

# All Maine Matters

Fishery Notes - Farming & Forestry, too!

Vol. 1, No. 2 February 2006

FREE

## The Great Assault Weapon Illusion

By Jeff W. Zimba

Here we are again. I think it was almost 18 years ago the first time I picked up a pen on this subject and here we are, right back to square one. Am I surprised? Heck no. The people who have orchestrated this whole fiasco are very well organized and have the complacency of the general public on their side. All I have on my side are solid facts and years of experience, but it takes an ounce of effort and the desire to learn something new to have any real impact. Unfortunately for the truth, it is much easier to roll over and just accept the now common, and false perceptions that have been force-fed to us via the evening news for more than a decade. Simply because I will not accept the fact that so many people really don't care about the truth, I have to make another attempt to reach some of the people that are being used as unwilling pawns of the anti-gun movement.

tell the difference between a real assault weapon and one that simply LOOKS LIKE one, the anti-gun movement decided to use this obvious confusion to their advantage and dupe the citizens of the United States into believing that they were the same. Many times I have seen a reporter on the news speaking about a semi automatic version of these rifles while someone in the background is firing the real, fully automatic machine gun, that is already illegal to manufacture. This confusion is the entire catalyst of their ridiculous ban. Just to completely clear this up, the guns they show you and talk about are already banned, and have not been manufactured for 20 years. The guns that are actually affected by their proposed legislation only LOOK LIKE the real ones and they know most of you do not know the difference. This is the illusion exposed.

First and foremost, there is no such thing as a "semi-automatic assault weapon". A real assault weapon by definition is a fully automatic machine gun capable of firing as long as the trigger is pulled back. Those are the firearms used by our military, and have been practically regulated and taxed out of existence. As a matter of fact, there has not been a single, real, assault weapon manufactured that can be owned by a member of the general public since May 19, 1986.

The guns actually affected by this legislation are no different than grandpa's old hunting rifle. If there is any difference at all, these guns are ballistically inferior to all those hunting rifles but the action and mechanism is exactly the same. That's right. In terms of energy and accuracy, the proposed guns to be banned and branded as "evil assault weapons" are actually much less powerful and fire no faster than the vast majority of hunting rifles in many of our gun cabinets, rifle racks and hanging over our fireplaces.

This is where the lies all began. Knowing that the average person cannot

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This old service station, built by Lloyd S. Williams, was originally a repair garage and filling station. Built in 1935 on the site of David DeLong's store, which burned in 1932, Lloyd operated his service station until 1942. He opened it again from 1945-1952, and again from 1956-1963, before turning it into an antique shop in 1976.

## A New Hope for Maine

By Dan Schuberth

Last week at the State of the State address, Governor Baldacci provided ample evidence for why he is regarded as one of America's most unpopular Governors by his constituents. One every issue the Governor chose to discuss, he offered up misleading rhetoric with no real evidence to support his claim that the State of the State is "strong, secure and healthy". While the speech was clearly aimed at calming the growing fears among citizens across the state, those who attended the speech, both on the left and the right, departed from the State House genuinely worried about our State's future. They have good reason to worry.

I was alarmed by the fact that the Governor refuses to acknowledge one of the most glaring problems facing our state today: the shortage of good-paying jobs. While the Governor cited modest gains in employment in a select few of Maine's regions, he glossed over the fact that hundreds of our young people are forced to leave the state each year upon completion of their education to seek employment in other states. This mass exodus is in direct correlation to the fact that Maine continues to have one of the most oppressive climates for businesses, despite the Governor's unsubstantiated claim that Maine is the most business-friendly state in New England. If this was truly the case, then Maine's best and brightest would not be driving south to New Hampshire to seek employment.

As a young person looking forward to raising a family here in Maine, I was alarmed both by what the Governor talked about and what he chose not to talk about during his speech to the Legislature.

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JOIN THE PAPER TRAIL (AND SAVE A TREE): IF YOU ARE CONCERNED LIKE WE ARE, READ THIS PAPER, CIRCLE A NUMBER, AND PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

### Maine:

#### A Sanctuary State for Illegal Aliens

By Rep. Richard M. Cebra

In travels around my legislative district, I'm often asked about Governor John Baldacci. Recently, a constituent said, "Tell me the worst thing the governor has done."

fugitives, criminals or terrorists - are entitled to the full range of welfare, medical and other benefits intended for the lawful, taxpaying people of our state.

I thought for a moment. Was it Dirigo Health, which now threatens to tax working Mainers to pay for the governor's failing program? Was it running up \$325 million in unpaid Medicaid bills that Maine owes to hospitals in the state? Was it LD1, the governor's "tax reform" bill that now could spark a full-blown revolt over property taxes?

With the stroke of his pen, the governor ordered state employees to not inquire about a person's immigration "status." That means that illegal aliens can obtain Medicaid, subsidized housing, food stamps, welfare payments and in-state college tuition - something denied to legal Americans from other states. We're also one of the few remaining states that issue driver's licenses to people who are here illegally. Once they have a license, it is likely that they will, under the Motor Voter program, register to vote.

No, the worst thing this governor has done, in my view, took place on April 9, 2004. On that day, he quietly signed an executive order that effectively made Maine a sanctuary for illegal aliens. He turned Maine into the first and only state to proclaim that people in the country illegally - even if they are

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## Taking Another Look At The Great Ponds Act

By Ray Campbell

When Maine was part of Massachusetts, our forefathers wrote the following Colonial Ordinance of 1647: "Upon all great ponds lying in common, though within the bounds of some town, it shall be free for any man to fish and fowl there, and he may pass and re-pass on foot through any man's property for that end, so long as he trespasses not on any man's corn (old English word for crops), or meadow (hay)."

In 1820, when Maine separated from Massachusetts, we carried over with us in the Articles of Separation, this ordinance which is now referred to as the Great Ponds Act. A great pond is any body of water, ten acres or larger, in its natural state, or any flowed body of water 30 acres or larger.

In 1873, the Supreme Court of Maine ruled in *Barrow vs McDermott* that no person could trespass on agricultural land, as that is what the wording in the Great Ponds Act said.

In 1910, in a landmark decision, the Supreme Court of Maine ruled in *Conant vs Jordan* that even though the ordinance was written in Massachusetts, and even though Massachusetts took the position that the Commonwealth held the water in trust for the people, the court found that not to be true in Maine.

Since the ordinance said "any man," the court found that the water belonged in common to the people and not the state. This means that all the people in Maine from Kittery to Fort Kent own an equal share in all the water in Maine from Kittery to Fort Kent.

Common ownership of the water is not always fully understood in southern Maine where people tend to believe that owning waterfront property gives them "special rights" to the water. The court also ruled that all the land from the low water mark under a Great Pond belongs to all the people.

In 1971, the legislature passed a law that said that a person couldn't trespass on improved land in order to reach a Great Pond.

Rivers and streams are regarded as navigable water. The land under the rivers and streams belong to the riparian landowner (the person who owns the land bordering the stream), but the water belongs to the people. Navigable water refers to rivers or streams that for any moment of the year are large enough to float a saw log or boat - which just about covers any stream in Maine. The navigable waters were the original highways of Maine, and as such have an easement on both sides for the use of the public. These easements extend from the low water mark to the high water mark, which is described as where the "ice scores the trees".

Should the riparian landowner wish to dam the stream, he or they must get permission from the legislature before doing so, and if allowed to do so, they then have three conditions that must be met.

- 1) They must allow for the passage of boats.
- 2) They must allow for the passage of fish.
- 3) They cannot flood land that does not belong to them.

According to University of Maine at Orono law professor, Dr. Knud Hermansen, who is commonly recognized as the leading expert on easements and access in the State of Maine, there is a case in the 1800's where a town built a bridge across a stream that resulted in a hung log drive. The drivers then blew the bridge, and were sued in court by the town. The log driving company won the suit, as the court ruled that no entity can put an obstacle on a state highway (which the stream was), without permission from the legislature.

No person can cross another's land to get to navigable waters, but the public does have an easement on both sides of the stream, once they are on those waters. Any person or entity attempting to deny another access to a Great Pond can be fined \$100.

This basically covers the rights of all Maine citizens regarding access to Maine waters.

## A Discussion With Stu Kallgren, of the Maine Leaseholder's Association

The Maine Leaseholder's Association was formed in 1990 to address the concerns of leaseholders in the State of Maine. Stu Kallgren has served as its president since 1996.

AMM: Stu, can you tell us something of how the Maine Leaseholder's Association goes about addressing these concerns?

STU: The Maine Leaseholder's Association hopes to protect the rights of property owners who have camps or homes on leased land throughout the state. The organization has worked to address the safety and legal concerns faced by these property owners.

AMM: You and I have talked about this before, so I know that you can appreciate the difficulties that many of us have in balancing the rights of the landowner with the rights of the property owner. For the benefit of our readers, can you talk a little about this issue?

STU: We are property owners. We own the property that sits on land that we lease, but do not own. We pay taxes on our property, so we feel that we should have some protection under the law.

Multinational corporations are coming into the state, buying up hundreds of thousands of acres here in Maine. The problem is that we can't depend on these corporations to live up to the promises that were made to us years ago, or to demonstrate the same sense of ethics or integrity regarding the traditional uses of the land that we were used to when the land was owned by people who lived in this state.

AMM: Given that leaseholders and landowners are both property owners, have you taken steps to come to an agreement that might be acceptable to both?

STU: We've tried to talk to the landowners and come up with some kind of agreement that would protect the rights of both of the property owners, but these talks have been unproductive.

The landowners have basically told us that they own the land, and they are going to do with it as they want. To a point, I can agree with that, but we have been led to believe, over the years, that our property would be just as safe as if we had owned the land that it sat on. With this understanding, people have built, not only camps, but homes

on leased land, and this property is now being threatened.

AMM: People in the rural areas of Maine have leased land for generations, and it seems that there was seldom a problem until recently. Can you tell me when this mutual arrangement began to fall apart, and how it has affected the leaseholders in this state?

STU: The problems began with Great Northern, when it was sold the first time.

The tax structure was changed back in the mid-80's. In some cases, we were paying more in taxes than we were paying in leases. So they came up with a formula that assessed the tax by multiplying the tax value of the land by the mill rate of the county in which it was located. Then the landowners added a \$50 administrative fee, and started assessing the value of the land times 1% for seasonal leases and 2% for year-round leases.

At that time, it wasn't too bad, but leaseholders began worrying about where the prices were going to go from there. The average lease went from \$150 a year to \$1800 a year. That concerned us.

Then when Bowater fragmented their land, we saw a lot of land sales and land swaps, and some of the new owners didn't want to deal with leaseholders whatsoever. Bowater ended up with about 950 leases of the 1,800 they once had.

As kingdom buyers, such as Roxanne Quimby, Dick Brown, and Chris Nash, began buying up the land, they started terminating leases. Leaseholders were told to take what they could with them, but get out. In one hundred percent of the cases, the camps could not be moved.

In other cases, there have been people who have wanted to sell their camps but, since sales have to be approved by the landowners, several people have found that they could not do so.

AMM: Is there any remedy under the law that might alleviate this problem?

STU: Over the years, we've submitted bills to the Legislature. The opposition we've faced has come from the highly paid lobbyists in Augusta who work for the large landowners. Since they have the money, too often they have been able to control the outcome.

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We are also on the web at <http://allmainematters.com>

# The New Internet Monster



Exclusive  
Marketplace  
for

- ANTIQUES
- COLLECTIBLES
- STAMPS

## Developing an Identity

We have nothing but the greatest admiration and respect for the good people who created All Maine Matters and turned it into the powerful force that it was, representing those who otherwise had no voice. We accept this challenge, and we hope to continue the tradition that has been set out before us.

Our greatest fear is that we'll screw it up, or that we'll let you down in some manner, and we do not want this to come about through false expectations.

We're new to this, so please be patient with us. As individuals, we may do some things a little differently. Just as a new family moving into a house that you have vacated might want to make some changes, please understand that it's not a reflection on you. Let us know if we're about to do something stupid, such as removing a load-bearing wall, for it is our desire that All Maine Matters serve the same purpose today as it did ten years ago. Maybe there are some things that we just don't get yet and if so, we'd appreciate it if you took the time to educate us.

We're fortunate to have some of the people who worked with All Maine Matters in the past with us today, some who helped us with our first issue and others who have come forward to volunteer with the next. For that we are most grateful.

This is the second issue of the reincarnation of All Maine Matters. We hope that we have fixed the problems that jumped out at us from the first issue. A couple of paragraphs from the Benedicta profile turned up at the end of the Oxbow profile. While this is the sort of error that may occur from time to time, we hope that we have avoided this kind of error in this issue.

We also hope that you can read the numbers on the crossword this month. On the screen, it looked just fine, and it wasn't until we saw it in print that we realized how difficult the numbers were to read.

For those of you who missed it last month, an interactive version of our crosswords, one that actually allows you to work the crossword online, will be available online at [www.allmainematters.com/crosswords.html](http://www.allmainematters.com/crosswords.html)

This month's crossword will be about historical place names in Maine. The clue might be an old name for a town, or perhaps the name of one of the plantations that joined together to form the town that we now know. Or vice versa: the clue might be a town that exists today, and you'll be asked for the historical name. This is the 21st Century, so don't be afraid to use Google.

Our writing staff is made up of people whom we believe have the best interests of Maine at heart, but that doesn't mean that we will always agree with one another. We don't always agree with things that we've said ourselves, so I guess that's to be expected.

We suppose we could insert the standard disclaimer, saying that the views expressed here are those of the author, but we trust that you're all smart enough to know that.

Some, but not all of us, are Republicans, and some of us who are Republican seldom vote that way. All Maine Matters is not an organ of the Republican Party. I know of at least one Libertarian, and a member of the Constitution Party, who would object to that. We don't know if he'll come through with it in time for our February issue, but there is at least one Democrat who has promised us an article. We don't check Party affiliation at the door.

All Maine Matters is a conservative publication, although there are a great many people who call themselves conservatives who we wouldn't lock hands with. It's a matter of semantics.

But we don't speak for All Maine Matters. Our own views are just that, and nothing more.

We are also on the web at <http://allmainematters.com>

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## Still the Land of the Free?

By Joe Nugent

Or is that a concept that we, as Americans, now pay only lip service to? Has our mainstream media done us any favors lately, or do they only report the news that the powers that be want us to hear?

I grew up in the 70s and 80s during the hot tail end of the cold war. I often barraged my poor mother with all kinds of questions about Russia, Communism, and the threat of potential nuclear destruction due to the Cold War, which was so common a fear when the then two world superpowers were racing to build competing nuclear arsenals.

I remember my mother devoutly defending our heritage of a free America. My mother would tell me things like, "Your country is better because small towns and cities educate the majority of our children, and if you don't want to send your kids to public school you don't have to..."

