter Center would not certify the 2001 election had they been asked to do so

Consequently an administration of questionable legitimacy has been given unprecedented power to fight a war against terrorism. ...

Moreover, persons close to this administration are poised to make huge profits off America's new war. Former President Bush

sits on the board of the Carlyle Group. The Los Angeles Times reports that on a single day last month, Carlyle earned 237 million dollars selling shares in United Defense Industries, the Army's fifth-largest contractor. The stock offering was well timed. Carlyle officials say they decided to take the company public only after the September 11 attacks. The stock sale cashed in on increased Congressional support, a hefty defense spending including one of United Defense's cornerstone weapons program.

Now is the time for our elected officials to be held accountable. Now is the time for the media to be held accountable. Why aren't the hard questions being asked?

We know there were numerous warnings of the events to come on September 11. Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, delivered one such warning. Those engaged in unusual stock trades immediately before September 11 knew enough to make millions of dollars from United and American airlines, certain insurance and brokerage firms' stocks. What did this administration know and when did it know it, about the events of September 11? Who else knew and why did they not warn the innocent people of New York who were needlessly murdered.

September 11 erased the lines between "over there" and "over here." The American people can no longer afford to be detached from the world, as our actions abroad will have a direct impact on our lives at home. In Washington DC, decisions affecting home and abroad are made, and too many of us leave the responsibility of protecting our freedom to other people whose interests are not our own.

From Durban to Kabul to Atlanta to Washington, what our government does in our name is important. It is also now clear that our future, our security, and our rights depend on our vigilance.*

For righteous sentiments like these and her refusal to back down on her investigative demands, she is now receiving a barrage of hate mail and media criticism. Please send cards and letters of support to:

U.S. Representative Cynthia McKinney
124 Cannon Building, Washington, DC 20515
better yet, send (much needed) donations to:
The McKinney Campaign Committee
PO Box 371125, DeCatur, GA 30037

"Full monty: video (go to minute 30) & text:
<http://www.flashpoints.net/realaudio/fp20020325.ram>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/portside/message/2198>

BRINGING DEMOCRACY HOME

by Ellen LaConte

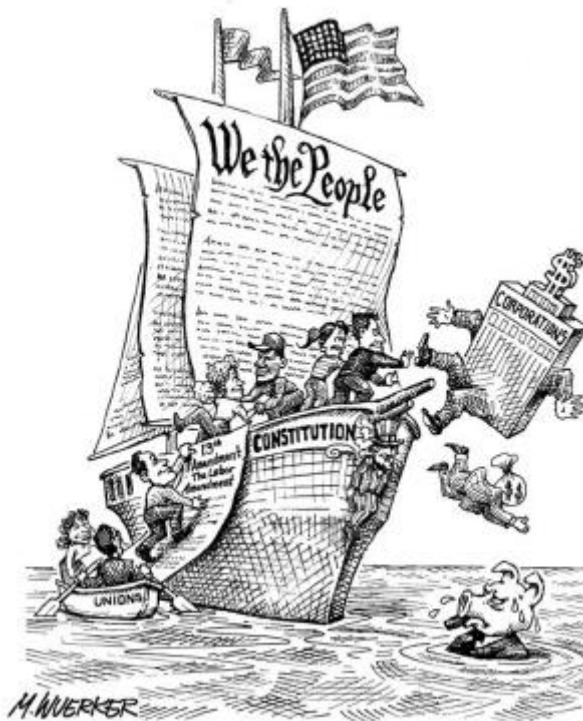
Maine has entered the era of the post-agricultural, post-industrial, corporate-dominated global society -- whether it wanted to or not. The economy is not the only thing affected by indifferent absentee landlordism. Most Maine communities now struggle to understand who they are, where they want to go and how to get there.

Even the best intentioned local governments are often at a loss. On the one hand, they don't know their constituents as well or personally as they used to which makes it difficult for them to define and defend the common good. On the other hand, state and federal government and the business sector, to which community leaders usually turn for help, are increasingly inconsistent and unreliable. Elected and professional officials are equipped to manage communities under established conditions, but not necessarily to envision and lead them toward new or improved ones.

The upshot is, quality of life in communities of all sizes is at risk. But there is an alternative. It's a grassroots, hands-on, take-charge alternative called Consensual Democracy that's been adopted in Limestone and Waterville. It's described in detail in the manual/manifesto "Recreating Democracy," by Lloyd Wells and Larry Lemmel, backed by the Center for Consensual Democracy in Woolwich, Maine and applauded by the Maine Community Foundation.

Here's the premise: The best source of vision for the well-being of a community is We the People who live and work in and know the shared values of the community. The best source of energy for maintaining the quality of civic life a community desires is also We the People, its citizens. Citizens are all the people who consent willingly to get involved . . . everyone who has a stake in the community and is willing to support that stake by participating actively in governing it. We the People have the constitutional right, and the power if we exercise it, to establish and operate local civic governments that are a complement or alternative to elected government. With Consensual Democratic procedures communities now also have the methods and structures. Here's the process, a 12-Step program fully explained in the "Recreating Democracy" book and supported by the Center, and you don't have to be an experienced activist or organizer to engage in it:

- 1) Get the community together several times to identify, then promote its shared values.
- 2) Include in the process everyone who freely consents to participate.



3) Identify the common interests and assess the collective resources and strengths of the community. (For help with this step, see resources like the Center for Consensual Democracy and Michael Shuman's "Going Local.")

4) Employ democratic (e.g., non-hierarchical, non-majoritarian) methods.

5) Create and sustain responsible citizenship (e.g., by making it safe, easy, and desirable to participate in local governance.)

6) Operate independent of local government by establishing non-profit Community Associations, described and empowered with bylaws, and sustained by local volunteer support.

7) Create a citizen-defined vision of the community's future.

8) Align and coordinate citizens to achieve the vision.

9) Build community capacity with a Community Partnership program. For example, by enlisting other non-profit service organizations like schools, churches, hospitals to collaborate and cooperate on behalf of the vision.

10) Develop broad-based financial support, e.g. via consensual taxes and earned income. (See the book.)

11) Own and operate forum-type media, like the Maine Commons and the DIY media described in its pages.

12) Organize and govern the community's civic sector in cooperation with other consensual democratic communities and as a complement, advisor or opposition to and/or substitute for city, state and federal government.

This is what government of, by and for the people looks like. It's immediate, responsive, specific, flexible, fair, inclusive and open. It's hard work, but doing it restores a community's self-respect along with its confidence and capacity. And it builds a kind of immunity to unchecked corporate invasion, allowing citizens to make demands on those who would set up shop in town. By bringing democracy home, Consensual Democracy puts the power where the problems are. This kind of D.I.Y. democracy is safer than hunting, more fun than bowling alone, more rewarding than playing the lottery, and a better legacy to leave our kids than the finest-kind of trickle-down economics, passive consumerism, or reduced expectations.

Ellen LaConte is a free-lance writer, grassroots democracy advocate and long-time supporter of Helen & Scott Nearing's Good Life Center. Her email is elaconte@netunlimited.net

For more info on this process or the *Recreating Democracy* book, contact the Center for Consensual Democracy, Box 406, Woolwich, ME 04579 or www.consensualdemocracy.org