

All Maine Matters

Fishery Notes - Farming & Forestry, too!

Vol. 1, No. 4 April 2006

FREE

Safety Net or Golden Parachute?

Senator Lois Snowe-Mello

Fifty-four thousand dollars. After taxes. Clear. Yours. All of it. If I told you that this would be your take-home pay after one year of earning the minimum wage, you wouldn't believe me.

When Representative Brian Duprey and I began shedding light on the depth and scope of the benefits available to a single mother of two earning the minimum wage, many people did not believe it. The numbers we used came directly from Maine Partners for Equal Justice, and were verified by Department of Health and Human Services.

If the current spokesperson for DHHS, Lynn Kippax, former press secretary for the governor, elects to refute the department's own numbers during an election year, that is his business. If we cannot trust the numbers that emanate from this administration, then whose numbers can we trust?

But it gets worse. The other day a woman I know from Durham approached me. She was very distraught, she said, because some close friends of hers who had just returned to Maine to live and were looking for work. These friends had asked her and her husband to help them find jobs, which naturally they were happy to do.

A few days later this lady received another call from her friend. She called to tell them to stop looking. She asked excitedly if her friends had found jobs. The reply was, "No, we are now receiving state help with food stamps and welfare. We're even getting free health insurance through the state!" She went on, "We're going to be all set and plan to take our time looking for work."

I find that story discouraging. These are healthy, capable people who have been convinced by the state to take the easy route. This is only one example. Another woman related to me what she was told when she went to the state for help. "Take the welfare," she was advised. "If you get a job, you can always lose it. But when you get welfare, it can never be taken away."

I was taught by my parents to work for each dollar and to be proud of it. I believe that people are losing their pride and allowing the state to pay their way. The work ethic that gained Maine its once-legendary reputation as a place where rugged individualism held sway is rapidly being replaced with a soft, socialistic lifestyle more dependent on handouts than hard work.

Don't get me wrong, I believe the state must help folks who absolutely cannot take care of themselves. What is wrong is where this state has chosen to go. We are the most highly taxed state in the country. The majority party has, for the past 34 years in the legislature, set policies that have made Maine the worst place to do business. This is a fact. We are perennially among the states with the highest health insurance costs, the highest unemployment insurance costs, the highest percentage of our population on Medicaid and welfare, and we have always had one of the highest minimum wages in the nation. We're now the oldest state in the country, to boot.

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Mt. Katahdin from Abol Bridge. (Photo by Tony Bessey.)

Laws, Rules, Regulations, Requirements, And Prohibitions

By Dr. Bill Reid

Government is surely justified in handing out volumes of fishing regulations. It is the decent thing to do since fishermen have a right to know on what grounds game wardens are charging them and plenty of reason to find out how to avoid being charged. That is why, I suppose, the authorities issue fishing regulation booklets. Regardless of the merits of each individual rule and regulation, the sheer numbers of such rules and regulations makes it difficult for the state's Izaak Waltons to avoid getting entangled in them. The more the state regulates, the further in the dark the citizen sinks in his effort to be obedient to them. This is increasingly true for all state and federal laws, rules, regulations, requirements, and prohibitions. As they grow and multiply we find it harder and harder to know and obey them.

Yet, even as the authorities multiply their rules, we run into some strange omissions. Assume for a moment that I am the mayor of your town, responsible for enforcing a recycling program. Suppose also that I send you a notice that all homeowners must set out their glass and metal waste for pick-up on Wednesdays. You further read that if you set your recyclables out too late for pick up, you must remove them from the curb by sundown on the same day. Your notice, however, makes no mention of a penalty for noncompliance. I expect you would not feel strongly motivated to comply. You might think it voluntary. A ten-dollar fine might give you a stronger motive to comply, wouldn't it? Stronger still if the penalty were fifty dollars.

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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.

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Creating Jobs, Building Our Future

By Senator Chandler Woodcock, candidate for Governor

It is time for a new understanding between Maine government and job creators. As I share my perspective concerning Maine's future, I believe what is most needed is a change in attitude. As Governor, I – and the people who work for me – will work with job creators in a spirit of humility, predictability, and partnership.

First, we need a political leadership that understands that it does not create jobs – employers do. There are thousands of Mainers who have invested their time, talent, energy and family "nest eggs" in Maine's future. Businesses from the Farmington Diner to Hancock Lumber to Barber Foods to DeLorme share this in common. We need to respect this extraordinary commitment, not look down our noses suspiciously at these fine people. They are the ones whose leadership and dedication have created and sustained job opportunities for Maine citizens. They know what they are up against in a global economy. They are the ones bearing the costs and the risk. Maine government ought to have a measure of humility in the face of such dedication.

As a parent, a teacher, a coach and a senator, I have always considered that my word is my bond. As Governor, I will be no different. Honesty and follow-through are necessary characteristics of leadership. You cannot inspire people with an overpromising and underdelivering of commitments. People making long-term investments and creating jobs need to know what will be the costs and the rules. A state government that changes the rules in the middle of the game injects uncertainty and drives up costs. It makes job creators hesitant to make investments in people and property. Maine government needs to create an atmosphere of predictability and reduce risk, not increase it.

If Maine government wants to stimulate job creation, it must listen to and support those who do it. I am using my campaign for Governor as an opportunity to hear directly from job creators the best ways state government can support their efforts. We all want lower taxes, lower energy costs, lower workers' compensation rates, for example – but how will we get the biggest return for

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

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The Token Conservative

By Jon Reisman

Watermelon Pesticide Needed

The environmental left, sometimes known as the watermelon caucus (green on the outside, red on the inside), is in serious need of some accountability. Since our Governor, U.S. Senators and Congresscritters are clearly either unwilling or unable to call Big Green to account for their repeated sins and crimes against humanity, I guess it's up to the token conservative.

The environmental left includes the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Maine Audubon, the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters, the Land for Maine's Future Bureaucrats, Friends of Acadia, Maine Rivers, the Conservation Law Foundation, most land trusts, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, RESTORE the North Woods, Trout Unlimited, Senators Collins, Snowe, McCain and Chafee, Representatives Allen and Michaud and the Maine Stream Media. Governor Baldacci might as well be a member- he made Bath Nagusky, a card-carrying watermelon caucus member, his czarina of energy and global warming policy. Even if a pol isn't a true believer, they are so afraid of environmental political jihad that very few are willing to cross Brownie Carson (head green shaman of the NRCM), much less hold the watermelon caucus to account for their repeated transgressions to Maine's economy, culture and people.

Over the Ides of March, Mainers were dismayed to hear of yet another manufacturer (the GP mill in Old Town) closing shop. Huge headlines in the Maine Stream Media announced the bad news. The Baldacci Daily News even pinpointed the major cause: Maine has the highest energy prices in New England. Unfortunately, the media failed to point out why our energy prices are high and going higher. The reason: 25 years of energy policies directed by the environmental left... and with global warming initiatives that Gov. Baldacci has pushed for the watermelons, we can expect more of the same- including a steadfast refusal to lay the blame where it properly belongs: the watermelon caucus. Send a watermelon seed along with your next power bill.

Prior to the meltdown of the Old Town area economy, Mainers were treated to a series of sermons from the environmental left on how moral and righteous they and their cause are.

A number of liberal churches have trumpeted their moral concerns about global warming, with the not so subtle implication that anyone who doesn't agree with their statist fearmongering is immoral. How convenient for the watermelon caucus. George Bush and conservatives have been pursuing environmental policies based on sound science, capitalism and facts rather than religion, socialism and fear. But don't listen to them or look at the facts... just trust us because we're good and moral, and they're not.

The watermelons plumbed new depths when they attacked two members of the Natural Resources Committee, Representatives Tom Saviello and Bob Daigle. Saviello and Daigle are both environmental professionals who had led a moderate bi-partisan coalition which was moving Maine away from watermelon caucus. The left could not allow that, and both legislators were attacked with spurious ethics and political allegations.

I shouldn't have been surprised. Five years ago the same folks attacked me because I had the temerity to suggest publicly that the environmental left should be held accountable for the damage the Atlantic salmon listing would (and did) do to Washington County. For the record, I compared the listing to a rape, and shared my conviction that rapists should be executed. That exercise of free speech earned me a hate speech warning from the lead environment legal eagle in the AG's office, a public whipping on statewide public radio, and a letter from the NRCM to the Governor urging that my views on environmental policy be banned from the public square.

The upcoming gubernatorial race, and particularly the GOP primary, offers a wonderful opportunity to bring some accountability to Maine's greenies at last. I'd love to hear Chandler Woodcock, Dave Emery and/or Peter Mills tell Governor Baldacci and Pat LaMarche: "Pat, John... you've got some 'splaining to do." The GOP candidate with the cojones and determination to call the watermelon caucus to account will get my vote.

Jon Reisman eats greens for lunch. He can be contacted at jreisman@maine.edu.

Reforms Overview

By Michael Fundalewicz

Recently I had the privilege to meet, chat with and interview a lovely young couple, in their 70s, Mr. And Mrs. "C", per se, wherein which we discussed the short-comings and the needs, within Aroostook County and the Federal Government in general, to change this nation from a wasteful and fossil oil dependant economy to one that is self-sustaining, regenerative and earth friendly.

Several of the issues which were addressed in the interview included the following:

- The need to return to a "back to basics" society.
- Implementation of household, food processing and human waste re-direction and reduction.
- The need for the transition from our current ultra-modern, high-tech and chemically based approach to the nationwide transformation of the farming industry to a "green-based approach."
- The need to expand our state mandated recycling effort to a much wider scope.
- The need for the local, state and federal governments to assist, via financial incentives, to perpetuate private citizens' use of alternative sources of fuel and energy.
- The question as to why the American automobile manufacturers have yet to come up with a "peoples car" in parallel to the 1930s German "Volkswagon".
- The question of why the current administration hasn't put forth a challenge, like President Kennedy did for the "Space Race", to attain a timely goal in such a radical transition to alternative resources.

Other subjects, of my own personal opinion, have to do with the "State of the Nation" as a whole and are not linked to anyone in particular, although most everyone that I've spoken with seems to agree.

They include the following:

- The ludicrous debates over the demise of the Social Security Administrations' funding deficit.
- Welfare reform.
- The prison system.
- Our education system.

I don't know about you folks but I'm tired of paying \$2.65 a gallon for gasoline, \$2.78 for fuel oil, \$3.24 for propane and the list goes on.

When people enter the state they see the sign on the highway saying "Welcome to Maine, The Way Life Should Be". How does that make any sense if we're trying to emulate the lower 48? Did I miss something here???

Michael Fundalewicz moved to Ashland with his wife and four kids in the early '90s to escape the dictatorial confines of the State of Massachusetts' taxation policies and the mayhem of drugs and crime for the protection of his kids' futures. He has, in recent years, come to see that those very same issues have followed him in the form of self-serving governing officials and the reluctance of the citizens of northern Maine to stand up and speak out for themselves before they wind up in the same mess.

It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood.

James Madison



Pemaquid Beach, as seen from Pemaquid Harbor

Education is a weapon whose effects depend on who holds it in his hands and at whom it is aimed.

Joseph Stalin

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Ben Bernanke and the "Barbarous Relic"

by Thomas E. Brewton

New Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke chairs his first meeting today (3/28). It's appropriate to view the occasion from an historical perspective.

John Maynard Keynes, the high priest of socialistic scientism applied to economics, wrote in 1923 that "the gold standard is already a barbarous relic." James Turk, an international authority on gold and gold prices, explains that the true barbarous relic is, not gold or the gold standard, but central banks.

In Monograph Number 55, published as "The 'Barbarous Relic' - It is Not What You Think," by the Committee for Monetary Research and Education, Mr. Turk provides a concise historical review and analysis of the role of currency vs fiat money now produced in excess amounts by central banks, including the Fed.

His monograph is readily understandable by anyone, even by readers without training in economics or banking, and I urge you to acquire it and to read it. To that end, contact Elizabeth Currier at the Committee for Monetary Research and Education, 10004 Greenwood Court, Charlotte, NC 28215-9621, (704) 598-3717.

Mr. Turk demonstrates that central banks, from their inception, have tended to succumb to pressures to create fiat money faster than the increase in underlying assets produced by their economies.

Governments pressure central banks to 'create' money by purchasing government debt, thereby avoiding the need to raise taxes to fund welfare-state handouts. Commercial banks support the resulting excess credit creation, because it provides them more funds to lend at a profit.

The result is a false sense of economic well-being such as today's economy in which our massive trade deficit has effectively been financed by the explosion of so-called home equity (based on the inflated market price) loans on private homes. Our great-grandparents would be astonished at the extent to which so many of us live far beyond our true means, floating on credit card debt.

To explain this process, Mr. Turk takes us on a summary tour of central banking history. It begins with chartering of the Bank of England in 1694, just five years after the Glorious Revolution that ousted dictatorial James II and produced the English Bill of Rights in 1689. London merchants had been prominent in the opposition to James II, wishing both to end the king's arbitrary confiscation of their assets and to provide for a satisfactory currency to support expansion of trade.

The intent was that the Bank of England hold gold and silver coins and bullion and issue equal amounts of paper currency, which could be redeemed for gold or silver. Paper currency was then more accurately called bank notes (paper currency even today is simply a promise to pay, a debt of the central bank or of the government).

Over the ensuing two and a quarter centuries, central banks have drifted away from the original concept and repeatedly issued bank notes (or deposit credits to commercial banks) in excess of their underlying assets.

The result invariably is inflation and business recession. Excess credit leads banks to make too many loans, which leads business-

es to over expand because of the disjunction between apparent prosperity reflected in credit availability and the real underlying demand for goods and services.

It was this process, financed throughout the 1920s by the Federal Reserve, that created the capital goods bubble that burst, drowning us in the Great Depression of the 1930s. President Franklin Roosevelt's attacks on businessmen and stock market speculation were either ignorance, or more likely Joseph Goebbels-style propaganda to gain public support for the socialistic collectivization of power by the New Deal.

Gold historically was the anchor that restrained central banks from excess credit creation. If currency in circulation must be held to a strict ratio to gold in the central bank's possession, inflation will be avoided.

Breaking that link guarantees inflation. The only question is how much inflation will result.

Following the prescription of Harvard's socialistic economics department professors, President Roosevelt shortly after taking office in 1933 devalued the dollar to create large-scale inflation at one shot and, at the same time, made it illegal for individuals to own gold or to honor their contracts, most of which permitted the debt holder to require payment in gold. Mr. Roosevelt's true purpose was to manage the nation's credit as part of the socialistic state-planning he had promised in his 1932 campaign.

Even President Roosevelt's fellow socialist Benito Mussolini chided him, saying that no government had ever managed to inflate its economy into prosperity.

Commodity prices were stable throughout our history until the advent of the New Deal. Since then, excess credit by the Federal Reserve has been the general rule, and inflation has never stopped. At best inflation has been held to small digits.

The gold standard's last vestiges were tossed aside by President Nixon in 1971, leaving the dollar to float as a managed, fiat currency.

The consumer price index increased 475% from the beginning of President Roosevelt's administration in 1933 to the start of President Ronald Reagan's administration in 1981. In the span of the Johnson, Nixon, and Carter administrations, we experienced the worst burst of inflation in the nation's history, wiping out more than half the value of people's life savings.

Men were forced to 'moonlight,' holding several jobs, and mothers were pushed into the full-time work force just to pay the rent and grocery bills. Juvenile delinquency, not surprisingly, increased, drug abuse became common, marriages broke up, sexual promiscuity became the norm, illegitimacy soared, education collapsed, and we got President Clinton's Baby-Boomer anarchist rebels who today are busily destroying what remains of the nation's moral fiber.