Then there was always the "but in Russia ..." answer, outlining how the Soviet government educates all the children: the government tells them what they're going to learn, what subjects they'll study, what they are going to do for work; even where they are going to go to school, and the parents have little if anything to say about it.

My mom was careful to explain many other reasons why I was fortunate, in her opinion, to be an American. It's my hope that from time to time, in my writing I might be able to share some of the other quips and philosophies she shared with me and how they shaped my young mind. I'm not sure she even intended for them to take hold the way they have, or that they would ever result in my cherishing the liberty were are supposed to have in America.

My mother might be shaking in her grave if she knew that so many of the pieces of wisdom she bestowed on me, so easily, might have the result that I would mention them in articles this many years later. But they are all pieces to cherish. They are who I am. They are part of a mother's legacy to a son; an only son. Yes, even the baby.

One of the many things that my mother described to me, in relating how fortunate I was to be an American, was that we have what she described as "Freedom of the Press." From time to time, I would ask her questions while she was driving me to the mall for school clothes in August or something, when I would rather be swimming in the marshes near my house with my friends or jumping off the train trestle, enjoying those precious last days of summer. She would expound.

"Toddy," as she was called, or "Ma," to an entire neighborhood of well fed fans, was careful to mention that not just in Russia, but in England, Ireland, the rest of Europe, and even in Canada, they did not have what we have. Americans had the right to say what we thought, write what we thought, and believe what we want, without the fear or repercussion of being held in jail for it.

I think she was careful to point out examples such as, "... like the English used to do to the Irish." Ma was always careful to remind me, at an age when I should never have been concerned about such things or perhaps even known them, "In the United States they can't hold you for more than 48 hours without charging you with a crime." She would explain that we have a country to be proud of, one

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# Reaching All of Maine

With a title like All Maine Matters, it bothers me to see holes in our map. We're working hard to fill them in, and with your help we might be able to get a long way toward that goal by our next issue.

As you can see, we're in quite a few stores from Fort Kent to South Portland, Fort Fairfield, and Bethel. But we have a rather large hole in the southern part of the state, and along the coast. No, that's not a political statement; we need people to help distribute in these areas.

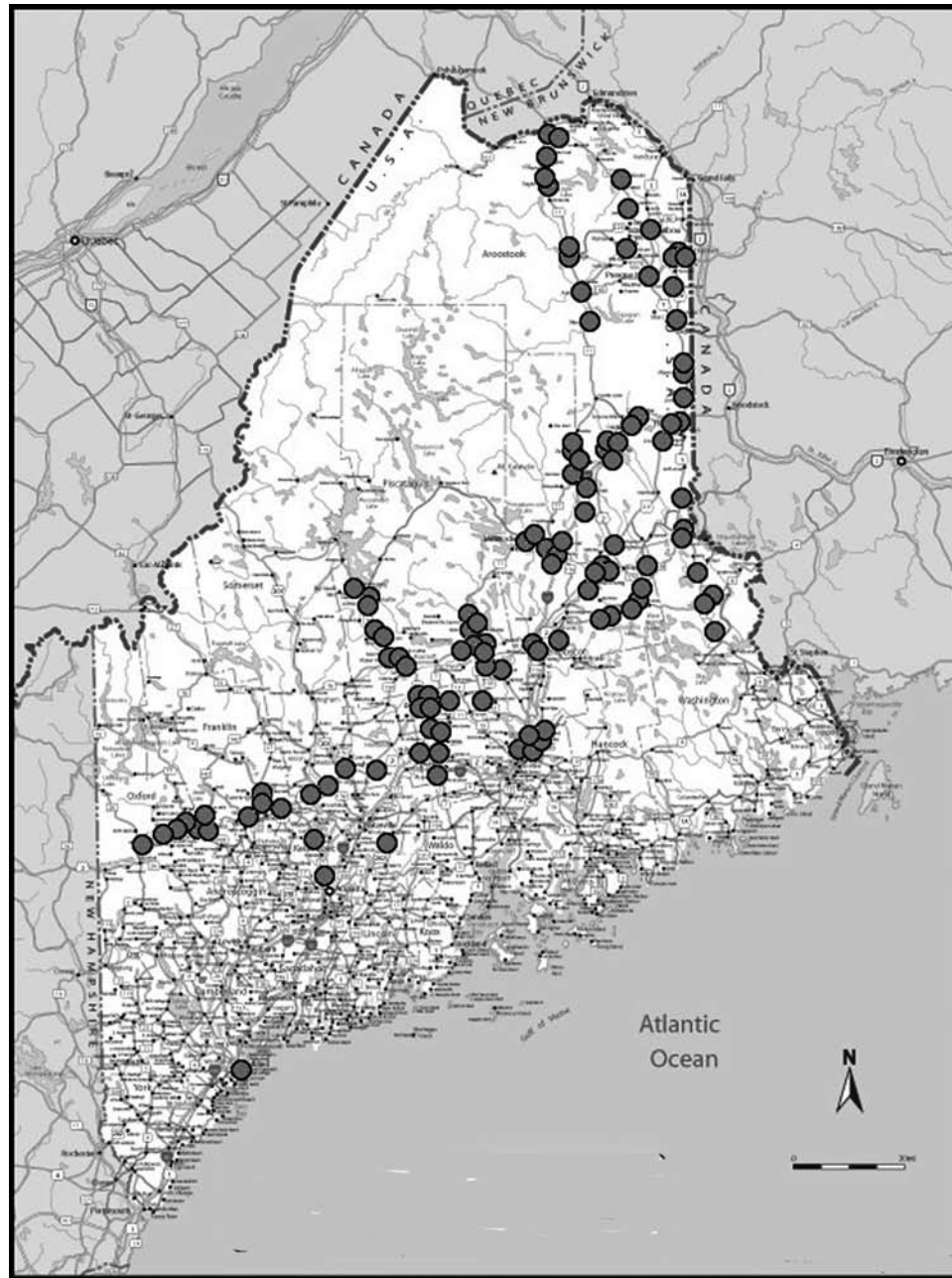
Someone has come forward to volunteer to distribute All Maine Matters between South Portland and Auburn, and another has agreed to bring the paper to Machias and north along Maine's eastern border as far as Houlton. Someone else may be taking on part of my Aroostook County route, which may free me up to reach Franklin and Somerset counties.

We still have a dire need for people willing to help distribute. There are obvious gaps to the south and along the coast, but if someone wanted to take any part of the Newport to Bethel route, that might free me up to fill in another part of the state.

If you are willing to take on the task of distributing All Maine Matters to your part of the state, please let me know, even if it's to only a small part of it. Generally, we would set up distribution points in grocery stores, gas stations, hardware stores, restaurants, or other businesses that people go in and out of. If a town is large enough to have a general store or a gas station, we'd like to be there.

All of Maine does matter. We're just having a hard time reaching all of you.

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The dots on this map of Maine indicate where we distributed January's issue of All Maine Matters.

## Next Level Basketball Camp

WATERVILLE, ME (January 27, 2006) -- The Next Level Basketball Camp, directed by new head coach Lori Gear McBride, will take place at Colby College this summer, with overnight camps set for June 25-29 and July 9-13 for girls between the ages of 8-17. Formerly known as the Colby College Basketball Camp for Girls, the camp will feature a commitment to skill development in a fun and productive atmosphere.

The first week of camp will run from Sunday, June 25-29 and the second week will run from July 9-13. Tuition is \$450 per camper and includes all meals, lodging in the Colby dorms, camp T-shirts, activities and excellent basketball instruction.

Anyone seeking to register can visit the camp website at [www.nextlevelballcamp.com](http://www.nextlevelballcamp.com) or email Coach McBride with any questions at [lmcbride@colby.edu](mailto:lmcbride@colby.edu). A non-refundable, \$50 deposit is due with all registrations prior to May 1.

## Still the Land of the Free?

(Continued from page 3)

one that others aren't so fortunate to have because, in the United States of America the police can't just hold someone in a cell for days on end to rot like they can in other countries. "They might want to," she'd say, "but you're an American, so they can't."

It was stories like that they caused me to be proud to be an American, proud that I was able to grow up here and yes, curious to see the world, and to search for clues as I got older as to how things were done in other countries.

Curiosity led to travel, and travel led to answers, but the answers didn't add up to everything I thought I believed. Questions turned into witness, witness turned into mental and experiential references, and references became evidence. Evidence with my own eyes only led to more questions, much like the one I've chosen as the title of this article.

A mother's love and honesty turned curiosity into free thinking, and free thinking into analysis. Analysis became conclusion. Is our media really as free as it was in the days of Bernstein and Woodward fame, fame that filled schools of journalism across the nation in the early 1970s during the days of an ending Vietnam War when it was cool to question authority? Has the merger and acquisition craze that took over the country and its bastions of investment and capital during the 1980's only led to a consolidation of the media into the hands of a small elite who only tell us what they want us to hear and believe? Has that consolidation of the media led to a marginalization of the voice of the American public, which now has to endure minimization, as a media held by a limited segment of our population seeks to circumvent or shape public opinion?

Whether you are a Democrat, a Republican, an outnumbered Green, or a free thinking Independent, you are affected by freedom issues, including this particular issue of a limited, somewhat government controlled media. The fact that you picked up this newspaper and read this article shows that you probably care about freedom, free thinking, and freedom of thought.

It's our hope that you'll pass this along, or take another to hand to a like-minded cohort. In an upcoming issue we plan to tackle the fallacies of political parties and perhaps touch on some of the warnings relating to them that were left by our Founding Fathers. Thank you for reading this.

Joseph Nugent is a 30-something free thinker who was fortunate to get an education at a private school which encouraged a discerning perspective of the world around him. He continues to view the world as he sees fit. He's an entrepreneur and occasional investor whose penchant for politics, freedom, and truth occasionally gets him into trouble. He's still proud to be an American and is always open to ways of keeping America the free place it was meant to be. He can be reached at [jjnugent@gmail.com](mailto:jjnugent@gmail.com). Comments and suggestions are welcomed and appreciated.

“The Clean Water Act has a section, 404, which allows the Corps of Engineers to regulate the water that is navigable. By a series of very twisted definitions, the Corps has adopted the idea, which the Fish and Wildlife and EPA are also following, that any body of water, or any moist land, anything that they can call “wetland” constitutes navigable water.”

Dixie Lee Ray, scientist, recipient of the United Nations Peace Prize - 1992

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# Politics

By Kathy Gagnon

The first time I voted, I was 18 years old. I chose to exercise my right to vote only because I could. Politics did not interest me at all. It was twenty years before I chose to exercise this right again. I assumed that the people who were interested in politics would "take care of things."

What moved me to take an interest in politics those twenty years later was a trip I won in an Internet sweepstakes to St. Lucia in the West Indies. It was the first time I had ever flown on a plane or left the U.S. The number of times I had actually left the state, at that point, could be counted on one hand. It was leaving this country that made me realize, as Dorothy said, "There's no place like home." We take the simplest of things for granted here. Even with all that has happened since 9/11, we still have freedoms that others will never see.

While St. Lucia is the most beautiful place one could ever imagine, life for the local people is not easy. My husband and I were fortunate to be staying at a five-star all-inclusive resort where every whim was catered to and life was so good in our private little paradise.

Life outside the resort was much different. Most of the local people worked service jobs at one resort or another. Their social and economic standing was based on which resort they worked at, and what their position was. They basically lived to make the lives of resort guests carefree and wonderful while trying to make a living from their meager wages. Their homes are not even as nice as what we around here would consider a very basic camp or shack. Even their culture is a commodity in the quest to earn a living.

The only car dealership on the island had a grand total of five cars on its lot. This was not odd to them because only the people with management level positions were able to afford a car, though some were owned by people who used the vehicle to earn a living driving tourists around the island.

We met many other guests at the resort from all over the world. One entire afternoon was spent "having tea and crumpets" with a retired couple from England. They had both been university professors and were spending their retirement traveling around the world. They were so fascinating, the several hours we spent talking with them felt more like minutes. They were "resting" from a trip to the Gaza Strip. The things they experienced and saw there are unimaginable. They felt we Americans were fortunate to live in the U.S. and have the country and educational system that we do.

Another afternoon was spent with a different couple from England. They were middle class people with a daughter the same age as ours who was also attending college. He was a carpenter, like my husband. Our lives had many similarities, yet many differences. They asked us about Clinton and told us stories about "the royals."

Late nights, we had great fun socializing with the locals who were employed at the resort, after their shifts were done. They hadn't met anyone from Maine before and were very interested to hear about our winters and snow. They also believed that all Americans were rich. In return, for our stories about Maine winters and below zero temperatures, they shared with us many things about life for locals on the island.

We even were invited to a birthday party one night which was a great time.

We had a temporary layover in Barbados on our return home. All aboard the plane were required to disembark for reasons I'm not sure of. The airport felt desolate and had armed guards patrolling that took a dislike to my husband's long hair. Though we were on an island in the middle of nowhere and the guard had seen us disembark, my husband was interrogated as to why he was there and asked to show his passport. He was the only person on the plane required to do so and the guard then followed us around the airport. By the time we were allowed to board the plane again, I was literally feeling ill from fear. It was a huge relief to feel the plane lift off the ground even though I am definitely not anyone who will ever be a "frequent flyer."

By the time we landed in the good old U.S. of A. I was ready to kiss the ground.

I began to take a closer look at politics after that. I realized that we have something unique here. We have rights. We have choices. Two years later, I won yet another trip to the same island. This one was to a four-star all-inclusive resort.

Things had changed in those two years. The attitude towards Americans had definitely worsened. Especially at customs entering and leaving the island. We met many more new friends from England, Australia, and Brazil. The locals employed at this resort were not quite the same as they had been at the other resort. Though they treated us as required as guests, we definitely felt like second class guests because we were

American. We had a discussion about this one evening with our new friends and they told us that they did not dislike us for being American because they had gotten to know us, but that in general, the mood towards Americans was not good anywhere because of American politics.

The layover for the return flight home was in Granada. This time we were not allowed to disembark. We sat on the ground for almost two hours because there was a discrepancy about a passenger who was supposed to have been on the plane. Numerous armed guards milled about outside the plane while a head count onboard was taken over and over. The luggage in the cargo hold was all removed and the area searched while we passengers sat uneasily and uncomfortably wondering what was going on. This caused us to miss the connecting flight we were scheduled for out of the airport at Puerto Rico and the connecting flight from there to New York. As uneasy as I was about the hustle and bustle of New York, I was again thrilled and immensely relieved to be back in the states.

These experiences were like an epiphany. I finally realized that we all need to be involved in the politics of our country because whether we chose to be involved or not, we all have "ownership" for American politics in the minds and eyes of the rest of the world and politics effect all our lives whether we chose to participate or not.

“  
The theory of the Communists may be summed up in the single sentence: Abolition of private property.  
”  
Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto"

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# Undue Influence: Katahdin Region, Part 2

By David P. Cyr

In last month's column, I asked a very pertinent question: is all this secrecy in our best interest?

Did anyone out there hear about the sale of Fleet Bank? Did you read about it in any paper?

Cariboulakecrows, Inc., originally bought the bank. On 3/4/04 it was sold to "Two Ducks On An Island, LLC." Next to the bank, the former Rollins' Heating Office building was sold to "Two Ducks on an Island, LLC," on 4/16/04. The old Steeves' Hardware and Warehouse have also been absorbed. The other buildings that have been pursued by the odd ducks LLC, are the bowling alley, the Sports Wear Shop, Newberry's, the GNP Barn, and the list gets longer every day.

The first question that comes to me is probably hitting you right now. *Who is intending to do what to Millinocket's Main Street?* If someone has a plan to rebuild, tear down, or re-shape our small shrinking town in any way, shouldn't we be involved?

Or did the same people who decided that the Wilderness Society was a good thing for this paper mill town already make these decisions?

The best question is: *Do they know something we don't?* The answer is, YES! Millinocket is just another dying town that the movement has effectively removed the industry from.

My research into several communities of similar size indicates that once the property values have bottomed out, the bottom feeders move in. Having the advantage and profits from previous community dissections, the bottom feeders are just another part of the profitability of the wilderness campaign.

The green groups have constructed a perfect land theft system, and at every level of exchange a profit has been built in. Wonder who's idea that was? The only losers, of course, are us.

It is important to realize that all the green groups have only one desire, control. They effectively control every level of State Government.

Why do you think Roxanne Quimby was able to close the state's number one snowsled trail and use the roads on her property to cut off access to the logging industry? In a normal State, the Governor would step in and claim the ownership of the trails by eminent domain to protect the businesses adversely affected by her action. In a normal State, the governor would step in and place a heavy tax burden on anyone who would purchase property with the expressed intent of cutting off the State's #1 industry.

But in Maine, it is acceptable practice to help close down the businesses in the northern half. In Lebanon, Israel and Syria, this practice is called State Sponsored Terrorism, In Maine it is called the North Woods Legacy.

The twenty or so members of the Northern Forest Alliance can be compared to a freight train with The Nature Conservancy as the locomotive and boxcars to follow are RESTORE, the Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, etc.

Under the guise of resource protection, always proposing to help us with solutions they have decided are "best for us," a determination that is made without any input from us, over and over again. This freight train, as strong, deceptive, and politically connected as it appears, has nothing to do with saving the environment, because it is all about control.

Those individuals who maneuvered their way into positions of power influence the public's perception on a daily basis. Their rewards have been well-documented by two investigative journalists at the Washington Post.

The Post has uncovered several campaigns that have rewarded "Green" self-appointed community leaders with huge tracts of land, placing them in permanent positions of power and wealth. All this is done under the umbrella of what is best for us. Did anyone ask you what YOU thought was best? Don't worry they won't.

Just as the Wilderness Society is being shoved down our throats, no matter what the degree of protest, I feel we are all about to have the "Maine Highlands project" introduced the same way. This project will come in dripping with all the sweet syrup the Greens can pour on it.

This project will produce jobs, diversify the local economy, and make our community the gateway to the North Woods. Be prepared for all the fluff press they can muster. The vast majority will never question the motives behind the "Maine Highlands" because we all want to believe the best in people. History dictates that, greed and power bring out the worst in people.

There are those who will proclaim that I am upset about my project being stopped, or that I have an axe to grind, but the truth is I'm not the first, and I won't be the last, and my struggle to complete my project has uncovered some very ugly facts.

The plain pure truth is that the paper industry did not fall down due to a poor economy. My investigation takes me back to 1956 and has produced credible evidence on

State of Maine letterhead that the paper industry did not fall down, it was torn down.

Look for a third installment in next month's All Maine Matters.

Editor's Note: The title for this series of articles was borrowed from the excellent book by Ron Arnold, entitled, "Undue Influence: Wealthy Foundations, Grant Driven Environmental Groups and Zealous Bureaucrats That Control Your Future." Other Ron Arnold books include:

- Ecology Wars: Environmentalism As If People Mattered
- Trashing the Economy: How Run-away Environmentalism is Wrecking America

David P. Cyr, a lifelong resident of Millinocket, Maine gave up his seat as a member of the Millinocket Planning Board, prior to his election to the Millinocket Town Council. While he retains his seat on the Comprehensive Planning Committee, he also holds a seat on the Board of the Millinocket Historical Society and Katahdin Area Television. Along with his membership in the Maine Leaseholder's Association and the Fin And Feather Club, he was recently elected to the Steering Committee of the Maine Woods Coalition.

## Ask



Dear Alvina:

I have been a happily married woman with a wonderful husband and a young daughter. Recently I joined a church in my community, and I feel like I have finally found the right church for me and my family.

The problem is that I am very attracted to my pastor. I find myself thinking of him constantly. He is very attractive and he too is married. I don't think he has any idea of my feelings, but I am afraid this situation could get uncomfortable. Please help.

My birthday is October 27, 1962.

Confused.

Dear Confused:

You are in a place where you must learn about authority; a place where you will have to deal with others who are in charge and hold a position of power and control. This could be a boss, your husband and especially your father.

Your idea of what authority means dates back to the time that you received the script in the two years following June 1976. Think back and remember what was happening then. It did have to do with your father or a father figure. There seems to have been a move within the family that pointed you in the direction you are in now.

It would have helped even more if you had included your pastor's birth date. But I can help.

I feel that you entered this church not by accident, but because you have something you must learn about taking back your own sense of power, for I believe you are feeling weak and that you cannot fight this feeling, which, by the way, is not uncommon.

The pastor represents your idea of what a strong father should be, and you must understand that you are in this place where things will come to a head between July 17, 2005, and September, 4, 2007. You have that time to learn your lesson.

Look inward to what it is you are really doing. I think that life will take care of things at church because I see the family making a move to another place this coming year. Nonetheless, that will not mean the lesson is over. Not until September of 2007,

Take care and remember that you cannot disrupt others, it never works.

**Key word . . . Discipline**

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Alvina's book, *Visions, Wishes, and Dreams...Oh My!* is available now. You can buy it by calling this toll-free order number 877-484-6464.

Dear Alvina:

All my life I have wanted to be a fashion model but obstacles were always in my way. Now the way is clear and I have nothing holding me back. Will I make it? I was born August 30, 1981, 12:56 a.m.

Born Model

Dear Model:

Indeed you are! You have Virgo sun in the 6th degree. This degree promises regeneration. In June, 2003, you started the path of discovery of your own emotional strength. You learned that the constant emotional strokes you so greatly need have to be earned.

You have beautiful facial bones, that, of course will be an asset in the profession you seek. You are also a good worker. But let me warn you, you may find yourself receiving less compensation than you are entitled to. Do not fall for sad stories, and do not volunteer for cut-rate layouts. Always remember what you are worth.

The opportunity you seek will come in two waves. The first came in around July 17, 2005. The bigger break will come around April 18, 2007, when "the gods" will certainly be in your corner.

**Key word . . .Endure.**



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“

If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.

”

George Washington

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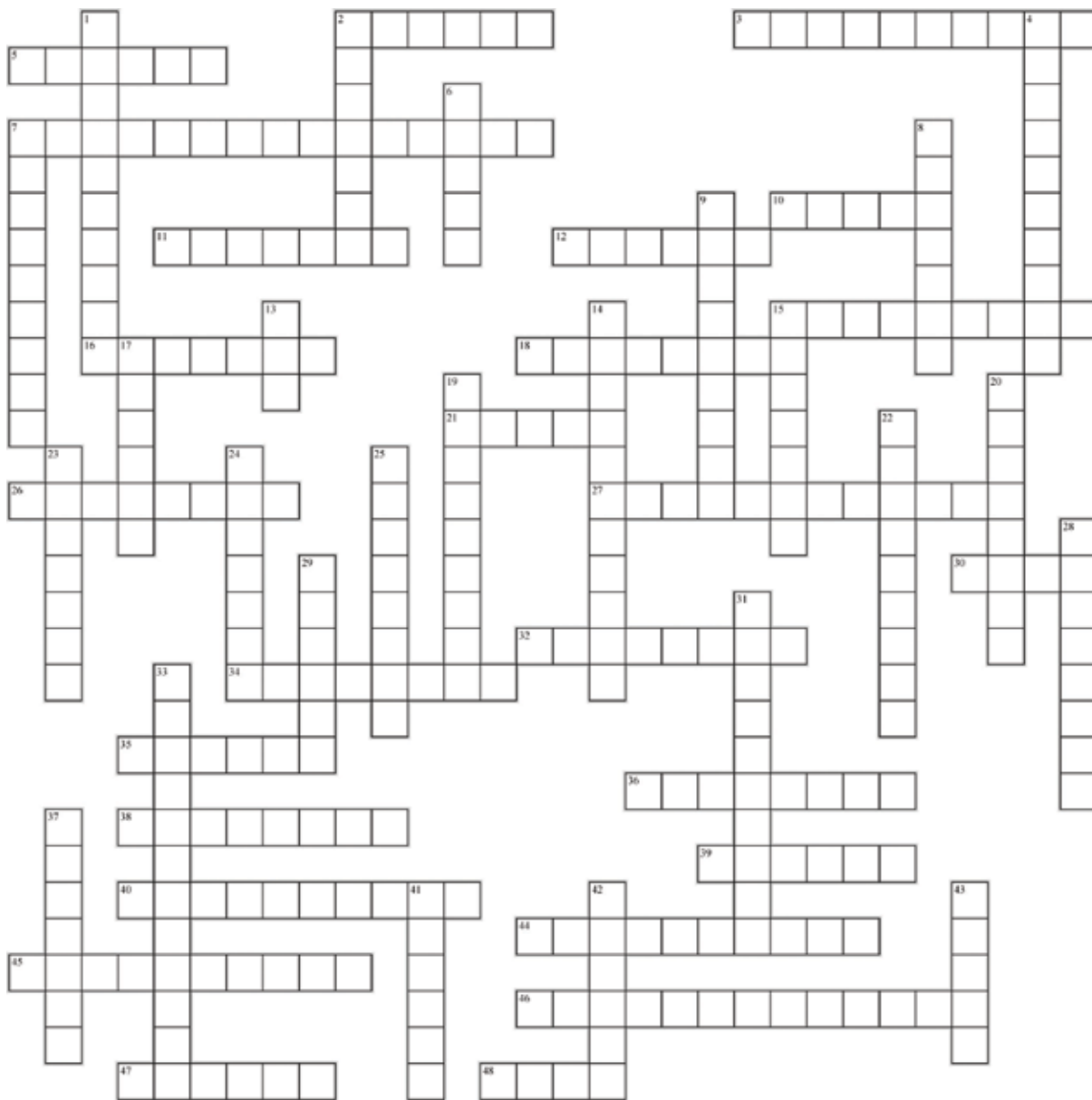
Answers on page 12

**Across**

- 2. Page's Mills
- 3. Patricktown Plantation
- 5. Royalsborough
- 7. Hampden
- 10. Letter B. Plantation
- 11. Golden Ridge
- 12. Vienna
- 15. Sheepscot Plantation
- 16. Plantation Number Five, Sixth Range
- 18. Number Four, Abbott's Purchase
- 21. Sterlingtown Plantation
- 26. Fort Watson
- 27. Lowell
- 30. Barrettstown Plantation
- 32. New Bristol Plantation
- 34. Freetown, Bloomingborough and Wales
- 35. Elkinstown
- 36. Sangerville
- 38. Pearsonstown Plantation
- 39. Narragansett No. 7
- 40. Haskell's Plantation
- 44. Medford
- 45. Wellington Township
- 46. Exeter
- 47. Holmanstown Plantation
- 48. New Boston

**Down**

- 1. Meduncook Plantation
- 2. Albion
- 4. Smithfield
- 6. Phillips
- 7. Stroudwater
- 8. Mariaville
- 9. Woolwich
- 13. Phip's Canada
- 14. Plantation of Dionne
- 15. East Pond Plantation
- 17. Fairfax
- 19. Buckstown
- 20. Edgecomb
- 22. Fairfield Plantation
- 23. Little River Plantation
- 24. New Marblehead
- 25. Pondtown
- 28. Washington Plantation
- 29. Silvester Canada
- 31. Moscow
- 33. Wyman's Plantation
- 37. New Pennacook
- 41. Thompsonborough
- 42. Plantation of Oxford
- 43. New Sandwich



Created with EclipseCrossword - www.eclipsecrossword.com

“Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility. For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry is own weight, this is a frightening prospect.”

”  
Eleanor Roosevelt

Crossword Note:  
Last month, I realized that it was very difficult, if not impossible, to read the numbers on the crossword. Hopefully, we will have solved this problem in this issue. The problem is that it's difficult for us to tell until they are printed, and by then it's too late; they're already printed.  
The January (and subsequent) issues are also available online at [www.allmainematters.com/crosswords.html](http://www.allmainematters.com/crosswords.html) - where you can actually work the puzzle online, or even cheat if you prefer.  
This month's puzzle has to do with historical names for towns and other places in Maine. The clue will be either the name of the town today, or a historical name for the town, and the answer that the crossword is looking for will be either the historical name for the town or the name of the town today. I don't think it would be considered cheating to use Google.

**Stu Kallgren**

(Continued from page 2)

We're not looking for something for nothing. We've tried to be fair to the landowners while protecting our own interests, but most of the large landowners don't care about our interests.

The Nature Conservancy has really been the only ones of all the landowners who have done the right thing by the leaseholders. I don't like much of what they do, but I have to give them credit for that. When a leaseholder on land owned by TNC has sought to sell his property, TNC has been willing to buy the camps and match the buyer's price. The camp is, in most cases, then torn down and no one else will ever be allowed to build there, but at least the leaseholder has been treated fairly. This is not what's happening with the other landowners.

Last year, we submitted a bill to the Legislature. LD1646 was heard by the Judiciary Committee. They asked us to try to work with the landowners, and to come up with a solution that would meet all of our needs. We've tried to do that and while some of them have been willing to talk to us, most of them have said no.

LD1646 has been carried over to this year's session.

AMM: Was anyone with Katahdin Timberlands willing to talk with you?

STU: We did talk to Katahdin Timberlands. They came up with a 15-year lease, telling the press that the negotiators had agreed to this lease. But that was a lie.

Marcia McKeague (president of Katahdin Timberlands) stated that Al Mosca (one of the negotiators with the Maine Leaseholder's

Association) was very happy with the arrangement and that the governor had given it his blessing. Neither of these statements was true. The truth is that when Al met with her, he was told that this wasn't a negotiation, it was a business.