Thomas E. Brewton is a staff writer for the New Media Alliance, Inc. The New Media Alliance is a non-profit (501c3) national coalition of writers, journalists and grass-roots media outlets. His weblog is THE VIEW FROM 1776 (www.thomasbrewton.com).

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Editor and Advertising
Michelle Anderson

Distribution, Photography
Ken Anderson

207.723.4456

PO Box 788
Kingman, ME 04451
<http://allmainematters.com>

This Month's Contributors:

Christopher Adamo
Michelle Anderson
Beth Cyr
Scott Fish
Michael Fundalewicz
Matthew Jones
Justice Stephen Markman
Patrick Moening
Jon Reisman
Senator Lois Snowe-Mello
Rep. David Trahan
Senator Chandler Woodcock

Ken Anderson
Thomas E. Brewton
David P. Cyr
John Frary
Will Jeffries
Mark Landsbaum
Rep. Jon McKane
Dr. Bill Reid
Bob Sanders
Susan C. Stratton
Alvina Turner

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The current fort at the Colonial Pemaquid site is actually the rebuilt western tower of Fort William Henry, the second of three forts built and destroyed on the site.

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All Maine Matters
PO Box 788
Kingman, ME 04451

“

I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian religion.

”

Patrick Henry

Tax Expenditures

by John Frary

"I have been very clear that a tax break is spending money. At the end of the day, we have less revenue, no matter how you cut it." These words were uttered a short while ago by Chris Gregoire, Democratic governor of Washington. This assertion is embodied in the expression "tax expenditure," a phrase that became commonplace during the Reagan administration, although I first remember hearing it back in 1968.

Let's be clear about what tax expenditure means. It means our take-home pay. Twirl it around, stand on its head, examine it under a microscope or gaze at it from afar; any way you look at it, it means that liberals have come to view our take-home pay, investment income, business profits, or pension payments as a government expense. When Governor Gregoire says that "WE have less revenue," she cannot be referring to "we the people." Obviously, the taxpayers have more revenue to spend if their taxes are reduced. It is the government's revenue that she speaks of.

Some may find my assertion far-fetched, a wild exaggeration, perhaps outrageous. Maybe so, but it is up such critics to explain the logical fallacy of which they believe I am guilty. I am not saying that liberals articulate this belief in so many words, but I do say that this belief is implicit in their actions and logically explicit in the idea that a tax break (i.e., allowing taxpayers to keep more of the money they earn) is a government expenditure.

Middle class taxpayers should beware of the incessant palaver about tax reductions as "giveaways to the rich." They should keep in mind the following points:

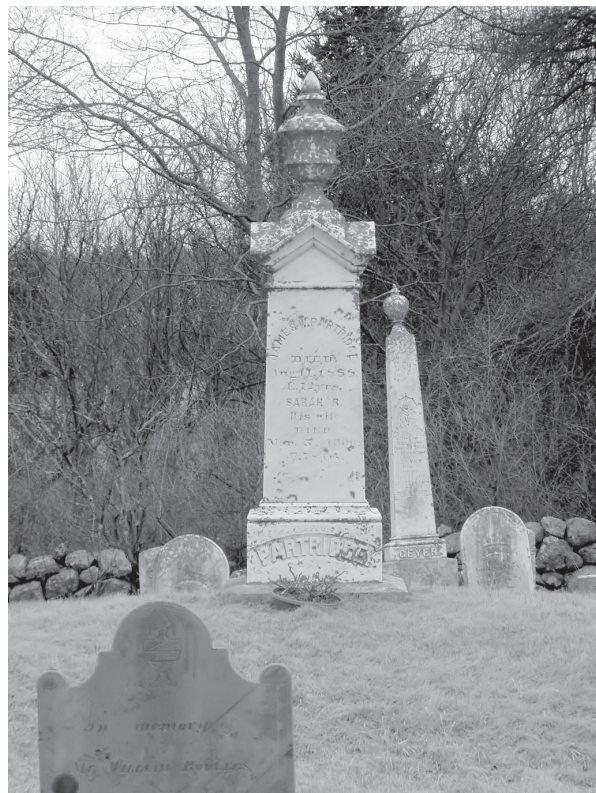
Middle class taxpayers should beware of the incessant palaver about tax reductions as "giveaways to the rich." They should keep in mind the following points:

1. If Bill Gates's income is the government's to "give" or keep, then so is theirs.
2. They should always be sure to determine exactly what is meant by the "rich." Check the figures, and they may find that their family income, in their peak years, places them in the ranks of the "rich." I remember a New Jersey high school teacher, married to a school librarian, who found himself temporarily among the top 2 percent a few years before his retirement. This, plus 9/11, cured him of forty years of allegiance to the Democrat Party. College professors, dentists, morticians, highly skilled blue-collar workers with years of seniority, and many others may find that they are counted among the rich. Just check to be sure, that's all I'm saying.
3. If this sounds strange, remember that we are talking about your income at age fifty or thereabouts. The great majority of the population pass up through the classes of income earners as they gain in age, experience and seniority. Redistribution of income rich to poor usually turns out to be redistributing income from John Smith, age 50, to Joe Smith, age 25.

4. Keep in mind that a hundred years ago, every Socialist party in Europe promised to redistribute money from the rich to the working man. Today, most European workers find themselves paying half their income straight into the national treasury to pay for all their welfare goodies. Nevertheless, every European state still has billionaires.
5. In 1969, Congress passed the Alternative Minimum Tax to insure that the rich paid their "fair share." Today, millions of middle class taxpayers are finding that they must pay a surcharge because of this tax.
6. When the graduated income tax was passed in 1912 to tax the rich, nobody with an income under \$10,000 paid income tax. In Maine today, you have to pay taxes on income above \$17,000 in 2006 dollars,

It all comes down to this: is your income something you earned, or is it an allowance granted to you by a "generous," paternal government?

John Frary was born in Farmington, where he now resides. He graduated from U of M, Orono. He did graduate work in Political Science and in Ancient, Medieval, Byzantine and modern history at U of M., Rutgers and Princeton, completing his Masters degree along with all courses and examinations for the PhD. He worked in administration and as a professor of history and political science at Middlesex County College in Edison, NJ for 32 years. He is associate editor of The International Military Encyclopedia, has been assistant editor of Continuity: A Journal of History as well as editor and publisher The LU/English Newsletter. After returning to Maine he was chosen to be the conservative columnist for The Kennebec Journal and The Morning Sentinel. He was dismissed from this position in December for refusing to drop his criticism of the Dirigo Health Plan. He is currently chairman of the Franklin County Republican Committee.



The cemetery at Colonial Pemaquid contains gravestones dating from the 18th century. Very likely, villagers from the 17th century also buried their dead in or near the present graveyard, although the oldest graves were marked with field stones and wooden markers, long since rotted away.

Cancel The Funeral Dirge for GM

by Bob Sanders

An interesting question came over the airwaves one Sunday a month or so ago on a well known financial advice radio show. The caller was swooning over the possibility that her General Motors bond portfolio might take the deep six if GM were to throw in the corporate towel and declare bankruptcy. The financial Mighty Karzak went into a tirade about GM's financial troubles being the result of a product line of gas-guzzling SUV's that no one wants now that gas prices have skyrocketed. He criticized GM's inability to gauge market trends and meet the market with products that the market wants, generally smaller vehicles, and specifically hybrids. He cautioned that the bonds would be redeemable for the next year or so, but further out than a year, and your gonna have to polish up your crystal ball to hazard a guess whether or not GM will be solvent.

Let's get one thing straight right quick, there is little chance that GM is going to go tits up. (At least for the foreseeable future). And if they do, it isn't going to be because they are trying to hawk a fleet of automobiles that "nobody wants". Read on, automophiles.

Primary Reason: GM can pay its bills, and companies go bankrupt when they can't pay their bills. GM has tons of cash; it has almost 20 billion bucks of liquidity, and analysts predict they could, if pressed, latch onto another 10 to 13 billion in borrowed money. And think about this: GM is being valued at a paltry 15 billion. Normally this kind of upside-down market situation puts blood in the water, and the Wall Street Sharks start to circle. Not in this case.

There is the little problem called "legacy costs." These are the obligations that GM agreed years ago to shoulder: the medical insurance costs of retirees all the way to the grave. This, coupled with GM's insurance costs for active employees of 5.6 billion per year (and counting), have made GM look a lot less appetizing to the sharks on Wall Street. In fact, some analysts have stated matter-of-factly, "GM is no longer an automotive manufacturer. It is now a benefits manager company".

There have been some former GM execs who have speculated that if GM were to file bankruptcy, it would specifically to shed itself of the contractual obligations

it has to provide former and present workers with benefits that are, simply, no longer affordable. These costs are the tidal wave that has the potential to wash GM down the crapper. GM, and its workers, will have to realize in the very near future that in this teeth-bared competition called automobile manufacturing, the prime directive is to be a "Car Company".


Second Primary Reason; GM makes, dollar for dollar, probably some of the best vehicles out there. This is despite all the Domestic Bashers, who still have their heads in a time warp, say 15 or 20 years ago, when Detroit was building a lot of cars that easily made it onto the "Worst Cars of All Time" list. Ask a technician; most will say that the domestics have come a long way in quality and innovation. And this is direct from the people who have poked, prodded, pored over wiring diagrams, dissected and agonized over "diagnostic safaris". Who better to get a real world perspective on who's doing what right, and who's spends more on marketing and hype than engineering?

One last thought on General Motors: innovation. Guess who used GM transmissions in almost all their vehicles for over two decades? Rolls Royce. That's right, Rolls Royce, the absolute, hands-down benchmark builder of quality with a capital Q. I read this years ago in an article and the writer assumed, as I do, that the Brits at Rolls had to swallow real hard to slip that GM automatic into their land yachts. But they did it because after its introduction, it was glaringly obvious that this one, tough, well thought-out, built-to-last, smooth operator. In short, no matter how much time they spent at the drafting table, they couldn't build a better transmission, so they just bought GM's unit over the counter.

So the next time you're changing your oil in your Rolls Silver Shadow, rub the road grime off the ID plate on the right side of the transmission case above pan rail, you'll see it: GM Turbo Hydramatic. Made in the USA.

Bob Sanders is a Master Auto Technician who works in Brewer.

3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1505



36 Townhouse Road
Sangerville, ME 04479
(207) 876-4047

Senator Paul T. Davis, Sr.
Maine Senate District 8
Republican Leader

sendavis@midmaine.com
Fax (207) 287-1527 • TTY (207) 287-1583 • Messages 1-800-423-6900
<http://www.state.me.us/legis/senate>



Located at Pemaquid Point, the lighthouse was commissioned in 1827 by John Quincy Adams and built that year.

America In The Hands Of Angry Democrats

by Christopher Adamo

In stark but reliable simplicity, Republican successes of the past several decades can be directly correlated to the contrasts between their philosophy and agenda as compared to that of the Democrats. In the 1994 election cycle, differences between the two parties were clearly defined, and Republicans triumphed. Conversely whenever distinctions become blurred, Republican fortunes fall commensurately.

Unfortunately this phenomenon, so crucially important to Republican victory, is apparently beyond the understanding of GOP "moderates," who believe that victory results from an indefinable strategy of fence sitting. As the 2006 elections loom, it is incumbent upon the Republicans to recognize these realities, especially in light of the shameless efforts by Democrat leaders to present a facade of being in the political center.

Making matters worse, Republicans in Congress and the Senate, and occasionally even the Bush Administration, have egregiously fumbled the conservative agenda. Thus, they no longer present a clear, conservative front on such issues as spending or the growth of entitlements.

On matters of national sovereignty, such as America's hemorrhaging southern border and the resulting invasion of illegal aliens, the Republican perspective is ambiguous at best. And in the historically "red state" heartland, agricultural producers are frustrated to the breaking point by federal policy that makes the northern border equally porous to an influx of four-footed foreign invaders.

Yet even in the wake of so many Republican foibles, it is valuable to consider just how much America stands to lose if Democrats once again dominate the federal government. A cursory overview of their recent antics yields convincing evidence.

To begin with, the "censure" ploy of Wisconsin Democrat Russ Feingold, were he to enjoy support for such a move in a Democrat controlled Senate, could only further embolden the Islamist enemies of America, who hold fast to hopes of triumphing in the terror war by simply outlasting America's will to fight.

Who can doubt that Feingold's real motive is to lay the groundwork for eventual impeachment of President Bush, based not on his foreign policy or the overblown NSA controversy, but instead on a juvenile Democrat obsession of getting even with Republicans for the impeachment of Bill Clinton?

Democrat House leader Nancy Pelosi, no less venomous in her partisanship than Feingold, nonetheless wishes Feingold would remain quiet about such things until after November. But to the Islamists, the message is unmistakable.

A president who effectively confronts terrorism risks public humiliation, and even possible removal from office for doing so.

Back on the home front, members of the armed forces, who have served so courageously and sacrificially since 9-11, are getting a foretaste of what they can expect under Democrat rule. In a rerun of the Clinton years, some among their ranks are being used as public relations "props," in yet another ruse to blur party distinctions.

According to a memo from Senate Democrat leader Harry Reid of Nevada, aspiring Democrat candidates should make military personnel and hardware prominent in their rallies during the campaign season, in order to convince America that its interests will be equally protected under the headship of a Democrat controlled Congress.

Meanwhile, Democrats on Capitol Hill and in the media are doing their best to exaggerate any negative news coming out of Iraq. Talk of an imaginary Iraqi "civil war" has been incessant.

So what is really represented by a party that claims to support the military while simultaneously working to drive it to defeat by portraying its enemies as invincible? In short, liberals running the Democrat Party hold no regard for the military, or the country it was instituted to protect, and are willing to play any game necessary to reacquire and enhance their political power.

If, driven by their addiction to power and ensuing rage against any who would encroach on it, they will play these games with murderous terrorists, what havoc might they be expected to wreak on domestic policy, the Constitution, and the rule of law?

A heavy-handed dose of liberal government, along with a renewed vigor among activist judges, is inevitable. And it is certain that liberals secretly salivate at the prospect of repealing President Bush's tax cuts, if for no other reason than to destroy his legacy.

Democrats have made it abundantly obvious that they are presently no more concerned with America's safety and security, or the advancement of sound fiscal policy, than they were during the 1990s. Rather, they seek vengeance, retribution, and at any cost to the country, political advantage.

Christopher G. Adamo is a freelance writer and staff writer for the New Media Alliance. He lives in southeastern Wyoming with his wife and sons. He has been active in local and state politics for many years.

Letters to the Editor

Speak Up Now!

To the Editor:

I'm going to comment on the letter to the editor that was in the March issue that was next to mine.

I have a problem with Mr. Robert's article, but before I get to Mr. Roberts, I want to congratulate Rep. Cebra for putting it on the line and speaking up. It's people like him that opened my eyes. I knew there were problems in the government, but I couldn't put my finger on them. Now I have and that's only a small portion of the problems.

Anyway, Mr. Roberts, our ancestors may have come from other countries, but, more than likely, if you research it, you'll find names of most of them at the ports of entry. Meaning that they signed in when they hit land, making them legal.

The immigrants that show up in the country now don't want to do it the right way. They want the FREE! There is nobody in the U.S.A. that is forced to do anything for work. These people choose to work food service, farms, construction and so forth.

Don't try to blow smoke in my direction 'cause I'll consider you a liar, bleeding heart and a sympathetic whiner.

I personally went to a cousin of mine that owns a broccoli farm looking for a job and he told me outright that he could not hire me because he only hired immigrants. What's up with that?

Another thing. If you believe that illegals are paying their way through sales tax and they are pulling their weight, then I suggest that you make an appointment at the proctologist's office.