AMM: So where do you go from here?

STU: LD1646 will be coming up again this year. We've reworked the wording of the bill to be certain that there was something there for the landowners as well. The bill would permit the landowner who was willing to sell, at fair market value, to the leaseholder, to be able to do so without having to pay capital gains tax.

We don't want something for nothing. We're willing to pay fair market value for the land that our homes and camps are on. If the landowner won't sell, we'd like to have longer-term leases - 25 years - with some safeguards for our property as well as theirs.

Marcia McKeague seems to be the problem. She doesn't deal well with the public, and she doesn't seem to know how to tell the truth. I think she's a very poor choice for that position and I am afraid that she is going to hurt Brascan in the long run. She has turned the public against the company with her arrogant, condescending attitude.

*Editor's Note: We will be continuing our discussion with Stu Kallgren in the March issue of All Maine Matters.*

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# Profiles in Rural Maine

by Ken Anderson

## Waite and Talmadge, Maine



The Ladies Aid Sewing Society building is used today as the place for Waite town meetings.

The Washington County towns of Waite and Talmadge have been closely linked throughout their histories, so much so that some of the same people show up in the early histories of each. Both, in fact, are named after men whose first names were Benjamin.

The towns shared a cemetery as far back as 1856, when the Ladies Aid Sewing Society of Waite and Talmadge purchased a plot of land from Nathaniel Densmore for \$25. Located in Talmadge, the cemetery served both Waite and Talmadge.

Both towns supported the building of the first church, the Congregational Church, now closed but still standing in Waite. Built in 1902, an early meeting of the Congregational Church recorded seventy people in attendance. Rev. C.H. McElhiney, pastor of the nearby Princeton Congregational Church, is said to have been instrumental in the establishment of this church.

Located in Talmadge, the town dump was used by both towns.

So closely interwoven are the two towns that Talmadge residents have always received their mail through the Waite post office, and use the 04492 zip code.

Waite and Talmadge were never large, but they both remain incorporated as separate towns. At the time of the 2000 census, Waite had a population of 120 while 64 people lived in Talmadge, a ratio that has remained more or less consistent from the beginning.

Let's look at their histories.

### Waite

T2R2 was incorporated as the town of Waite in 1876. Residents of Waite lived mostly on Main (Houlton) Road and the



The Congregational Church closed about ten years ago, and the building is no longer in use.

Bingo Road, which leads from the Houlton Road to Tomah Stream. Tomah Stream is said to have been named after an Indian chief who had aided the colonists at the time of the American Revolution.

Waite was named for Benjamin F. Waite, who once owned the entire township.

The 1850 census for T2R2 shows twelve people, all presumably from the Waite family. Benjamin F. Waite was, at that time, 48 years old. His wife, Hannah, aged 43, and their children: Charles (22), Mary E. (20), Henry H. (17), Benjamin F. (15), John C. (13), Frederick (11), Helen M. (6), George E. (4), and Horace (1). The census also lists a Mercy Waite, aged 78, who was probably Benjamin's mother, as the documents indicates that Benjamin and Mercy Waite had been born in Massachusetts, while the others were born in Maine.

Benjamin Waite was a trader, and his net worth was valued at \$5,000 at the time of the 1850 census, and his holdings included all of T2R2, which comprised 24,985 acres.

But the Waites were not the first people in the area. In 1832, Waite had two residents, neither of which were Waites. The first known residents of the area that was to become Waite were John Dudley and Ephraim Fogg.

John Dudley moved to T2R2 (Waite) from "below," as the lower St. Croix River was called. He owned a sawmill in Percy. He and his wife, Sarah, had seven children when they came to Waite. Their eighth child, named John Dudley II, born in 1836, was the first person known to have been born in Waite.

John Dudley served as postmaster in Waite, and as a Representative to the Legislature. He is said to have run for Governor at

one point.

His son, John Dudley II, graduated from Lee Academy, and worked as a schoolteacher and as a blacksmith, marrying Ellen Lane, also of Waite. Their son, John Dudley III, was a lifelong resident of Waite. Married to Anna Belle Williams, of Talmadge, their family grew to include eleven children. Two of their children died in childhood, and those who lived to maturity were named Ralph, Beatrice, Gladys, Maurice, Philip, John IV, Lloyd, George, and Norman.

Norman, whose full name was Norman Elbridge Dudley, lived in Waite for many years, residing on a portion of the old Dudley homestead with his wife, Frances (Rideout) Dudley. Their son, Norman Elbridge Dudley, Jr., also made his home in Waite.

The second settler known to have arrived by 1832 was Ephraim Fogg. At the time of the 1830 census, he was listed as having resided nearby, in Princeton, Maine.

The Foggs lived in the lower part of the town, near what was to become the Neal property. The old Houlton Road passed by the upper ends of the lot next to the Talmadge line. The Fogg's house and burial ground were at the upper end of their lot, near the old road.

Ephraim's wife was Sarah Sprague. Their son, Nathaniel, died at the age of 21, and is buried in the family cemetery. Their other sons were Ivory and Alvin Fogg. Alvin grew to have a large family, which lived on the Fogg Place up until the early 1900s.

No descendants of Ephraim and Sarah Fogg remain in Waite. Although the Fogg property was to become part of the Neal estate, it continued to be referred to as the "Fogg Place."

Another early settler was Joseph Neal. His name does not appear in the 1840 census, but he is there by 1850, along with his wife and five children. The Neals remained in Waite, acquiring large acreages in Waite and in Talmadge.

Joseph Clarence Neal, probably a son, was known as "Josie." He married Jean Sym of Quebec, and they had six children (Eliza, Philip, Raleigh, Kenneth, Alice, and Benjamin).

Eliza married William Allen, and their children were named Philip, Neal, and Alice. Philip Neal never married. Raleigh married Margery Ripley, and their children were named Elizabeth and Richard. Kenneth married Belle Tinney, and they had a son named Milton. Alice married Neal Wheaton, who bore Robert, Priscilla, Arthur, Kenneth, and Basil. Benjamin married Lorraine Smith and, later, Margaret Vail.

The Neal family, with land in both towns, have contributed greatly to the combined histories.

Nathaniel Densmore is listed in the 1840 census as residing in Waite. By the time of the 1850 census, he had moved to Talmadge, and is considered one of the early town fathers there.

The 1840 census records 53 inhabitants of Waite. The heads of households were Ephraim Fogg, Nathaniel Densmore, Bliney Fisher, John Dudley, Baxter Smith, Eathal Yeaton, John Manning, Samuel Randal, and James Ripley.

At the time of the 1850 census, James Ripley was 59 years old and his wife, Eunice, was 58. Their children were Sylvanus (27), Albert (25), Edward (22), Nathaniel (16), and Thomas (13). Another son, Cushing, was 29 years old and listed as the head of his own household, living in Waite along with his wife Leana (20) and daughter Mary (10 months). A Mary Ellen Bailey (6) is also listed as being a part of Cushing Ripley's household.

Edward Ripley, who was 22 years old in 1850, was the father of Earl Ripley, who married Ada Rideout, who gave birth to five children (Carl, Ruby, Lindsay, Arnold, and George).

When Waite incorporated as a town in 1876, the petitioners were John Dudley, Joseph Bagley, James McGranaghan, Hubert

Ripley, Nelson Dow, Ivory Fogg, Nathaniel Phelps, Edward Ripley, James Morgan, Robert Henry, John Costley, Robert Welch, John Bagley, John Roaix, Augustus Peacor, John Dow, James Ripley, and William Thomas.

Waite's Schools [bold but same font size as text]

There were two school districts in Waite alone.

Waite's school records before 1892 were lost in a fire, but its first schoolhouse was built near Main Road, close to the Thomas house, facing the Mill Road. It was a log building, built in the 1860s. Its second school was on Main Road, just below the Mill Road turn. The 1 1/2 story schoolhouse was in use until 1917, although it was badly in need of repair by 1915 or 1916. Rather than repairing it, the town decided to demolish it and build its third school on the site of the second. Built in 1917, it was used until the mid 1950s, when the town began busing children to Princeton rather than operating its own school. The town burned the building in 1970.

In the 1870s and 1880s, several families lived near Tomah Stream, and a schoolhouse was built there, to serve Waite's school district number two, the Bingo district, which seven children attended in 1880. After the Tomah Stream school was discontinued in 1887, the Bingo schoolhouse was built. It remained in operation until the town began busing its students to Princeton in the 1950s. At some point after that, the schoolhouse was sold as a hunting camp.

### Talmadge

David Patten is thought to have been the first settler in Talmadge. David Dow, an early settler in Talmadge, had moved to Waite at some point between 1840 and 1850, as his family appears in the Waite census for 1850.

There were people living there prior to 1840, but Benjamin Talmadge, the man for whom the town was to be named, probably never lived in the area. The Litchfield, Connecticut native purchased the township from the Bingham heirs, later selling it to George Galvin in the early 1830s. Galvin became the owner of the Talmadge Township, as it was known at that time.

Galvin, who was said to have worn "broad ruffled shirts" was apparently quite a character. After buying the township, he spent a great deal of money building a farm there, complete with mills for grinding and sawing. He built a wheat mill on the property, although the surrounding area, a wilderness, didn't produce wheat.

In 1835, he sold the township for \$4,000, investing the money in a variety of scheme and other ventures. By 1837, he was broke and ill, dying in Galveston, Texas in 1840, where he had gone in hopes of cashing in on a land deal.

After the collapse of the Galvin empire, the 1850 census shows that Frederic Boissinault, aged 36, and his wife, Elizabeth, 24, both Canadians by birth, had moved to the area with Madison, their son, who was three years old at the time. Also named as members of the Boissinault household were Abram Veyr (34), John Seward (laborer), and Susan Kelley (22).

Frederic Boissinault was a mill man who manufactured furniture on the east branch of the Musquash Stream, in the area that had been settled by George Galvin.

Over the years, a number of mills were built. The first, and the one whose name survives still today, although the mill itself is long gone, was the Boissonault Mill, also known as the Bosno Mill, which was erected along the east branch of Musquash Stream.

Continued on page 9



## Waite and Talmadge, Maine

There, Frederic Boissinault manufactured furniture during the 1850s, and for about twenty years or more.

The 1850 census also records as living in Talmadge: Amos Metcalf, and his wife, Margaret Eagle; Andrew Williams, who died during the Civil War; Andrew's brother, David, who was active in town affairs during the 1850s.

Other mills that operated in the Waite-Talmadge area include the Eaton Mill, owned by Stephen Neal, was built near the site of the Bosno Mill, manufacturing shingles from the 1870s to the early 1900s. Then, the American Lumber Company built upon the same site as the old Bosno Mill in 1906, but it ran for only a couple of years, going out of business after a fire in 1908. At some point after that, the Orono Pulp and Paper Company used the site as a depot camp, but no further mills were built upon that site.

The Townshend Mill, which produced shingles, was built on Burleigh Bean's property in Waite, operating in the 1920s. The last was operated by Guy L. Friel & Sons of Smyrna, who had a mill near Orland Dwelley's garage for a few years during the 1960s before moving their operation back to Smyrna.

### Talmadge Schools

In the early 1850s, there were two school districts in Talmadge. The North District served the portion of Talmadge that borders on the Houlton Road just above Waite, while the South District took in the Metcalf Road and the Democrat Ridge Road.

The March issue of All Maine Matters will profile Parkman, Maine. We invite anyone who has a historical record of this community or, just as importantly, more current information to share, to contact , Ken Anderson at ken@allmainematters.com, or call 723-4456. A local host, who might be able to show me around, would also be helpful.

In 1853, there were only 2 students registered in the North District, while there were 16 in the South District. By 1854, the North District had 6, and the South had 23.

The North District school was sold for a dollar after it was no longer needed as a schoolhouse. Robert Henry moved it, and converted it into a residence. The South District school, located on the right side of the road which leads to Musquash Stream, about a quarter mile from the fork in the road that leads to the old dump, was burned in 1971.

A series of home meetings led to the establishment of the Talmadge Pentecostal Church, which was erected in 1953. The members who went on to finally build the church began meeting at the home of Mrs. Verna Lowell of Talmadge. As the group became larger, they met for a time at the Codyville Schoolhouse, or in outdoor meetings. Named Bethel Chapel Pentecostal Church, the congregation is still active, meeting in the church that was built just around the turn from the old Congregational Church, on Talmadge Road.

### The Civil War

Known to have fought during the War Between the States, from Waite, were James McGranaghan, Nathaniel Ripley, Jason Fisher, James, John, and George Dow, David Reed, Hamlet Wheaton, and James Wheaton. Jason Fisher died in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Hamlet Wheaton, a musician, played at President Lincoln's inauguration, returned from the war and lived to be 77 years of age.



The Dudley Cemetery is a private cemetery that can be found on Route 1 (Main Road).

Talmadge sent Richard Smith, Henry Densmoor, George Patten, Andrew and Hiram Williams, Madison Boissonault, James and Andrew Metcalf, and George White. George Patten died in Maryland. Andrew Williams died in Baton Rouge, and Hiram Williams is thought to have died in Virginia. Madison Boissonault died in Libby Prison as a prisoner of war. George White is thought to have died in the war, but details are unknown.

### Summary

Today, the Waite-Talmadge area remains a beautiful and tranquil place. Some of the old houses remain, mostly well maintained. There were very few that appeared to be abandoned or falling apart, unlike much of rural Maine. They remain very small, pleasant towns.

The Congregational Church in Waite closed about ten years ago. With a membership of fewer than ten, it was

its portion of the salary for the minister who no longer feasible to keep it open, paying the cost of electricity and heat, as well as also served a couple of other congregations. Built in 1903, the building, although obviously unused, still stands as a valuable part of the history of both towns, and is not an eyesore.

Both towns have a Selectman/Town Meeting type government. In Waite, the town meetings are held in the old Ladies Aid Sewing Society building, next to the Congregational Church, while the Talmadge meetings are held at Bethel Chapel.

In preparing this profile, I consulted census records, but relied heavily upon a history of the two communities, written by Mary J. Williams, entitled, "Waite and Talmadge 1832-1984." I also spoke to current residents of the town, including Mr. Bill Johnson, of Talmadge, who was most helpful. Any errors that may be contained in this profile are probably my own.



This pudding stone was placed at the entrance to the Waite-Talmadge Cemetery in memory of Benjamin Percival Dudley Neal by his wife, Margaret Vail Neal. The stone had originally sat in the yard of the Neal residence.



The Bethel Chapel Pentecostal Church still serves its Waite-Talmadge congregation.

# THE NORTHERN MAINE LAND MAN

Roger W. Ek

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- Talmadge: Large 4-bedroom home on a 70+ acre organic farm. 900 feet of Frontage on Musquash Stream and your own private air strip make this an ultimate professional's home. 40 by 40 foot barn and a 3 car garage with a 24 by 40 studio above. The home has two full baths, a kitchen w/breakfast bar and a large office with private owned DSL link. A pond is visible from the kitchen. Property must be seen. Not just near the airport. You OWN the airport. VOR on the property. Salmon fish the East Branch of Musquash Stream on the property. Owned DSL server on site. \$239,000
- Talmadge: Classic Maine farm home on 65 acres. Attached barn, gardens, two wells, glassed in porch facing south and a stream on the property. This is all on a year round town road that dead ends into a trail system. Updated kitchen, huge family room and a private DSL internet link make this home a great getaway, second home or site for a home-based on-line business. \$139,900.
- Burlington: Nearly new camp on Madagasgal Lake. Owned land! Insulated, wired for generator and neatly finished with knotty pine inside. This camp looks west at the sunset. Prevailing west wind keeps the bugs away. Great fishing for the accomplished sportsman and kids both. Snowmobile and ATV right from the camp. Trails connect with the new ATV regional system. Sandy bottom for swimming and there is a babbling brook beside the camp. A perfect four season getaway. Madagasgal Lake is a quiet lake with many camps owned by area families. Don't wait til spring. \$139,000
- Grand Falls: 165 acres with over 2,000 feet on the beautiful Passadumkeag River. Miles of good canoeing and kayaking. Great fishing and several fine sites for a camp or camps. Good internal road and great views. ITS snowmobile trail goes right by. Great spot for an outfitter and a 4 season lodge. Only 45 minutes from Bangor and the university. Make your own river front estate. \$100,000
- Waite: Secluded camp on 50 acres of owned land just off a paved road. Power and phone at the road. This camp sleeps 8 to 10 and has water to the camp. Screened in porch. This land goes back a half mile and backs up against timber company land. Camp is hidden, but only 300 feet from the road so it could have power to the camp. Great fishing nearby and the area has moose, deer and bear. \$55,000

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# State of the State Address

## Gov. Baldacci's State of the State Address on January 18, 2006

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, Madam Chief Justice, members of the Legislature and distinguished guests.

Good evening my fellow citizens.

Tonight, I am proud to report that the state of this State is strong, secure and healthy.

- \*More people are working than ever before.
- \*More of our children are going to college.
- \*More families are healthier and have health care.
- \*More families are getting tax relief.
- And – Empire Falls won two Golden Globes.

That's some of the good news.

But this past year, in fact the past three years, have not been short on challenges.

\*When I took office, we inherited a \$1.2 billion revenue shortfall ---that's 20 percent of the state budget.

- \*The rainy day fund had a zero balance.
- \*When I came into office, we were borrowing \$275 million to pay bills from one year to the next.

And on top of that, several paper companies announced they were going to foreclose ---and that my friends, was the first day.

I recalled what my mother used to say about hard work growing up in a small business family. She said "It never hurt any of us to work hard and it instilled good values."

When Mainers face challenges, we work hard together to get it done. We balanced the budget without raising a broad-based sales or income tax, and we've continued to do this every year since.

We've reduced our borrowing by more than half.

Today, with my proposed supplemental budget we save another \$35 million to put in the rainy day fund, growing our reserves from zero to over 100 million dollars in just three years.

During my Administration, we have cut the size of State Government by more than 600 positions.

I want to thank State workers who went without a pay raise for two years to help balance the budget. It helped us move the state in the right direction. I want to thank them for their high quality work and dedication to the people of Maine.

In Penobscot County more than 1,400 Mainers whose jobs were threatened by bankruptcy are still working at paper mills in Lincoln, Millinocket and Old Town. That's \$75 million in direct payroll - with a ripple effect that reaches across central and northern Maine. And for the mill that didn't reopen in Brewer, this budget appropriates 500 thousand dollars to redevelop that site to make it a job generator once again.

Together we successfully took on the Department of Defense when they tried to close our three military bases. We saved 4,800 jobs in Kittery and almost doubled the jobs in Limestone.

Joining us tonight in the gallery are representatives from these two places, Paul O'Connor and Dave Schofield from the Kittery Metal Trades Union and Carl Flora representing Limestone workers. I ask that they please rise and accept the greetings of the chamber.

I stand before you tonight to let you know that Maine's finances are healthier.

In fact, over the past four years State Government spending has grown at just over three percent. That's the lowest increase in spending in over thirty years.

In fact, the Maine state budget growth is the eighth lowest of all fifty states according to a survey by the National Governor's Association.

In addition, we put spending caps at the local, county and state level. LD 1 increased direct property tax payments to Maine resi-

dents; 225,000 people are now eligible for direct property tax rebates.

While keeping spending down, we were able to invest almost \$300 million additional dollars in local education.

Evidence shows that in many towns LD 1's increased education funding resulted in property tax relief.

Over the next three years, millions of additional state dollars will flow to schools and towns. But there is even more progress to make.

I will support legislation to provide property tax relief as LD1 is fully implemented to require that 90 percent of that full funding be returned directly to Maine taxpayers in the form of lower property taxes. We can do this while continuing our tradition of excellence in education.

We must do more. Tax rates are only part of the problem. The other is the assessed value of your property. I don't think anybody should be taxed out of their home because someone paid an outrageous price for the house next door. That's why I've proposed a constitutional amendment that will put in place a fair and workable way to value property and keep taxes low.

Maine's economy is healthy. And that is because of Maine people.

Increasing every Mainer's opportunity for a good paying job continues to be my top priority.

People are the most important resource in my economic plan. We are moving toward a knowledge-based economy. In that economy, Maine people are our new economic engines. Today we have more people in our community colleges, more investments in research and development, and more technology for businesses and people. We are getting our children ready for school with early child care, increasing the number of students in college with loans, and training our adult workers with new skills and creativity.

Maine will triumph in global competition if we continue to invest in our citizens. We need to give people the tools to maximize their full potential and realize their dreams. Every young person should have the option to stay in Maine to build a career and a family.

We kept our mills and bases open because of the quality of our people – the quality of our workers. Chairman Principi of the BRAC Commission called Maine workers the "gold standard".

We must do more to train our workers and upgrade their skills. We must do more to reward work and workers. Maine men and women should be able to earn a living wage so they can support their families. There is no safety net better than a job with benefits and training.

Our minimum wage should not lag behind other states in our region. I ask for your support to increase Maine's minimum wage over the next two years to keep pace with the cost of living.

The Milken Institute, a non-partisan research organization, says Maine was one of five states last year who did the most to reduce the cost of doing business. In fact, it now costs less to do business in Maine than any state in the northeast.

Maine's unemployment taxes are among the lowest in the nation.

And, Maine's workers' compensation costs have gone from among the highest in the nation in the 1990's to within the national average today.

When we compete nationally we can win and attract Fortune 100 companies.

In a Pine Tree Zone in Oakland, T-Mobile is hiring nearly 800 new workers with health care benefits.

T.D. BankNorth just last week announced the addition of more than 100 new jobs in Lewiston at the Bates Mill Complex bringing their total in Maine to over 2,700. They

could have grown anywhere in the Northeast, but they chose Maine.

Over the past three years, over fourteen hundred new small businesses were launched in Maine and small businesses created nearly five thousand new jobs.

In Patten, Maine, Anderson Hardwood Flooring is opening a plant that will employ forty to fifty people.

The Jackson Labs in Bar Harbor is announcing that they will be adding several hundred new jobs over the next five years.

Tomorrow I will announce that Idexx Laboratories in Westbrook will begin a multi-million dollar expansion resulting in several hundred new jobs over the next few years.

While our economic plan is working, the rising tide of our economy must reach every corner of the state. If we stay the course of our plan with investments and hard work, we will grow 25,000 new jobs in Maine in the next five years.

As part of my economic plan, last fall I presented the State Science and Technology Plan that calls for Maine's annual investment in research and development, including both private and public funding, to reach \$1 billion by 2010. Maine currently ranks tenth in the nation in non-profit R&D activity, but we need to do more to compete. My budget includes a down-payment – matching money for marine research in the Gulf of Maine and for new businesses launched by the University of Maine.

Now more than ever, we must continue strategic investments in research & development and infrastructure. After today, I'll be proposing additional investment tools.

My Pine Tree Zone economic program is creating more than 3,000 jobs throughout the state.

Tonight I ask for your support in expanding Pine Tree Zone eligibility in Washington County, and designating Pine Tree Zones in the Midcoast to redevelop Brunswick Naval Air Station once it's closed.

My budget also provides a military retirement tax exemption. This exemption will benefit the military men and women of the Brunswick Naval Air Station who want to stay in Maine, and will attract other high skilled military retirees returning from overseas.

Thank you Speaker Richardson and President Edmonds for your leadership in Midcoast redevelopment efforts.

In the Gallery are other leaders helping us in the Midcoast -- Bill Babin, union President a member of my Advisory Council. They are excited about the future of the Midcoast. They have accepted the challenge of leadership. I ask that they please rise and accept the greetings of the Chamber.

In Skowhegan and Waterville, novelist Richard Russo and the award winning film "Empire Falls" brought \$34 million to our economy. We have a growing number of media production firms in studios all across Maine. My budget fully funds the "Maine Attraction" Film Tax Incentive.

To further support the creative economy, I am also proposing an investment one-half million dollars in community grants to preserve and grow our cultural heritage.

Job growth also depends upon sound tax policy. It is time now to eliminate the personal property tax on new business investments. It is time. I appreciate the bipartisan leadership effort to make it happen.

Last year I came to you with a bold proposal to "Connect Maine" – to serve 100% of Maine communities with cell phone coverage by 2008, and 90% of Maine homes and businesses with broadband by 2010.

We're ahead of schedule on both and will meet the broadband goal later this year. We've made a lot of progress, but there is more to do.

Later this month, I will submit "Connect Maine" legislation to further expand the availability and quality of broadband and wireless phone service throughout the state.

Speaking of infrastructure, I ask for your support as we rebuild our roads and bridges. Facing reduced federal funds and inflation, the Department of Transportation was forced to postpone \$130 million in road and bridge projects which would support more than 1000 construction jobs. Thank you Senators Damon and Savage and others for your hard work on a task force to restore these projects.

Maine's educational system is healthy.

We know that the success of each Maine person matters. Skills and knowledge will define our ability to compete in the new economy.

If you want to succeed – if you want your children to succeed - education is the foundation of that success.

Maine's schools and teachers are truly exceptional.

\*Our reading and science scores are among the nation's best.

\*Our math scores are up and more of our students are going to college.

\*In February, the College Board will recognize Maine's success for increasing the number of high school students taking college level placement courses.

With the help of educators and Legislators, we've done much over the last three years to support education at all levels.

We've adopted new early childhood education standards to focus young children in all parts of Maine.

People who have quality early childcare and education have a better shot succeeding.

Many people have worked long and hard to promote care and education during early childhood. Tonight, I want to recognize two people for their contributions.

The First Lady is a champion for youngsters. I want to thank her for her work on behalf of children, Steve Rowe, our Attorney General also knows from his job, in the courts, what a difference early quality childcare can have in a youngster's life.

I ask that they accept the greetings of the chamber.

I'm further directing the addition of a child care development expert to the Brunswick Naval Air Station re-use planning groups.

Quality care requires qualified caretakers. That's why my budget will include \$1.5 million of increased scholarship funding for students who enter child care professions.

As any working parent will tell you...finding quality, affordable child care is one of the biggest obstacles they face. Tonight I'm asking the Legislature to join me in supporting an expansion of the Child Care Tax Credit. This half-million dollar investment will provide immediate relief for Maine's working families.

I support bringing together child care, Head Start, health, counseling, adult education and other services into one location. I commend Bucksport for its model, the Bay Area Early Childhood Network.

I want to give all places in Maine, especially in rural Maine, opportunities to make schools centers of their communities in new ways. Tonight, I am directing the Commissioner of Education to recommend school construction that includes these regional resource hubs.

I understand that sustaining small schools is vital to many communities. That's why I am including in my budget an additional \$3 million to support high performing small schools.

Right now we're leading the nation in investing education dollars in the classroom. Only two states --- Maine and New York – put more than 65% of their education budgets into instruction. We need to continue that effort.

# . . . And Responses

by Paul Davis

Shortly after his election and before he took office, the governor sat in my office and told me that he understood the poor condition of the state. He agreed that we were the highest taxed state in the nation. He told me health insurance costs were among the highest in America. He told me the economy was poor, jobs were scarce and we lacked an energy policy. He told me he understood Maine's problems.

The governor asked me to help him tackle these and other problems. I agreed and did what I could to help him. Many on my side of the aisle supported him. Several of my colleagues voted for his new health plan. We all wanted our new governor to have the opportunity he needed to correct the problems he told me about.

Then, something went wrong.

The controls on spending disappeared. A new health program called Dirigo was costing millions and not providing the uninsured with good coverage at a reasonable rate. The disappearance of jobs was continuing as is the migration of our young. His energy policy is little more than constantly increasing the gas tax. To answer our criticism we heard the following.

*As governor I am: Appointing a task force; convening Blaine House conferences; proposing summits; creating workforce cabinets; and establishing pilot projects.*

The governor's is now blaming the federal government for all of our problems. This line is getting old.

To govern our state by simply relying on federal government handouts is not good enough. We must accept our challenges and get busy finding solutions. We must make Maine more affordable for its people. I want life in Maine to be affordable for our children and grandchildren.

The State of our State is one of great potential. But we have some very serious concerns about the direction our state is going. We have not lowered the cost of health insurance.

The truth is that our health insurance premiums are still among the highest in America and almost twice that of N.H. We have hardly helped the uninsured. The few hundred of newly insured by Dirigo Health cost us tens of millions. Time and again, republicans have offered positive ideas, ideas that have worked in other states, only to have them brushed away. Worry not, we will try again.

Maine does not have an effective Energy Plan. And the hardworking people of Maine are paying the price. In addition to having one of the country's highest gasoline taxes, our electricity costs are increasing at a staggering rate. Energy efficiency is a key to our well-being. We need a long term strategy. A strategy that brings all the resources of the private and public sector together. Depending upon communist rulers and dictators for handouts and charity is not an energy policy.

We have not lowered our tax burden. We are still the highest taxed state in the nation.

The Governor has told us that the "tax burden is falling." The truth is that Maine people have paid more than \$700 million in new taxes since the beginning of the his administration. I doubt that many Mainers

by Rep. David Bowles

Good afternoon, and thank you all for coming. I'm Dave Bowles, House Republican Leader. With me here today are Senate Republican leaders Paul Davis and Carol Weston, and Josh Tardy, the assistant leader in the House. We will each be discussing one of four topics that are matters of concern for all Mainers – taxes and spending, energy policy, economic development and job creation, and finally the cost of health insurance. After our short presentations, we will welcome your questions.