I get paid for the work that I do. 30% + / - is taken off the top for taxes. FICA, Medicare, SS, state. Then the phone taxes, light taxes, heating fuel taxes, gasoline taxes, excise taxes on a vehicle, property taxes, household item taxes, income taxes at the end of the year, and if I'm unemployed, taxes on that. And on top of all of that, I pay dues to a union that hasn't done squat for me in 3 years. I'm just now getting paid \$7.25 per hour from a company as an EMT.

So, don't sit all cozy in the Bronx and tell me that the illegal immigrants are paying there. They have a hell of a lot more then I do.

I can't afford my own insurance, and I make too much to get on a state program.

If you feel that you don't have a problem with illegal immigrants, then I suggest that when you move back to Maine, stop in Lewiston and buy an old school and board all the immigrants you want. I've seen it up here; you can fit at least 15 of them in a 2-bedroom house.

I'll say it again people of Maine (legal residents): If you want your money to stay in your pocket, then speak up. But do it quick, because the government may see fit to take that right away also.

Not respectfully this time.
Perry Charette
Nashville Plt. ME

It Pays!

It pays to advertise in All Maine Matters. It always has. One of the properties in last month's ad just sold and the phone is ringing on the other ones.

Roger Ek
The Northern Maine Land Man

Letters to the Editor are most welcome and even encouraged! Email 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 pseudonym.

“
No power on earth has a right to take our property from us without our consent.
”
John Jay (First Chief Justice of the United States, serving from 1789 to 1794)



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Undue Influence In the North, Part 4

By David P. Cyr

As explained in the previous articles, the elimination of the logging/paper industry and the rural cleansing of Northern Maine have been the focus of the Northern Forest Alliance for the past 50 years.

As the fourth chapter of an 80-chapter list, Maine would be the largest and most complex campaign of its kind in the world. To achieve their goals, it would be necessary to:

1. Remove and gain control of the largest private ownership of Paper Company land in the state.
2. Remove and gain control over the largest privately owned hydroelectric dam system of its kind in the world.
3. Remove the oldest and most entrenched "Camp Culture" in the world.

To the average Joe, these tasks would seem to be virtually impossible, but to the largest, wealthiest and most influential green group on earth, this task was accomplished in the same way as you may answer the question: "How does a single person eat a whole Elephant?" The answer is just as you would expect is: "One bite at a time".

First, we must understand that our forefathers and the generations to follow have been committing a sin, but you won't find this one in the Bible. The sin I mention is against "Nature", as we were cutting trees, and using a renewable resource. Apparently, we had no right to do so. The use of a natural resource, renewable or not, in the eyes of the preservationist, must be stopped.

Now, please understand the difference between the environmental movement of the seventies and the Preservationists agenda of today. The environmental movement I mentioned came to us as an unwelcome guest, as a gift from our Southern Maine Government, in the form of the "Land Use Regulation Commission". I consider them unwelcome guests because it seems Southern Maine had the good sense not to impose the same regulatory standards upon itself through the use of "Management Classes".

As insulted as we were back in the seventies to have "the Greens" telling us about the death of "Micro-organisms", as we rolled rocks over with a bare foot, I believe I am more insulted to hear that I should no longer have the right to be that close to a body of water, anyway.

Environmentalists understand and coordinate man's contact with his environment. This is necessary for the long-term protection of the environment that also supports man's existence. L.U.R.C. has set land use standards governing our contact, use and protection of our environment.

Although I do not agree that our land use regulations need to be quite so restrictive, second only to Alaska, there is a definite need to employ good science to maintain the quality of our environment. All of this is common sense, nobody out there believes that we can use our resources and not protect the future of that resource.

In comes the "Preservationist", with the only goal in view being that of returning the environment back to its original state, before Europeans settled here. The true "Preservationist" believes that beyond the love for their own children exist the need to repair the environment even if that need requires the displacement of families and the up rooting of a complete culture.

This must be done to protect future generations. They often see themselves as true visionaries, actually believing that we will someday thank them for their efforts to make two thirds of a state empty. The success of the preservationist movement has rewarded their instruments with the one thing they all desire - Power. That power in the hands of the politically connected few, feeds the monster, and delivers something that we have all gotten used to Arrogance!

No one out there can understand how difficult it is to be and act as a preservationist. Imagine, if you can, that you can only tell your friends and colleagues about your environmental concerns, when you really do not care about environmental issues, because you truly believe in removing man from the environment will solve those problems. The "Preservationist" has to live and exist on three fronts, all of which are phony.

The first has to act as an environmentalist, because they have just recently been accepted into society, since we have grown accustomed to L.U.R.C. and the accepted science they represent. The second has to collect like-minded allies in this movement, and achieve political power with those connections, thus making it possible to implement future actions. All the while, they are still not able to tell anybody what they are really doing. The third, most controversial and also most rewarding to the preservationist, and also happens to be the most secretive, is culture, population, and industry removal. All the while believing that God has given them the unique power and foresight, to realize that the entire population of Northern Maine must relocate to the south for the greater good of all humanity.

Even if hardship and suffering are required, it is for the greater good. I guess we should be thrilled to be in the presence of such greatness, but the arrogance that travels hand in hand is not tolerable in the mist of a honest, hard working society.

The hard working people in the Sherman/Patten area got their education concerning the "Environmental Versus Preservationist" agenda, just last year. The residents of these two small towns are still wondering, what happened? The lumber mill, the single largest employer of the area, fell on hard times and had to sell out. But, there were at least two perspective buyers that were going to buy and run the mill.

Little mention was made of the entity that did purchase the mill, because they had a preservationist agenda and shut it down. The machinery was auctioned off before anyone could blink. When we attended a meeting of about 150 citizens in the Sherman High School earlier this year, we heard several pleas from area residents. They wanted answers, as to why organizations are allowed to exist that work to eliminate industry and people from Northern Maine? Who or what evil would support removing people from their homes and the industry that feeds them?

One local man made his beliefs known when he opened his speech with a very profound statement, "Know Him Not By His Word, but By His Deed."

He went on to explain that despite all the promises that came with the recent arrival of the green groups, the resulting loss of the lumber mill shows exactly what they were here to do. While we were talking to area residents, we had the good fortune to meet a trucker who had recently finished a two month long job in Montana.

This man explained how he first learned about the preservationists while trucking in Montana. He said that signs that were posted everywhere, to declare a specific date as "Gate Day", baffled him. The signs were statewide, Gate Day here, Gate Day there, until finally he asked the patrons of a local nightclub, "What the hell is "Gate Day"?" They explained that "Gate Day" was the day that every citizen with a four-wheel drive or a come-a-long expressed their personal beliefs about having their entire state locked up by the greens, by removing all and any Gates they could find.

Following a short conversation, we learned that we had a lot in common, namely the TNC and the Alliance had also blessed the State of Montana with their preservationist's agenda.

Almost a year later the preservationists continue to assault the residents of the Sherman/Patten area. On November 2, the voters almost took away another small source of income for this area with the "Bear-Baiting" Question on the ballot.

Let's not stop there, as closing the Snowsled trail and the remaining green benefits provided by the Roxanne Quimby assault on civilization, will complete the rural cleansing efforts in this area. Why is it proper and legal to remove people and industry from its established location? What politician would support this effort?

Now, it should be known that, in the state of Hawaii, an almost duplicate situation had occurred. It is called the land reform Act of 1967. This case is now referred to as: "Hawaii VS Midkiff", where a landowner chose to cause pain, suffering and hardship to surrounding abutters and citizens. The Governor, in concert with his legislature, immediately took the land in question by the powers granted to him by "Eminent Domain", and sold it to the abutters at fair market value, returning the money to the original owner. With that action, swift and fair, others who hope to prosper from the misery of others, received a very powerful message: Don't do it here!

What message is our Governor sending? The Hawaii VS Midkiff decision was later upheld by the Supreme Court of this great country, so just exactly what happened to our Governor? It appears that Roxanne Quimby's actual theft of private property, (which is what happens when the property owner fails to move it in the prescribed time), was made legal by the weak links in our Legislature, and made profitable by the absolute cooperation of our preservationist Governor.

Our Governor made a very clear choice to stand on an issue of great importance to the entire state. Because the Supreme Court upheld the original Hawaii vs. Midkiff decision, in 1984, our Governor would only have to make two phone calls to the Majority leaders of our State House. That would enact emergency legislation to protect the rights of the property owners on leased land, the vacationing public that was previously free to use the trail, and the local industries and small businesses adversely affected by her action to close the trail. The emergency legislation enacted to take the land in question by Eminent Domain, could also include language to include the end of all tax incentives, to those who would choose to inflict misery on Maine's citizens, while pursuing their own private agenda.

Our Governor has made a stand on the preservationist side of this very damning issue, combined that with the refusal of the Governors' office to get involved in the planned eviction of the only public service provider in the Katahdin Region, WSYY Radio. Imagine if you were a company from out of state looking to settle here and then learned that our Governors policies towards businesses include:

1. Helping radio stations go away;
2. Assisting the private closing of a publicly used snowmobile trail;
3. Assisting the loss of private property located on leased land;
4. Assisting the closing of small businesses located along the closed trail;
5. Assisting the over-regulation, over-taxation, and ultimate failure of business in northern Maine;
6. Assisting the removal of personal security in leasing agreements; and
7. Producing instability in an already unstable real estate market on leased land.

By saying and doing absolutely nothing on these issues, our Governor speaks volumes. Again, I will explain, this is why they cannot tell you what they are doing. The hard working citizens of these small rural towns are not supposed to notice, a missing snowsled trail, Radio station, or a Bowlin camp or two.

Now, you have to ask yourself, how is it possible for the Governor of a State to stand idly by why the actions of the Preservationists remove all that is necessary to support life in the northern half of the state? Didn't he take an oath or something?

For the answer we must go back to 1956, when the Nature Conservancy incorporated it's fourth chapter here in Maine.

When I take a moment to walk in the shoes of the first TNC workers who arrived here, I realize that this State has been their job for five decades. We must realize that as a job, the work has had to be performed in various stages, much the same as anyone would get his wood in to heat his home. First step, sharpen chain saw, last step, feed wood stove, the six steps I have left out are where the real work is.

So when you compare the job the preservationist have undertaken to:

Remove the land, industry, dams and the culture of a half of a state; you have to ask how in the hell can they do this? This task is so massive where do you start?

The best illustration that I have found to date, exist in a small Fish Farming community off the coast of Virginia, called "Willis Wharf". The 25-year destruction of this community and the 50-year destruction of our state have been achieved by the same means and in the same method.

With a population of only 300, the residents of Willis Wharf relied solely on the pens of the fish farming industry for their livelihood. But they had no idea that they were using and abusing a resource... Water. Six months after the arrival of the "We do good things" people, the local universities, to detect any changes that the fish-farming pens had made in the water quality, performed studies. What do you think they found?

Fish poop.

Big surprise right? The studies were brought to the attention of the states' environmental protection agencies and legislation was immediately passed to stop those fish, clams and all forms of Aquaculture, from pooping in the water and destroying the health of the entire Atlantic Ocean, thank God they caught it in time!

Now the industry has been shut down, people are out of work and in comes the true savior, The Nature Conservancy. Once the value had dropped, because of the shutdown, they purchased all the land with any commercial value and then purchased control over the entire fish-farming industry in the Willis Wharf area and began to "help" the residents of Willis Wharf. We all know how the rest of it goes, The TNC began to help with environmental concerns and proposed new ways to use good science and help get a small portion of the industry back on its feet. Thus becoming the "Savior" of another small community that is now happy to have 14% of its income back and has managed to save the environment too.

Before we get warm and fuzzy all over, look around. What really happened here? The small community of Willis Wharf, with 300 plus citizens, was fat and happy. There were no dead Dolphins on the beach, no "Beached Whales" and no evidence of any kind of an immediate or long-term environmental concern. They actually had no problems until the arrival of the "We do good things" people. All of a sudden the health of the entire ocean is in question, and the land and water are more important than the people.

With the end of an industry also comes the drop in property values, and overnight, it seems a whole new society moves in. This society does not seem to mind that the land and water has become more important than people have. In fact, those remaining residents have knuckled under to the green movement, and the imports already think green. So what we have here is a form of Socialism or Communism.

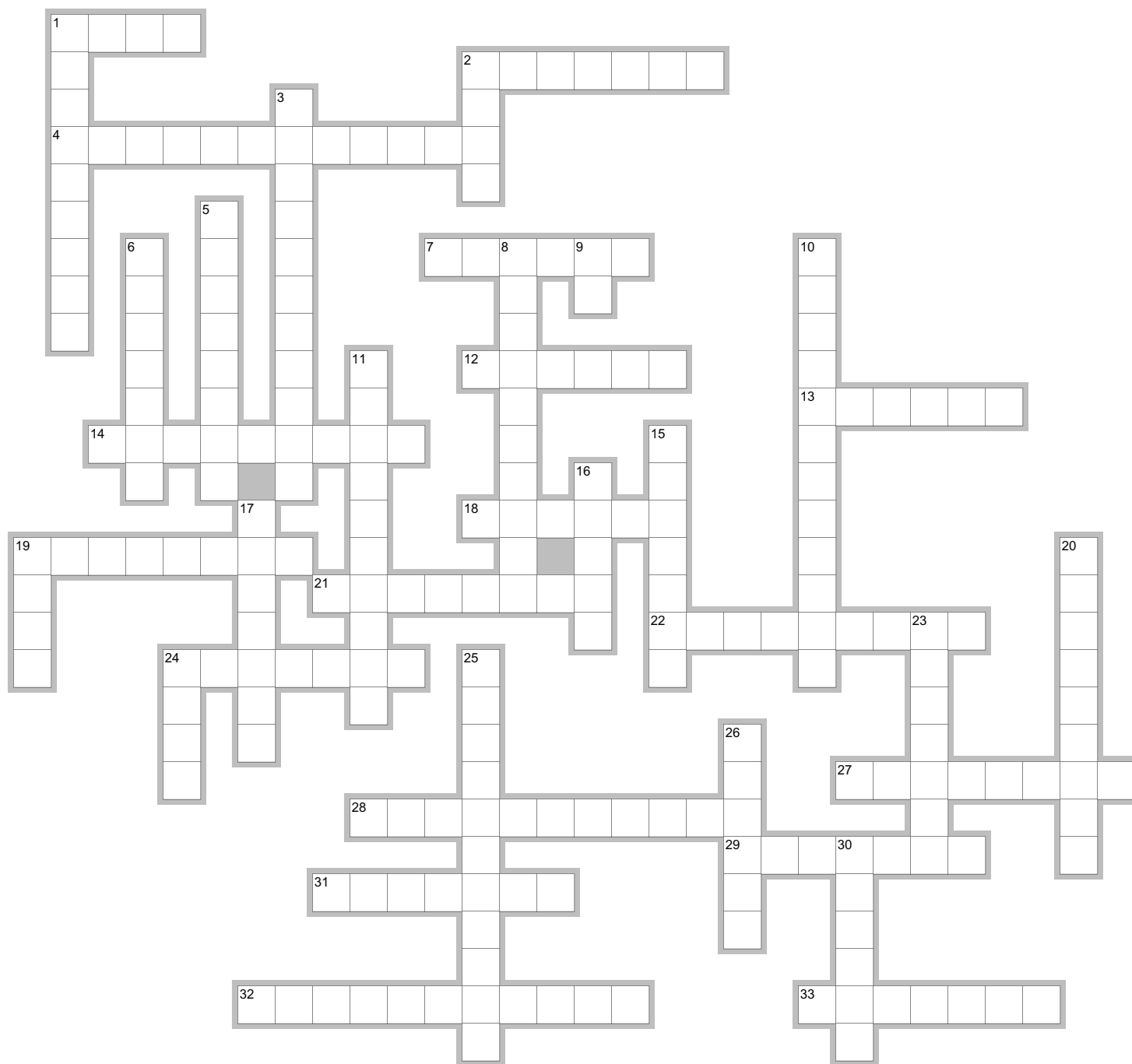
The landowner, (TNC), has a public/private relationship with the Government to allow for a limited amount of Fish-farming. Free enterprise was removed when the TNC bought all the property that would bear any kind of fruit, or fish farm. Therefore the size, financial wealth and growth of Willis Wharf is now under the control of an NGO with the blessings of the government.

Across

1. Senator Woodcock's article is about creating this. (4)
2. Dr. Bill Reid's article discusses overregulation in which area? (7)
4. More specifically, John Frary's article this month is about tax ... (12)
7. John Frary lost a newspaper position for refusing to drop his criticism of which health plan? (6)
12. Senator Snowe-Mello writes of a woman from this Androscoggin County town approaching her. (6)
13. He's from Waldoboro, and a co-author of the "Fleecing of Maine" series. (6)
14. America in the hands of angry ... (9)
18. He's from Newcastle, and a co-author of the "Fleecing of Maine" series. (6)
19. Senator Chandler Woodcock is running for this position. (8)
21. The last name of the new Federal Reserve Chairman. (8)
22. Who creates jobs, according to Senator Woodcock? (9)
24. Pemaquid is a part of the governmental structure of ... (7)
27. Ken Anderson's April profile. (8)
28. The subject of Senator Snowe-Mello's article was the ... (2 words) (11)
29. What state does Christopher Adamo live in? (7)
31. Susan Stratton's article concerns Maine's ... (7)
32. His first name is Michael, and he lives in Ashland. (11)
33. This machine company in Round Rock employs about one hundred people. (7)

April Crossword: Find it in This Issue of All Maine Matters

All answers can be found within this month's issue of All Maine Matters. Answers on page 14.



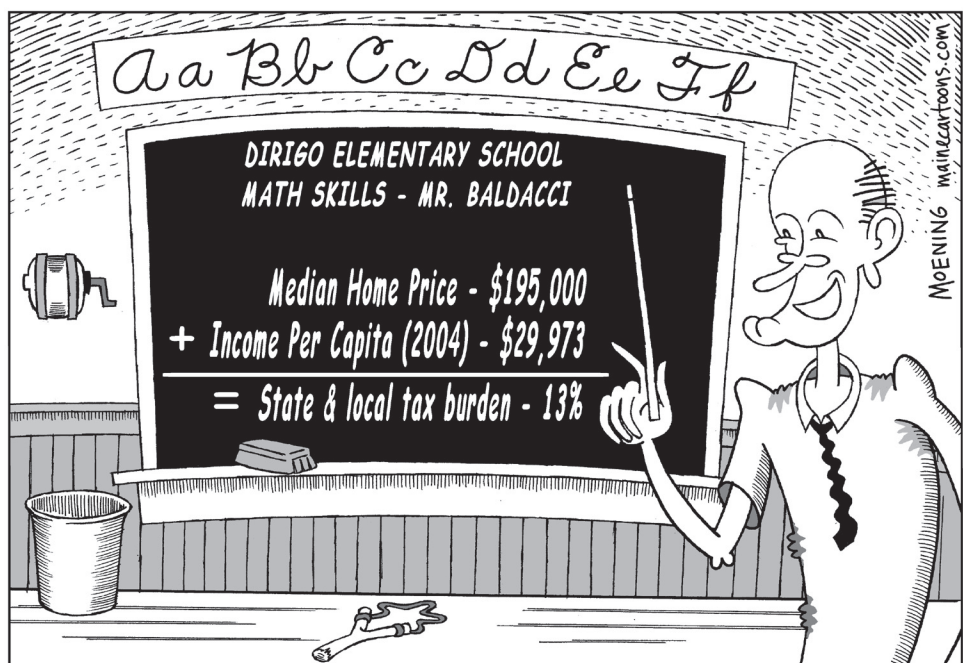
Down

1. Once the name of the English colony at Pemaquid. (9)
2. The last name of the founder and owner of "As Maine Goes." (4)
3. David Cyr uses this Virginia fish-farming community as an example of what The Nature Conservancy can do for a community. (2 words) (11)
5. Her first name is Susan, and she lives in Corinna. (8)
6. Apart from serving in state government, Senator Woodcock has served as a ... (7)
8. Senator Woodcock is a ... (10)
9. Bob Sanders writes about which company? (2)
10. Matthew Jones is a member of this political party. (12)
11. The environmental left is sometimes known as what kind of caucus? (10)

- Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com
15. Matthew Jones lives here. (7)
 16. John Frary's article this month is about ... (5)
 17. The last name of the cartoonist who created the Dirigo cartoon. (7)
 19. Thomas E. Brewton bemoans the loss of a monetary standard based on ... (4)
 20. According to Dr. Reid, what is missing in Maine's voluminous fishing regulations? (9)
 23. What is the last name of the man who eats greens for lunch? (7)
 24. The last name of the pirate who pillaged Pemaquid in 1632. (4)
 25. David Cyr serves on the town council here. (11)
 26. Bob Sanders lives here. (6)
 30. The origin of the name "Pemaquid." (6)

Mystery Photo

Where was this picture taken? (Answer in next month's issue of All Maine Matters)



Patrick Moening can be emailed at patm@mainecartoons.



The above cartoon is by Will Jeffries, who is 13 years old and homeschooled in Orange, Vermont, where he and his family live on a farm.

Profiles in Rural Maine

by Ken Anderson

Pemaquid, Maine



Riverview Market in Pemaquid.

When I choose a town or a community to profile each month in All Maine Matters, I don't necessarily know anything about the place beforehand. My goal is to achieve a fair balance of the state, geographically and otherwise, concentrating on the smaller places not so often represented elsewhere. In order to do so, I look for a place that has some history written about it, to use as a beginning point. Thus far, I've always chosen the place before reading the history, and each time I've been intrigued, finding myself thinking, "I wouldn't mind living there."

While I've never considered myself to be a coastal person, a few years in Long Beach, California comprising my entire experience in living on the coast, Pemaquid was no exception.

The only hard rule that I've established for these profiles is that my wife won't allow me to go beyond two pages. Any other rule would have to be broken, as Maine communities are not easily fit into templates. After the first issue, in which we featured Benedicta and Ox-bow Plantation, I had decided to restrict my profiles to only one town per issue. Choosing Waite for the February issue, I soon learned that the histories of Waite and Talmadge were so intrinsically linked that one could not be easily profiled without the other. While profiling Parkman for the March issue, I determined that I'd have to spend more time and get to know people better, a goal that I still embrace but which I was unable to achieve in Pemaquid.

If you're looking for Pemaquid on a map, it's a couple of peninsulas east of Boothbay Harbor, and south of Damariscotta and Newcastle. By sea, look for the Pemaquid Point Light, which is, of course, located on Pemaquid Point.

Initially, my intent was to profile the small place on the map named Pemaquid, located between Route 130 and Harbor Road. As I read the history of the Pemaquid Peninsula, however, I realized that it would be difficult enough separating the Pemaquid Peninsula from the rest of New England, as the entire area was called Pemaquid in earlier histories, until King Charles I agreed with Captain John Smith's suggestion to rename the region "New England." I determined to profile the whole of the Pemaquid Peninsula, but most specifically Pemaquid and Pemaquid Neck. Although Pemaquid is a part of the governmental structure of Bristol, to the north, people who live in Pemaquid consider themselves to be

residents of Pemaquid, and their mail is addressed that way. The same is true of New Harbor, to the south; and Round Rock, to the northeast.

Pemaquid has a very long history. Indeed, some historians have theorized that it was the cradle of civilization, occupied long before the American Indians came to this continent. It's hard to say, since we don't often don't consider history to have begun until the Europeans entered it. Nevertheless, it is clear the Pemaquid Peninsula was occupied long before the first English colony was established here.

Most people are aware of the Popham Colony, settled in 1607 by the Virginia Company which had also founded Jamestown, and which was a project of the Plymouth Company. Many are not aware that the Popham Patent creating the expedition, includ-

ed two branches, one of at the mouth of the Kennebec River, which was then called the Sagadahoc River; the other at Pemaquid, more specifically in the area near Pemaquid Beach, where the reconstructed Fort William Henry and the old cemetery grounds can be seen today.

But if Pemaquid was among the first colonies established by the English, there were people living there long before. In fact, according to some historians, Pemaquid was an active and thriving community long before the accepted date of August 8, 1607, citing records of actual settlements there as early as 1000 A.D., and that people were living in the general area long before that.

The name "Pemaquid" is of Micmac origin, predating the Abnaki names. The "pem" or "pemi" means "extending" or "far out" while the "equid" means "situated," the general translation being, "It is situated far out," no doubt referring to its position on a peninsula. Pemaquid was well known by that name for more than five hundred years prior to the establishment of an English colony there.

Further compounding the history of Pemaquid, it is significant to note that in those early days, the name applied to the whole region between Newfoundland and Virginia, and continued to be used during the time that the settlement was known as "Jamestown."

In his history, entitled, "The Story of Ancient Pemaquid," Harold W. Castner suggests that the Pemaquid Peninsula was settled during the Rude Stone Age, the earliest of four eras, and uses the example of the Oyster Shell Heaps on the Damariscotta River to estimate that humans were in this vicinity several thousands of years B.C. and must have walked the grounds of the Pemaquid. There are three distinct layers of shells, with layers of mold between them, representing periods of abandonment, and the author calculates that the heap had been abandoned for five centuries between the first and the second layer of shells, and for another three centuries between the second and most recent layer. The second layer was placed there by the "Red Paint Indians," the author concludes, while the third layer was deposited by the "American Indians," civilizations that were in no way related to one another. He does not hazard a guess as to the identity of the originators of the shell heap, but the five hun-

dred years of abandonment between the first and second deposits suggests that they were not one and the same.

Even the date of its first English settlement is in question, and there appears to be a high probability that the settlement predates the official date of its settlement. Its navigable waters and commercial advantages were well known in England as early as 1605. Even before the arrival of the Pilgrims, ships sheltered at Pemaquid to ride out North Atlantic storms. Shoremen had cleared the forest back from the sea, split the felt timber, and shaved it into staves for barrels, and Indians gathered here to barter with the English.

Of the New England coast, Captain John Smith wrote, "And here there are no hard landlords to rack us with high rents... If he have nothing but his hands, he may set up his trade, and by industry quickly grow rich... and fishing before your doors, may every night sleep quietly ashore, with good cheer and what fires you will, or, when you please, with your wives and family." -- 1616

Speaking of the Maine coast, he was not so optimistic. "All this coast to Penobscot, as far as I could see eastward of it, is nothing but such high craggy, cliffy rocks and stony isles, that I wondered such great trees could grow on such hard foundations. It is a country [rather] to affright than delight one; and how to describe a more plain spectacle of desolation or more barren, I know not."

Several times, British merchants planned to establish permanent settlements at Pemaquid, hoping to save the expense of sending ships and men back and forth across the Atlantic when the fish ran in spring and early summer. In 1625, was given the first deed of land made and acknowledged in New England, perhaps in America, conveying a large tract of land to one John Brown of New Harbor, at Pemaquid. This deed was signed by Samoset (the same who welcomed the Pilgrims at Plymouth) and Unongoit, both Native American sagamores.

By 1630, there were 84 English families living on the Pemaquid Peninsula, most living within sight of a stockaded blockhouse commanding the harbor, for protection from pirates and renegades, more than for protection from the French or Indians, whom the Pemaquid settlers traded with.

The Pemaquid fishing station lay in a tidal river near the peninsula's tip, the anchorage protected at its entrance by a high rock, perfect for a fort. The peninsula also pushes far out into the Gulf of Maine, requiring vessels along the shore to come under the guns of any forces quartered there.

The first fort was built in 1630, but it proved to be little protection. In 1632, Dixie Bull, a privateer who had been

sent with 15 men to avenge an attack by the French, gave up his mission and instead turned pirate. They put in at Pemaquid, walked into the garrison house, beat up the defenders, pillaged the farms and escaped.

This fort was called Fort George. What remained of it was destroyed in 1676 when, emboldened by King Philip's turning the Wampanoags against the lower New England colonies, the Abnakis and other Maine Indians attacked the English settlements along the coast in force. The English inhabitants of Pemaquid fled, and three hundred of them gathered on Damariscove Island, from where they watched the fire and the smoke of their homes being torched. For about a century, Maine became a battleground for the English, who were trying to regain the territory in the face of constant raids by Indians supplied and encouraged by the French in Canada.

A new fort was built on the same location in 1677. Called Fort Charles, it served primarily as protection for the small settlement, now called Jamestown, which consisted of about a dozen stone houses built to form a street facing the fort. Life was shaky at that time. Each day, the roll of drums "at sun and sun" signaled the start and end of a day's trading with the Indians, which was carried out only in the street or within the houses, all under protection of the fort's cannons. At night the traders barricaded themselves in the houses, and everyone was cleared off the point of land around the fort. Fishermen were required to live on land convenient to the fort or on one of the nearby islands.

The agrarian population had no defenders. When room for more fish flakes were needed, the local authorities, representing the interests of the patent holder and merchants, razed warehouses, saltworks, or farms. The people of Pemaquid had no title to their land. In 1682, they wrote to the governor of New York, who then had title to Pemaquid, complaining and asking for redress. Their pleas were ignored.

In 1689, Penobscot Indians captured and destroyed Jamestown, including the fort. By 1690, only four settlements in Maine still had English inhabitants. Peace returned briefly between the six Indian wars, and the northern New England towns were periodically repopulated, each time with new assurances of protection by the English authorities.

Pemaquid emerged as a fortified location, with a series of larger forts being built on the rock overlooking the harbor. Another fort was built at Pemaquid in 1692, this one called Fort William Henry. Still, in 1692, the fort was attacked by French, aided by Indians; the town was plundered, and the fort dismantled. By 1701, 15 families had



Pemaquid Beach.

Pemaquid, Maine

returned, but they left soon after the third Indian war began in 1703.

In 1729, the fort was rebuilt. Named Fort Frederic, it remained until it was dismantled at the time of the American Revolution. As settlers returned to Maine, they worked the fishing grounds less often, and turned to cutting wood to warm the houses of timber-depleted New England. Pemaquid faded into relative obscurity as a little fishing hamlet. The fort was decommissioned at the end of the French and Indian War, and stood deserted by the time of the American Revolution, and the community had moved to New Harbor, on the other side of the peninsula. Knowing that they didn't have the arms to man the fortress, and fearing that the English might try to use it as a base, they voted to dismantle the stone walls, block by block, leaving only the cellar holes.

While people have lived there throughout the remainder of history, the Pemaquid Peninsula was never again to become an important place, as history judges places. But it is a beautiful place.

In 1908, the state of Maine reconstructed the tower and wall base of Fort William Henry, using many of the original stones; and in 1970, the state acquired the remainder of the original village property.

In 1914, when J. Henry Cartland published his book, "Twenty Years at Pemaquid," he notes that many of those who once claimed Pemaquid as their home were obliged to seek employment elsewhere. Cartland bemoans the fact that Pemaquid had become a vacation area for people from away, who were buying up all the land for summer cottages and resorts, and mentions that there were artist's colonies.

Such is the case throughout much of Maine today, due in part to the natural beauty of the area, but made necessary through many years of liberal politics and environmental extremism.

I mentioned earlier that I had determined that I would make a point of spending more time in an area, getting to know the people there before writing a profile, but that I had found it difficult to do so in Pemaquid, there were reasons for that.