We did not ask you here today to respond directly to the governor's State of the State address. We instead wish to lay out parts of our plan for Maine's future, and what the state would look like under Republican leadership. We're putting forth this plan because we believe we need a comprehensive, holistic approach to problem-solving, as opposed to the reactionary policies we have cobbled together in the past. Is in trouble on many front, and we're all in this together. This is a ship taking on water, and we all need to man the pumps.

Maine is not safe, strong and secure, as we heard last night. Today, one third of our population cannot make ends meet. We still have the highest tax burden in the country. Our property taxes, relative to income, are the highest in the nation, posing a huge threat to senior citizens and others on fixed incomes. We have the highest percentage of our population on Medicaid – higher than any other state. Health insurance is becoming unaffordable for companies and individuals alike. Our electric utility rates are among the highest in the country, and we have no comprehensive energy plan. Our economic development is lagging the country, and we're not creating enough jobs. I do not call that strong. I do not call that secure."

We're concerned that our tax burden, our cost of health insurance, and the cost of energy are making Maine unaffordable for working class families and the middle class. We have submitted bills for years to correct some blatant policy mistakes, but we have had few successes.

That's really a shame, because there are common sense solutions to many of these problems. We know, because they have worked in many other states. Maine has been going it alone on many key issues. But we've been going in the wrong direction. Now is the time for a frank discussion on these major issues. We are looking the people of Maine straight in the eye, and we're saying Maine is not working. We need to set a new course for the state, because right now our ship of state is headed for the rocky coast.

Now, onto our topics.

I'd like to begin with taxes and spending. We're not here just to complain once again about our tax burden. We all know by now that it is the highest in the country and has been for years. And it keeps getting worse.

We know from a recent study by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review that taxes and fees have gone up by more than \$900 million since the governor took office. He can say that they didn't come from some broad-based tax, but the people of Maine have to pay these taxes all the same. It doesn't matter if you take the money out of the left pocket or the right pocket, it all comes out of the same pair of pants.

There seems to be an endless appetite for more taxes to fund an endless string of programs. But the root problem is not taxes themselves. It is spending. If we can get spending under control, lower taxes will follow. The poor results of LD 1 – the governor's tax reform plan – clearly demonstrates that we need something stronger to restrain spending and keep Maine affordable for our hard-working people.

For many years, Republicans have promoted the idea of an amendment to the Maine Constitution to limit state budget increases to inflation plus population growth. We believe that is the only reliable way to restore financial stability to state government. It is impossible to deal with taxes until we control spending. And so we will continue to call for this Constitutional amendment for as long as it takes to pass it. It is an essential tool and the people of Maine need to know that real tax relief is coming. It may take a while - it probably will require a Republican Legislature – but we will not be deterred from pursuing this goal.

There would be no need to make cuts to existing programs if they are operating efficiently and providing the service for which they were created. We could establish current budget levels as a sort of baseline and go from there. And by living within the constraints of inflation and population growth, state spending could grow reasonably at a rate our people could afford.

The Maine Revenue Forecasting Committee has projected a budget surplus this year of \$164 million. We believe it is time to pursue modest tax relief by using some of this money to bring Maine in line with the rest of the nation, while using most of the surplus to build up fiscal reserves or retire debt. This is not a time to embark upon new initiatives which would inevitably add additional costs onto Maine taxpayers.

In order to lower the Maine state tax burden, we should dedicate some of the surplus to bring the Maine state income code in line with the federal tax code for tax years 2006 and 2007. The changes in the tax code would eliminate the marriage penalty and eliminate the estate tax – the so-called "death tax."

The tax reductions at the federal level have created a strong economy in much of the country. But Maine has not aligned its tax code with all the federal changes, and we are paying the price.

We really have no choice but to control spending and taxation. Our high tax burden is impeding economic activity and job creation. It is keeping Maine incomes much lower than those in neighboring states. And it is putting us at a huge disadvantage in an emerging global economy. END..



Photographs of rural Maine taken  
by  
Ken Anderson.

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# Assault Weapon

(Continued from page 1)

They only LOOK LIKE military guns but have nothing else in common with them, and this is the underlying problem with being complacent and allowing this foolish ban to go on. Once these anti-gun groups have secured a ban on these guns, knowing very well that the majority of our hunting rifles are actually more accurate and more powerful, how will we ever be able to defend our right to keep them? The answer is simple; we will not be able too. These people specialize in incrementalism.

You may see and hear some of your legislators standing on their fragile soapbox and demanding that these firearms be banned and taken off the streets. They will lie and tell you they are something special and more "deadly" than the average hunting rifles so many of us have in our homes. That is not only false, but our hunting rifles will be the next move on their agenda. Once we have allowed these politicians to regulate something based upon it's cosmetic features, all you have to do is paint your hunting rifle black and it too will LOOK LIKE these guns they have declared to be so bad. Does the color of the furniture or the fact that it has a bayonet lug add to the function or ability of the firearm being more easily used in the commission of a crime? Of course not, but, it will LOOK LIKE those banned military guns, and will be subject to the same legislation.

Back when this was originally debated in 1994, I believe that the FBI's Uniform Crime Report showed that long guns in general were used in less than 1% of all violent crime. They are not easily concealable and generally more expensive than handguns. Of this 1%, only 8% had military style cosmetic features. That means that less than 1/10th of 1% of all violent crime is assisted with this type of firearm. That is FAR from the criminals weapons of choice and almost statistically invisible, but these folks certainly don't let facts get in their way. They know that most of you don't know the difference and won't bother to do any research and that is what has allowed them to get as far with this illusion as they have today.

These anti gun groups claim that a pistol grip is to assist the shooter to fire the gun "rapid fire from the hip" and that is not the case at all. The only reason some firearms have a pistol grip style stock is due to the shape of the receiver and location of the trigger. A simple peek at these guns will show you that due to these factors, you cannot even reach the trigger holding your hand around the stock like we hold many traditional hunting rifles. It is only a mater of simply being able to reach the trigger because of the shape of the gun and has absolutely nothing to do with control. Don't take my word for it though, try this little experiment. Hold a broomstick at your side with both arms, with your arms hanging all the way down.

It is a pretty comfortable and natural hold. Now cock your trigger hand up, underneath the broomstick to illustrate the position your hand would be in if there were a pistol grip under the stick. See how unnatural and uncomfortable it feels? You can't even hold it at full extension because your wrist doesn't bend that far. One more part of the illusion put to rest.

The most foolish argument used against these guns is their capability to fire numerous rounds. I hate to be the bearer of more bad news to these folks, but the rifle, regardless of what it LOOKS LIKE, has absolutely nothing to do with its magazine capacity. A rifle, ANY RIFLE is only capable of firing as many rounds as the magazine inserted in it. You can insert a high capacity magazine in your hunting rifle just as easy as you can insert one in one of these in their fictional "semi automatic assault weapon" creating exactly the same situation. You still think our hunting guns are not on the chopping block?

It really makes me wonder how stupid our own State Legislators think we are to believe the lies being told to us. They may be able to pass that bunk off in another State comprised of large cities where firearms are not an important part of their heritage, but not in my back yard. Their claims that these guns they have labeled "semi-automatic assault weapons" are any more powerful than our common hunting rifles is an outright lie. Their claim that these guns are the "criminals weapons of choice" is an outright lie. Their claim that banning these guns will save the lives of police officers and children are outright lies. Their claim that a pistol grip is for "rapid fire" shooting is an outright lie. Their claim that they are capable of shooting more rounds than a hunting rifle is an outright lie. There is absolutely nothing that can be done with these particular firearms that cannot be done more effectively with our common hunting rifles whether they are being used correctly or misused. Those are the facts, and they cannot be disputed.

Since the September, 2004 Federal expiration of the ridiculous "Clinton Gun Ban" we have been targeted on a State level for similar and even more draconian legislation. Senator Strimling of South Portland even sponsored a bill calling for the Confiscation of legally owned personal firearms in the last session and I am certain we will be facing more foolishness again in the next one. It is angering that Senator Strimling and his anti-gun handlers are so animate that these guns should be banned in the State of Maine, but in light of all the facts, I can't help wondering why. If anyone really believes that this symbolic ban affects anything other than your hunting rifles, you are terribly wrong.

*Jeff Zimba is a registered Maine Master Guide and Outdoor Writer residing in Fairfield. He has been writing about firearm issues for 20 years.*

# New Hope for Maine

(Continued from page 1)

While the Governor highlighted the success of a select group of small businesses operating in designated "pine tree zones" dotted across the state, the very concept of a pine tree zone demonstrates the Governor's erroneous philosophy on economic regulation and job creation. The Democrats in Augusta herald pine tree zones as favors to new businesses struggling to survive in Maine's tax climate. The Republican solution is quite simple. There is no reason why all of Maine should not be designated as a pine tree zone, with less government regulation, lower taxes and a reduced cost of doing business. This concept is completely lost in Maine's Democratic leadership.

What was most troubling about the Governor's speech, however, was his strong support for the failed Dirigo Health experiment. No matter how Maine's Democratic machine spins it, when the state pays over 50 million dollars to ensure a meager 2,000 people who were previously uninsured, I call that program an utter failure. To make matters worse, the Governor actually proposed an expansion of the program! When a car's engine breaks down and the machine fails to work properly, it would be ludicrous to put new tires on it and polish the windshield; yet this is precisely what the Governor is proposing to do with Dirigo Health.

The Governor made it quite clear in his speech that his ultimate plan is the complete destruction of private insurance and the institution of a state-run single-payer healthcare system. Such a system would place a tremendous burden on state government and Maine's taxpayers, and significantly reduce the quality and efficiency of healthcare services. Anyone who values quality health insurance and has struggled to provide it to their family and business should be terrified by the Governor's proposals.

But there is hope for Maine after all. Augusta Democrats are deserting the Governor, the media has left his side, and common-sense Mainers across the state are

no longer buying into the rhetoric and empty promises. With the recent Democratic defections in the Maine legislature, House Republicans are now only one seat down from gaining majority status and restoring sanity to state government. Maine's Republican leaders have articulated a clear message of reform, based upon the principles of fiscal discipline, government accountability and a spirit of fair play. They understand that real job creation in Maine should not be driven by the Government, but rather through the free market and the ingenuity of Maine's small business owners. They understand that a stifling tax burden gives these businesses little chance to succeed, and prevents Maine's young people from remaining here in Maine. They understand that the quality and affordability of healthcare can only be maintained through private insurance companies competing for Maine business in the free market.

Maine voters will face a clear choice at the polls on November 7th. I am confident that the Republican Party and its fantastic team of local and statewide candidates will make a convincing argument to Maine's voters that the time has come for significant changes in leadership across the state. I urge those that are reading this to contact me directly and join our campaign to save Maine's future. I firmly believe that Maine's best days are yet to come.

*Dan Schuberth currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Maine Republican Party, making him the youngest State Party officer in the country at 21 years old. Dan previously served as the State Chairman of the Maine College Republicans from 2003-2005. He is currently finishing up his senior year at Bowdoin College.*

*Dan can be reached at dan@maine-gop.com or at (207) 622-6247.*

Banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies.

Thomas Jefferson

## Answers to February's crossword puzzle on page xx



## Sanctuary State

(Continued from page 1)

By now, everyone knows that the United States faces a staggering immigration crisis. According to a Time magazine special report, more than three million illegal aliens sneak into the country every year. Federal officials admit that the illegal population is at least 11 million now, but other estimates put the figure at 20 million or more. In 10 years, it could hit upwards of 50 million.

People are pouring in illegally from virtually every failed country on earth - from Asia, Africa, South America, the Middle East, Central America and, most of all, Mexico. I feel bad for people stuck in poverty in some Third World country, but the fact is that we cannot take in tens of millions of people, with no end in sight. It would bankrupt the country and, in time, reduce us to Third World living conditions.

Not all illegals come here to work, either. We're also drawing the criminal class from many nations. Already one third of inmates in federal prisons are illegals. There are tens of thousands more in state prisons from coast to coast - another huge cost resulting from the invasion. How long before the scourge of Third World crime hits us here in Maine?

When a state like Maine creates a haven for illegals, a place where they can enjoy protected status and numerous benefits, the word travels far and wide over the immigration grapevine. We know from the Census Bureau that at least several thousand illegal aliens are already in Maine. The governor's action will undoubtedly attract thousands more.

In times of dire financial difficulties, such as Maine now faces, you would think that a governor would make sure that our limited resources went to legal residents. But this governor seems prepared to shower them on anyone, whether they snuck across the border or flew in on a tourist visa and never left. It is impossible to know how much the governor's action is costing us in welfare, free medical care and other services, but it stands to reason that the amount is huge and growing.

Recognizing that issuing this executive order would provoke outrage and protest throughout the state, the governor signed it quietly, and made sure that the language sounded harmless. The title certainly sounds benign - an Order Concerning Access to State Services by All Entitled Maine Residents. The damaging details are buried inside. The press dutifully played down this bizarre development or ignored it altogether, to keep the public in the dark about the governor's scheme.

The section on legal authority for the executive order is especially interesting. It states: "Nothing in this executive order is intended to supercede any lawful requirements, state or federal, regarding the conduct of state employees." However, by giving protection to illegal aliens, the order plainly breaks federal immigration laws, USC 8, 1325, sections 274, 276, 277 and other statutes. It is a federal crime, for instance, to "aid, abet, assist, encourage or induce an illegal alien to remain in the United States."

This is an example of the loss of the rule of law. It further expands the Third World momentum that threatens to overwhelm the United States. Illegal immigration advocacy groups grow in power with each new victory. The taking of Maine is their biggest conquest yet. Not even California, Arizona or other places overrun by massive waves of illegal immigration have taken the step of turning the entire state into a sanctuary zone.

My guess is that the governor has no clue what he's bringing upon the state. We'll assume he had good intentions. But Maine will probably be swamped by this silent invasion with possibly millions of illegals in the next 25 years, all demanding welfare, Medicaid, food stamps, free schooling for their kids, subsidized housing and, of course, freedom from arrest and deportation. Our language, culture, environment, crime rate and quality of life will be altered utterly. The governor doesn't understand how much damage his actions will create for our children.

My hope for our security, our economy and our children, is that we will elect a new governor - soon - who will rescind this ruinous executive order.

*Representative Rich Cebra, a small business owner, represents the 101st House District, including Casco, Naples and part of Poland. [www.steamboatlandingminigolf.com](http://www.steamboatlandingminigolf.com)*

*Married 14 years with two children, Rich is active in local affairs on the Naples Budget Committee and Naples Main Street revitalization committee. He is a charter member of the Naples Lions club, a life member of the NRA, a member of SAM and the Citizens Alliance of Maine, and is an active supporter of the Right to Life movement. He is active in supporting TABOR and promoting the idea of smaller more efficient government whenever he can.*

## Rules of Engagement for Defending Our Private Property Rights

Speech from the Ninth Annual National Conference

Carol W. LaGrasse

Welcome! It is wonderful to see you all. Welcome to our Ninth Annual National Conference on Private Property Rights. I hope that you have a wonderful day.