For the most part, there do not appear to be any common areas on the Pemaquid Peninsula. Route 130 leads through Pemaquid, New Harbor, and to Pemaquid Point, ending at the lighthouse; while Route 32 leads north from New Harbor through Round Rock. These are both fairly narrow roads with no shoulders for parking. I was there near the end of March, and the tourist season begins in April, so most of the businesses were closed, as were a high percentage of the houses, many of which are summer rentals or part-time residences. Houses are secluded on private wooded roads some distance off of the public travel routes.

Yes, I can hear some of you thinking that if the state, or one of the environmental organizations, had taken more of the land on the Pemaquid Peninsula, there would be greater access there. Not true. Both the state and various environmental organizations do own land there, and they were closed as well. The Pemaquid Watershed Association owns 200 acres in four parcels, and holds a conservation easement on another 283 acres. A nature camp, and another nature center, are open for only a month or two in the summer. The state owns, of course, the lighthouse and the area of Colonial Pemaquid, including restaurants and museums, all of which were also closed. In its favor, while the buildings were closed for business, I was at least able to tour the grounds of the properties owned by the state, and to photograph them, which I did.

I'm not complaining about the private roads, either. At least I have the opportunity to purchase the properties at the end of the private roads, while no amount of money will give me access to the land taken by the environmental organizations. As a tourist, I may have been a little put off by it, but it's ideal for the people who live there. Although nearly every twelfth house had a "for sale" sign, people do live there, and I can't imagine that they don't enjoy it.

I noticed also that, while there were so many beautiful houses for sale, there was nevertheless a whole lot of new construction going on, none of it commercial, so far as I could see.

I spent a couple of days in the area, doing some shopping for the trip back at C.E. Reilly & Son, and had breakfast at the Cupboard Cafe. Being the off-season, I couldn't find anything even remotely affordable to rent on the Pemaquid Peninsula, however, so I spent the night in Augusta and returned the following morning. Other than myself, it seemed that everyone knew one another at the cafe, and conversation flowed freely from one table to the next. There were joggers, and people walking leisurely along the roads and trails.

The Pemaquid Peninsula was fascinating in its economic diversity.

Driving into Pemaquid Harbor, I was afraid that I might be arrested for operating a vehicle more than one year old, and not a classic. I saw no one outside, met only one car, and the driver looked at me suspiciously. It's probably a nice neighborhood if you can afford it, but I'll never be able to afford it. I left, driving north again, then east to Pemaquid. Riverview Market, on Harrington Road, was quaint, and much like general stores throughout rural Maine. I bought something, then took a photo of the building from the outside. I got some odd looks, perhaps because tourist season doesn't start for at least another couple of weeks.



Oyster Shell Heap on Damariscotta River.

Driving back to Bristol Road (which is the cool way to say 130), I drove south to New Harbor, but I didn't stop right away. First, I went to the Colonial Pemaquid site, took a few pictures of the reconstructed fort, the graveyard, and the holes in the ground that I couldn't figure out until I looked them up later. I noticed that there was a museum and a restaurant, but that neither of them had been opened since last summer.

That done, I stopped at the C.E. Reilly & Sons store in New Harbor. After leaving some papers off at the store, I felt obligated to buy something, which makes our distribution so much more expensive than my wife would like, and then hung out downtown for awhile, hoping to find someone who knew more about the place than I did. Being shy, I gave up after a half hour or so, and decided that it was time for breakfast.

Some of the restaurants on the Pemaquid Peninsula are probably only open during tourist season, so they were closed. In fact, quite a few of the businesses that were openly tourist-based were displaying "for sale" signs, indicating to me that a two-month tourist season probably doesn't go far toward sustaining someone for a twelve-month year any longer. The Cupboard Cafe was open, and I had breakfast there, but since they're not paying me for advertising and I've already talked about them once, I won't go any further with that except to say that the food was both good and affordable.

From there, I drove south to Pemaquid Point, and took some photographs of the lighthouse and the water, although I'm not much into that sort of thing. It might have been different if the place were open, but still it was good for a few pictures.

I spent the rest of the afternoon driving around some of the little roads that I thought I might get stuck on, such as Sproul Hill Road, Old County Road, and the Rock Schoolhouse Road, although that last one was an accident since I thought I was driving in the other direction, and was in Bremen before I finally caved in and looked at a map. On one of those roads, I believe it was the Old County Road, I came across the Crooked Farm Preserve, which is what you get, I suppose, when they don't let you have a real farm there anymore.

Getting back to the point that I introduced a few paragraphs ago, one thing that I noticed was that, while it would probably cost me more to rent a small cottage here for a month than I paid for my whole house in Millinocket, not everyone seemed to be rich. There were plenty of regular people there, such as contractors, people cutting wood, and even someone picking up cans and bottles along the road, although I couldn't decide if she was an economically disadvantaged person or an environmentalist. There were also kids playing basketball in their front yard, and the local elementary school was celebrating diversity week.

Houses, at least those that I could see without risking arrest, ranged from simple cottages, some of which rent

for \$1400 a week, to spatial palaces, and everything in between. There were even a few house trailers, although I can say that there were not very many.

In late afternoon, I headed back to Augusta, returning to the Pemaquid Peninsula early the next morning, taking Route 32 through Round Pond, stopping at King Ro Market, buying some obligatory stuff that I didn't need but wanted anyhow, and left some newspapers. Briefly, I wondered about the name of the store, but figured they must be Danish and left it at that.

Driving around, I came across something that made me turn around, go back, and even stop. There was a factory on the Pemaquid Peninsula, and not a tiny one either.

Housed in a good-sized building on Lower Round Pond Road, Master's Machine Company employs about one hundred people, according to the young lady at the reception desk. The company manufactures precision-machined products, and has experienced healthy growth over the fifty years that it has been in operation. From its beginnings in a small schoolhouse building in 1957, George Masters, Sr. began with only three employees, one of whom was his first son and current company president, Richard Masters. In 1964, the company moved into its current facilities, where it has become a major employer in the larger Damariscotta region, utilizing precision screw machines and computer operated equipment, and competing in a global market.

Living in Millinocket, where there seems to be no place for industry or manufacturing in what has become a poorly-functioning tourist economy, it's encouraging to see that, even in a place that has been a tourist haven for more than a century, room can be made for manufacturing, at least so long as there is a will.

Next, the library. The Bristol Public Library had a wealth of historical information on the area, as well as a bank of computers, so I spent a few hours going through them, taking notes, and creating a rough outline of what was to become this article.

Leaving there, I retraced some of the steps that I had made the previous day, taking photos from different angles and in a different light. I found that I had missed Dee's Variety somehow, in all my travels the day before, so I stopped there, bought something and left some newspapers.

Driving along some of the back roads, as I always do, I stopped in a few places and daydreamed about what it might be like to live there.

But I never came up with an answer.

References:

- * *Twenty Years at Pemaquid*, by J. Henry Cartland; published in 1914.
- * *Jamestown of Pemaquid*, by Mrs. Maria Hackleton; published in 1869.
- * *The Story of Ancient Pemaquid*, by Harold W. Castner; published in 1950.
- * *Coastal New England: Its Life and Past*, by William F. Robinson; published in 1983.



The northern segment of Old County Road.

Dirigo Health Plan: Baloney Season is in Full Bloom

by Scott K Fish

Baloney season is in full bloom. Example: mixed messages we're getting (and will keep getting until Election Day 2006) about Governor Baldacci's Dirigo Health Plan (DHP). Dirigo is the Governor's two-part state-run health insurance combining Medicaid and a subsidized health plan for individuals, sole proprietors, and small businesses called DirigoChoice.

Recently, the Maine State Employees Union (MSEU) funded radio ads glorifying DHP and Governor Baldacci for, they claim, saving Maine millions of dollars while insuring thousands of uninsured and under-insured Mainers.

Meanwhile, an email lands in my inbox. The Hon. Tarren Bragdon is writing about Dirigo for The Heartland Institute. Bragdon says Dirigo, "is hemorrhaging money and faltering, according to figures released...by Baldacci's administration."

Who to believe?

Tarren Bragdon, a former Maine legislator, represented part of Bangor in the State House. Today, Bragdon is a policy analyst for the Maine Heritage Policy Center, an expert on Dirigo. He leads the MHPC's "DirigoWatch," a project dedicated to keeping Dirigo from escaping into the Land of Make Believe. When Baldacci launched Dirigo, that would have been a great time for the MSEU to join. Instead, the MSEU said, No thanks, we'll keep our gold-plated health insurance program. As a former state employee I promise you—state employees have excellent health care insurance.

But why was the MSEU-funded radio raving about a program of which they want no part? Do as we say, not as we do.

I'll stick with Tarren Bragdon's Dirigo information. Numbers don't lie.

Governor Baldacci (June 2003) told Dirigo would provide health insurance to 135,000 Maine uninsured/under-insured residents within five years, with no new taxes, while lowering health insurance costs for all Maine.

Not true.

Tarren Bragdon: "Since January 1, 2005, 8,500 people have enrolled in DirigoChoice. But...[o]ne in seven people (14 percent)...dropped the plan after... less than 10 months."

Bragdon cites an 8/05 Muskie School study showing that only 22.4% of DirigoChoice policyholders had no health insurance when they signed on. That suggests:

- * Most DirigoChoice policyholders dropped their private sector health insurance to get subsidized by Maine taxpayers, and
- * DirigoChoice has provided coverage to just 1,635 uninsured persons in 10 months.

That means, writes Bragdon, "the estimated annual cost to Maine taxpayers for each uninsured person covered by DirigoChoice is over \$15,900."

Governor Baldacci used \$54 million meant for tax relief to start Dirigo. Now he's taxing all health insurance claims paid in Maine (\$44 million) to keep Dirigo afloat.

What's better? Competition! Freedom over socialism. My \$370 monthly Maine policy costs \$150 per month in Texas. Why? Because of two pieces of 1993 legislative insanity called "community rating" and "guaranteed issue."

In 1993, Maine began forcing Maine insurers to take ANYONE, even gravely ill people, as new insurees (guaranteed issue) and stopped allowing age to be factored into insurance rates (community rating). Who wants that risk pool?

We need to fix these sick policies so private insurers will want to come back to Maine. I even have a name picked out for this new insurance plan: FreeMarketChoice.

Scott K Fish has been active in Maine politics since 1989. He is founder/owner of the As Maine Goes web site, writes a monthly political column for Bangor Metro magazine, and is a consultant for the Maine Heritage Policy Center.

The Constitution Party: Why I Switched

By Matthew Jones

Once upon a time I was a good Republican. I was a member of my town and county Republican organization. I passed out literature. I wrote letters to the editor talking up Republican "ideals". I was a "model" Republican soldier.

I eventually found myself privately holding my nose as I cast votes for "conservative" candidates. Many of them that called themselves "conservatives" were not conservative at all. They were, however, less liberal than the liberal candidate.

Voting this way left me very dissatisfied and disillusioned. I began asking myself what characteristics the ideal candidate would possess.

The candidate would understand that rights come from God and not from the state.

The candidate would understand and abide by the United States Constitution, recognizing the limits it places on the government.

The candidate would not only support the second amendment, they would work to repeal unconstitutional federal gun laws.

Then it hit me: The reason that I was not finding any Republican candidates with these values, is that the party itself no longer has these values. The old term "RINO" no longer applies since these "RINOs" now represent the mainstream of the party.

There is only one party that holds these values dear: The Constitution Party. When I read their platform (www.constitutionparty.com), I knew that I had to make the switch. I realized that I cannot continue to vote for the same thing and expect different results.

The Constitution Party is different. It is a party with true ideals. They are pro-life, pro-family, pro-constitution, pro-gun rights, pro-liberty, and anti-"nanny government". The party motto "Principle over Politics" really rings true. It is a message that Maine and the United States need right now.

Maybe you have been in my shoes, perhaps you feel left behind by your party. The Constitution Party is now beginning to organize in Maine. If you are interested in being a part of the movement to take America back, please visit www.constitutionparty.com. You can also call the Constitution Party at 1-800-Veto-IRS. You can even e-mail me at mattykid91@yahoo.com

America needs to stop the leftward slide. We can make a difference, one person at a time.

Matthew is a businessman and political activist from Chelsea, Maine. His political beliefs stem from the fact that all rights come from God, not the government and that we must return to limited government as outlined in the United States Constitution. He was married on Independence Day 1995 to his wife and soul mate, Paula. The two have two beautiful young girls. His favorite Bible verse is 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."



Forest City Road, in Forest City.

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”
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Safety Net or Golden Parachute?

(Continued from page 1)

The talk about the need for an increase in the minimum wage, and the growing discussion around the need to create a "livable wage," misses the point entirely. The free market system creates wages that are commensurate with supply and demand of jobs and employees. With few employers left in the state, we could set the minimum wage at \$50 per hour, and it still would not be enough. Companies would not pay it. They would leave the state, and we would end up with the situation we have today – the highest percent of residents living on the dole in our state's history.

Companies simply pass wage increases to the consumer by raising the cost of their product. Groceries will be more expensive. The price of a meal at a restaurant will increase. Everything the consumer buys will go up. Who's the consumer? Among others, the same individuals who just received the minimum wage increase! A minimum wage hike is eaten up by the increase in the cost of goods that same raise created. Why Democrats can't understand this basic principle of economics boggles the mind.

I want people to have a good education that leads to a good paying job, and the opportunity to live a good life. But nothing is free. It seems to me that we are taking the safety net that is critical to people who are truly in need, and we are tailoring it into a golden parachute. We are being taken advantage

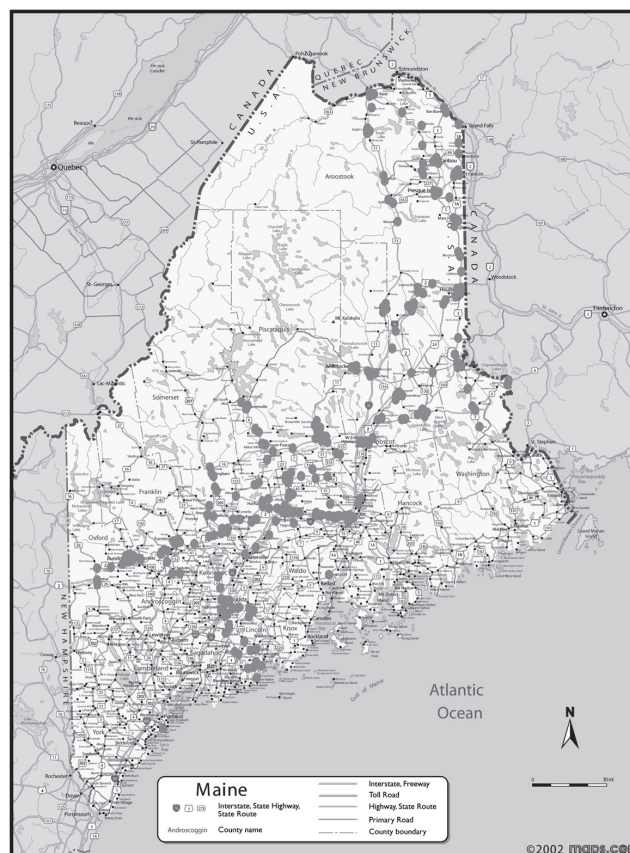
of and played for suckers by the thousands and thousands of people who don't mind living off of the government. Little wonder our taxes are killing us.

I believe that the policies set in place by more than 30 years of Democrat rule in Augusta are no longer working. It is time to rein in state spending and foster the culture of self-sufficiency that Maine's reputation was built upon. Maine is at the critical tipping point – we can act now to salvage the work ethic that once made this a great place for industry to settle, or we can continue to foster a culture of dependence.

Our votes in November will determine which way Maine moves.

Senator Lois Snowe-Mello represents District 15, including the communities of Auburn, New Gloucester, Durham, and her hometown of Poland. Currently serving her freshman term in the Senate, Lois was a member of the House of Representatives in the 118th, 119th, 120th and 121st Legislative Sessions. Senator Snowe-Mello prides herself on her reputation as being both pro-business and pro-environment as a current member of both the Labor and Natural Resources Committees. She is up for re-election, and intends to campaign tirelessly for the privilege to serve again. Senator Snowe-Mello can be reached at (207)784-9136 or at replois@megalink.net.

Help Us Fill In The Holes



As you can see from our March distribution map, we've expanded into many new areas of Maine. Each month, we hope to reach out even further until we have indeed reached all of Maine. It is important for us to do this because all of Maine does matter. It's not just a masthead.

This month, we'll be adding distribution points along a section of the coast, from Damariscotta to Searsport, then north to Bangor. We'll also be filling in some of the small gaps that remain in northern Aroostook County. We're excited about this, but we recognize that we still have a ways to go, particularly in the southern and coastal regions of the state, but also in Waldo, Franklin and Somerset counties, and some other scattered areas.

If you can help us fill in some of these gaps, please contact me, especially if you can do so on a reliable, regular basis. Please don't feel as if you have to commit to a large distribution route. If you can only place All Maine Matters in businesses within your hometown, and replenish the supplies when they run low, that would be a big help to us.

If you are a business owner, and you'd like to distribute All Maine Matters free of charge to your customers, please contact me as well. If you've picked this newspaper up from a store, restaurant, or other business, please thank the owner for carrying All Maine Matters.

Ken Anderson
All Maine Matters
ken@allmainematters.com

Ask

Dear Alvina,

We've had a lot of financial problems the past few years. We have a lot of property which we have been unable to rent or even sell, and business has gone from bad to worse. Our debts have piled up to the point that I dread the mailman arriving or the phone ringing. Every time I think I see a light at the end of the tunnel, it turns out to be an oncoming train!

When will this ease up?

My birthday is 11/26/52, and my husband's is 9/24/54. We were both born in Maine.

Money's Tight in Northern Maine

Dear Sagittarius;

You are in a place where you will take on as the authority in your home. There seems to be much movement around you. I feel that you might get upset because your husband finds it difficult to make a decision without having to change his mind, afraid that others might suffer through his decisions. This is not that he is weak, it is that he tries to make everyone happy and may have never learned to say NO.

In 2004 and 2005 he was thinking of doing something other than what he is doing now. And now today there is a definite move called for but he won't do it until life makes him do it. This does not mean a move from you, just a change. You have to take over and make decisions at this time, for he is fearful

You may have to wait until September 2007 to once again feel completely safe and at ease. I see that around November 8 of last year you were almost clear to sell, but things went wrong because you were supposed to wait. Now on March 23 of this year, things started to fall into place once again. Just hold tight because around the last week of June of this year clouds will clear and you will see that things will start to get better. Try not to worry, life has a way of getting you exactly where it wants you. I know it is hard but have faith.

Keyword: POSITIVE

Alvina has been a psychic, astrologer, consultant, writer and speaker for over 40 years. This is a powerful combination to help people realize their own timing for this lifetime. Alvina Turner reaches out and connects people with their past present and future.

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,

For the last year, I have had a run of bad luck. My husband passed away 3/25/05. My oldest son and I have had a parting of the ways. In June of 2005, my daughter's significant other left her after 23 years. however, he returned after a 2 month absence. In January of 2006, I had to have a complete hysterectomy with the threat of cancer, which proved unfounded.

Is there any hope in sight that things will improve?

Getting Tired

Dear Scorpio;

I know it has been a terrible time for you, I am sorry.

I think that life is trying to make you let go. You are quite tenacious, and you hold on tight so that you may not want to accept change.

You are going to see that you may be fighting a lesson that you must learn. It is

a lesson about "what is important, who is important and why". Only you can answer this.

Values and Valuables are two different things. I think you have to learn the difference.

Was the falling out with your son about "yours, mine and ours"? As for your daughter stay out of it.

You are a strong woman, maybe if you look back at the years between 1974 and 1976 you can find the energy, knowing that you survived those years and went on as you will go on again.

Keyword: ACCEPT

Do you have a question for Alvina? Send it -- along with your birth date, time, and place of birth -- to Alvina at PO Box 6547, Santa Fe, NM 87502

Or order via telephone, toll-free

877-484-6464

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

Undue Influence

(Continued from page 12)

The citizens of Willis Wharf can still elect public officials and go through all the motions, but all decisions are made by the NGO. The NGO has already pre-determined what is best for them. Sound familiar?

When you pull up the site you will also discover that they are knee deep into the visioning process, collecting concerned individuals, building committees, sub-committees and getting everybody involved in their own future, despite the fact that their future is already pre-determined by the NGO.

Brascan's total control of all land for development, with the inclusion of MAGIC and its, "Circle of friends" results in the exclusion of the public. The extreme example exists in the proposed sale of Hammond Ridge to a MAGIC Founder and the recent sale of the Former Bartons Marina to a MAGIC member. While literally dozens of hungry Entrepreneurs, both local and transient have begged for the opportunity to purchase their leases, and actually own land. It is now more than apparent that only a chosen few, (Circle Of Friends), will be allowed to prosper in this area. So, while we will experience managed growth, it has been given a new name, the "Maine Highlands". Which is just another "buzz" word for "Sustainable Development".

To bring this point home, we only need to go back to 1967, when the Environmental Improvement Division was the ruling agency, just as the "Wildlands Use Regulation Commission", was transforming into the "Land Use Regulation Commission" in 1969, and later was officially born on 9/23/71. This date represents the implementation of the States first, and most effective rural cleansing tool of its kind in the world. "LURC".

Imagine, if you would, that your goal was to force the Northern half of the State to leave or migrate south. You would then need to create a situation where the south is allowed to stay fat and happy, while life in the northern half becomes unbearable. To accomplish this task, it was necessary to;

1. Set up a land use regulation body that could enforce laws written by southern Maine, at the exclusion of any input from northern Maine.
2. Set up "Management Classes", for the actual discrimination of one lake over another. Under the guise of environmental protection, it is now accepted practice to allow an excavator in the water in Sebago Lake, while a camp owner in the Millinocket area pays a \$4,000.00 fine for moving a stove size rock on his beach.
3. Once the "Management Class" system is established and the legislative damage is done, include northern Maine participation on the Commission. This effectively, gives the appearance of a balanced rule making body, while completing the rural cleansing of Northern Maine.
4. Set up several "Satellite" L.U.R.C. offices to give the appearance of being user friendly, While maintaining the second most restrictive and expensive land use standards in the nation.
5. Achieve and maintain the most anti-business climate in the Country, Examples; Highest corp. Tax, Highest State Tax, Highest Health Ins. Cost, Highest Workers' Comp rates, Highest Unemployment taxes, Most cumbersome regulations, and the list goes on.

Now, the politicians are all concerned by our extreme anti-business status. But the standards that were only modestly high in 1994, have steadily increased and have never taken a backwards step since the election of our first "Nature Conservancy Trustee," Governor, Angus King. In fact, It took several years to obtain one of the highest comp rates in the nation. The State had to take over the comp system to accomplish this task. In so doing they invented M.E.M.I.C., this State control over a formerly private Insurance system has robbed all Maine business owners of affordable coverage.

My own coverage for \$84,000.00 in payroll was \$4,100.00 in 1999. The same coverage on the same payroll, climbed to almost \$13,000.00 in 2001, All, without a claim or a loss of any kind in fourteen years. That same policy is \$28,868.00 today.

When I decided to investigate these costs, I learned that the comp rate is artificially controlled by the maximum allowable court settlement, set by the state. In Maine that maximum is \$250,000.00. This gives us a rate of about 14%. In Massachusetts, the max settlement is set at \$80,000.00, giving them a rate of about 4%. The State of Massachusetts, has made a conscious decision to promote small business opportunities and sponsor a friendly business climate, within its' borders. The State Of Maine, however, has made a conscious decision to end any attempt of a small business to start up here, and has completed its' goal of accumulating strong financial deterrents towards Business Development in Northern Maine. With the national average for tax burden at 10.1%, Maine has finally achieved a rate of 13.0%, now 22% higher than the national average. Maine is consciously and intentionally taxing its' citizens out of existence.

Following the installation of the States' first "Nature Conservancy Trustee" Governor, Angus King, our leaders have made several decisions affecting the health and well being of our States' economy. These decisions have upgraded our anti-business rating from Number 24, in 1994, to being tops in the country, at Number 50, today. As the decision to install and maintain the 46th highest Comp rate was intentional, I am left to assume that the remaining State controlled deterrents to business are just exactly that, STATE CONTROLLED DETERENTS TO BUSINESS.

For copies of the Data collected from State, Federal and other sources, used in the formation of the above opinion, you only need to pull up Magic City Morning Star, on-line at magic-city-news.com.

-1924- Governor Percival Baxter uses the powers of Eminent Domain to help Great Northern paper, build a nineteen dam system and in effect creating the strongest, most cost efficient, Paper Company on Earth. This in effect did also create the States' most stable job base.

-1935- The Wilderness Society is hatched from the Sierra Club.

-1953- The Nature Conservancy is incorporated.

-1956- The Nature Conservancy incorporates its' fourth Chapter in Maine.

-1967- Pictorial evidence, Biologist studies, and university research are gathered for presentation to the one Hundred And Fourth Legislature, for the purpose of creating an extremely restrictive land use regulation body.

-1969- L.D. 210, An Act to Create the Wildlands Use Regulation Commission, is replaced by new draft, L.D. 1260, and later becomes L.D. 1566.

-1971- L.D. 1566, L.U.R.C. is born, An Act to create "The Land Use Regulation Commission".

-1985- L.U.R.C. demands guaranteed employment levels from Great Northern Nekoosa before they would grant a permit for the construction of the Big "A" Dam.

-1989- Georgia Pacific performs "Hostile Takeover" of Great Northern Paper.

-1991- Bowater and Georgia Pacific swaps spit and divide the assets of GNP.

-1995- Bowater brings in a new President from Nova Scotia, to run and manage its GNP holdings, Who is later named as Nature Conservancy Trustee.

-1999- Great Northern Paper Inc. became financially insolvent moments after it was sold Inexcon Maine.

-2002- Nature Conservancy forges \$50M land pact to "help" Great Northern Paper.

-2003- January 10, GNP seeks bankruptcy protection.

-2003- November 19, GNP Suit: Illicit money transfer led to insolvency.

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.

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, and Stu Kallgren has served as its president since 1996.

AMM: This might be a horrible way to start out an interview, but what do you want to talk about this month?

STU: Well, we killed our bill, LD1646.

AMM: You didn't want it to pass?

STU: That would have been ideal but, in talking to legislators throughout the state, particularly in the southern part

of the state, there are too many who don't get it yet. Instead, the committee is going to draft a letter to the governor recommending that he set up a commission to study leasing - leasing only, not traditional use or access, just leasing. We're asking that this commission consist of three members representing leaseholders, three representing landowners, and one member from the governor's office. We hope to get from that a recommendation from the governor's office that would protect everyone's interests, the landowners as well as the leaseholders.

AMM: In order to accomplish this, it was necessary to kill the bill?

STU: Yes, in order to get this commission set up, we had to kill the bill. This is what we're looking for as a solution at this time. Given that there are those in the legislature who simply don't understand the issues at this time, this is probably the best way for us to achieve our objectives.

AMM: Okay ...

STU: Camp lots are selling on Little Kennebec Lake for \$324,000, and that's for a non-conforming .98 acre lot.

AMM: Non-conforming, what does that mean?

STU: That means that it doesn't meet LURC's standards as a buildable lot.

AMM: I see. So if that camp hadn't already been built by the leaseholder, no one else would be able to build on that lot today. It's worth money only because that camp is there?

STU: Exactly, and the leaseholder is stuck. He can't move the camp, so he has to either come up with \$324,000 or let the camp go.

AMM: Ouch.

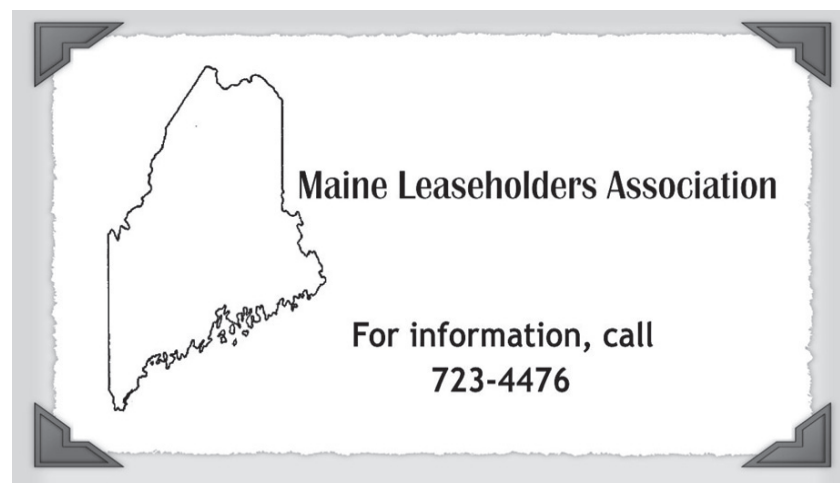
STU: 98% of the camps on leased land are on non-conforming lots. That land wouldn't be worth anything if the camps weren't there. Yet the leaseholder who built the camp, and has been paying the taxes on it, is being charged such an exorbitant price because the camp is there. It's no different than extortion. It's also important to understand that these landowners aren't paper companies anymore. Some of them may still make paper, but that's no longer where their interests are here in the state of Maine. Our wood is going to Canada, where it is processed, and value is added to it, then it's being shipped back here at high cost.

AMM: In the past, when so many of our towns and population were dependent upon the forest products industry for work, it made sense that our laws were written to favor these industries. Since this is no longer the case, do you think that changes need to be made?

STU: We are seeing an abuse of tree growth. The Nature Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and some of these other organizations, they own land here in Maine, and they all have it in tree growth. That's not what tree growth was intended for.

AMM: Tree growth was supposed to be a way in which we could encourage our largest landowners and employers to maintain large parcels of land for the purpose of harvesting the wood to support the people of Maine. Since that's not being done anymore, that leaves us with a problem.

STU: It does. We're granting tax breaks, but we're not getting an equal return for our investment. Eventually, the landowners who are non-profits are going to make their way to Augusta, claiming non-profit status, and asking that they be absolved of any tax debt whatsoever.



Say What?

by Mark Landsbaum

Discussion and debate has degenerated to meaningless babble with opposing sides talking past each other. In this dialogue, words no longer have meaning, or at least meaning everyone agrees on. Welcome to post-modern America.

Case in point: Thousands of demonstrators flooded city streets this week demanding "justice" for sub rosa immigrants who illegally have snuck across the U.S. border to receive taxpayer-financed benefits like education, health care and subsidized transportation, while taking jobs and artificially driving down wages that impoverished legal residents sorely could have used. On the face of it, one might assume that a demand for "justice" would be a call for the quaint, old-fashioned notion of lawbreakers being "brought to justice," as in arrested, tried and convicted for their crimes.

Not quite. When these demonstrators demand "justice," what they really mean is that they demand mercy, grace and forgiveness. They aren't asking for what they deserve, which is the definition of justice. Instead, they demand mercy, which is not getting punished as they really deserve, and grace, which is getting something good that they don't deserve, and forgiveness, which is being absolved of all guilt for their crimes.