Instead of doing a lot of introductions and accolades for you—who really make this event entirely possible, I would like to go right into the meat of this conference, which is called the "Rules of Engagement for Defending Our Private Property Rights." The Kelo vs. New London decision is the framework for this event. As you know, people are shocked and angry. We are realizing that now it is perfectly legal, in spite of the Constitution, for government to condemn the house of one person and transfer it to another so long as government has a plan, and that is essentially a quote, for economic development such as to raise tax revenues. As I wrote recently, this and other Supreme Court decisions convey a trend that the administrative state has come. In spite of the excellent work of many of us, the blow that the Supreme Court delivered went to the heart of private property rights.

Today, we have top leaders in the property rights arena to speak on the great trends and the work on the ground, to inspire us with national leadership in court and in the voting booth, and with creative local leadership facing off repressive government hand to hand. As you know, sometimes that is the hardest thing to do, to advocate for freedom right in your own town. Today, I would like to ask you to look for messages that will give you rules of engagement for the hard work that you are doing as a citizen. The speakers will give you many worthwhile lessons. And now I would like to give you my rules of engagement.

First of all, fight to win. Set your goals. Speak your issue clearly to be heard by the government and by those who can follow you.

After I gave my testimony about eminent domain on Tuesday to the New York State Senate, my husband Peter said, you were the only one of the seven invited speakers that made the chairman more and more uncomfortable. Finally, Peter said to me, when you got to the topic of using the black people as an example of those most hurt by eminent domain, the chairman looked as though he were going to back right out of his seat, he was so furious. So don't back off. Go right to the heart of where you can hit them. And also speak clearly so that the people can follow you. They must know exactly where you are.

Apply your efforts with sophistication. Use your emotion but don't ever be run by your emotions. Intensity frightens the opposition, the people who want to just dismiss you. They see the force behind your words.

Don't let seemingly friendly, but despotic, officials suck you into their turf. They may want to meet with you. Watch out for the trap of meeting with people privately. Be a threat. Target the incumbent on the fence when it will be the effective thing to do, and embarrass them. Run for office if that is something that would be effective. Select whom you target. Don't burn your bridges when you may need those you've cut off, but don't be afraid to hit right on target. Drive the point home. It isn't just the first shot.

Negotiating and compromise are sometimes very important, but make sure you always gain. Never move the line back toward you. When you organize to defeat legislation, don't kid around. Do the work. Sacrifice. Use the tactics to win. One little letter to the editor is great if you are one of the great mass of people and it is added to theirs, but if you are the only one working and you are just going to write one letter to the editor, forget it. It isn't going to do a bit of good.

Use every resource. For example, don't pooh-poo the media—yes, they are liberal—or the legislature. They are all entities that you can use to be effective.

There is room for every style. Lawsuits, mass protests, motorcades, letters to the editor, visits to legislators one on one or in large, disruptive groups. I don't mean shouting, but I mean just so many that they can't fit in the office and they fill the hall. Clever devices like the insulting T-shirt that Jim McCulley, who is going to speak today, and his crowd developed referring to the Adirondack Park Agency as the "Adirondack Porn Agency." There were thousands of these around the Adirondacks this summer and fall. Don't be deluded, though, that one arrow, however good, is going to win the war.

Build on opportunistic actions of others. For instance, that "Adirondack Porn Agency" T-shirt and a lot of other things we did after the Adirondack Park Agency leadership was exposed for having, shall we say, pornographic views of women on the hard drives of their office computers did a lot of good for us.

Get accurate information. Distribute information that is devastating to the opponent. Get it out right away.

Never waste a public hearing. This is one of my favorite themes. The hearing is called for you. Use it to your advantage. They are your audience. Whenever you speak, say exactly what you intend to convey. Don't sanitize your speech because you have heard three or four people speaking before you and you may think, my words don't seem to be along the right drift. Say it. Get it out. You will change the whole hearing or whatever meeting it is.

Join hands with others, but watch out for advantage seekers. They jump in on other people's causes and try to take over. They will ruin your thing. Watch out for whackos. Watch out for disruptive people, those who get in there and just make muck out of anything you are trying to do. And there are people who will betray your goals. Don't get sucked into busy work. Once you are really working away on something, all of a sudden, oh yeah, your group gets formed and they want to have meetings, meetings, meetings that accomplish nothing. Watch out.

Newsletters. A newsletter is often very desirable. Again, watch out. Say, there is somebody there who wants to do a newsletter. Good. But the newsletter is worthless if it just rehashes the work of other people, work that has already been published by sources outside your organization.

If you are in for the long haul, set yourself up to sustain your efforts. Keep a clear eye forward in every circumstance. Be aware of your surroundings, whether you are working on a local, state, or national level amid great trends.

Continued on page 14



## Revelation 13: The Mark of the Beast, on Your Beasts

By William Jud

Revelation 13 (NIV): "He (the Beast) also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name."

If you can mentally step outside of yourself and the society in which you live, and observe dispassionately the black hole into which you and all of humanity are being drawn, what you will see is the fascinating convergence and culmination of events foreseen more than two thousand years ago and recorded in the Christian Bible.

The question is, are you going to stop this march into oblivion? Can you stop or affect this in any way? Should you? If the Bible predicts the Orwellian tragedy now encroaching upon our doorstep, must you passively accept what is coming and be sucked down like a chip of wood entering a whirlpool?

The federal government has a new program called the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) now in effect on a 'voluntary' basis and scheduled for full mandatory compliance in January, 2009. Formal, public announcement of the program will be made in April, 2007.

NAIS has, of course, a noble stated purpose, which is rapid response to an outbreak of animal disease within these United States. Mad Cow disease and Bird Flu are examples of potentially devastating agricultural animal diseases that need to be discovered, contained and eliminated as quickly as possible to protect the health and food supply of our citizens.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags implanted inside or attached to each animal will enable identifying and tracking every domestic animal within the human food chain. An RFID tag hidden in your purchase is what sometimes triggers the anti-theft alarm as you walk past the security panels when leaving a store.

RFID has enough capacity to allow a separate tracking number to be assigned to every individual item of commerce; every shirt, book, box of cereal, roll of photographic film, everything you buy,

own and use. RFID can track every animal you eat, all the way from the newly born piglet on the farm to the package of pork chops in the grocery store.

RFID can be used to track all property and inventory. Revelations-13 tells us to expect, and research and development of RFID devices now underway will soon enable, the federal government to track all government property and inventory, including the ability to track and control the government's human property known as "you."

The convergence of NAIS and RFID enables the Beast Computer to place its mark on every item of commerce. If the Beast Computer does not, will not, or is instructed not to recognize its identifying mark, the Beast will not let you buy or sell.

Conform, bow down, or starve. Will you let this happen? Almost everyone will allow this. Will you and should you allow this Biblical abomination to happen? Almost all of the sheeple will comply without complaint or dissent.

NAIS begins this year, in April, when 25% of all 'premises' where agricultural animals are kept are required to be registered with the federal government. By January, 2008, all premises and all agricultural animals must be registered. By 2009, a fine of up to \$1,000 per day, in direct violation of the 8th Amendment to the US Constitution, will be assessed for failure to comply.

There is a fee of \$10 per year to register your premises. You must provide extensive, detailed information to the federal and state governments about your property and animals. Keeping and submitting those records will be a burden. Registration surely will create eventual authorization for Animal Rights activists and Environmentalists to enter and search your property for violations of animal welfare and environmental regulations.

You must report every chicken that hatches, every pig, every horse, every agricultural livestock animal that is born, sold, eaten, escapes, or dies. Currently there are exceptions only for catfish and goldfish. Under current language you must declare and inventory all other animals, even a litter of kittens or puppies

or your pet iguana. If you take your animals for veterinary treatment and your registration permit is not current, the vet will be required to turn you in to federal authorities for prosecution including fines and jail.

In typical government fashion, driven and crafted by lawyers, bureaucrats and nitpicky Department empire-builders, 'premises' presently includes every place where an animal resides. Not just farms, not just your horse at the boarding stable, but even Grandma's chicken coop, your home where you have a dog, cat and canary, and an apartment building in downtown St. Louis where a child has a pet hamster. All those places and animals must be registered with the federal government or eventually draw up to a \$1,000 per day fine for noncompliance.

It always is easier to win a game if you can ignore the rules that your opponent must follow. In typical federal agency fashion, that includes ignoring limits placed upon the federal government by the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution does not mention among the enumerated powers granted to the federal government the power to control private property within States, such as the Animal Identification program. "An unconstitutional act is not law; it confers no rights; it imposes no duties; affords no protection; it creates no office; it is in legal contemplation, as inoperative as though it had never been passed." (Norton vs. Shelby County, 118 US 425 page 442). See also the 9th and 10th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Under NAIS, animal owners still 'own' animals and pay for the animals' upkeep, but the federal government controls how animals are produced, kept, sold and used. Private ownership of property, under government control, is Fascism.

You will become a criminal if you raise or have animals without government permission, even if you raise livestock only for your own personal consumption and enjoyment. If you become a criminal then your entire life will fall under government control. The animals you thought were yours are yours no longer, but become part of 'the national herd' under supervision

and control of the federal government and probably under eventual control of United Nations Global Government. Karl Marx wrote, "Communism can be summarized in one sentence: The abolition of private property." Marx would be pleased with the folks at NAIS.

Your would-be owners in government say NAIS is necessary to protect America's food supply. It isn't. The confirmed outbreak of Mad Cow disease in Washington state in December, 2003, was discovered and eradicated without recourse to elimination of private property rights and criminalization of livestock owners.

NAIS would force you to give up your rights and your private property as security against an animal epidemic that has not happened and may never happen in these United States. Shield yourself against attack by Terrorist Pigeons. Remember the comment by William Pitt in the British House of Commons, who said "Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human liberty; it is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves." William Pitt could have been talking about NAIS.

Texas has enacted, and Tennessee is considering, legislation implementing NAIS. If there is no public outcry for repeal of NAIS and punishment of the NAIS perpetrators, NAIS will spread nationwide, like a Socialist poison gas that expands to fill every space available. States that sell out to NAIS will be richly rewarded with grants of federal money obtained from the same taxpayers that NAIS bureaucrats want the authority to put out of business. Life for the farmer and private citizen will follow Orwell's book '1984'.

NAIS can be stopped, but it will take good citizens to notice, to care, and then to act decisively to end this sneak attack on private property and Constitutional rights.

For more information, on the Internet go to [www.usda.gov/nais](http://www.usda.gov/nais). Click on "Draft Strategic Plan" on the right side of the page under the "What's New" heading and read the 24 page implementation plan for yourself. For comments from the Farm For Life organization and others opposed to NAIS, do a Google search on "Mary Zannoni" + "Farm for Life".

## Rules of Engagement

(Continued from page 13)

Celebrate and defend our heritage. Our freedom is what we are working for. The preservation of our local culture, whether it is urban or rural, is what we are working for. Don't ever leave that out of anything you are saying.

Don't excuse inaction by blaming the socialists, the judges, the environmentalists, the planners, or the old Northeastern wealth. Certainly, don't blame some boogey man over there, far away. Apathy and acquiescence by the great majority allow those people that are enemies to gain the upper hand.

You may want to change things. You must therefore lead. I often repeat that. If there is something going wrong in your particular locality and, oh my, you say, this is really a grievance, well, guess what! You are the one who is going to have to change it. Nobody else will. You people here today, who are leaders, you can say that to someone else. You know, great, you can complain to me, but I am not your saint and martyr. We need you. Take over. Do it.

Never underestimate what you can do, such as pressure the town board or the state legislature to act in the face of Kelo vs. New London or whatever cause you have for private property rights and freedom. Carry your goal to the level of an accomplishment. The accomplishment will bring better protection of individual rights.

So today is an opportunity for you. Welcome and have a wonderful day! Thank you.

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# Letters to the Editor

Bob Stone,

Your recent article in All Maine Matters on warrantless searches does not do justice to the intelligence of the Maine people. In fact, I find it rather demeaning and condescending.

You write, "When thinking of wire tapping or snooping, we are led to think of the way it was presented to us in the movies in the 1960's. A mysterious white van is parked down the street from the wire tapped criminal's apartment. Several FBI agents sit in the cramped van, swilling down bad coffee and munching on powered sugar donuts, all the while wearing big black earphones, absentmindedly leafing through dog eared copies of Playboy magazine. When a phone call came over the wire tapped line, a reel to reel tape recorder captured every word."

You go on to say, "well, it is now 2006 and snooping is done completely differently these days."

Bob, don't you give the Maine people any credit for knowing this? Do you look at us as being "hicks from the sticks?"

When us hicks from the sticks see these massive antennas shaped like huge balls, we do not realize what they are? When people from government agencies come forth and say that our government is taking in millions of line phone, cell phone, and satellite phone calls and monitoring emails every day, we believe these millions of calls and emails are terrorist calls or Americans calling or Emailing terrorists overseas?

Are we unable to realize we are not in the sixties? Is there not a FISA court to give permission for these calls to be wire tapped? Does not the government have a rather large time period, if time is short, to report its actions? Has not the FISA court given permission for thousands of wire tapings, while denying very few? Has no one in the government ever heard of the Fourth Amendment?

You say the congress has passed a law allowing these millions of the American people to be wire tapped. Do you suppose no one in congress knows that "the general rule is that an unconstitutional statute, though

having the form and name of law, is in reality no law, but is wholly void, and ineffective for any purpose; since unconstitutional-ity dates from the time of its enactment, and not merely from the date of the decision so branding it." [16 Am jur 2d, Sec 177 late 2d, Sec 256]. Is our congress that ignorant of the LAWS of the nation? Or do they believe We the People are?

In 2005, the Judiciary Committee refused the Maine people the right to a fully informed jury. When I asked them why, one committee member, Representative Rod Carr replied, "I am afraid that jury trials would end up being decided not by the evidence, but by which sad story the jury believed."

The Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to not present the bill to a floor vote. Representative Carr and the Judiciary Committee seem to believe the Maine people are simple-minded enough to turn murderers, rapists, and child molesters out on the streets to prey upon our wives and children if we are told a "sad story."

You, Bob Stone, and Representative Carr seem to have the same mindset. Do you and Representative Carr have such superior intellects that it is above the rest of the people of Maine?

I believe both you and Representative Rod Carr owe the Maine people an apology. One was never forthcoming from Representative Carr. Will one be forthcoming from Bob Stone?