With such convoluted rhetoric, the merits of the issue are lost in the noise. Protesters demand what they call "justice," but those they demand it from hear something entirely different: a demand for mercy, grace and forgiveness. How do we discuss, let alone debate, demands for "justice" when we can't even agree on what justice is? It's impossible when you say "potato" and I hear "pajamas." As the song writer wrote, it's tempting to just call the whole thing off.

You say "justice," but mean, "getting what you want." When I say "justice," I mean, "getting what you deserve."

In the same way, you say "gay," but mean, "consider me normal." I say "homosexual," and mean, "abnormal, unhealthy, sinful."

You say, "a living wage," but mean "enough money to buy what you want." I say "minimum wage," and mean, "pay that's commensurate with entry-level ability and experience."

You say, "choice," but mean doing away with what is inconvenient. I say, "abortion," and mean the killing of your own baby.

It's as if we are speaking different languages. Indeed, we are. Yours is the language of entitlement. You want, therefore you demand and expect to receive. Mine is the language of standards in which your wants, and for that matter my wants, don't dictate what you or I get.

Your language presumes that you ought to get what you want. Mine presumes that what you - or I - may want is entirely a secondary issue, subordinate to what is just, normal and moral.

Here's the rub. Now that you have succeeded in stripping away words' real meaning, any apparent compromise really means that you win. Any compromise simply would be yet another perversion of the words' original meaning. A compromise on abortion would mean some babies are killed and others not.

A compromise on enforcing immigration laws would mean some criminal activity is permitted and some not. A compromise on entry level wages would mean some wages are determined by supply and demand and some not. A compromise on acceptance of homosexuality as "just another lifestyle" would mean some abnormal, unhealthy, sinful behavior is endorsed, and some not. In every case compromise precludes what is just, normal and moral, no matter how flowery you make it sound. As wise men once told us, a little a little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Words matter. Or at least they used to. But today words have become pliant to the point of meaninglessness. Why? Because if you demanded what you really wanted, you know that your demand would sound patently absurd.

You would have to demand mercy, grace and forgiveness for breaking innumerable laws, denying lawful residents jobs and depressing wages. You would have to demand the right for men to engage in anal sex with other men. You would have to demand the right to be paid more than your labor is worth. You would have to demand the right to murder your own child. None of these demands put in plain language would be popular or persuasive. That's why you have obfuscated by redefining up as down and right as wrong.

You have made great strides in perverting the English language, reshaping it like a wax nose until words take on entirely new and utterly absurd meanings.

Once upon a time, it was understood universally that murder is the intentional, wrongful killing of a person, who would not die naturally if left alone or if medically treated. But you have changed even that. Now you demand "compassion" and "dignity" and, yes again, "choice," in order to "mercifully" euthanize people who are not dying, but whose "quality of life" doesn't measure up to someone's standard.

Shame on you. At least as long as that word still has meaning.

In addition to being a Staff Writer for the New Media Alliance, Mark Landsbaum is a Christian freelance writer, member of the Evangelical Press Association, a published author and former award-winning Los Angeles Times reporter from Diamond Bar, California. In a 24-year newspaper career, his coverage resulted in arrests, prison sentences, new laws and court injunctions to halt improper government activity, and a nomination by The Times for a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting. Since leaving The Times, Landsbaum's freelance news articles and commentary columns have been published by Concerned Women for America, Christian Examiner, Baptist News, Good News Etc., New Wineskins Magazine, Chalcedon.com, David Horowitz's Front Page Magazine, the news portal Terra.com, the Arizona Republic and the Philadelphia Inquirer, among others.

School Board Survey Begins

by Susan C. Stratton

In recent years, we have seen the power and sway of school board members. In Orono, for example, the school board opted to keep a controversial book for the 9th grade curriculum titled: *Girl Interrupted*. This book became a concern of parents when they realized it included perverse graphical sexual scenes and glorified suicide. Despite the fears of parents, the board opted at the end of its investigation to keep the book in its classes. Even after other parents protested this move and questioned the board again, the board remained steadfast in its decision. This is a prime example of how a school board can seriously affect the education of our children. While there are thousands of books that the school could have chosen instead to satisfy parents concerns and cover the subject requirement, they still opted to keep a crude piece of literature. Middle ground could have been reached but the board decided to ignore the parents and to claim higher judgment than the parents of those students.

In other cases around the state of Maine, we've seen schools opting to include the gay right agenda within their walls. There are incidents where hallways are marked with pink triangles, giving homosexual, bi-sexual and transgender children a place to socialize and group. Some schools hold a one-day event each year called, "Silence Day" which asks teachers and students to refrain from speaking all day long. They wear rainbow pins or homosexual-based messages on their shirts to show support of homosexual rights. The school thus becomes a place of moral war as practicing Christians, Jewish faithful and Muslims are ridiculed for not going along with the practice. And we hear of extreme gay activists, pro-abortion leaders or other inappropriate guests invited to read stories to our children at school.

Given the liberty that activist groups now have in our Maine schools because of school committees who do not listen to the concerns of parents, it's time for all community citizens to become informed voters when school board elections run. They need to take an active role in the formation of the board, so that outsiders cannot manipulate the school. Since many parents don't have time to attend board meetings, individuals around the state are working together to collect data on current board members and those hoping to run for a seat. The questionnaire (below) is a copy of the survey now being circulated. Answers from board members in all school districts will be filed and publicly listed so that parents and community members can see where each board member stands on serious issues affecting their children such as: homosexuality, abstinence programs, religion in the schools, etc.

If you wish to assist in this statewide survey, please contact Mrs. Stratton at: kaylancor@adelphia.net

Results of the survey will be made available in a few months. You can use the survey below to question your own district board members. You can contact the town office to get contact information for individuals running for future board elections. Please send any completed surveys to: PO Box 138, Corinna, ME 04928

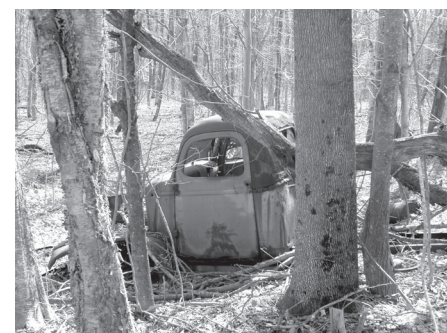
SURVEY FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Please help parents and supporters in the community make an informed vote when school board elections run by answering the following questions. All questions are in regards to public schools, not private. All answers and comments will be made public so citizens can see the results of the statewide survey. When you complete the questionnaire, you agree to this disclaimer. If you decide not to fill out the questionnaire, you will be marked on the list as "refused". This questionnaire was constructed by a parent and not part of any particular organization or group.

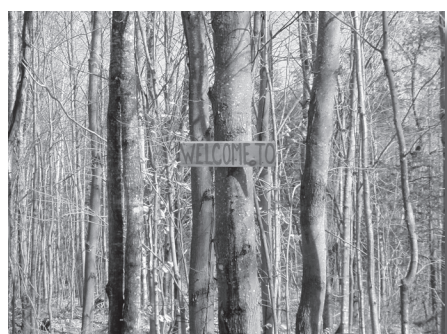
If you are in the middle on a subject, please pick the best answer to the question and add more to explain your position in detail. Questions will then be shared with voters in the proper school district. Thank you.

1. Do you support or oppose abstinence programs over and above birth control programs in the schools?
2. Do you support or oppose books, films, or other media in the school curriculum that include graphical displays of sexual behavior (rape, incest, sexual intercourse, etc.) and/or glorifies suicide or death?
3. Do you have any specific changes you wish to make in the governance of our local schools? Any changes you hope to see in the curriculum or school board?
4. When classes teach history or religion, do you feel that all major religions should be treated equally and fairly? For example, there was a case where the class was told to take on Muslim roles for an entire month. The children were told to dress in Muslim attire, take on Muslim names and partake in Muslim religious traditions. But the same class did not engage the same method of teaching regarding the other major religions of Judaism or Christianity, which seemed extremely one-sided to many parents in the community.
5. Do you support or oppose Planned Parenthood programs in the classroom or becoming involved in health education?
6. Do you feel that Christmas songs and traditions that include reference to Jesus should be banned from public school property during the holiday season?
7. It only takes one incident to ruin a child's life forever regarding sexual abuse. Given the seriousness of sexual crime, do you agree that schools need to step up security measures regarding volunteers at the school by asking parents and individuals who help at the school to undergo a simple background check?
8. Do you support or oppose homosexuality, bisexuality and/or transgenderism in the school curriculum?

Susan C. Stratton is a Catholic wife and mother of 3 children in Corinna, Maine. She is a freelance writer and current chairperson of the Corinna Chapter, Maine Right to Life. You can reach Mrs. Stratton at: kaylancor@adelphia.net.



Both pictures taken along the LaGrange Road, just north of LaGrange.



Straight From Nana Beth's Kitchen!

Mom's Micro-Wave Fish

Since fish is something I'm always looking to find new recipes for, and fish is so good for us, I decided to print my favorite recipe my mom gave me, and my mom's the best cook I know, so I'm pretty sure you'll like this one.

This recipe is so easy, takes only 10 minutes in the microwave, and tastes absolutely wonderful. The butter crumb topping is so rich and delicious, and adds just the right flavor to make it a really special dish.

For busy people who want a healthy meal prepared quickly, you couldn't get better or faster than this one.

1 pound of white fish.....placed in a 9 inch pie plate, with the thickest part of the fish toward the outer edge. Cover with a dampened paper towel - which has most of the water squeezed out. Micro-wave on high, 3 minutes.

Remove platter from micro-wave and let stand covered with paper towel, while preparing buttered crumbs.

Buttered crumbs as follows:

1/2 cup butter or margarine in a quart glass container, micro-wave on high till melted. (You might want to place a paper towel over glass to contain the butter from splattering.)

Add----1/2 cup soft bread crumbs
1/2 cup cracker crumbs

Mix with fork to the butter mixture.

Remove paper towel from fish, and sprinkle evenly with salt and pepper, then place buttered crumbs on each fish filet

Pour either 1/3 cup of milk or coffee creamer over whole thing. (Coffee creamer makes it much richer)
Place uncovered, back in micro-wave and cook another 5-7 minutes on high.

Serve with your favorite veggies.

Creating Jobs, Building Our Future

(Continued from page 1)

supporting job creation? I also know from personal experience that Maine government has important roles to play in both K-12 and post-secondary education, research and development investments and streamlining regulations. These challenges must be met by the partnership of Maine government and job creators.

Therefore, as Governor, I intend to:

1. Support the gradual elimination of the personal property tax on business equipment in order to create a more fertile environment for those businesses who wish to invest in the future of Maine. A critical part of this proposal will be for the municipalities to be made whole. There must be a renewed sense of partnership and trust among government, employers and the citizens of Maine.
2. Initiate income tax reform by reducing the top marginal rate of 8.5% and increasing the minimum taxable income through economic growth and prudent government spending. We have, for too long, taxed those who are least able to afford being taxed. Reducing the rate and increasing the minimum threshold will allow more Mainers to work without being penalized for improving their financial condition.
3. Introduce legislation which will conform our tax law with Federal statute, particularly as it relates to investments. Maine should not distinguish itself by having a higher state-imposed cost of capital than other states. Employers need a sense of predictability and this tax conformity will help achieve that goal.
4. Help lower the cost of energy for Maine's citizens by supporting expanded Research and Development and Applied Technological research in the private sector. This private sector research has been proven to bring a significant return on investments and will result in both new and improved renewable energy sources.

5. Assist in helping lower the cost of workers' compensation. The system must be able to consistently function well for both workers and employers while maintaining an emphasis on safety in the workplace. Limiting litigation should always be a priority.

6. Reintroduce legislation which creates a statewide Pine Tree Zone, thereby helping to eliminate unfair incentives and government control of those incentives. The current Pine Tree Zones exempt many businesses from the opportunity to invest in Maine and create more jobs. All businesses, those currently in Maine and those seeking to locate here, should be afforded the opportunity for success. This legislation will create a more meaningful partnership between employers and state government.

The new millennium brings with it challenges for Maine and our economy. We must be prepared to meet those challenges by having a tax policy that allows Mainers to find employment and keep more of their paycheck. We must create an environment where employers view Maine as a predictable and reliable place to locate a business, create jobs and invest in the future. The global market necessitates that we more aggressively legislate and promote a Maine which is truly, "Open for Business."

Senator Woodcock is serving his third term in the Maine Senate and is a Republican candidate for Governor

“Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them.”
Franklin D. Roosevelt

Laws, Rules, Regulations, Requirements, And Prohibitions

(Continued from page 1)

If you faced a hundred dollar fine for failure to remove, I expect you would feel a powerful urge to cart that trash back up your drive. Threatened with a thousand dollar fine you'd remove that glass and tin at a run. The higher the penalty, the more certain the compliance. We all know this to be true.

Here's an oddity. I hold in my hands two books, Open Water Fishing 2005 Regulations and Ice Fishing 2005/2006 Regulations, a creel load of regulations between the two of them. You can read bits of Maine Revised Statutes Annotated (MRSA), general rules, regulations applied to specific lakes and ponds, directions for this, prohibitions against that, and instructions for the other. You could spend a substantial portion of your day's fishing trip studying one of these volumes, yet you would find some strange omissions.

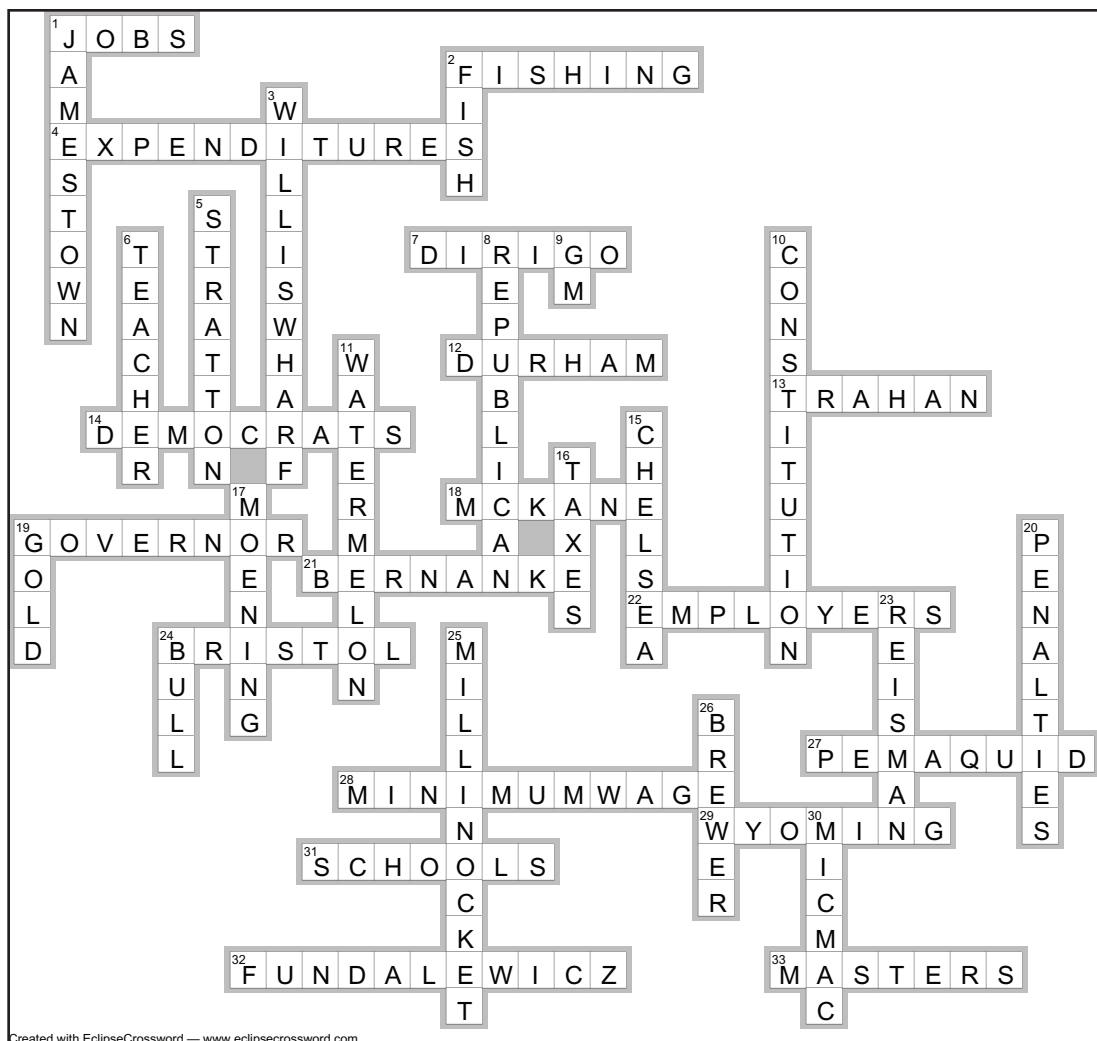
There are almost no penalties described for violations. In fact, there are only three stipulated in the two volumes. There is a ten thousand dollar fine for dumping any live bait into any Maine waters. The improper disposal of litter in Maine makes you liable for a \$200 fine for the first offense, \$500 for the second and all subsequent offenses. There is no mention of license revocation in the ice fishing regulations, whereas we are told in the open waters volume that conviction of anglers for conviction of any violation "may result in revocation of fishing privileges" and even in the revocation of other licenses. On page 64 of Open Water Regulations, we learn that the commissioner is required to revoke

licenses for a number of violations, including snagging and fishing with explosives.