Bud Landry  
Abbott

*Editor's note: Mr. Landry is referring to Bob Stone's article "Warrantless Searches," which appeared in our January issue.*

**“**  
The point is that knowledge of God is not prohibited under the First Amendment.  
**”**  
Judge Roy Moore

Dear All Maine Matters Team--

I was referred to your website by a farming affairs mailing list (NY Farms). They reprinted your excellent commentary on NAIS. As an ex-patriot Mainer in school down in New York, and am excited to be able to follow the news from up home.

I am looking forward to hearing more!

How much is a subscription to All Maine Matters?

Thanks!

Andrew Roberts  
Bronx, New York

*Editor's note: Thank you, Andy. You can subscribe to All Maine Matters by cutting out the coupon below, filling it out, and mailing it, along with a check or money order to the address on the coupon. Or you can sign up by going to <http://allmainematters.com/subscribe.html> and clicking on the "Buy Now" button.*

Letters to the Editor are most welcome and even encouraged! Email [editor@allmainematters.com](mailto:editor@allmainematters.com) or send it via USPS to PO Box 788, Kingman, ME 04451.

We do publish anonymous letters to the editor, or those signed with a psuedonym.

## The Fleecing of Maine, Part 1: Financial Mismanagement Now Widespread in State Government

by Reps. David Trahan and Jon McKane

Question: Would you invest in a company whose auditor said that there were "inadequate controls over cash management?" How about if the examiner added that "expenditures were included twice" and that there were "overstated expenditures?"

Would you trust a company whose audit report said that it "only partially claimed certain payroll expenditures" and that "cash was drawn in excess of expenditures?" Would you feel confident in a corporation found by inspectors to have "inaccurate federal financial reports?"

Of course not; not if you could help it. The problem is, you can't help it - none of us can - because this "company" is the State of Maine. Through our taxes and fees, we have no choice but to "invest" in state programs and pay for state services.

These quotes and many more like them come from the state's most recent audit report and again illustrate Maine's deplorable fiscal condition. The report for the previous year is almost identical. This is why our credit-worthiness has been downgraded by the three largest bond rating houses this year. This also is why investing guru Jim Cramer of CNBC's "Mad Money" said on a recent radio interview, "If Maine were a stock, I would be selling!"

No business in the real world could get away with this scandalous accounting. Enron, WorldCom and a few others tried it and their CEOs are now headed to jail.

The enormity of our state's fiscal mismanagement has, except for little tidbits, been kept from the public eye. The majority party's recent proposal to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars to pay for current expenses was an eye-opener for many Mainers, but the issue, for the most part, was quietly put to rest. The alternative to this preposterous proposal was - what else? - to raise taxes on the Maine people who are already the highest-taxed people in the country.

We are told by the Baldacci administration that "spending in this state has increased by the smallest amount in decades." But using non-partisan information from the state's own Office of Fiscal and Program Review (OFPR), we can see that this administration has increased spending, as well as taxes and fees, far more than they admit to. The reason they feel they can get away with this erroneous statement is that they have moved certain budget items "off line" so they don't appear as expenditures or revenue increases. It's kind of like going to the bank for a loan and not telling the loan officer about your car payment. It makes your bottom line look better. But it is not reality.

It is no wonder that Maine people are cynical about their government. Maine has become the poster child for government inefficiency and fiscal foolishness. It is a case study in how to get the least from your government for the most tax and fee dollars.

"Honesty in government" does not have to be an oxymoron. We can have an open, nonpartisan and transparent reporting and discussion of our state's finances. We can have realistic appraisals of departments and programs. In a democracy, we should know how much tax and fee money they take in and where every penny goes. We can replace the accounting gimmicks with generally accepted accounting practices, and terminate state employees, from the governor on down, who perpetuate these deceptions.

Until that day comes, we feel that it's our duty to expose these accounting gimmicks, this abysmal management, and the intentional political profiteering through the state budget. Over the next several weeks, we will do a series of columns explaining the truth about tax increases, the so-called property tax relief in LD 1, gimmicks in the budget, and the structural budget weaknesses that allow the current administration to mislead Maine people.

Finally, we will reveal the walls of separation that divide citizens from their legislators. We believe the vast majority of Maine citizens have virtually no understanding of how government works or should work. It is these carefully designed walls that allow special interests, and a few in powerful political positions, to control the current destructive direction of this state.

We suggest you clip each column. When we finish, we believe you will agree that Maine government needs comprehensive change in its financial dealings and in its leadership. Positive change can only come from a government that is honest, open and understood by those it is supposed to govern.

Rep. David Trahan is a fourth-term legislator from Waldoboro. Rep. Jonathan McKane is a freshman legislator from Newcastle.

**“**  
A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom.  
**”**  
Bob Dylan

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## State of the State (Continued from page 10)

It's already happening in Maine with the Western Maine Collaborative, The Penobscot River Partnership, The Sebago Alliance and The Casco Bay Alliance.

To help further that, I am restoring \$1 million for the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Educational Services and \$1 million for the similar Fund for Local and Regional Services to help our schools and towns.

Quality education also requires excellent teachers. Teachers are our students' most valuable resource. I appreciate the outstanding job these dedicated hard-working professionals do every day to teach the next generation of Maine citizens.

We ask, and expect, a lot from our teachers. In return, we must support their work.

The average teacher salary in Maine is under \$27,000. For our students, we must recruit and retain the best and the brightest. My budget proposes raising starting teacher salaries to \$30,000 starting next year.

We must also be careful that emphasis on testing doesn't overwhelm teachers' time and ability to educate and giving teachers time to teach. We must be accountable and report on student achievement, but we can meet that obligation in new ways.

The Commissioner of Education has modified the Maine Educational Assessment to reporting requirements at all levels. This will reduce the need for more testing at the local level.

Therefore, I've directed the Commissioner to submit to the Legislature a moratorium on our current local assessment.

Three years ago we transformed higher education in Maine by establishing the Maine Community College System. It has been a great success.

Enrollment has increased 42%.

The Early College for ME program has helped many first generation college students make the transition to a community college. One parent said this program: "Gave our daughter the chance her father and I never had." Tonight I'm proposing to add another \$500,000 for college level courses for high school students.

Saving for college has also been a barrier for too many Maine families. I'm pleased to announce tonight that the Next Generation Program is going to give every baby born in Maine this year a \$50 grant to open that first college savings account.

And to make college more affordable, I am also proposing we expand the student loan deduction.

And it will open the doors of education wider than ever before.

Learning never ends. Maine must support the educational aspirations of our seniors. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine provides educational opportunities for nearly 5,000 Maine adults, ages 50 and older. The Foundation named the Institute as a "National Center" for 73 such programs throughout the country. My budget provides financial assistance for USM to take on this new role.

From early childhood to our senior years, Maine people want and need educational opportunities. I'm pleased with all we've done. Maine must not only be prepared, but with these initiatives, we will be prepared.

Maine people are healthier.

Accessible, affordable, quality health-care is critical to the health of our citizens and health of our economy. That's why I brought forward a comprehensive package in Dirigo Health Reform.

Dirigo is more than just an insurance product it's about improving the quality of our health. It's about reducing healthcare costs and making Maine the healthiest State in the nation.

Despite budget challenges we faced early on, we have retained our commitment to our tobacco settlement funds, spending them for critical preventive services. We also supported grassroots efforts through our Healthy Maine Partnerships and Community Health Coalitions.

Our investments in tobacco prevention are showing results. Last week, Maine was named number one in the country and received straight A's from the national lung association for our success in reducing teenage smoking. We've cut smoking by teenagers in half since 1997.

This will pay huge dividends, not just for the teens themselves, but in lower health care costs down the road. That's why I'll ask the Legislature to provide \$4.6 million to the Fund for a Healthy Maine to assure our ability to continue important prevention services critical to our efforts.

We have made great strides in other areas of healthcare as well.

Accessing critical health and social services in the communities we live in is about to become a whole lot easier. Maine will become the 15th state to offer statewide 2-1-1 services.

By just dialing 2-1-1 or going online you will be connected to over 5,500 local crisis centers, employment support, and other health and social services. A pilot program will start next month in Washington and Cumberland Counties.

The State of Maine recently joined Maine's ten United Ways and various non-profit and corporate supporters, to provide the resources necessary to take 2-1-1 Statewide by July of this year.

And I just want to take a moment and recognize the incredible and demanding work performed by those in the healthcare field. These are not easy times whether you are a State trying to meet costs or whether you are on the frontlines of providing health care.

We recognize there is a high demand for health care professional education in Maine. My budget provides \$750,000 to educate more nurses at both the University of Maine and the Community College System.

Healthcare continues to push itself to the forefront. Recently, we stepped in to assure that all Maine seniors are protected and they get the drugs they need during the difficult transition to the Federal Medicare Part D drug program. Maine was the first state in the nation to take action and today over 20 states have joined us.

The problems have been very real for our seniors.

Within hours of this new program taking effect, my phone rang and on the other end was a woman who couldn't get her medication for kidney dialysis because the Feds had signed her up for the wrong plan. With our help she got what she needed. But she and the thousands of other Mainers who were in similar situations should never have to face that crisis to begin with.

We are going to make sure the Federal Government meets its obligations to all Maine people.

But no matter how much we invest in public health and prevention the simple fact remain---without health coverage people wait too long to get care, show up too late in costly emergency rooms, and pay the highest price for that care. The cost of being uninsured in human terms is great---people end up suffering from illnesses and disabilities that could have been avoided, and the financial cost is real and paid by all of us.

Each year we spend over \$175 million on bad debt and charity care---that means each of us who has health insurance is picking up the cost.

That's something we could avoid if all of us had health insurance. And that is the goal of Dirigo.

A recent report by the Kaiser Family Foundation tells us that Maine is one of only 11 states, and the only one in New England --- that reduced the rate of people without insurance in the last four years.

Our answer is two fold ---Dirigo works and Dirigo saves money.

Today over 10,000 Maine people and 2,000 businesses across the state have enrolled in Dirigo Health. We're expanding to cover more Maine families.

Dirigo saves money. Rate increases for small business are half what they cost last year.

The Superintendent of Insurance identified nearly \$44 million in savings in the healthcare system because of Dirigo. Those are real savings that belong in your pocket, not in the pocket of an insurance company. Therefore, I intend to support legislation to require insurance companies to pass those savings back.

But that is not enough. We need to create transparency in the health insurance market so you know what you are paying for.

Health reform is really hard work, and it takes time. But, already we are seeing success not only in the DirigoChoice product, but in the broader Dirigo reforms.

Dirigo is about innovation --- doing whatever needs to be done to expand coverage to more working families. We will build on our success and take the next important step.

We were successful a decade ago in creating a new solution to deliver workers' compensation---The Maine Employers Mutual Insurance Company. Tonight I am starting the process to make sure Dirigo can expand affordable coverage for more Maine citizens.

I have asked Steve Tringale, a nationally respected health insurance expert, to work with my health care team. They will be going to examine if and how Dirigo can build a new model to deliver health insurance in Maine --- a model of Maine, by Maine, for Maine.

When it comes to affordable healthcare for Maine families and businesses, I will leave no stone unturned.

When it comes to the health and wellbeing of our people, our economy and our state, we must also protect and preserve our natural resources.

We are working towards cleaner air for all Mainers. We have placed stringent standards on vehicle emissions.

We are in the forefront of state and regional efforts to reverse global warming through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

And we are taking toxic materials out of our environment through the nation's first program to recycle old computers and televisions, and through new measures to reduce the amount of toxic mercury and lead in our land, air and water.

Maine leads in conserving and protecting land for our children and for future generations. In the last three years, we completed land conservation projects totaling more than 700,000 acres.

Maine is a leader in sustainable forestry. More than 7 million acres, or 40 percent of our working forest is certified as sustainably managed.....and that's good for the environment and the economy.

When I took office the subject of energy wasn't a hot button issue. Even so, I created the Office of Energy Independence and Security. I knew that increasing our independence and efficiency along with tapping into our renewable energy resources would be good for Maine.

Today energy costs are on everyone's mind. As the first order of business in 2006, this Legislature in a bipartisan effort joined with me to provide \$5 million to help people who needed help paying their fuel bills. My Administration negotiated with Citgo so that millions of gallons of heating oil, at a discounted rate, could be delivered quickly and efficiently to those most in need.

My goal is to keep people safe, warm and secure.

The people of Maine have stepped up, too. School children, small businesses and volunteers have winterized seniors' homes throughout Maine. Those same people are contributing to the fuel fund. The Eastern Maine Funders Initiative alone has raised over one-half million dollars in charitable contributions. I say thank you, to the United Way and Maine people for making a difference.

Maine State Government is leading by example. We reduced travel, tripled the number of hybrid vehicles in the State fleet, and expanded the State's vanpool program. By instituting these measures early --- before the current energy price crisis---the State has been able to save 300,000 gallons of fuel, and putting our electricity purchase out to bid will save us \$4 million by June of this year.

Over the past three years I have advanced policies and programs to make the entire state more energy independent: we now have a solar rebate program, natural gas conservation program, a wind program in Mars Hill and a tax exemption for those producing bio-fuels in Maine.

This year I will be introducing a comprehensive energy bill to expand the use of renewable energy, stabilize electric costs, and adopt statewide efficiency standards for appliances.

Before I close, we welcome this evening those who represent proud Wabanaki nations. We mourn the passing of Passamaquoddy Governor Melvin Francis. To his wife and children and people, we send our thoughts and prayers.

Finally, in 2005, the Soldiers and Airmen of the Maine National Guard served both the State of Maine and our great nation with pride and distinction.

The Maine National Guard deployed over four hundred men and women throughout the world.

Their distinguished service has not come without cost. Four Soldiers from the 133rd did not return to Maine. Twenty-two other Maine Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, and Seaman from active and reserve forces also made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation. Tonight I am pleased to announce that I will support legislation to provide life insurance for servicemen and women who are put in harm's way.

Joining us tonight is the Commander of the 133rd Engineer Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel John Jansen. Also joining us tonight is Mrs. Lori Jones, wife of First Sergeant Michael Jones of the 133rd who died in March in New York upon returning home. He embodied the ideal of a true U.S. Soldier. These three represent the Battalion and all of the Soldiers, Airmen, and families who serve and sacrifice. I ask them to rise and accept the appreciation of all gathered here.

These brave soldiers risk their lives each day for a better America. I ask each of us to reflect on their sacrifice and consider our own pledge to public service....to our duty to help create a better Maine. Some things divide us. But much more joins us together. My father used to ask me, what have you done for the people today? I hope in the year ahead we can ask ourselves the same question and pledge to work together to make Maine's families and communities stronger for an even brighter future for Maine.

I am proud and confident about Maine's future.

The state of our State is indeed strong, secure and healthy.

Thank you. And good night.

“

Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.

”

Thomas Jefferson