We learn on page nine in the book Regulating Ice Fishing that it is illegal to put antifreeze into Maine waters, but there is no hint of what the penalty might be for this violation. We have no idea of what punishment we face if we use a worm for bait in New Sharon's McIntire Pond, just that it is forbidden. Will you be sent to bed without supper for ice fishing in Bristol's Hastings Pond? No telling from reading the book governing such activities. What will it cost you if you take bass from Spednic Lake in Vanceboro? Apparently you won't find out unless you get caught trying it. Take bass from South Portland's Hinckley Pond in late December and all you risk is a head cold as far as you can tell from reading. You may be surprised to read that you are violating the rules if you cut the head and tail off your salmon a month before you cook it, but you need not be surprised to learn that no punishment is prescribed. Happily, you are not forbidden to freeze it.

I have no idea what our regulators hope to achieve by regulations without deterrents, but I am beginning to get the idea that they are so busy making rules that they do not give due attention to encouraging compliance.

Dr. Bill Reid, a resident of New Sharon, is a former professor of philosophy in the University of Maine system, a fisherman and a hunter, and Republican candidate for Maine House District 87 in 2006. He has run twice for the House as a Libertarian in 2000 and 2002.



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“How soon we forget history... Government is not reason. Government is not eloquence. It is force. And, like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.”
George Washington



A view of the Gulf of Maine from Pemaquid Point

“Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”
George Washington

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

The Fleecing of Maine: Taxes and Fees Suffocating Mainers

By Rep. David Trahan and Rep. Jon McKane

During the past summer, Governor Baldacci and the majority party campaigned on the theme of having lowered your tax burden and reduced the state spending increase to record lows.

In this column we will begin to unravel truth from fiction. We will peel away the budget gimmicks and cast away the Augusta double talk. And we will make clear the hard and honest facts of exactly what your state government did to keep you the highest taxed people in the country.

It is important to understand that there are two state budgets. One is the overall state budget that includes all federal and state spending. It totals about \$6.3 billion a year. Under federal law, our state auditor must complete what is called a Federally Mandated Single Audit for this budget. The audit insures that all monies are distributed to the proper agencies. Despite these controls, we can see by reading the Single Audit that some federal money can be "redirected."

The Appropriations budget is different. This budget is the Legislature's spending bill for all of the money collected through state taxes and fees. Totaling about \$3 billion a year, this budget is a breeding ground for gimmicks and smoke and mirrors accounting. It is also the birthplace of special interest payouts. Unfortunately, even for the most experienced lawyers, it is virtually impossible to decode the dense statutory language, the endless numbers and countless pages of convoluted columns and codes.

Clever and experienced politicians in power know this. If they choose to, they can bury whatever they want in the mind-numbing miasma of spending and legal codes without detection. No one, including the press, seems interested in or capable of deciphering the schemes and gimmicks buried in Appropriations budgets.

Until now. After months of pouring over budget data supplied by the non-partisan Office of Fiscal and Program Review (OFPR) for the years covering the Baldacci administration, this is some of what we found:

The Governor and the Legislature have raised more than 83 different tax and fee line items totaling approximately \$775 million. These include everything from the new slot machine taxes to increases in hunting licenses and commercial fishing licenses, and even a new \$7 on-line fire permit. There were fertilizer fees, surcharges on pet food, the kitten and puppy tax, park fees, a dollar increase in the cigarette tax, and the "casual rental tax" (if you rent your camp to your sister for a month, you have to charge a new seven percent sales tax).

Moreover, there were 21 line items where the state failed to conform to Federal tax cuts. These total more than \$185 million. It is state policy to conform to federal tax changes, but the Baldacci administration has decided it's not convenient to do so.

Congress and President Bush have passed tax reductions to spur business and economic development, as well as to provide desperately needed tax relief. Citizens in other states are getting the full benefit of these cuts, but not the people of Maine. The tax cuts Maine has refused to adopt affect most people in the state. They include the "marriage penalty" tax, day care credits, higher education expense deductions, the death tax and student loan tax deductions.

Naturally, Maine always conforms - with blinding speed - when the federal government raises taxes.

In the Baldacci era, the majority party has found numerous other ways to separate you from your money. They include delays in state tax credits (\$23 million), changes in exemption formulas (\$6.7 million), an increase in state retirement annuities tax (\$25 million over four years), three increases in the gas tax (\$82 million), and a new tax on slot machines. One of the most repugnant new "revenue enhancers" is the hospital tax or "sick tax" of \$263 million.

Several of these taxes, such as the gas tax and the sick tax, were not claimed as tax increases by the governor's budget officer (that's another gimmick we'll explain later). If you

don't believe these are taxes, try not paying them. On second thought, don't. There's a new Maine Revenue Services "enforcement initiative" that includes hiring 31 more tax "enforcers" to help squeeze Maine citizens and small businesses. The cost of this initiative is \$44 million.

The grand total of all tax and fee increases since John Baldacci won the Blaine House and through the end of his term - are you ready? - is \$1.146 billion. And yet the Governor's budget office claims to have raised taxes only \$311 million. These kinds of tax and fee increases are like the proverbial "death by a thousand cuts" for Maine businesses and certainly have been suffocating the Maine economy.

For the first three months of 2005, Maine sales tax revenue fell 1.2 percent while the national average grew by 5.8 percent. Maine was one of only three states to experience such a decline. This is a symptom of an economy in distress. Hiding spending and taxes will not change that reality.

The fiscal year ended in the black, but only because several wealthy people in Maine died and the taxes on their estates made up for lagging sales. How pathetic - without the death of its citizens, the Maine government could not support itself.

In the next column we will explain more of the shell games and gimmicks the administration and its budget office, with an assist from the Legislature, are using to cook the books.



A house in Pemaquid Harbor.

“
The Constitution of most of our states (and of the United States) assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed and that they are entitled to freedom of person, freedom of religion, freedom of property, and freedom of press.
”

Thomas Jefferson

Rep. David Trahan, a fourth-term legislator from Waldoboro, is a woodsman. Rep. Jon McKane, a freshman legislator from Newcastle, is an electrical contractor.



A view of Johns Bay from Pemaquid Beach.



Taken from Babbit Ridge, along Route 16, northeast of Moscow and Bingham.

Photographs of rural Maine taken by Ken Anderson, unless otherwise attributed.
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“
We, the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts -- not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow men who pervert the Constitution.
”
Abraham Lincoln

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Constitutional Myths and Realities: Part I

by Justice Stephen Markman

The following is adapted from a speech delivered on April 29, 2003, at Hillsdale College National Leadership Seminar in Dearborn, Michigan.

The United States has enjoyed unprecedented liberty, prosperity and stability, in large part because of its Constitution. I would like to discuss a number of myths or misconceptions concerning that inspired document.

Myth or Misconception 1: *Public policies of which we approve are constitutional and public policies of which we disapprove are unconstitutional.*

It might be nice if those policies that we disfavor were barred by the Constitution. But this is not, by and large, what the Constitution does. Rather, the Constitution creates an architecture of government that is designed to limit the abuse of governmental power. The delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 sought to create a government that would be effective in carrying out its essential tasks, such as foreign policy and national defense, while not coming to resemble those European governments with which they were so familiar, where the exercise of governmental power was arbitrary and without limits. Therefore, while the Constitution constrains government, it does not generally seek to replace the representative process of government.

Governments may, and often do, carry out unwise public policies without running afoul of the Constitution. As a Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, I often uphold policies that have been enacted in the state legislature, or by cities and counties and townships that I believe are unwise. But lack of wisdom is not the test for what is or is not constitutional, and lack of wisdom is not what allows me -- a judge, not the adult supervisor of society -- to exercise the enormous power of judicial review and strike down laws that have been enacted by "we the people" through their elected representatives. Redress for unwise public policies must generally come as the product of democratic debate and at the ballot box, not through judicial correction.

Myth or Misconception 2: *The Constitution principally upholds individual rights and liberties through the guarantees of the Bill of Rights.*

It is not to denigrate the importance of the Bill of Rights to suggest that the Founders intended that individual rights and liberties would principally be protected by the architecture of the Constitution -- the structure of government set forth in its original seven articles. The great animating principals of our Constitution are in evidence everywhere within this architecture. First, there is federalism, in which the powers of government are divided between the national government and the states. To the former belong such pow-

ers as those relating to foreign policy and national defence, to the latter such powers as those relating to the criminal justice system and the protection of the family. Second, there is the separation of powers, in which each branch of the national government -- the legislative, the executive, and the judicial branch -- has distinct responsibilities, yet is subject to the checks and balances of the other branches. Third, there is the principle of limited government of a particular sort in which the national government is constrained to exercise only those powers set forth by the Constitution, for example, issuing currency, administering immigration laws, running the post office and waging war. Together, these principles make it more difficult for government to exercise power and to abuse minority rights, and they limit the impact of governmental abuses of power.

Many of the Founders, including James Madison, believed that a Bill of Rights was unnecessary because the Constitution's architecture itself was sufficient to ensure that national power would not be abused. As Alexander Hamilton remarked in *Federalist 84*, "the Constitution is itself, in every rational sense, and to every useful purpose, a Bill of Rights." And practically speaking, until 1925, the Bill of Rights was not even thought to apply to the states, only to Congress; yet the individual rights of our citizens remained generally well protected.

Myth or Misconception 3: *The national government and the state governments are regulated similarly by the Constitution.*

As the 10th Amendment makes clear, the starting point for any constitutional analysis is that the national, i.e., the federal government can do *nothing* under the Constitution unless it is affirmatively authorized by some provision of the Constitution. The states, on the other hand, can do *anything* under the Constitution unless they are prohibited by some provision of the Constitution. Why then, one might ask, throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th century -- before the Bill of Rights was thought to apply to the states -- did Michigan and other states not generally infringe upon such indispensable freedoms as the freedom of speech or religion? How were individual rights protected? Well, in two ways principally: First and most obviously, there was simply not majority sentiment on the part of the people of Michigan or other states to encroach upon such freedoms. Second, Michigan and all other states had their *own* Constitution that protected such freedoms.

Today the Bill of Rights has been construed by the U.S. Supreme Court to apply to the states, creating more uniform and more centralized constitutional policy. It remains true, however,

that the impact of the Constitution upon the national and state governments varies substantially.

Myth or Misconception 4: *Federalism is the same thing as state's rights.*

"States rights" in the constitutional sense refers to all of the rights of sovereignty retained by the states under the Constitution. But in this sense, state's rights refers to only half of what federalism is, the other half consisting of those powers either reserved for the national government or affirmatively prohibited to the states.

In popular use, "state's rights" has had a checkered history. Before the Civil War, it was the rallying cry of southern opponents of proposals to abolish or restrict slavery. By the 20th century, it had become the watchword of many of those who supported segregation in the public schools, as well as those who criticized generally the growing power of the central government.

While I share the view that federal power has come to supplant "state's rights" in far too many areas of governmental responsibility, "state's rights" are truly rights only where an examination of the Constitution reveals both that the national government lacks the authority to act and that there is nothing that prohibits the state governments from acting. There is no "state's right," for example, for one state to impose barriers on trade coming from another or to establish a separate foreign policy. These responsibilities are reserved to the national government by the Constitution.

Myth or Misconception 5: *The Constitution is a document for lawyers and judges.*

The Constitution was written for those in whose name it was cast, "we the people." It is a relatively short document, and it is generally straightforward and clear-cut. With only a few exceptions, there is an absence of legalese or technical terms. While the contemporary constitutional debate has focused overwhelmingly on a few broad phrases of the ward and clear-cut. With only a few exceptions such as "due process" and "equal protection," the overwhelming part of this document specifies, for example, that a member of the House of Representatives must be 25 years of age, seven years a citizen, and an inhabitant of the state from which he is chosen; that a bill becomes a law when approved by both Houses and signed by the president, etc. One willing to invest just a bit more time in understanding the Constitution need only peruse *The Federalist Papers* to see what Madison, Hamilton or Jay had to say about its provisions to a popular audience of the late-18th century.

One reason I believe that the Constitution, as well as our laws generally,

should be interpreted according to the straightforward meaning of their language, is to maintain the law as an institution that belongs to all of the people, and not merely to judges and lawyers. Let me give you an illustration: One creative constitutional scholar has said that the requirement that the president shall be at least 35 years of age really means that a president must have the maturity of a person who was 35 back in 1789 when the Constitution was written. That age today, opines this scholar, might be 30 or 32 or 40 or 42. The problem is that whenever a word or phrase of the Constitution is interpreted in such a "creative" fashion, the Constitution -- and the law in general -- becomes less accessible and less comprehensible to ordinary citizens, and more the exclusive province of attorneys who are trained in knowing such things as that "35" does not always mean "35."

One thing, by the way, that is unusual in the constitutional law course that I teach at Hillsdale College is that we actually read the language of the Constitution and discuss its provisions as we do so. What passes for constitutional law study at many colleges and universities is exclusively the study of Supreme Court decisions. While such decisions are obviously important, it is also important to compare what the Supreme Court has said to what the Constitution says. What is also unusual at Hillsdale is that, by the time students take my course, they have been required to study such informing documents as the Declaration of Independence, *The Federalist Papers*, Washington's First Inaugural Address -- and, indeed, the Constitution itself.

Stephen Markman, who teaches constitutional law at Hillsdale College, was appointed by Governor John Engler in 1999 as Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court and subsequently elected to that position. Prior to that, he served as United States Attorney in Michigan (appointed by President George H. W. Bush); Assistant Attorney General of the United States (appointed by President Ronald Reagan), in which position he coordinated the federal judicial selection process; Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution; and Deputy Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. Justice Markman has written for numerous legal journals, including the Stanford Law Review, the University of Chicago Law Review, the University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform and the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy.

All Maine Matters will print the second half of Justice Markman's speech in our May issue.

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